

Sound Waves

Volume 23
Issue 1
October 2012

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JOHNNY COLLA
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CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS
& MORE**

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with**

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19 THUNDER BOXX	20 POSITIVE CHAOS
26 CRUSH TONES	27 COMEDY NIGHT
2 THE RUINS	3 VIOLENT RAIN

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Sat. Oct. 6th

Pre-Party

Sun. Oct. 7th

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Voice Overs
Voice Overs

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5 CHRISTOPHER JOHN	6 TBA <i>Call for info</i>
12 1st RESPONDERS	13 SHAWN TAYLOR
19 BEN FRIERT	20 DRAW BRIDGE BAND
26 SAM E. JAMES	27 RON DRAGO
2 TBA <i>Call for info</i>	3 MIKE & PAT

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MUSIC NOTES



“Johnny Colla’s Still Hearing ‘Voices’”

By Mark T. Gould

He’s co-written a slew of hit songs, many of which have become rock and pop standards, and he’s played with arguably three of the most distinctive singers of the generation, and, for Johnny Colla, it’s still all about the “voice.”

“Every human voice is a unique instrument, and it’s not limited to the voice box,” said the long time guitarist/saxophonist/singer with Huey Lewis & The News, about his new solo project, ‘I Hear Voices.’ “It’s the chest and head, the shape of the throat, mouth and nasal passages, and the resonance all these elements create; the body is the instrument.

“We each have a ‘sound’ as unique as a fingerprint, and although you can ‘put on’ a different voice, when you’re done you always just sound like you. Throw personality and passion into the mix, and the human voice becomes even more unique,” he added.

His new release strikingly confirms that, combining distinct voices, led by Colla, in what were originally conceived as a cappella arrangements of the Beach Boys’ “Our Prayer,” Clyde McPhatter’s “Lover Please,” Chubby Checker’s “Slow Twistin’,” Queen’s “Crazy Thing Called Love,” and Ben E. King’s “Save The Last Dance for Me,” among other chestnuts. Colla then tweaked the project with spare instrumentation, thereby creating a unique take on how the right voice can really make a song come alive.

And, believe me, Colla is proof positive of that fact. The co-writer of such well-known hits as “Power of Love,” “The Heart of Rock and Roll,” “Workin’ For a Living,” and “If This Is It,” as well as an excellent, yet distinctly different, earlier solo album, “Lucky Devil,” he’s admittedly always had a soft spot for the human voice, and having previously worked with Sly Stone and Van Morrison, and still going strongly after about three decades with Huey Lewis, he knows what makes it takes to make that most human of instruments sound so special.

“Well, I’ve certainly worked with some of the best, between Van, Sly Stone and that whacky, way-out ‘We Are The World’ session back in the 80s (which included Huey & the News, among a virtual “who’s who” of popular singers) . . . but ‘best’ is not the way I look at it,” Colla said. “I think ‘passionate’ might be a better choice. Passion and emotion.

“Ray Charles and Hank Williams quickly come to mind, simply because their voices draw you in to the lyric; they ‘sell’ it, you believe it, and when you hear them sing a tune they didn’t believe in it becomes immediately evident.

“Marvin Gaye and his many personas, Gladys Knight, Frank Sinatra, Etta

James, Otis Redding, Chrissie Hynde, Van Morrison; all passionate singers, yet some of them don’t have terribly attractive voices. There are nuances you can’t fake; you know the real deal when you hear it,” he added.

“Then, there are specific moments,” Colla observed. “Teddy Pendergrass’s ‘If You Don’t Know Me By Now’ may be one of the most personal, passionate vocal performances on record, with Gladys Knight’s ‘Midnight Train to Georgia’ a close second. This is the stuff that hypnotized me growing up, and I would have given my right arm to be a fly on the wall at some of these amazing recording moments.”

And, for his own singing voice? Well, it’s taken a close, equally talented family member to help him bring it all out.

“I’d say I’m slightly lacking in character, but folks seem to think there’s enough there to qualify me as a singer (whew!). Thankfully I’m developing more with age; I didn’t like the sound of my own voice the first 25 years of my life,” he said.

“A couple things happened to me during the making of ‘Voices,’ he recalled. “First, I caught a nasty virus on the road, had a dramatic coughing spell, and did some possible damage to my voice box; my voice hasn’t been the same since. The good news is, I kind-of like it! It gave me more of that character I keep talking about!

“The other event happened right when I was actually cutting vocals in my basement studio at home,” he remembered. “One day, I took a break and came upstairs to stir the soup pot, empty the garbage or some such multi-task, and I asked my wife, Christie, who sings on four of the tracks, to come down and hear what I was working on.

“She’s a classically-trained singer, Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels. She said I sounded good, the pitch was great, good performance, nice treatment, but she didn’t like the sound of my voice when it ‘thinned out’ on the higher notes,” Colla recalled.

“Of course, I took slight offense and said something to the effect of ‘this-is-rock-n-roll-and-a-guy-just-sings-and-it-comes-out-and-that’s-the-way-it’s-done.’ But she got me thinking . . .

“I went back and listened, and she was right! I took the time out to pick the rough spots and sing from my throat rather than from my mouth, and it really changed the texture of my vocal. It also came as naturally as if I’d always sung in this fashion; in fact it is more natural than the bad habit I’d developed of ‘pinching’ higher notes.

“I’ll never live that down with her,” he joked.

And, with that in mind, how would Colla describe the voice of Huey Lewis, a man with whom he has worked with for so many years?

“Huey’s got an instrument/voice as unique as any,” he said. “I think I am most impressed at how much better he got over time. We were screaming and hollering on our first record, and by our fourth album he’s crooning ‘It’s As Simple As That.’

“What followed? The ballad for ‘Oliver & Company’ in ‘88, and a duet with Gwyneth Paltrow in 2000,” Colla observed. “We’ve been writing, producing and singing together for so long - over 30 years - and I think our styles have simply rubbed off on each other.

www.Swaves.com

"For years we wrote for 'what was missing,' in other words, what haven't we done? Nowadays, it's simply finding a hook Huey can buy, then try and wrap music around it that fits the lyrical sentiment; not as easy as it sounds," Colla said.

