

SEPTEMBER 2025 Volume 34 Issue 6 Art | Music | Dining | Recreation

BREVARD FLORIDA LIVE

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*Columns
Calendars
Reviews*

KEN HOLT RELEASED *SHADES OF LIGHT*
THE WOMEN OF ROCK - LAS VEGAS SHOW
FIRST SPACE COAST GUITAR EXPO





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COMMENTS & LETTERS

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Brevard Lately



Charles and Lissa Knight attended the Yacht Rock Summer Tour at the King Center and spent some time with their friends from Firefall who graciously signed the cover of Brevard Live where they were featured. Photo by Rockstar Entertainment



Hurricane Erin moved alongside our Florida East Coast about 400 miles into the ocean stirring up some waves. There were plenty of rip current warnings for the common folks. The surfers, however, had a good time.

Photo by Ed Robinson

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Sept 14, 10am-8pm, Eau Gallie Civic Center 1ST SPACE COAST GUITAR EXPO

This is the very first Guitar Expo ever in our neck of the woods. Three local business men and major staples in our music community decided to bring this event to the Space Coast: John Sekul of Johnny's Custom Shop, Mike Beckert of Beast Guitars, and Bruce Marion of Marion Music. Join them for a day of fun and musical festivities, where you can buy, sell, and trade musical instruments and electronic gear, visit over 30 vendors, exhibitors, and collectors of fine instruments, and show off your musical mastery at the open mic celebrity jam session with Russ Kellum.

Combined, they have attended almost 100 guitar shows all over the country, and they know how it works. Bruce: "It provides guitar dealers a great opportunity to show their inventory. And players have the opportunity to see many guitars in one place, instead of hopping from store to store."

Planning and executing an expo is a big enterprise. Who came up with this idea, and when?

Mike Beckert: We've been talking about hosting a local guitar show for years, but we always wanted to add some entertainment and educational programming like at the NAMM shows. It's so much fun. It's like a mini vacation to find your dream guitar or bass, sell your old gear and meet cool people.

What can visitors expect besides a lot of guitars?

Mike: Besides guitars there will be a separate room for guitar and bass clinics and performances. There will also be information sessions on guitar repair, studio and audio engineering operations, music promotion and

more. After 5pm, we will have a fun open jam with some special guests you don't want to miss!

What are the future plans for the Space Coast Guitar Expo?

Mike: We hope to expand the Expo next year to 2 days and a load in "Dealer Day" at a larger venue.

Tickets for attendees are available at the door and at Marion Music for just \$10. Multi-tiered vendor and sponsor packages are also available.



Sept 26, 7pm, Melbourne Auditorium THE WOMEN OF ROCK TRIBUTE

Turn back time and take a trip to the 80s. The Women Of Rock Show - straight from the bright lights of Las Vegas - is a heart-pounding, electrifying tribute to five powerhouse legendary female rock icons, including the fierce Rockin' Joan Jett, the cool and charismatic Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders, the mesmerizing Stevie Nicks, the fiery and passionate Pat Benatar, and the soul-stirring Heart. Each of these fierce rockers takes the stage in their signature, true-to-era outfits, bringing their electrifying energy to the forefront. Joined by the Women of Rock Show Band, they'll deliver an unforgettable, high-octane performance.

The Women Of Rock Show is full of hits and is a unique multi-tribute show experience that has been touring the US, Canada and overseas for years. This is the first time they perform in Brevard County, and it's a one-night-only show that's touring Florida.

Relive the anthems that defined the soundtracks of a

generation:

- "Hit Me with Your Best Shot" and "Heartbreaker" by Pat Benatar
- "Back on the Chain Gang" and "Brass in Pocket" by The Pretenders
- "Stand Back" and "Edge of Seventeen" by Stevie Nicks
- "I Love Rock and Roll" and "I Hate Myself for Loving You" by Joan Jett
- "These Dreams" and "Crazy on You" by Heart!

The testimonials for this show are convincing.

"'We were Blown Away' at the talented level of musicianship by these performers. They were fantastic in every way and beyond our expectations!" comments a Las Vegas Corporate Event. "The Women of Rock are Superb! I saw the Women of Rock a few times in Nevada. Their act captures the energy that makes you believe you're at a rock show from the era. I would definitely go see them again!" says a reviewer from Hard Rock Casino.

Tickets at
www.womenofrockmelbourne.eventbrite.com

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Ken Holt Celebrates His Latest Success 'SHADES OF LIGHT' IS ON THE CHARTS

By Matt Bretz

It's no secret that Brevard is constantly spilling over with talented musicians. Every year more and more cut their teeth and move on to find their fortunes out in the rest of the music world. One such local boy has been representing our home scene well for quite a while and deserves some love this month. He has a new album out and has been performing in all sorts of interesting places. Chances are you might have seen him and his partner playing around - either way, let's take a look at *Ken Holt and The Promise*.

Holt grew up a military brat and his family moved around quite a bit before high school. By then they had settled in Jacksonville, FL where he stayed through college. Music caught hold of Holt early in life and quickly soaked up the influences of the Allman Brothers, Beatles, Wille and Waylon and Ken also points out: his Uncle Henry's mandolin pickin'.

By the mid-70's Ken was bringing up the low end for a happening group in New England called *The Blend*. *The Blend* became fairly popular and enjoyed some success including two records with MCA and two supporting tours opening for The Who, ZZ-Top, Hall & Oats, 38 Special, Loggins and Messina, The Outlaws, Charlie Daniels, Foghat and others.

