



• Edition X

Summer 2004

~~~~Who We Are ~~~~

The Wharf Rats are a group of concert-goers who have chosen to live drug and alcohol free. Our primary purpose at shows is to make ourselves available to anyone who feels we may have something they want. We don't tell others how to attend their show. We offer clean and sober support, strength, fellowship and hope. We are not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous nor any other twelve-step group. We are a group of friends sharing a common bond, providing support, information and some traction in an otherwise slippery environment. Look for the yellow balloons, signs and the Wharf Rats information table.

It is occurring to me once again how the Wharf Rats have endured over the course of time. Talk about an idea whose time was right, starting up the Wharf Rats was a divinely inspired thought that became a collective action, until it finds us all here today, gathering once again to take in the summer with as much music, fellowship and family as we are each able to fit in. (Grateful nod to those who took the first steps, and brave steps when you think that there were no Wharf Rats, no tables, no balloons to guide us to each other back in the day, just the desire to stay clean and not give up the music). Hope this summer finds you all well and ready for the Wave That Flag Tour and Bonnaroo. The excitement on the Wharf Rats list is absolutely palatable right now (it's April as I write this), the anticipation of the gatherings is being expressed in abundance. Along with our personal stories of struggle and triumph, we endure, and grow, and if we're lucky we get to be of service to other concert goers who want what we have, and are willing to do what it takes to get it, and as a result enjoy freedom from active addictions and have found a new way of life, a better way, a way to tour with our old friends, in and out of the band. Who'd of thought..... really, I mean does it get any better than this you guys?

Wishing you the best this summer, hook up with your local Wharf Rats and make it a celebration. And please join in if you get the chance....blow up some balloons, bring in some candy for the table, share it, let it shine all around you, it's alot harder to keep it in that to let it shine, so let it rip. Nothin' left to do but smile, smile, smile.

*"see here how everything leads up to this day...and it's just like any other day that's ever been
Sun goin up and then the sun it goin down. Shine through my window and my friends they come around,
come around, come around "*

hunter ~ garcia

* * * * *

Yellow Balloons Keep On Growing Strong

Wow ! Everytime I think about the places we go, (Have you read the book "Oh the Places You Go" by Dr. Seuss?) I am so amazed. Touring is still strong for some, and other old friends come out for a show or two. Thank you to all who keep the scene growing. Fondly I remember how two folks got the gist of this started, Daddy Don and Tony T (old midwest coordinator). I am very dedicated to this lovely way of doing live music. A lot of you folks know my story, how finding 12 step folks at Alpine Valley in '85, gave me the idea that I too could stay "free" and still come to the scene. Well it's been a great adventure, directly due to this yellow balloon stuff, I celebrated 18 years !!! One of my favorite things about "us " is how we have grown into new bands and new music. It's wonderful how most, if not all, of the different followings are using the universal yellow balloon. We have blossomed beautifully. My 18th birthday day was celebrated at a great festival Swanee Music Fest by Magnolia Music. How good is that ! We are blessed. Think Peace Love T



WR CONTACTS AND TABLE COORDINATORS

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10th Annual Pow Wow

Dark Star Farm
July 26, 2004

Happy 18th Anniversary Therese

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Newsletter Team

Want to help? Please send in submissions for consideration in the next Issue. Send submissions to either of the contacts listed below

New Years Eve Issue

Tom W.
Long Beach, CA
Email: thewhitehouse.west@verizon.com



Summer Tour Issue

Pattye Mc
San Mateo, Ca
Email: pattymc@earthlink.net

WHARFRAT MEETINGS

AOL Online Meeting

Wednesdays & Sundays on AOL
10PM EST & 7PM PST
Go to keyword: Rose Garden

East Norwich, Long Island, NY

Contact Dana P. 631-254-1395 Email: Dana526811@aol.com
or Warren F. 516-942-5126 Email: NVRCMGBK@optonline.net
Tuesdays, 7:15-8:45, The Save Your Face Group of the Wharf Rats meets at the Community Methodist Church. Take the LIE to Exit 41N (106N), take 106N to 25A (Northern Blvd.), make U-turn on corner of 106N and 25A. Entrance on Vernon Ave., Fellowship door.
Come One, Come All!

