

## No boater apathy here

By Dave Wedge | Sunday, February 7, 2010 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | Local Politics

State Rep. Jeff Perry, who last week jumped into the race against incumbent U.S. Rep. Bill Delahunt (D-Quincy), worked feverishly for Sen. Scott Brown - but on Election Night, he was half a world away.

While Brown's supporters reveled in victory in Boston, the Sandwich Republican was on a cruise off the coast of Costa Rica.

"We planned it in the summertime. By the time we learned Scott could be successful, we were long past the cancellation time," Perry said.

The pol - a key Cape Cod fund-raiser for Brown - and his wife went on the cruise with three other couples and had to settle for texting their congratulations. But Perry and his crew did throw their own victory party on the ship with a group of Florida Republicans.

"When we won, we couldn't contain our enthusiasm and we erupted," Perry recalled. "They went wild. It was hilarious."

He added, "We couldn't be there in person because we had this trip planned but we were there in spirit."

### Southie down with Brown

Speaking of Brown, the GOP star du jour filmed his last campaign ad before the election at the intersection of Broadway and Dorchester Avenue in Southie, which apparently gave local closet Republicans a boost.

Inspired by the ad and Brown's win, the South Boston GOP this week held its first meeting in five years.

"I was amazed at the interest and variety of South Boston residents wanting to get involved with the GOP," said Jason Healey, chair of the Southie GOP. "We have lifelong residents who haven't been active in Republican politics since the days before the Weld administration."

And as evidence the Southie group plans to remain active, it picked nine delegates for the Republican State Convention set for April in Worcester.

### Sign of spring?

The CITGO sign, which famously hangs over [Fenway Park \[map\]](#) and often substitutes as a navigation tool for confused college students and tourists, is about to receive a makeover. But the announcement came from an unlikely source: Republican candidate for state representative Geoff Diehl, whose company, Poyant Signs, was selected to perform the renovation. In a release sent Friday morning under campaign letterhead, Diehl said the legendary 60-year-old sign will receive an LED upgrade to conserve energy, as well as a power-wash and installation of motion controllers from his company, for which he serves as one of seven account executives. The construction is expected to begin in early spring and last three months, according to Diehl, a Whitman resident who is running for the seat currently occupied by second-term Democrat Allen McCarthy of East Bridgewater.

### Who's Hot:

#### Scott Brown

Just when it was starting to seem as if perhaps the entire universe does not revolve around one freshman senator, he reminded us that - oh, snap - yes it does! The diva-esque Wrentham stud successfully demanded to be seated a week ahead of schedule, scoring headlines, live TV coverage and adoring gazes from his new GOP colleagues.

### Who's Not:

#### Patrick Kennedy

The House Democrat from Rhode Island is Camelot's last man standing, but maybe not for long - a new poll shows he is ripe for an upset this fall.

"Listening to Charlie Baker talk about fiscal responsibility is like getting lectured on abstinence from Paris Hilton."

-Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray on the GOP gubernatorial candidate.

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