Holt has a philosophy about music he has carried and cherished for decades. He is all about lifting people up and making them smile. If your day became even just a little bit better because you hear one of his songs, then that's all he can ask for. It's a labor of love and Holt knows that's really what matters. Ken is backed by 20 year of experience as a youth minister in bringing his special brand of positivity to each show and recording.

"...music is what I do, yesterday, today, and prayerfully, tomorrow...I am guided by one goal: to create, share and perform music that is welcoming to all listeners, respectful of differing experiences and points of view, and hopeful in its messaging. As is often said in the music business, that is my lane."



Photos by Dominic Agostini Photography

Doing something with substance is paramount to Holt. He feels very strongly about making sure there is a message to his art—he wants people to connect...connect with the music, connect with him and connect with each other.

“I’m 75 years old. If I didn’t love what I was doing and felt like it mattered I wouldn’t do it.”

Last year Ken partnered up with bass player and vocalist Brad Schwartzseid to form The Promise—a two-piece band that sounds like something bigger. These boys may sing nice and pretty, but they still have the chops to fill in all the holes and make a bigger wall of sound. And the harmonies guys...the harmonies! Locked on and zeroed in - I love it. Ok, I need to leave some of that for Rob’s CD review that’s coming next month. (make sure to check it out!)

Ken Holt and the Promise played their first gig last year at the *Florida American Music Festival* to a receptive crowd. Since then, they have played *Florida Sands Music Ranch* and the inaugural show of the *Sunday Sampler* in

Melbourne Village with the *Will Mclean Foundation*. Something really cool and innovative they are doing right now is touring public libraries. They have played numerous spots on the Space Coast as well as a special show with Bear and Robert, out of Jacksonville, at the Winter Park Library.

When asked if the Promise would remain a duo - “As of now it’s just the two of us and it works well. We really work well together, and workshopping new material has become a joy for both of us. Maybe down the line we will start looking for just the right people, but for now we are taking it slow.”

Holt’s new album *Shades of Light* has been charting and receiving some really great reviews. Songs “Shine” and “I Did Not Know” are currently on the Independent Music Network Charts, The European Indie Airplay Charts and Cashbox Magazine Charts and more. “I Did Not Know” actually hit #1 on the Independent Music Network Chart/Country and the recently released 3rd single on the album - “You Don’t have to Stand” - hit #14 on UK I-tunes. So far everything released has hit in the top 10 on one chart or another. Ken credits his management and promotions company *MTS Management and Promotion* out of Pittsburg, but I feel like it might have a little something to do with the music as well.

Shades of Light is a real go-getter of an album, and you can’t listen without smiling. Ken didn’t do it all alone though. He tapped some very talented players and singers in the area to contribute. For a comprehensive list make sure to check out his website where he has each one profiled. Pay special attention to the “studio manager.”

Ken has been involved with the *Will Mclean Foundation*, so I wanted to make sure we talked about it a bit here too. Every year the Foundation holds a folk festival in Brooksville, FL and it’s done in a very pure style - meaning little to no drums or electric instruments - to promote Florida folk music and keep it alive. The foundation is named after legendary Florida folkie Will Mclean and carries on his tradition. Typically a self-proclaimed “band guy,” Ken decided to accept an invitation to play and fell in love with the style.

“I never considered myself a folk musician, but more and more I find myself playing acoustic on my albums and then I get all these reviews talking about my folk influence. I guess it is what it is!”

I would say Ken Holt is a hidden secret, but he isn’t. He is out there everywhere all the time just waiting to share some time with you and make you smile. To find events and shows head over to his website or Facebook: kenholtmusic.com, facebook.com/kenholtmusic.com. There are also a ton of little tidbits about his music and life to peruse as well as download links to his music - past and present! And of course, get out and see Ken Holt and the Promise or Ken solo. You will not be disappointed!

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The Column

By **Chuck Van Riper**

Adventures on the Road

My twin brother and I first went to the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands to play at the St. Croix Jazz Festival, after which we had a month-long gig at The Saloon, a bar/restaurant near the docks where the cruise ships come in. Well, unfortunately, the festival was cancelled because it was a week after hurricane Marylan had just ravaged the island a week before. There had been 80-90 percent destruction around the island, however, the Saloon was spared much of the destruction. It was the only place around with electricity and, more importantly, ice. As the song goes, you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. Ice was at a premium, and the Saloon had it all. Needless to say, we had a packed house every night. I guess we'll never know if they were there for us or a cold margarita, but we weren't complaining.

Up the hill from the Saloon was the house where we were staying. I guess it would have been ok if the electricity was on. It was a bit ominous roaming around with flashlights in the darkness of the island. Especially when we were warned about the millipedes, which were lethal if you got bitten. Fortunately, that was back in my partying days, so weed and vodka helped me go to sleep every night. In the morning, Billy and I would walk down the hill to the Saloon for breakfast and coffee. Below the house on the hill was a farm, which we passed by every morning. The sheep were bleating, the pig were oinking, the roosters were cock-a-doodling, and the morning doves were singing their song. The cacophony was amazing. Once I attempted to write a song based on those sounds. I never did finish it. I did, however, notice that the morning doves here in Florida are in a different key than the ones down in St. Croix.