Philadelphia, PA

Contact Jarrod G. 215-205-9500 Email: wharfratjarrod@yahoo.com
Mondays @ 7PM, Friends of August West Graduate Hospital, 18th & Lombard Sts., Philadelphia, PA, Room 2D of the Pepper Pavilion

San Francisco, CA

AA, Contact Charlie 415-564-3340 Email: Csmcchar@aol.com
Thursdays 8:15-9:45, Holy Innocents Church at 455 Fair Oaks, parallel to and in between 25th & 26th Streets.

NA, Terrapin Station Group Wharf Rats, Contact Andrew K. 415-587-7582 Email: Adrien1@mindspring.com
Wednesdays, 8:00-9:30 at 3728 Cesar Chavez

Southern California

Larry B. continues to be interested in getting a WR Meeting started up. Interested? Call or email him. For WR info while in town, feel free to call.
PH: 909-369-6515 Cell: 909-818-6458
Email: cheflarry@sbcglobal.net



RATS NEST

What Happened & What it's Like Now.....

When I first sat down to write, I was anxiously waiting on Summer Tour news.....it's here! Mail orders are out, request for working the tables are in, days are scheduled off for work...now it's time to patiently wait and let life happen in the meantime. In the old days, I wouldn't have a clue how to mail order, or the money to do it, or a job to worry about taking days off.....I would stumble my way to the shows with no ticket, in search of a miracle, seeking out dope, scrounging for money, food or whatever I thought I needed or wanted....I would be a lot phreak, a pass out artist when a little bit of everything was way to much. I fell far into the depths of Hell, no bucket and not enjoying the ride....no soul, no spirit, no future....all the consequences, losses, physical, spiritual and emotional could not convince me that I needed to change my lifestyle or die.....When I finally crashed, I ended up in a treatment center in upstate NY. Speakers from AA & NA came in daily with messages of hope.....none of them were like, none as bad as me. Then one day a young man came in and had a light in his eyes...a promising glow....he talked of a group of clean and sober concert goers...he spoke of traction in a slippery environment....of yellow balloons and candy and wonderful men and women who danced without dope....who lived one show at a time.....he talked of Dead shows! How do they do it? How can it be any fun? How can we go to the show and not shoot dope, or snort or drink or smoke? Will I be the only one? What will the music sound like? How long will I last?.....Well my phriends, I am here to tell you...there is a path paved by spiritual giants...A golden road of unlimited devotion and commitment to service....We have found a way up and out and it is full of love generated and shared and passed side to side by the WharfRats.....Last summer was the best of times....old phriends, familiar songs philling the air with new life breathed into them, just like us! There is nothing like the feeling as getting on the bus, full of anticipation, of music and phellowship.....to get to the venue, no hassles with the law, no more where's my ticket, do I have enough of this, too much of that, where's my brain, where the hell am I?....I have arrived, balloons blowing peacefully and welcoming, banner proudly stating who we are and yes, we are free and happy and clean! Beautiful, smiling people at the table letting all who care that it is safe here, and it can be done and it will be better than our wildest dreams.....Kudos for the tireless souls who give of themselves so we can all experience this....Wharfdaddy Don,

and Dana, and Warren and Dennis, and Lynn, and the Brians, and the Charlie's, and Robert....and to Lincoln, who lit the love light in me so many roads ago.....look for them on the road this Summer...if you stop for candy, or a newsletter, or some way cool bumper stickers or just to say thanks, a seed will begin to grow...let it!.....see y'all soon.....until then, peace, love and hugs.....Murph

First Sober Show 2003

Rich here, person addicted to things, including Dead music. I say I'm a person to remind myself that I'm more than just a disease. I'm not a bad person, just a person with the disease of addiction. Anyways I went to my first sober show last year, Summer Tour 2003, in Camden NJ. I had just under 1 year of sobriety, and I wasn't sure if I could make it. The WharfRats saw me through, and I found out, just like it says on one of our bumper stickers, "True Deadheads get High on Music."

My experience at the show was tremendous. To start off the night a WharfRat angel who shall remain nameless (she knows who she is) got my friend and I out of a jam, that almost had him not make it in to the show. He was my sober buddy who turned me on to the WharfRats, has a bit more time than me, and I'm not sure I could have survived the show with out him there to support me. We spent quite a bit of time at the table, and then when I was ready, we made our way to the lawn. The folks we ended up next to, had a young son with them, and as much as the father tried to keep the kid away from the "nice man" he did not succeed. However what he didn't realize was just how much I enjoyed dancing with the kid and keeping up with his questions (What song do you thing they will play next???)