"On the other hand, we've recently put together a very good tune, and production played a major part in it; a refreshing change for me. Not bad, and it ain't over!" he added.

"Among 'the boys' Huey describes his voice as 'the Mack Truck,' Colla said, "but I believe, through the years, he's found some subtleties he didn't know he had. Hard to believe, but we've all gotten better at what we do!"

Give just one listen to the remarkable "I Hear Voices" and you'll know that, for Johnny Colla the "Heart of Rock and Roll" is his voice.

Johnny Colla's "I Hear Voices" is available through his web site, www.johnnycolla.com



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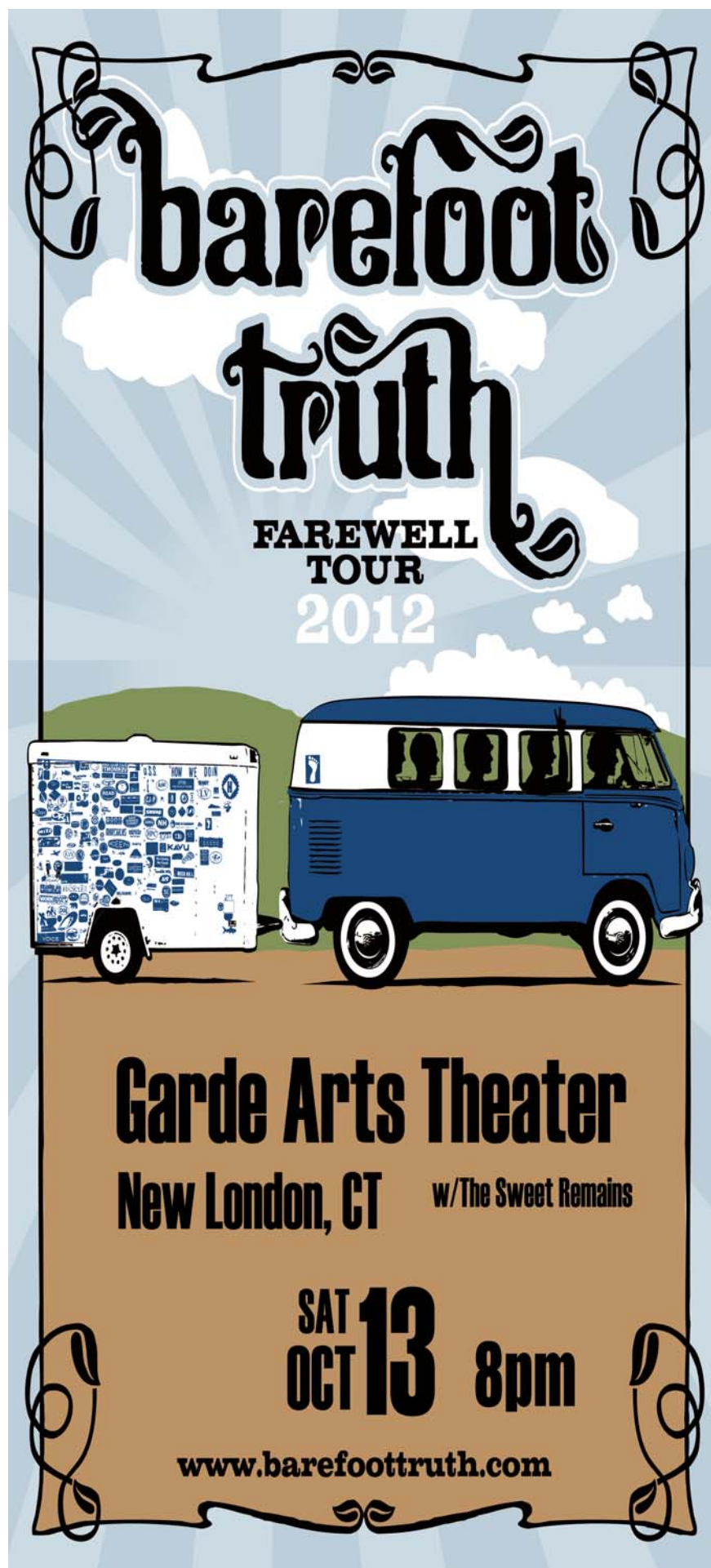
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SOUND WAVES 7

BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



Hello, My Sweet BarFlies...and so, we rejoin our story from last month, I had headed off to Ninigret Park in Charlestown to "Camp Out" for the first time since I was in Girl Scouts and watch the extremely popular RHYTHM AND ROOTS Festival. OMG!! What a Blast! Porta-Pottys, sleeping out on Mother Earth and lack of electricity in my room (read: tent) be damned.

I arrived at Ninigret around 2 on a Saturday afternoon with the Short Guy and his friend, parking out in the North 40. Thanks be to God, the lovely Kris Slocum met us, with all our "Gear" halfway across the Ginormous Parking Lot from Hell, with a little red wagon.

We packed all of our stuff onto it and she wheeled us to our camp site, which was extremely well-apportioned with all the modern accoutrements of today's modern camper. By this, I mean, this awesome Gang of Campers had it going on!!

Between Mike Hurds' special built Grill to Kev's Fantastic Shower Tent, the lovely Ladies with their Fabulously Scrumptious Dishes, and our own personal Potty and outdoor couch.. the set-up in our area was Phenomenal! Within minutes of arriving with my Dunkin' Donuts Vanilla Ice..extra extra in hand, Kris had dragged me to Centerstage, where the GOURDS were merrily belting out "I Think I Found a Possum", along with Joe Cockeresque



hand and body movements, I decided I needed to ditch the coffee and start sucking 'em down! Now!

After lubricating ourselves with special dancing fluid, we made it back to Centerstage for CAROLINA AND THE CHOCOLATE DROPS, singing the most awesome Gaelic freaking song I'VE EVER HEARD!! Along with some exotic looking guy wailing on a giant kettle drum behind the singer,, the wind blowing, the storm moving in, absolutely gorgeous evening. This performance was one of the most memorable moments of my life! I cried... it was beautiful!