We were booked as "The Other Brothers", a name that we had been using for decades. Our big hit in St. Croix was a song we wrote called "Pensia". We would get requests for it every night, sometimes twice! (By the way, if you want to hear it, you can go to www.chuckvanriper.com, go to albums and look for "The Other Brothers" album.) It's kind of a Spanish type of song and people always ask what the title of the song means. Funny you should ask! Pensia was a Norwegian bartender at the Saloon and one night

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yelled at us: "Write me a song!", so we did. Luckily, the next night, we remembered what we had played the night before. Pensia loved it and it became a regular part of our repertoire.

One of the funniest things that happened that month was when the Dutch Navy came in. We were told they come by every 3-4 months. Let me start by saying that these were the largest humans I've ever seen. I don't think any of them were shorter than 6'5". They seemed to be very happy people and loved to drink beer. When they found out our last name was "Van Riper", they were amazed. Apparently, that's a fairly prominent name in Holland. I googled it, but didn't find anything. Anyway, Billy and I would be playing and doing our thing and all of a sudden The Dutch Navy would just break out in what sounded like a Dutch drinking song. Did I mention they were very loud, too! Our only choice was to just stop and let them finish their song.

Now, the bar had two rooms, the main u-shaped bar with a few tables and a room behind it that had pool tables. A brass railing surrounded each room as well as the bar. One night, I guess the Navy was feeling particularly frisky as they had removed all the brass railings from the back room. How they got it out, we'll never know. The bar owner was pissed to say the least. A few months later, we went back to the Saloon for a month's long gig. This time the electricity was on all over the island. Much better! The second week of the gig, guess who showed up? Yes! The Dutch Navy! They told the bar owner how embarrassed and sorry they were for taking the brass railings. Not only did they bring them back, and put them back on, they polished every single piece of brass in the whole bar. Then they start drinking, then we start playing, then they start singing.... And so it goes.

Melbourne Community Orchestra's New Season: Come Fly Away

The Melbourne Community Orchestra is embarking on a globetrotting musical season, starting with The Grand Departure, a pair of concerts on Wednesday and Thursday, September 3rd and 4th. The 7 pm concerts will be held at the Melbourne Auditorium, located at 625 Hibiscus Boulevard. The opening concert of the 2025-26 season will whisk the audience away on a musical send-off designed to exhilarate. A brass quintet will entertain the gathering crowd, beginning at 6:15 pm. Admission to The Grand Departure and all Melbourne Community Orchestra concerts is free. The 65-member group conducted by Mark Nelson is the Orchestra in Residence for the City of Melbourne. Call 321-285-6724 or MCOOrchestra.org.

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Heatstroke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
Triple Shot
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty
Bingo
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam
Band
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm
Jeff Marquis
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan
Jam

2 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm
Jazz Night
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
FOO BAR: 7pm Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm
Trivia
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP:
5pm Tattoo Timmy
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Adam
Sean
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Jam w/ Russ Kellum
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Wilcor

3 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe
Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
TBA
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Syd
Taylor
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Karaoke w/ Cindy
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP:
5pm Ken Snyder
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Project
Orcon Revival
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Frank OG Jam
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5:30pm
Trivia

4 - THURSDAY

BLIND LION: 7:30pm
Comedy
CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Trivia

COCOA BEACH FISH

CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 4pm The
Showcase
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm
Maygen Navarro
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback
DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Dave Miller Unplugged
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Different Strings
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP:
5pm Curtis Remington
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Karaoke
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The
Jam

SQUID LIPS Sebastian:

5:30pm Lee Zalnoski
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Char
Good

5 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Don
Alexander & The Alleygators
CADILLAC COVE: 6pm
Andrew Walker; 8pm Mixtape
Kids
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 4pm TBA
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm
Stereo Pets
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm
Phoenix
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Annika Chambers & Paul
DesLauriers
KEY WEST BAR: NFL
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm
Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm 2
Doors Down
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP:
5pm Retro Rockers
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Adam
Sean Duo; 9pm RokSlyde
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm
Tim England
SLOW & LOW Viera:
5:30pm Mike Steele
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
8:30pm Sheepdaws; 1:30am
DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm
Galaxy
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 6pm
Absolute Blue
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line

Dancing

TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Jack
Flowers

6 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Comedy
Night
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm St.
John's Woods
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
Joules Rio Trio; 6pm Pink
Spice
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
Flea Circus; 8pm Murphy's
Law
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB:
4:30pm Steve Kirsner &
Friends; 7pm Hella Ayelet Gal
w/ Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Anja;
5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy;
9pm Switch
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP:
5pm Next Level
SANDBAR CB: 9pm Karalyn
& The Dawn Patrol
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
8:30pm Twisted Minds Inc;
1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Tropic
Pulse
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm Joe
Kirschen; 6:30pm Call The
Wolf
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm
Matt Simpson; 6pm Heatstroke
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm The
Godmother & Her Hitman

7 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm
Aquinas (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
Saylor & The Captains
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
Florida Swamp Cats
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
TBA
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm The
Fog; 7pm Joey Ferris
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP:
3pm Group Therapy; 7pm
Karaoke
SANDBAR CB: 9pm DJ
SaltShaker
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm
Campbell & Cross
SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm

Joshua Keels; 5pm Moms
Night Out

SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 2pm
Sunset Sound
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Jae
Keyz Reggae

8 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Swampfox Jam
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm
Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty
Bingo
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP:
5pm Kenny Williams
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan
Jam