Fast forward to now, and I have worked the table at several shows myself, and helped to start the Philly, Friends of August West, WharfRats group. I can not do justice in describing the rewards of working a show, but I will try. First and foremost each time, it helps me get another day sober. I get to see a free concert (or parts of one, depending on the venue). And I really get a good feeling that I'm able to help others and spread the message of recovery. Just 1 show story if I might. I was working at a Ratdog show in Philly, and an active addict came up to the table, we talked for many minutes. He wished he could have what I have, and asked me how I do it. I don't even remember what I said, I just carried the message of recovery. I talked about my recovery. He wanted to leave a donation, and he did leave a rather LARGE donation. I think a seed was planted that hopefully will grow. And most importantly??? I stayed sober that day! Work a table stay sober! Thanks.
Rich C (the person)
Philly Friends of August West, WharfRat group

Greetings from East Coast Contact

Hi everyone! The Almanac just came out - with the Summer Dead Tour posted. YEE HA!! Cannot wait to see all my WR friends this summer. RatDog

is playing here this weekend and I am so excited. These guys are TIGHT. And so are the WR's. I am so proud and happy to be part of this group. I don't know how I ever enjoyed shows without being a WR. I thought I enjoyed the Grateful Dead, but.... I was really always too high to know what I enjoyed. These days the story is quite a different one. I go to a show, see about 50 WR's who I know and love, dance my butt off, go to a meeting during setbreak and then go dance again, get up at 6 or 7 AM the next morning with my little girls, and I feel fine! What a switch. Gotta love this life. I just want to once again thank everyone who works the tables and helps out at the shows.

Also special thanx to Lynn K, Therese & Daniel, Robert & Carol, Warren - you guys rock - thank you for all your hard work table coordinating, treasuring and stickering. Without you, things would be rough. I love you all and can't wait to see and meet more of you this year. If you ever want to work a NJ or NY table - give me a call! Hugs and service, Dana.

Birthday Thoughts, 04/06/04, from the List_Serv....

Greetings -- Six years today!!! I have heard people describe this day as their 'birthday' and I never got with that, until this morning. It really feels like that today. Born. Again.

Anyway, I also heard that the average life span of a cell is 6-7 years. So, I am taking all my new, never been drunk or high, cells and going to a meeting.

Thanks to everyone reading this who has been part of this journey! If you are reading about all this for the first time, if you are wondering if this is for you, if you are sick and tired of all the same old stuff -- hang around! Kick back, enjoy the show just as you are. Come back to the table. Take the phone #'s and e-mail contacts with you and leave all the rest behind. Celebrate! All you need is love!!!

Charlie
ccjctwo@aol.com

a one of the responses....

"I've heard it said that we work a step a year, if that's true then you've got a hell of a year ahead! ~ DJ



Divine Trips.....

WEEEEZZER it is yet another year come and gone and another Summer Tour is upon us to get an opportunity to enjoy some terrific music, dance with old friends and make new ones along this golden road. Last year was an amazing year for all to enjoy. As we started out with Bonaroo, what an unbelievable site to watch an endless stream of cars pouring in to the camp grounds. 125K music loving folks all around. Strangers stopping strangers just to shake their hand. What stage? This and That stage ... mud and fellowship, what a combination. Camping was really at it best. Yellow balloons stretched high into the air of our corner lot to show the way. Georgie girl ... where are you?.....

On to Va. and the rain came down but the music never stopped. Warm hospitality and the kindest of kind (thanks to Dave and Cathy you are really the best). A strange tune played that had not been heard, a peggy'o terrapin melody left not a dry eye at Merrywerather's Court. Strangest of things was show in a circle of light as a serenity prayer encouraged a security guard who was struggling that night. Ya never know... ya just never know....(thank you so much to "now just give me your Dollar-Bill"). How many peeps can we squeeze in to a small Honda car-Jennett with trash-bag blanket monkey (if I had to explain this you wouldn't understand), giggles and smiles rang true and the beat goes on and the rain came down in buckets if you please all thru out the chilly winds of the North East. A dreamy dark blue VW boogie ride, Yummie Thai food, a wild bike ride by afternoon and singing to happy pre-school children by day... (thanks to Andy singer of songs).... Many many thanks to Robert and Carol who so kindly opened their home to all weary travelers so wet and cold. Johnny Mac of NY... a knight off to the races in a shinning Toyota.