We danced in the Dance tent, saw Linda Turano and dad, Rudy, danced some more. Bought Hats. Bought Rings. Danced with Quinn, Saw the HOUSE Guy, Hugh Laurie and the Copper Pots!! Fabulous! Saw Jamie Q and Ryan...Was handcuffed..Danced some more. Finally made it to my tent bed around 11..

Yikes, a little tipsy and was in lala land for a few short hours when doo da doodoo...doo da doodoo..Huh? What's going on? Is that an alarm? Is someone dead? No! it's freakin' Bailey's new iphone letting her know that it was dying... every 30 seconds for four more hours, until I finally stormed out of the tent, to my car and drove home! But, Can't Wait for Next Year!! Was Unbelievable..let's all go!!?

Speaking of memorable, went to lunch at SKIPPER'S DOCK with the **8 SOUND WAVES**

fam for my Mother's Birthday this month and had a wonderful time reminiscing about our younger days with everyone. Apparently I was quite the pain in the ass growing up! Miss Dawn looked amazing, and the food was dee-lish! Had the hot lobster sandwich with Gruyere cheese, dipped in drawn butter and went into cardiac arrest over the decadent richness of it all! Happy Birthday, Mom! I love you!

Hubby went to house party at Barney and Kathy Caddick's and reported that the 80's Classic Rock Band THRUST, is Back!! and they sound incredible! Heard they will be playing at the BROWN DERBY on the 20th of October so I hope to have some Secret Spies manning the event and reporting back, as I will be partying like a rockstar in Key West, at Fantasy Fest (cripes, talk about decadent? what happens in Key West stays in KeyWest... heard Ron Jeremy is gonna be there!) Can't wait to hear all about guitar hero, Mark Peterson!!

Saw Miss Rhonda from SNEEKERS at a benefit held for family friend MIKE NIDDRIE, who's been going through some hard times recently. The place was hopping and Miss Rhonda looked as beautiful as ever. My friend Chris and his girl will be opening the WASHINGTON STREET COFFEE HOUSE in New London soon and I heard it will be a delightful stop for your morning pastries and coffee. And speaking of New London, their FOOD STROLL will be on Oct. 17 and promises to offer something for all your culinary tastes.

Unfortunately, as the BREWS AND BLUES, WINGS OVER WESTERLY and HANDLEBAR CAFE "END OF SUMMER BASH", are all being held after I turn in this assignment, I can not at this time, report anything, but I can tell you I probably had a blast! I can also report that we will be doing a special "Thank You" to all those who helped make this event a Success in next month's article!. Also a "Shout Out" to stellar bluesman and BREWS AND BLUES mainstay, KARL KELLY, who's very ill. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Karl!



I was happy to be a part of the Big Crew of women and men that make the MARK PESCATELLO SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF TOURNAMENT a yearly success. Wow! 125 Hot-Looking Golfers Showed Up in Support at the WINNAPAUG GOLF COURSE! Jell-O was Flying! Lemon drops and Fra-Nette (yes, Fra-Nette) were flowing! A Blast!! Gave Tim Raiche best dressed for his argyle sweater vest!!

And I hope to see you all at MITCHFEST, being held at the KNICKERBOCKER CAFE on Oct. 14! So many Fantastic Bands show up to support RI HOSPICE. Love the CHRISTINA FAMILY!! And Happy Halloween!! Will be at all the Happening Spots to celebrate! Ciao, for now, My Sweet Flies..I love you!!





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BAND DATES

ALTER EGO

27 - Christophers, Groton, CT

ANDY & BETHANY

11 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 7pm
12 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI
18 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 8pm
25 - Acoustic Brew, Voluntown, CT 8:30pm

A2Z ACOUSTIC DUO

5 - Family Bowl, Waterford, CT 7pm
6 - Stone Fleet Tavern, New London, CT 8pm
11,25 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
13 - Commoner, New London, CT 6pm
20,21 - Cancer Benefit, Mystic, CT 1pm
26 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT 5pm
27 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30pm

BOB LAVALLEY

5,19 - Cody's, Westerly, RI 7-10
14 - Festival, Hopkinton, RI 10a-1pm
18 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic 8pm
27 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 8pm

BRANDT TAYLOR

3,10,17,24,31 - Sneakers, Ashford, CT 8pm
5 - The Village, Woodstock, CT
6 - Hazard Grill, Enfield, CT 8pm
13 - Village Barn, Meriden, CT
19 - Sneakers, Ashford, CT 5pm
19 - Greendales, Worcester, MA
20 - Gold Eagle, Dayville, CT
26 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
27 - Acoustic Brew, Voluntown, CT
28 - Dunny's, N, Brookfield, MA 6pm

THE CARTELLS

5 - Maple Tree Cafe, Simsbury, CT 8:30pm
7 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 2-5pm
10 - Knickerbocker, Westerly RI 8pm
13 - Ocean Beach, New London, CT 6:30pm
20 - Latitude 41, Mystic Seaport 7pm
26 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm

CRUZ MACHINE

20 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
10 SOUND WAVES

26 - Butterball's, Hebron, CT

DAN STEVENS

5 - C. C.'s, Southington, CT
6 - Wallingford Days, Wallingford, CT noon
6 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30pm
7 - Shelton Day, Shelton, CT
10 - Drylongso, N. Conway, NH
12 - Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME
14 - McSeagull's, Boothbay Harbor, ME
17 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT
18 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
19 - Fred's BBQ, Willimantic, CT
20 - Dirt Floor, Chester, CT
21 - Delta Grill, New York, NY

DAN WATSON

7,21 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
11 - Bridge, Westerly, RI
14 - Jonathan Edwards, N. Stonington, CT 4pm
16,30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
27 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT

EIGHT TO THE BAR

12 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
19 - Waverly Tavern, Cheshire, CT
27 - Infinity Hall, Norfolk, CT 8pm
28 - Elks Club, Leominster, MA 7:30pm

FAT CAT & SKINNY RAT

6 - Road Cafe, Manchester, CT 6-10pm
20 - Dunn's Pub, Hamden, CT
26 - Tuscany Grill, Middletown, CT 7pm