9 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm
Jazz Night
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm
Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Matt
Simpson
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Jam w/ Russ Kellum
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Wilcor

10 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe
Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
TBA
KEY WEST BAR: 7:30pm
Dave Thrift
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Some Miles Duo
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP:
5pm Rockin Randall
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Will
Purdy
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Frank OG Jam
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm
Karaoke

11 - THURSDAY

BLIND LION: 7:30pm
Comedy
CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing

EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm
Frank Bang & Fox Maple Duo
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Day Tripper
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Soundbox
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP:
6pm Florida East Open Jam
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Karaoke
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The Jam
SQUID LIPS Sebastian:
5:30pm Thomas Wesley Bowman
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Jae Keyz Reggae

12 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Moon Rays
CADILLAC COVE: 5pm
David Southwood-Smith; 8pm Charamillos Band
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 4pm TBA
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm Ruckus
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Justified
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Supernatural- Santana Tribute
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Terry White Band
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Occasional Astronauts
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm Dreamer
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Syd Taylor; 9pm Cheetah Coalition
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Dave Myers
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Tim England
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm AK 40; 1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm Deep Cover
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 6pm Sting Rays
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Stay Tuned Duo

13 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Omilasa
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Rios Rock Band
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm KulchaVation
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Short Circuit; 8pm Roughhouse
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Reggie King Sears
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Denise Turner; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Off The Record
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Ultimate Santana Tribute; 9pm Syndicate
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Murphy's Law; 1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Stay Tuned
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm Queen Kelley B.; 6:30pm Changes Band
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm Burny Torres; 6pm Pink Spice
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm The Godmother & Her Hitman

14 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm Absolute Blue (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Aolani Jazz
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Hypersona
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Jam w/ The Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Radar Red; 7pm T.A. Williams
SANDBAR CB: 9pm DJ SaltShaker
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Shelly & Dave
SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm Kulchavation; 5pm Pink Spice Band
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 2pm Tropic Pulse
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Jae Keyz Reggae

15 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Swampfox Jam
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo

ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm Kenny Williams
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam Band
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan Jam

16 - TUESDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Catgut Stitches
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Family Feud

17 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Silver Springs - Fleetwood Mac Tribute
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Queen Kelley B
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm Ken Snyder
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jake Salter
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5:30pm Trivia

18 - THURSDAY

BLIND LION: 7:30pm Comedy
CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm Dave Scott & Rusty Strings
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Piano Magic w/ JD Daniel
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Galaxy
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm Curtis Remington
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Karaoke
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The Jam

SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5:30pm Ray Fredell
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Matt Simpson

19 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Robby King Trio
CADILLAC COVE: 5pm Corey does Buffett; 8pm Billy Chapman Band
CB FISH CAMP: 4pm Alexander James
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm Combobulators
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Twisted Minds
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Kemuel Roig
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Lil Lin Band
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Rios Rock Band
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm Eclectic Mess
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Over/Under; 9pm Bullet Dodgers
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Tom Colella
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Joshua Keels
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Love Valley; 1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm Not Just Candi
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 6pm Swamp Dawgs
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm William Crodeu

20 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Comedy
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Switch
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Andrew Walker; 6pm Beartoe & Midnight Howl
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Alter Ego; 8pm Crash Rocket
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Toots Lorraine
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm John

Entertainment Calendar

McDonald; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Short Circuit
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP:
5pm Rock Solid
SANDBAR CB: 9pm Vintage
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
8:30pm Karalyn & The Dawn Patrol; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Joshua Keels
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm Johnny Danger Live; 6:30pm Heatstroke
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm Jeff Marquis; 6pm Dreamer
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm The Godmother & Her Hitman

21 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2pm Buck Barefoot (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Switch
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Big Al & The Heavyweights
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Matt Schofield
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Highway 1; 7pm Teddy V.
SANDBAR CB: 9pm DJ SaltShaker
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm John McDonald
SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm Domulot Duo; 5pm Innuendo
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 2pm Matthew Mavericks
TIDE & TONIC: 11am-3pm Andrew Rickman

22 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Swampfox Jam
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm Kenny Williams
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam Band
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan Jam

23 - TUESDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Adam Sean

SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Family Feud

24 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm TBA
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Mark Baker
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Super Freak Acoustic Duo
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm Rockin Randall
SANDBAR: 8pm Syndicate Duo
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm TBA

25 - THURSDAY

BLIND LION: 7:30pm Comedy
CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm HairPeace
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Sybil Gage
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Juiced
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 6pm Florida East Open Jam
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Karaoke
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The Jam
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5:30pm Jimmy Mazz
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Char Good

26 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm JK Jazz Trio
CADILLAC COVE: 5pm Jeff Bynum; 8pm SkyClub
CB FISH CAMP: 3pm TBA
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm Karalyn & The Dawn Patrol

EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Port Fierce
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Krystal Clarke & The Ron Teixeira Trio
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Heatstroke
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Ruckus
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm Shelly Songer Band
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Mondo Tikis; 9pm Dakota & The Hired Gunz
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Buck Barefoot
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Dave Myers
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Fast Times; 1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm Galaxy
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 6pm Nothin's Easy
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Serious Animal

27 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Z-Tones
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Soultimate Band
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Anna Delgado Band; 6pm FloMotion
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Swamp Dawgs; 8pm Wicked Garden Gnomes
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm David Julia Blues
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Denise Turner; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Luna Pearl
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm The Conclusions
SANDBAR CB: 9pm Love Valley
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Radar Red; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Floridave
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm Jeff Marquis; 6:30pm Last Call Band
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm James Holler; 6pm Stella Blue

THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm The Godmother & Her Hitman

28 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm Lil Lin Band (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Cheeta Coalition
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Good Bread
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm TBA
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Coolers; 7pm Alexander James
SANDBAR CB: 9pm DJ SaltShaker
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Bill Cockrell
SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm Trace of Suspence; 5pm Phoenix
SQUIDLIPS Sebastian: 6pm Tidal Theory
TIDE & TONIC: 11am-3pm Andrew Rickman; 11-2 Iconic Car Show

29 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Swampfox Jam
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Triple Shot
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm Kenny Williams
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam Band
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan Jam

30 - TUESDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Matt Simpson
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Family Feud

All calendar listings are subject to change without notice.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sep 2: Beginner Acrylic Painting Class, Studios of Cocoa Beach, Cocoa Beach, 321-613-3840

Sep 2 – 28: Conversation Pieces Exhibit, Fifth Avenue Art Gallery, Melbourne, 321-259-8261

Sep 3: George Thorogood & The Destroyers, King Center, 321-242-2219

Sep 5: Friday Fest, City of Cape Canaveral, 321-868-1220

Sep 6: Discover Florida Lecture Series, Library of Florida History, Cocoa, 321-690-1971

Sep 6, 13, 20, 27: Saturday Farmers Market at Riverview Park, Downtown Melbourne

Sep 6, 13, 20, 27: Green Gables Open House, Green Gables at Historic Riverview Village, 321-306-8635

Sep 7 & 21: Free Ranger Led Tour, Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Palm Bay, 321-952-3400

Sep 8: Beginner Acrylic Painting Class, Village Art Gallery, Historic Cocoa Village, 321-338-3368

Sep 9, 16, 23, 30: Watercolor Painting Workshop, Studios of Cocoa Beach, Cocoa Beach, 321-613-3840

Sep 12 – 28: Noises Off! Surfside Playhouse, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Sep 12 – 28: School of Rock: The Musical, Cocoa Village Playhouse, 321-724-0555

Sep 12 – Oct 12: Mel Brook's Young Frankenstein, Titusville Playhouse, 321-268-1125

Sep 13: Shop, Sniff then Sip, Tails at the Barkery, Historic Cocoa Village

Sep 14: Jeff Rupert Quartet, Brevard Veteran's Memorial Center, Merritt Island, spacecoastjazzsociety.org

Sep 14: Space Coast Guitar Expo, Eau Gallie Civic Center, Melbourne, spacecoastguitarexpo.com, 321-737-3000

Sep 14 & 15: Auditions – 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Surfside Playhouse, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Sep 15: Paint Carving Workshop, Village Art Gallery, Cocoa Village, 321-338-3368

Sep 15 – 17: Auditions – Stars of Tomorrow Youth Program, Cocoa Village Playhouse, Cocoa Village, 321-724-0555

Sep 15, 22, 29: Master Series Painting, Village Art Gallery, Cocoa Village, 321-338-3368

Sep 17 & 18: Sway with Us, Melbourne Auditorium, Melbourne, 321-724-0555

Sep 19: Friday Fest, Cocoa Beach Mainstreet

Sep 20: Green Gables Harvest Festival, Green Gables at Historic Riverview Village, Melbourne, 321-306-8635

Sep 20: Gatehouse Market, Field Manor, Merritt Island, 321-848-0365

Sep 20: Beethoven's Triple, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, Melbourne, 855-252-7276

Sep 20: Classic Albums Live: The Cars, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Sep 20: 10th Annual Pirate Pub Crawl, Cocoa Village, madhat-terpromotions.com

Sep 20: Super Soiree – Mother-Son Dance, Greater Palm Bay Senior Center, Palm Bay

Sep 21 & 22: Auditions – A Christmas Carol, Henegar Center, Downtown Melbourne, 321-723-8698

Sep 24: Poetry + Open Mic Night, The CAPE Center, Cape Canaveral, 321-868-1224

Sep 28: Central Florida Winds Concert, Suntree Methodist Church, 321-405-2359

Sep 28 & 29: Auditions – Annie, Cocoa Village Playhouse, 321-724-0555

Cultural events provided by
Brevard Cultural Alliance.
ArtsBrevard.org/events

SEPTEMBER LIVE MUSIC

MON.1 HEATSTROKE 12-4 PM
THUR.4 THE SHOWCASE 4-8 PM
FRI.5 STEREO PETS 6-9 PM
SAT.6 JOULES RIO 1-4 PM
PINK SPICE 6-9 PM
SUN.7 SAYLOR & THE CAPTAINS 1-4 PM

FRI.12 RUCKUS 6-9 PM
SAT.13 KULCHAVATION 1-4 PM
SUN.14 AOLANI JAZZ 1-4 PM

FRI.15 COMBOBULATORS 6-9 PM
SAT.16 ANDREW WALKER 1-4 PM
BEARTOE & MIDNIGHT HOWL 6-9 PM
SUN.17 SWITCH 1-4 PM

FRI.26 KARALYN & DAWN PATROL 6-9 PM
SAT.27 ANNA DELGADO BAND 1-4 PM
FLOMOTION 6-9 PM
SUN.28 CHEETAH COALITION 1-4 PM

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SEPTEMBER 2025

Mondays:
S.I.N. Night

Tuesdays:
7pm Trivia

WEDNESDAYS:

3: Syd Taylor
10: Dave Thrift
17: Queen Kelley B
24: Mark Baker

FRIDAYS: LIVE MUSIC

5: NFL Football
12: Terry White Band
19: Lil Lin Band
27: Heatstroke

SATURDAYS:
College Football



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My Flori-duh In The Movies

By Charles Knight

In the fifties and sixties my father and brother were active in a lot of movie and television productions in and around Miami, Sweetwater, and other parts of Florida. As a professional rescue scuba diver and instructor emeritus, dad was often hired to assist both above and underwater on films, shows, and documentaries. He was one of very few people in the country that was qualified to do so.