On to PNC and Camden where we were treated like a VIP (thanks Dana you rock! anin't nobody like you babe) A delightful reunion of kindred spirits made really great (thanks Dominic you be the one! you be the man, I truly love you like no other. hey, does any body else hear bells? ummmm) on to Chic-a-go without any crack-u-zations. (Martin, what else can I say? Killer pad dude....).

St. Louis and lots more kind supportive greetings of hospitality, a trip to the 99-cent store for candy (Daniel and son thanks so much for trueness and dancing fun.)

Austin TX, 4th of July, just another mile or so ... sun so hot ... or not? Steamy hot rain, great eatable food and a groovy dog named Jake. (Pat! You know dude, you just know).

Denver, CO. It's just a box of Rocks use it if you need it and leave it if you dare, (thank you Drew and family you guys were such a promise and a hope to me and if I knew the way I would lead you home). So we are right back to the beginning and the end, funny how the circle never ends BA, BA jing ...

All in all We could never have this much fun without each others support along the way ... don't ever have to go down that road of feeling bad again. And big Daddy Don all the way. Hugs, kisses, and smiles. Your encouragement can never be matched. I am looking forward to seeing you and your family along the road If any one gets confused remember to let the music play
Peace, Blessings, and Love
Groovy Lynn

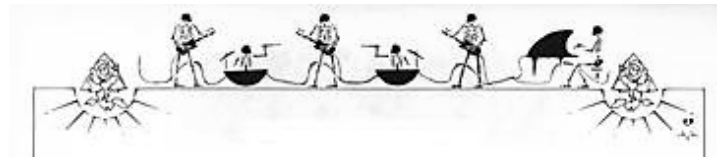
Hello Fellow Rats, and Greetings From Rhode Island!

My last submission to the newsletter thanked all of you for saving my fucking life, the gratitude I have for being part of this wonderful organization, and the wide variety of fantastic friends I've met as a result. As the years pass by, I now realize I also was given a second chance at a brand new life in the complete sense of the word. I honestly believe I would not have remained clean and sober if I couldn't be involved in the music that is literally part of my soul. The Wharf Rats made that possible! Carol, whom I met while she was working a WR table in PA in 98 is now my life partner, and we married in 2001. Then our son Wyatt came in 2002, (he's done like 12 shows already). then we found the house of our dreams on a lake in rural Rhode Island in 2003, in 2004 we plan on a family expansion, and all the wonderful people that have become near and dear friends through the years!!!

I mention this NOT as a list of my accomplishments, but a small sampling of the wonderful gifts sobriety, the Wharf Rats, and most importantly the beautifully-crazy and loving people that have transcended from acquaintances, to friends, to true family have made possible for me. It fucking blows my mind! I'm privileged to do service for the Rats as it in itself is a gift that keeps on giving (in more ways than one!).

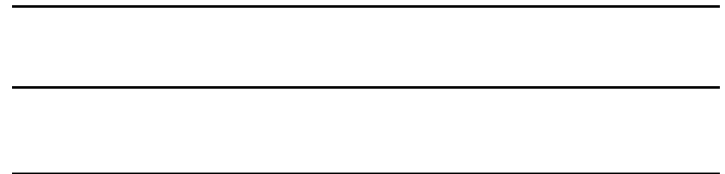
Many thanks to the people who have volunteered to work the tables these past years and I urge those of you who wish to get involved to contact me, Dana, or a rep in your area to be added to our ever-evolving "Contact List". We provide tables not only at the Dead shows, but Phil and Friends, Rat Dog, Darkstar Orchestra, and even some of the summer festivals around the country. So it is with extreme gratitude that I thank the Wharf Rats, the ability to do service, and most importantly, you wonderful, diverse, loving, and extremely crazy people for being part of my life, and helping me to "do the deal" a show at a time. YOU are responsible for these gifts I have been given!!! I thank you all from the bottom of my wild and crazy heart. (Which by the way has not missed a beat since it stopped at MSG/NYE 2002. I swear as I've said many times; I sometime feel if life got any better, I'd have to hire help! But even more importantly, when life throws me curves, and problems, I have a family to reach out to, depend on, and to help me through. Thank you guys!!!

Lots of Love and Hugs, Robert



T R I B E

take that number down



for more info on C&S concert goers...