THE GOAT ROPERS

12,27 - VFW, Taunton, MA 8pm
13 - St. John's Club, Fall River MA 7:30pm

GOPHERBROKE

5 - Lulu's, Enfield, CT 7-11
14 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 3:30-7
20 - Inn at Newtown, Newtown, CT

GORDON BOK

12 - All Souls, New London, CT
13 - Old Songs, Voorheesville, NY

GREEN TEA

6 - CC O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT
27 - Bridge, Westerly, RI

GROUND CONTROL

5 - VooDoo Grill, Mystic, CT
13 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 8pm
26 - The Tumpike, Uncasville, CT 6pm

HOPE ROAD

14 - Andrea, Misquamicut, RI (1-7)

JAMES HARRIS

5,18 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
6 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
9,16,23,30 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
10,17,20,24,31 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
11 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 7pm
19 - Maugle Vineyard, Ledyard, CT 5:30pm
21 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5pm
26 - Dogwatch, Stonington, CT
27 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI

KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

7 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5-8
18 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 7-10
19 - 84 High St, Westerly, RI 8:30
20 - W.B. Cody's, Westerly, RI 7pm
25 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
26 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT

kGb

18 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm

Ms. MARCI

& THE LOVESICK HOUNDS
28 - Little Man's Diner, Westerly, RI 12-6pm

NOAH FELDMAN

5 - Chacers, Norwich, CT 6-8
12 - New Deal, Westbrook, CT
17 - Sneakers, Groton, CT 7pm
26 - Acoustic Brew, Voluntown, CT
27 - Hearsay, New London, CT

RED LIGHT

12 - Hard Rock, Ledyard, CT
19 - Rock Junction, Coventry, RI

STEVE BRODERICK

4 - Arlene's Grocery, NYC, NY 7pm
7 - Chamard, Clinton, CT 5:30pm
14 - Jonathan Edwards, N. Stonington, CT 4-7pm

STYFF KITTY

5 - Sneakers, Groton, CT
13 - CC O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT

SUNDAY GRAVY

4 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
5 - Ricconi's, Groton, CT
11 - Acoustic Brew, Voluntown, CT
12 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
13 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI
25 - Harp & Dragon, Norwich, CT
26 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI

2 CAT ZOO

8 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 2-5pm

25 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 8pm
26 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT

VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

6 - Hygienic Art Park, New London, CT

WICKED PEACH

5 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT
6 - Wicked Pissa, Ledyard, CT
12,13,20 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
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Before the age of ten she was a nationwide finalist for the lead in the Broadway production of Annie, sang the national anthem at a Dallas Cowboy football game, and was a one week champion on the Ed McMahon hosted television show "Star Search."

Before the age of twenty she had already recorded six CD's on the Curb Record label, won a couple of Grammy Awards in country music categories, written a couple of books, had one of the biggest hit singles of the nineties with the song "How Do I Live" and filed a lawsuit against her father and one of her managers for swindling nearly seven million dollars from her over a five year period.

Before the age of thirty she released five more CD's, starred in several movies, wrote a couple more books, got married a couple of times, and became a major target of the paparazzi.

Since turning thirty on August 28th she has entered a 30 day in-patient treatment facility for anxiety and stress while simultaneously embarking on a nationwide tour promoting her soon to be released and highly anticipated CD called "Spitfire."

It's never a dull moment for LeAnn Rimes! She's criticized for being too thin yet she was recently on the cover of "Shape" magazine and besides, there's got to be about a hundred pictures of her online looking fabulous in assorted skimpy bikinis. Also, there's her marriage to the actor Eddie Cibrian that has ruffled the features of more than a few jealous internet trolls hiding behind their insipid and anonymous blogs. Eddie and LeAnn met while filming the movie "Northern Lights" back in 2009. Both were married at the time when they fell in love with each other. They both got divorced and they married soon after. Eddie happened to have two children and because of that LeAnn has been called every name in the book including names that begin with the first two consonants of the alphabet. Is it any wonder she's stressed out?

LeAnn Rimes exploded onto the country music scene in 1996 with her debut album "Blue."

The title song was written in the late fifties by Bill Mack who wanted Patsy Cline to record it. Patsy died in a plane crash before ever getting the chance. Years later Bill was working in Dallas as a disc jockey when he first heard a very young singer named LeAnn Rimes whose vocal style reminded him of Patsy. He thought "Blue" would be a great song for her to sing. He ended up being right about that because the album "Blue" ended up selling over eight million copies world wide.

A year after the success of "Blue" LeAnn Rimes reached superstar heights when the song "How Do I Live" became the longest running single in Billboard Hot 100 history, spending 69 weeks on the chart. Hit record followed hit record and by the age of twenty-one she already had a greatest hits CD!

LeAnn's recent recordings include a very grown-up record called "Family" which was released in 2007 and "Lady & Gentlemen" which came out in 2011. On this record, LeAnn gives a woman's touch to an array of classic country songs that were originally recorded by men. There are songs on the disc written by such country luminaries as Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings and Vince Gill among others.

In early 2013 LeAnn's newest record "Spitfire" will be released and she

could not be more excited about it. This phone interview took place on the afternoon of August 23rd, just days before her thirtieth birthday. LeAnn was very animated and chatty, especially when talking about "Spitfire." She's really looking forward to singing these new songs and her tour will bring her to the MGM Grand at Foxwoods on Friday October 12th and then to the Warner Theater in Torrington on Saturday November 17th.

BH – LeAnn, can you believe that the little eight year old girl who was on Star Search not too long ago will be turning thirty in a couple of days?

LR – "No I actually don't. I feel like that eight year old girl sometimes to be honest. And then I feel like, with all I've gone through, it's like I'm sixty. It's kind of a weird age but I'm excited about it. I don't feel depressed and I'm not taking it hard like most people do, I'm actually excited to get out of my twenties. My twenties were good but I had a lot of lessons to learn. Hopefully thirty will be a little more peaceful."