In the mid-nineteen fifties he developed an interest in scuba after reading about Jacques Cousteau in a magazine. When he found that the famous undersea explorer spent a lot of time in the Caribbean and Atlantic around Florida he sought him out, took lessons, and purchased tanks, regulators, masks, wet suits and well, let's just say that, as a kid, there was an entire room in our home that housed his diving gear. Back then the wet suits weren't available in the variety of colors and styles like today's. They were all black and thick and, if memory serves me right, always smelled of salt and rubber. There were several sets of them. The flippers were long and black, and I loved to try and walk in them. There were black hoods that he put on before donning a mask, of which he had many. Unlike the modern ones you can see wherever divers congregate, these

were pretty intense. Some had what looked like hose spigot handles resembling the ones on the outside walls of our home extruding from them. As far as their use, I am clueless. I can only assume they were for increasing or decreasing pressure as he often swam to what was extreme depths for the time. One of his masks was triangular, some oval, and some round and most had similar protrusions.

The air tanks were large and unwieldy. Not like the multi colored and light weight ones you can purchase these days. There was a single tank for short dives and double and triple tank rigs for greater length dives. And heavy? Those things weighed a ton, at least they did to this smallish lad. The darned things were everywhere as well as Hawaiian slings, and spear guns, knives and other items.

Dad had everything needed to perform as required.

Before I was born he, my brother Jack Jr., and oldest sister Joyce lived on his boat in the Islamorada in the Florida Keys. From what I understand, the boat was forty-five feet in length and outfitted for full time residence. I've always been a bit envious as I often fantasized about living on one. I still do from time to time.

There were television shows such as *Flipper*, *Gentle Ben*, *Sea Hunt* and more. For a brief while South Florida was a hotbed of television and film productions. A little further north, there were shows like *Tarzan* and films like *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* being filmed in some of our gorgeous freshwater springs. All of the activity kept dad and his colleagues busy when not working at their day jobs.

Dad always read novels and magazines about adventures and adventurers, and they were scattered throughout our home at any given time. He was a founding member of the *Tamiami Volunteer Rescue Team*. It was the first of its kind in North America and the team assisted in the rescue and recovery of various types all over the state and

sometimes beyond from what I'm told. I have possession of some of the published materials alluding to his adventures and experiences. There is even a small pamphlet that was issued in the early sixties called the TVRT Safety manual that was generously given to me a few years back by a dear friend Kathy Hayashi. Her father Dave was also a co-founder of the organization.

In addition to the adventure publications strewn about, I was witness to dozens and dozens of newspaper and magazine articles about dad and his exploits as a law enforcement officer and various other undertakings be them benign or dangerously risky. In those days magazines and newspapers were still the most popular means of mass communication as television was still in its early stages and always in black and white. Upon his retirement the townspeople assembled three thick scrapbooks containing news and magazine clippings of his exploits and adventures throughout those years. Alas, someone that does not own them retains possession of them and many other items of his (you know who you are!), and if they're reading this, I would love to document them in a more modern format. This is just a small recollection of my father Chief Jack Knight.

There's more, much more. That's only a miniature window into his life. All of my life I have heard people say what a great figure of a man he was. To me that's a bit redundant as I loved and admired the man. Still do actually.

That's my Flori-Duh.

Charles Knight is from Sweetwater, Flori-duh, and lives in Melbourne. With his wife Lissa they own Rockstar Entertainment, an entertaining production and karaoke company. You can reach him at Irockstarentertainment@gmail.com.



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Tide & Tonic in Indian Harbour Beach Great Food, Relaxed Vibes, Live Music

Tide & Tonic is the “new kid on the block” among many venues along our beaches. The building has been there for decades housing several nice restaurants, but it wasn’t until Kristen Kohl bought the building about a year ago and invested over half a million dollars to remodel, update and refresh it, that it became a charming new hot spot. The venue seems to reflect the owner’s personality (doesn’t it always?), and Tide & Tonic presents itself with “eclectic elegance” along with a “down-to-earth attitude.” It’s the best of both worlds.

The rebranding and remodeling took a few months, then Tide & Tonic opened its doors in April 2024 featuring beautiful murals on the outside and an elegant dining room inside. The menu includes several eclectic seafood entrees along with steaks, shrimp and scallops, all reasonably priced. If you are more in the mood for a modest burger or chicken sandwich, or just an appetizer, you can order that - however, nothing actually tastes “modest.” The special sauces, dressing, presentation turn even a smash burger into a delicacy. They have \$10 lunch specials Monday thru Friday, delicate appetizers, homemade desserts, and an extensive Brunch menu on Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 2 pm with Bloody Mary and Mimosa specials. Check out their menu on Facebook or website. This is not your average restaurant, it’s definitely a step above.