*The Jellyfish-Clean & Sober String Cheese Incident Fans:

<http://www.scijellyfish.org/>

*The Gateway-Clean and Sober Widespread Panic Fans:

<http://www.soberfans.com/>

*The Phellowship-Clean and Sober Phish fans:

<http://www.phellowship.org/>

*Free and Clear- Sober Hippy Crossroads:

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Hall/2776/>

STICKERS! STICKERS! STICKERS!

These are high-quality, durable stickers. They will last you through any weather. We do ask a \$1.00 donation for each sticker. Please send a postal money order, along with an additional 50 cents to cover return postage to the sticker coordinator listed on the second page. Please make sure to specify which stickers you want.

**ONE SHOW
AT A TIME**



Save Your Face



Save Your Face



ANOTHER DOPELESS
HOPE FIEND

True Deadheads Get
High On Music

WHARF RATS
High On Music



Let Go & Let Jerry

STILL CRAZY AFTER
ALL THIS SOBRIETY

Wharf Rat Service ?

If you'd like to be of service at an upcoming show please call the Wharf Rat contact in your area. If there is no contact in your area, maybe you'd consider becoming one. Tables and tablers are always in need of support. Table service, covering tables for bathroom and dance breaks for people who are tabling, donations of candy, yellow balloons, pens, envelopes, all are welcomed. Stop by and see if you can help if you are inclined. Meet your local Wharf Rats, we can certainly promise you a warm welcome and you will walk away with some new clean & sober friends. Thanks to all the Wharf Rats everywhere who tended tables and volunteered in a hundred different ways this last year to meet all the needs of Wharf Rats bringing tables in whenever and wherever we can. Without your loving service we'd be without the family gatherings and traction in this slippery environment that we share at shows.....hugs to you all. Wharf Rat Service



~ WAVE THAT FLAG SUMMER TOUR ~

Sat	June 12	Bonnaroo Music Festival	Manchester, TN
Tues	June 15	Red Rocks Amphitheater	Denver, CO
Wed	June 16	Red Rocks Amphitheater	Denver, CO
Fri	June 18	Red Rocks Amphitheater	Denver, CO
Sat	June 19	Red Rocks Amphitheater	Denver, CO
Sun	June 20	Red Rocks Amphitheater	Denver, CO
Tues	June 22	Cricket Pavilion	Phoenix, AZ
Wed	June 23	Coors Amphitheater	San Diego, CA
Thu	June 24	Verizon Wireless Amp	Irvine, CA
Sat	June 26	Shoreline Amphitheater	Mountain View, CA
Sun	June 27	Sleep Train Amphitheater	Sacramento, CA
Tues	June 29	USANA Amphitheater	Salt Lake City, UT
Thur	July 1	Idaho Center Amphitheater	Boise, ID
Fri	July 2	Columbia Meadows	Portland, OR
Sat	July 3	The Gorge	George, WA
Fri	July 23	UMB Bank Amphitheater	St. Louis, MI
Sat	July 24	Alpine Valley Music Theater	East Troy, WI
Sun	July 25	Verizon Wireless Amp	Indianapolis, IN
Tues	July 27	DTE Energy Music Center	Detroit, MI
Wed	July 28	Blossom Music Center	Cleveland, OH
Fri	July 30	Tweeter Center	Boston, MA
Sat	July 31	Tweeter Center	Boston, MA
Sun	Aug 1	SPAC	Sarasota Springs, NY
Tues	Aug 3	The Meadows	Hartford, CT
Wed	Aug 4	Ford Pavilion Montage Mtn	Scranton, NJ
Fri	Aug 6	Darien Lakes PAC	Darien Lakes, NY
Sat	Aug 7	Tweeter Waterfront	Camden, NJ
Sun	Aug 8	Tweeter Waterfront	Camden, NJ
Tues	Aug 10	PNC Arts Center	Holmdel, NJ
Wed	Aug 11	PNC Arts Center	Holmdel, NJ
Fri	Aug 13	Jones Beach Amphitheater	Wantagh, NY
Sat	Aug 14	Jones Beach Amphitheater	Wantagh, NY
Sun	Aug 15	Nissan Pavilion	Bristow, VA
Tues	Aug 17	Alltel Pavillion	Raleigh, NC
Wed	Aug 18	Verizon Wireless Amp	Charlotte, NC
Thu	Aug 19	HiFi Buys Amphitheater	Atlanta, GA