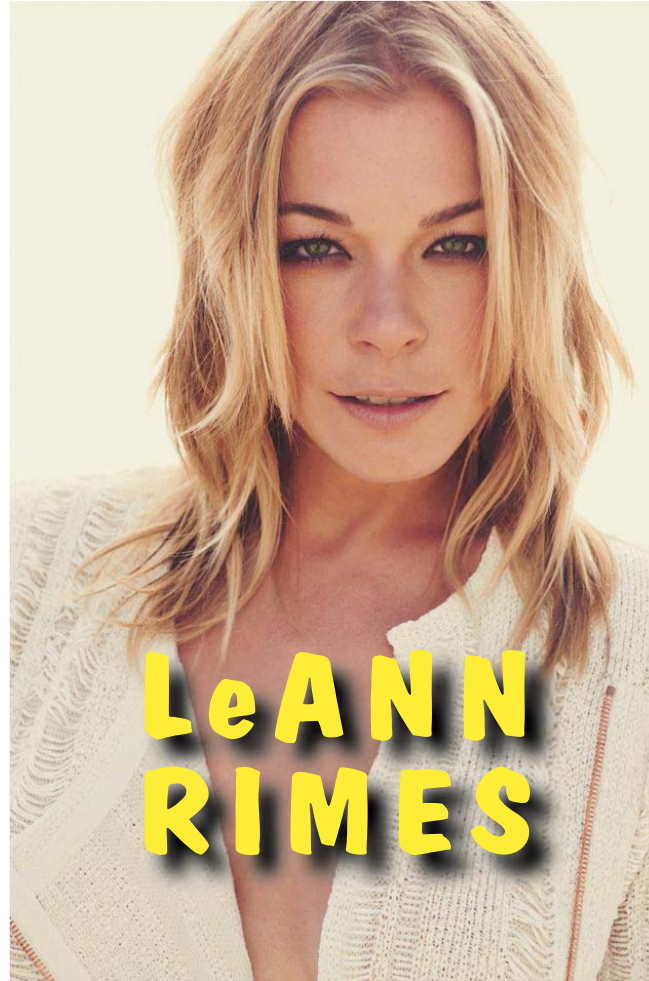
BH – What's one thing that you might have done differently?

LR – "Take time to actually enjoy your successes and learn from your failures. The biggest thing that I didn't do is enjoy the successes that I had because I was constantly moving forward. I'm still trying to learn how to do that these days because you're constantly thinking so far ahead of time. I wish the one thing that people told me was really just stop for a moment and truly take it in."

BH - Have you ever wondered how your career might have gone if you had landed the lead in the Broadway play Annie way back when?

LR – "God knows where that would have taken me. I just believe things happen for a reason and I was so young, I was six. What an amazing experience because they had auditioned thousands and thousands of girls and brought it down to the top ten. I walked right

in the door and these girls were looking at me like 'what the hell is she doing here?' I was in Texas and I was all dolled up and all these girls looked like orphans because that's what they were supposed to look like. But I've never done anything like that before and they brought me in first before all these girls who had worked and worked to do it. And that was my first taste, at six, of women! With the mothers and the girls there was definitely that cattiness. I kind of went 'you know what I'm just going to rely on my talent and not go there.' And that's the one thing that my mom always taught me was just to go and do your best and that's what I did and I really didn't think about it much. I've been blessed with a gift. I have my moments where I've question things, I'm trying to do different things and learn different things. There's not a lot of thinking when it comes to what I do. When I go out on stage I have fun. I open my mouth and I sing and I love it. I love entertaining people. I have fun with my fans and thank god I have the talent to be able to go out and do that. But who knows what would have happened to that little girl. I got a lot of experience, let me tell you, for a six year old but I don't think I quite knew what the experience was until I got a little older."



By Bill Harriman

BH – I’m curious about the Bill Mack song “Blue.” I know he wrote it in the late fifties hoping Patsy Cline would record it. Did he try to have anyone else cover it between the time she died and the time you sang it in the mid nineties?

LR - “He might have, I’m not really sure. The original recording, the demo was completely different and I think it was a man singing. It didn’t have the yodel thing in it. That was something I just stuck in there as a child and I have no idea why.”

BH – That’s what makes the song!

LR - “Yeah, not to pat myself on the back or anything, but it does make the song. That’s the hook of the song. For some reason that’s what I heard when I first heard the song. I think my dad he didn’t love the song, so I wanted to prove to my dad that the song was good. So I came up with something that was a little different. I think that was kind of that little rebellious child in me wanted to make sure that I recorded that. I think that’s kind of what happened.”

BH – What was it like when “How Do I Live” became such a monster hit?

LR - “I don’t recall a lot of that time of my life to be honest. It was very hard as a child to go through that whirlwind of success and still remember it. I think it was almost a survival mechanism to put a lot of it out of my head and still try to be a normal human being. Because I don’t think people really saw me as a human being. They saw me as like a brilliant child with this big voice. So when you hear that constantly, all the time, it was like ‘how do I deal with this?’ It was amazing because god knows I never expected any kind of success like I had at that age. It was definitely a hard pill to swallow for a child but it was also what I dreamed about doing. But I don’t think anyone could dream that far ahead or that big, especially as a kid. It was pretty overwhelming and pretty insane.”

BH – Moving ahead, I thought that the “Family” CD with songs like the title cut, “Nothing Better to do,” and “Good Friend and a Glass of Wine” was a transition into more adult themes. Do you agree?

LR - “That was the beginning of showing who I am as a human being. I wanted to be seen not as a child but as a woman and that was kind of the beginning of it. I had been through a lot of public issues with my record company and my father and my family and I just wanted to start telling the truth. I didn’t want to sing songs anymore just for the sole fact of them being a hit. I wanted to try to expand on my writing and my talent and be a part of telling my story. And I think ‘Family’ was the beginning of that. And now with the album ‘Spitfire,’ there’s no holds barred on this record! I think ‘Family’ gave me that jumping off point to really tell the truth but ‘Spitfire’ is way far ahead of that one and I think now it’s just why not speak the truth in my music? For me now it’s about writing honest songs that hopefully someone can relate to in their life and it touches them. So I guess my vision has changed a little bit and what I strive to do has changed a ton obviously since I was a kid and like I said ‘Family’ was that jumping off point of just being truthful and honest as an artist and as a human being.”

BH – Tell me more about “Spitfire?” Will it be out soon? Did you write all the songs?