The visionary behind Tide & Tonic is Kristen, and - no surprise here! -

she’s a great cook herself. No, she does not work in T&T’s kitchen, but “we all discuss the menu, and we’ve been through some changes,” says Kristen. “I love making my customers happy, so we listen to them.”

Kristen knows how to run a business - or SEVEN! She has been a successful entrepreneur for 30 years. Kristen opened her Imperial Salon & Spa in 1997 in Melbourne, the second location followed 2010 in Indian Harbour Beach. In 2011 she opened The Salon Professional Academy, in 2019 the Elevate Salon Institute in Miami Beach. In 2020 she acquired the Banana River Resort in Cocoa Beach. A year later, she opened the famous 7 Mile Grill in Marathon Key. “I had no experience, was scared and overwhelmed but with the help of a rockstar team we survived, and now we are celebrating 4 wonderful years of wins, struggles, tears, 5 star reviews, inspections, and tons of memories.” (Btw, our friend

*Photos:
A night view of Tide & Tonic.
Proprietor Kristen Kohl. Enjoy an
eclectic brunch on Sat and Sun.*

Keith Johnson, longtime manager at Off The Traxx, is now the manager at 7 Mile Grill.)

How can one person run 7 businesses? Kristen laughs, “With a great staff!” she says. Indeed, she has over 200 employees between all enterprises. Matt McNaulty and Stefanie are the management team at Tide & Tonic, however, Kristen is not an absentee owner, “I am involved every day.”

The outside patio with daily live entertainment is a big part of Tide & Tonic. “This is not a tourist place,” Kristen points out. “We welcome the local community.” The covered patio with a decent sized stage features popular local musicians. There are community events, including a monthly Classic Car Show with the Pixie Pin-ups. Last month they had a Back-To-School Party with four kid-led bands, kids’ crafts and games, fairy hair and more. That’s the “down-to-earth” side of the venue. It’s family friendly, and pets are allowed. Things are looking up at Tide & Tonic. Is there anything that Kristen could wish for? “I wish we had more luncheons for groups and businesses. We have the perfect place for it,” says Kristen.

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Backstage with Firefall

By Charles Knight

Elko Concerts has done it again by bringing quality entertainment to our fair city. This time The Yacht Rock Tour brought us Pure Prairie League, Pablo Cruise, and our (new!) friends in Firefall to the Maxwell C. King Center. And what a show it was! The musicianship and vocal harmonies are things of legend. Before the show we had a chance to visit and interview Firefall! Upon entering the green room we were warmly greeted with hugs by our friend, bassist John Bisaha (*Lissa and I have shared the big stage singing alongside John on a couple of occasions in the past*) along with the legendary Jock Bartley, Steven Weinmeister, Jim Waddell, and Sandy Ficca. As it was pre show I had only a few questions prepared for them and was pleasantly surprised when Jock invited us to hang around a bit longer and chat.

How is the tour going so far?

Jock: We're having a great time and the fans have been terrific; touring with Pablo Cruise and Pure Prairie League is a blessing. The guys are all a great

bunch and it's almost a family of sorts.

You're on the third night of a four night run, does this happen a lot and how do you keep your voices fresh?

John: It's great because all of the songs are well written and recorded, the original vocals are beautiful and a joy to sing.

Jock: Oh, it's easier when you are on the road with two other acts. Each group does an abbreviated set of mainly hits and their most popular songs, so the average set is forty five minutes and it's easy on the voice. Also I've got John and Steven who both have incredible vocal abilities. I don't even have to sing if I don't feel like it, these guys are the best I've had in many many years.

John: It's fun when you're on these package shows because you just do the hits and get out.

Do the three groups switch off as headliners? I ask this because each of these acts have incredible resumes.

Steven: We pretty much stay in the middle, and it's nice because we can get in and get out early!

Jock: Well, we sometimes do but we like playing early. Every band here is really a headliner but I'm not as young as I used to be, so getting back to the room or bus or whatever is preferable.

Jock: You know we played a couple

of weeks ago with Ambrosia and we were the first act so we got out early and that was nice because we got to see a little of the town.

Okay, are there times when another group joins the tour?

John: Ambrosia aren't the only guys that pop up on the tour. You know, we also play with The Atlanta Rhythm Section and Orleans, you know, all of us go out in groups of three or four from time to time and it's always great playing alongside all of the bands from the era.

Being in a band is a lot like being married, what's the secret to getting along after all these years?

Steven: Time apart! (*lots of laughter*)

Jock: Yeah, it's important to have time apart, and then when the band gets back together, either to record or do a show or tour, it's sort of like a family reunion.

Steven: Yeah, everyone's sort of refreshed and ready to go at it again.

Any new recording on the horizon?

Jock: Yes, we have been writing and we're going to put out a new album of original music. The last two releases have been the *Friends and Family* projects where we went into the studio and covered songs by people and bands that we've either worked with our toured with over the years, but our manager said it's time to do another Firefall record, so that's where we're at.

What or where is your favorite studio?

Jock: Well, John lives in Los Angeles but the rest of us are in Boulder, Colorado where we have our preferred studio. We fly John in to do his part. You know he stays pretty busy with his other projects there, so he spends a lot of time on planes. (*more laughter*)

Then it was time for Firefall to get ready to hit the stage so we joined the audience in the auditorium and enjoyed a wonderful evening of great music by all three groups.