LR - “The single will be out by the time I’m touring and I co-wrote nine of the thirteen songs on the record and yeah, it’s as honest, like I said, as you can get. It takes you on a wild roller coaster ride of emotions that’s for sure. I could not be happier with a record in my life. This is the best album I’ve ever made hands down and I’m so thrilled to have people hear it. And it’s been great to perform it live because we do perform a lot of the songs live. People, the way they relate to the songs is pretty incredible. Like I

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said, I don't hold anything back. It's my truth about the past several years of my life but in no particular chronicle order in any way but definitely my truth."

BH – Let's talk about your last release "Lady and Gentlemen." I see that Darrell Brown who co-wrote some of the songs on "Family" produced this record with help from Vince Gill. What was it like working with those guys and with so many songs to choose from how did you manage to narrow it down to the thirteen tracks that made the record?

LR - "We started with about eighty songs and basically I just sat in a room with Vince and Darrell and started singing a verse and a chorus of them and kind of saw what sounded great with my voice. These were songs that I grew up singing and grew up on. It's been really amazing to have created that record of all of these great songs that were originally recorded by men and then taking them and paying homage to that but then pushing them and making them my own as a woman, somewhat changing the lyrics but a lot of times not. I believe that if I can make you believe what I'm singing then the gender part really doesn't matter. But I love to go back to the old traditional music which is what I love anyway and it really preps me, and Darrell also, for what we wanted to do with 'Spitfire' which was really break it down as much as possible to these songs that were brutally honest almost so much that it makes you want to squirm because I think people are going to go 'oh she said that!' It's the truth. I told the truth. I think I say a lot of things on this record that people may not be willing to admit that they probably were going through. Hopefully it will inspire them to take a leap and tell the truth or be truthful to themselves or whatever it might be. There's a lot of things that I think were hard to say at times but it's great for it to come out in my music. I think that's the way it should be. As far as instrumentation we wanted to make it as sparse as possible and as cool as possible but have that similar old country sound but bring it into modern days. There's definitely a mix of both but it sounds like an old record but in modern times. It's super cool and I'm so proud of it."

BH – Tell me some more about the instrumentation and any special guests you might have worked with.

LR - "There is electric guitar on a couple of songs but mostly we recorded with a steel guitar and acoustic bass and drums. Dan Tyminski from Union Station sings on it. Allison Kraus sings on it. Rob Thomas and I do a duet and there's an amazing guitar solo on this song from Jeff Beck too. I just really went for it. I went for my dream band, went for my dream everything, and every time someone said yes I just was like a little girl still. After eighteen years of doing this I get excited when people that I really admire just jump in without even hearing the music first and say 'yeah we want to work with you.' Because it was such a labor of love and because it came from just a pure joy of recording music for every single person who worked on this album including myself, I think that really shows. And when music comes from a place of just the true joy of it, I think that's when the best projects are made."

BH – Great country music is always honest. I'll take Kris Kristofferson singing "Sunday Morning Coming Down" over Billy Ray Cyrus singing "Achy Breaky Heart" any day of the week!

LR - "You can't really compare Kris Kristofferson's songwriting with pretty much anyone except Merle Haggard and Willie Nelson and that's what inspired me too in making that last record of 'Lady and Gentlemen.' These men were not afraid to write about being in prison, their affairs, their drug use, their drinking, and whatever it may have been. They were just honest. It was their life that they lived and that's inspiring because a lot of people aren't willing to go there these days."

BH – I understand that your contract is up with Curb Records. Will you re-sign with them or take a break or pursue other interests such as acting?

LR - "I don't know where I'm going and that's cool. I've been there since I was eleven and we've had our ups and downs but they're totally on my side with this record. I've never had a better relationship with them than now actually and I'm so excited to go on this journey with them and they are totally with me on this album. It's exciting to have everybody behind me and truly believing in it. But I don't know because the business has changed so much. Everything is really online and you don't really go buy records anymore, which is sad to me. But who knows, I have a lot of things that I want to do and acting is definitely one of them."

BH – Your last movie was "Reel Love" which co-starred Burt Reynolds. I'll bet that was lots of fun!

LR - "Yeah, I enjoy it and I definitely think that I'm ready to jump into some more of that. And I think that on an emotional level I'm just more in touch with every single emotion that I have more than I've ever been which is great for a songwriter, a singer, or an actor. I think I have a lot to offer there and I'm learning every time I do it which is great. I've been doing it since I was a kid. It's not second nature to me yet but I think that eventually it could be. But I'll still make music. Usually I take a break from writing songs but I'm already working on the next record and I'll probably be done with writing the next record by the time that this new album comes out so it's just fun to be able to click. Sometimes you get in these creative phases and these things just come out and that's the fun part of it."

BH – I recently read your book "Holiday in your Heart." I was thinking that Kitty Wells, who just passed away, could have been the inspiration for that story.

LR - "Yeah she could have absolutely. I think there were a few people that were the inspiration for that. But it was also based on a true story a little bit about my grandmother. She was battling with emphysema and she always wanted to see me at the Grand Ole Opry but never had the chance to because she passed away. So the book was somewhat loosely based on that. You know it's hard to juggle family and business. There was so much of a mentality back in the day of get it while you can and I've been lucky to have over eighteen years in this business but I feel like I'm just starting over again and this time it will be family first for sure. But music and my fans are always a close second, that's for damn sure! But family first because that's what life is really all about."

BH – Tell me a little bit about the touring band you'll be bringing to Connecticut this fall?

LR - "I have four pieces that play with me. It's half acoustic and half plugged in. That's what's so fun about it. I don't really stick to the set list anymore. I still have one in front of me but it just kind of changes as we go along. It's really about what I'm feeling and how the audience is reacting and what they're digging. I have a lot of fun now. It feels like that wall has been broken down, that it's not fans and star quote unquote on stage anymore, it's just like everybody hanging out in a living room. I encourage them to talk to me and hang out with me. The best way to get to know me is to come see a show for sure."

As these words are written a month has passed since this phone interview took place and LeAnn's 30 day stay at an in-patient treatment facility has come to an end. She was looking great on September 20th when she attended the VH1 Save the Music Foundation's Songwriters Music Series. Also, the first single off of "Spitfire" is called "What Have I Done?" and it will be released on December 10th. "I'm healthy and happy," LeAnn recently told People Magazine. "I just want to be happier and healthier more

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consistently. I don't want to wake up and not truly be enjoying my life and these amazing things around me."





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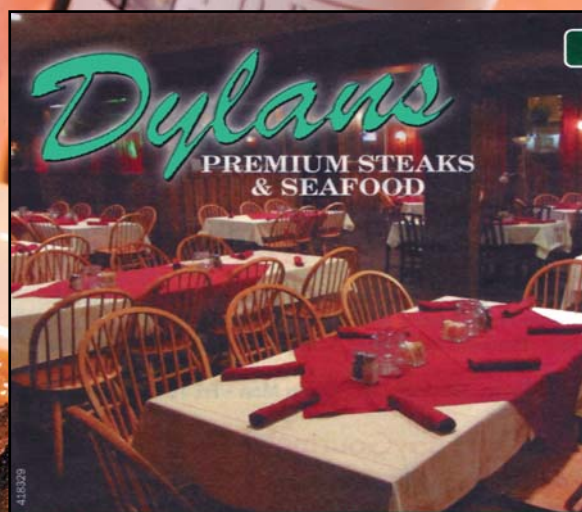
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HEARING AID



Kaki King "Glow"

Velour Recordings

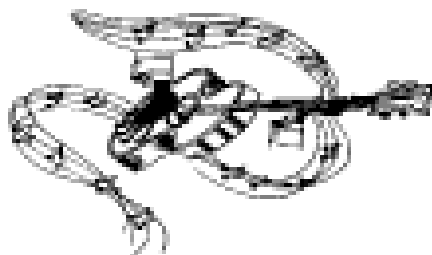
In the world of acoustic guitar virtuosos, Kaki King has always brought something fresh and exciting to the table. Sometimes clumped in the same camp as Michael Hedges and Andy McKee, Kaki's compositions demand the technical mastery of her contemporaries but posses a unique dark edge that no one else can imitate. Refusing to churn out albums only to solidify her status as an acoustic guitar gymnast, Kaki explores different musical caveats on each record. 2006 brought us the sparse lap-steel ballads of *Until We Felt Red*, while 2010's *Junior* delivered raw, punk-rock angst. 2012 brings us Kaki's sixth LP, *Glow*, which uncovers yet another side to the multifaceted guitar player and musician.

Glow focuses heavily on atmosphere, space, and texture. The entire album highlights the acoustic guitar, and is devoid of any of the trumpet melodies, electric guitar lines, or vocals that might have shown up on previous works. Instead, Kaki's fragile guitar melodies and delicately finger picked chords float among lush synthesizers in the background. In the gorgeously textured track "Fences", astral 12-string guitar and synth washes engulf the listener. Other tracks, like "Cargo Cult", develop with the pulse of tribal polyrhythms and galloping electric bass lines. For the most part, the dynamic peaks of *Glow* are more restrained than in-your-face. The greatest exception would be the fiery "King Pizel", a Middle-Eastern tinged track where Kaki strums the acoustic guitar with sweeping fury and

intensity. Still, the album doesn't strive to be instant, but instead enchanting and hypnotic.

Glow projects itself with a quiet confidence much unlike its brasher predecessor, *Junior*. Haunting, cinematic, and gorgeously melodic, *Glow* provides a profound musical experience that will force the listener to come back. While only patient ears will be allowed admission into Kaki's world, those who enter will have a tough time leaving.

- Jeff Howard



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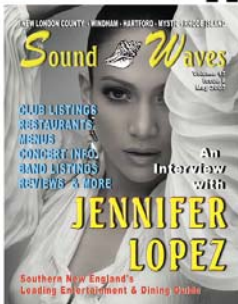
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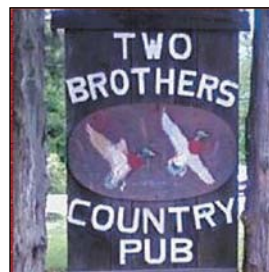
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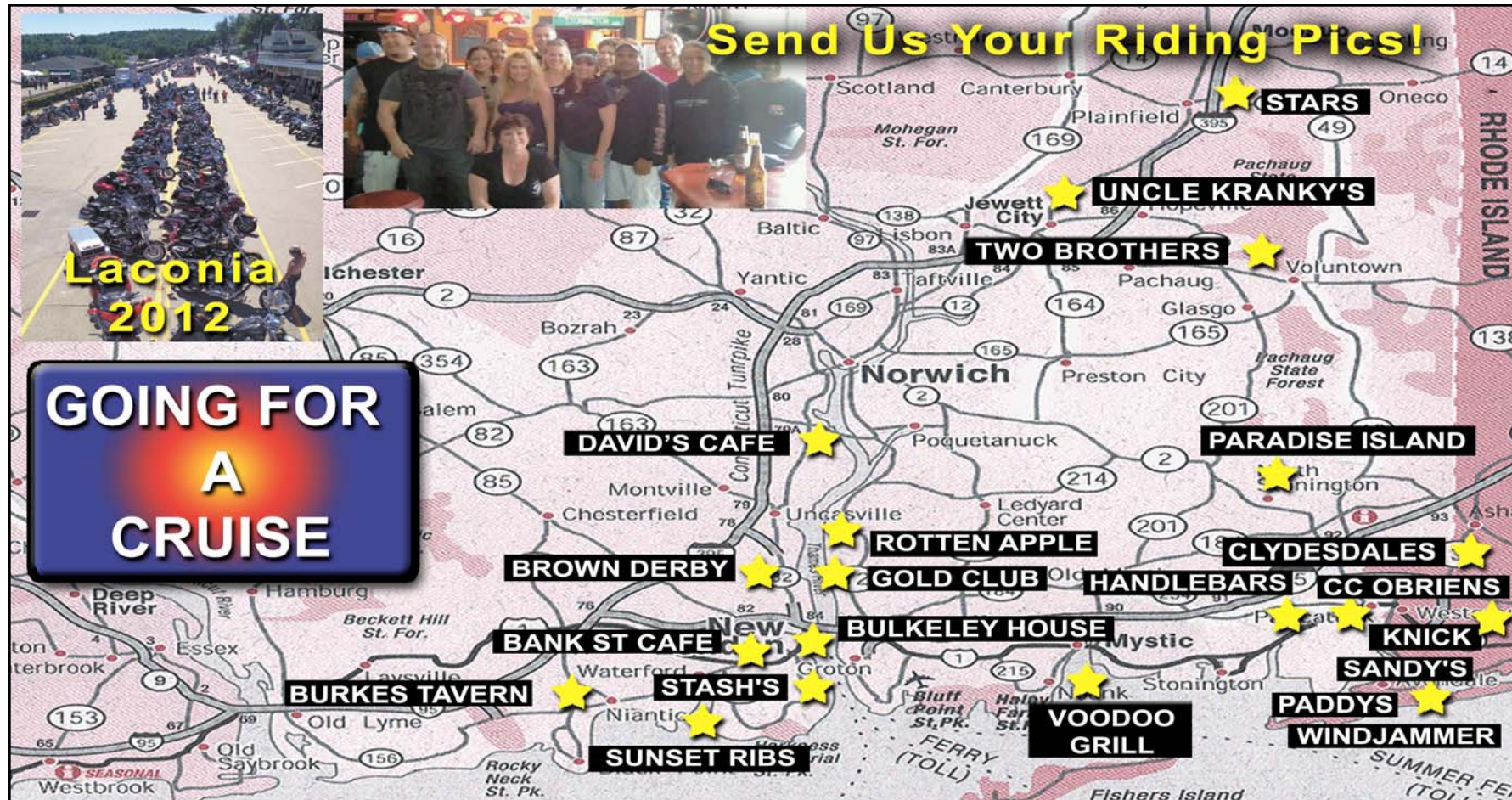
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Cindy Morrone & Heather St. Clair