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WEDNESDAY

Copper Chimney with B-rent 7-11pm

THURSDAY

Tracy's Lounge with Charles and Lissa 7:30-11pm

FRIDAY

Hook & Eagle Tavern with Charles & Lissa 6-10pm

Ashley's of Rockledge with Karen & Eric 6-10pm

SATURDAY

Ashley's of Rockledge with Karen & Eric 6-10pm

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In the middle of George Street, downtown St. John's: Jake Caracciolo, RP Higgins, Austin Caracciolo, RP Higgins, Steve (Steve-O) Prause, and Gary Haas.

A ST. JOHN'S SOJOURN

By Gary "The Madhatter" Haas

It almost didn't happen, for me anyway. Early morning, Monday, July 7, 2025, we arrived at Orlando International Airport (MCO) for our non-stop flight to St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. I decided to make a last-minute bathroom break before boarding but miscalculated the boarding time. I ran down the hallway to be the last in line just outside the airplane hatch and realized that I had left my cellphone in the bathroom! Another (two-way this time) fifty-yard dash and I arrived just as they were about to close the door! WHEW!

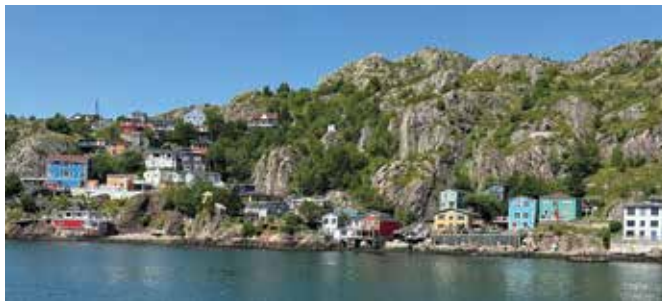
My traveling companions were RP Higgins and Steve (Steve-O) Prause, both of the local band St. John's Wood. Our other companions were Jake and Austin Caracciolo, two of RP's employees. (RP owns *Electric Picture*, a simulator technology company.)

We had an uneventful flight to St. John's on WestJet that lasted a little over four hours. Arriving shortly after 2:00 PM, RP lead us to our rental car and we headed to our hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn on NE Gower Street in St. John's, situated conveniently near the south end of the harbor. It was overcast and in the 60's. The hotel had a full restaurant and bar, and it was a ten-minute walk from downtown (George Street) where most of the famous bars are. And we wasted no time enjoying our first meal there, fish & chips, at the Duke of Duckworth. Most of the fish (cod) are deep fried but they offered it pan fried without breading as well. (The history of the cod fishing industry there is a big one but mostly in decline. Tourism is tops now.)

Tuesday morning arose bright and early. And I do mean early at 5:30 AM! This far north twilight lasts almost two hours. After breakfast Steve & I dropped off the others at the Memorial University of Newfoundland where they



North end of George Street: Every door is a bar!



Jellybean Row, northside of The Narrows



Bay Bulls, where we went whale & Puffin watching

spent the day upgrading a simulator. Steve & I then headed south to Bay Bulls, arriving in time to join a group boarding a large boat to see some whales and puffins. We weren't disappointed, seeing at least four whales including a mother and calf and tens of thousands of puffins and other birds. Puffins are cute, parrot like aquatic birds. They mate for life and are only six inches tall. Sometimes they over-eat and can't get airborne so must lallygag in the water awhile.

Our next stop was across the peninsula to the picturesque little seaside town of Dildo, on Trinity Bay. Yes, Dildo, and it's wonderful brewery with some of the best beer ever. (I bought a Dildo Brewery T-shirt.)

Later that evening after picking up RP, Jake and Austin, we headed uptown again, dining at the Yellow Belly Brewery, then bar hopping, stopping at O'Reilly's where Steve and RP were invited on stage to play a few songs. What a treat!

Wednesday we were all together and drove up Signal Hill, first to the Visitor Center, where young local reenactors, wearing WWI uniforms and sporting their Lee-Enfield rifles, were practicing drill on the lawn. Next came the museum and a short movie about the history of the Hill, followed by actually visiting the Hill and climbing Cabot Tower. The best view of St. John's is right here.

Next stop was the Johnson Geo Vista Museum LINK, a high-tech facility explaining the amazing and complex history of Newfoundland's geologic past. some of the oldest rocks on earth are part of Newfoundland's foundation.

Our lunch stop was a short drive to Quidy (pronounced kiddy) Vidi, and its fantastic brewery. One of the beer selections (and its vodka) are made from water reclaimed from actual 20,000 year-old icebergs! You can buy Iceberg vodka in your local liquor stores here in Brevard.

After a half-hour drive due east from town, we arrived at the Cape Spear Lighthouse, the easternmost point on the North American Coast. Arriving late in the afternoon there were only a few other visitors there. The stark, rugged coastal geography was both haunting and beautiful.

Back to town we ditched the car and walked back to George Street AGAIN. Dinner & more bar hopping followed.

Thursday, with a late flight out, we had time for more sightseeing that included the Titanic Museum, and, after lunch, a harbor tour including more whales and puffins, then on to the airport for our flights home.

My traveling companions were fabulous. Smart, funny, and always helpful in a pinch, the trip could not have gone better. We're already contemplating returning next year for Canada Day, July 1st. It will be on a Wednesday, so a Monday through Friday trip makes sense. Stay tuned for details on that as I'd love to bring a group.



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