New England bikers are uniquely blessed – we can travel through several states in a single day. Pity those poor Texans – they travel for hours and hours and are still in Texas. It's such a pleasure to feel as though we're traveling state to state, seeing different places and feel each state differently. On many of our adventures through our scenic corner of the world, we picked a central place to meet in the morning and that central place is often Legend's Bar and Grill in Hope Valley, RI. It's easy to get to for both the CT and RI riders and it's close to that central New England artery, route 95. Now that Legend's serves breakfast, we can "fuel up" our bellies and our tanks for the trip as well.

We met one recent September Sunday for breakfast – our first at Legend's – and we were happy with our choice. Classic and Vulcan arrived late to find Road King and Fat Boy enjoying tall Bloody Mary's. Classic can never pass up a tomato-y treat, so she quickly ordered one for herself before even sitting down. SoftTail and Vulcan skipped the Bloodies and stuck with coffee, which they deemed very tasty, but they missed out on one delicious cocktail.

Legend's, a cozy pub, is a familiar stop for many area bikers. They host the Fallen Brothers' Run each year as well as other fun events. The bar and dining area share the same room, and although the dining area is small, we didn't have to wait for a table, however there was only one waitress. She was quite efficient though, so we didn't notice any delays. We placed our orders and commenced our dissection of the week's Sons of Anarchy episode; before breakfast arrived.

The menu has all the breakfast basics – eggs, pancakes, omelets – as well as some more unusual choices. Road King chose "Hash Hash Hash" for his breakfast, a pile of homemade corned beef hash, accompanied by two eggs, homefries and toast. There's nothing like homemade hash and these did not disappoint. Road King didn't speak much during his breakfast and we took this for an affirmation of his enjoyment.

SoftTail chose the Soupy and Egg Scramble, a concoction that is just as it sounds, local soupy with scrambled eggs, served with toast and homefries. The thought of soupy appealed to Classic, so she asked for a special breakfast – two eggs with homefries and soupy instead of sausage. Although this was not on the menu, they were happy to oblige and the result was terrific. There's nothing quite like fried soupy with eggs on a Sunday morning after a late night the night before. Classic was just happy she made it out of bed.

Vulcan opted for the traditional bacon and eggs. The bacon was applewood smoked and arrived aromatic and crispy. Vulcan wouldn't share, so we'll have to take his word for it that it was delectable. Darn selfish bikers! Fat Boy chose the Steak and Eggs, a healthy ten ounce rib-eye, served with eggs homefries and toast. The steak was a good breakfast steak, not

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something you would get at your favorite steak restaurant, but satisfying nonetheless.

The homefries were plentiful, but greasy. Now, depending on your tastes, this can be a plus or a minus. Our group should be eating a little healthier but if you are recovering from, shall we say, a "late" night – these are just what the doctor ordered.

I won't say bikers are cheap, after all, all that leather and chrome costs some hefty cash, but bikers do love a bargain. The prices at Legend's were very reasonable and this group will be back.

Legend's serves breakfast only on Sundays. If you miss it, you can enjoy lunch or dinner. They have specials every day, including 20 cent chicken wings, (try the spicy Thai – scrumptious!).

Full and happy, we left breakfast and headed off for a short ride to the Ocean Mist before heading to the Westerly Elks Annual Harley Raffle. No, we didn't win the Harley...but there's always next year!

Eat well and ride safe!

Breakfast with Bikers gives Legend's Bar and Grill a 3 spark-plug rating 1 plug = keep on riding, / 2 plugs = better than no food at all/ 3 plugs = worth the ride / 4 plugs = put it on your map

If anyone would like to give us ideas about where our next journey could lead us, please visit our website. Let us know how you feel or share your experiences with us. We look forward to hearing from you!

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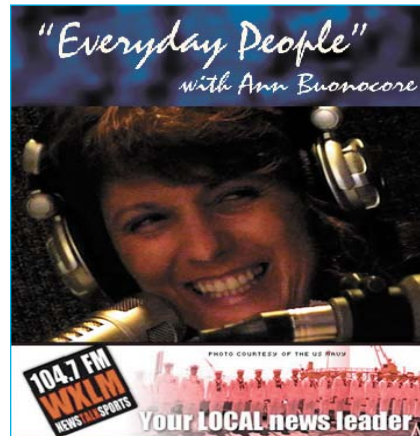
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