



• Edition XI

Summer 2005

~~~~~ **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.

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**Forever Grateful, Forever Family**

*"Inspiration move me brightly.....faced with mysteries deep and vast, statements just seem vain at last".....*

It's that time of year again, time to remember, time to plan, time for recollection of Summer tours past! There was a time when the only memories were of bad trips, lost rides, what town is this, who cares, when will the show start, when will it ALL end? Wow.....seems like a different life and indeed it was.....When all was lost in my world except despair, terror, paranoia and fear, a beacon was spotted.....it was a hippie, waving a yellow balloon.....wearing a smile of love and hope.....he was happy and healthy and in love with life! Dancing behind a table adorned with candy and stickers and glitter and newsletters.....did I mention hope?

Sing it loud and clear.....there is a community of concert goers who have found a way to do it without dope.....they are carrying this message to a venue near you.....They are young and old, men and women, junkies and drunks who have found a way up and out, and you can too!! They are at festivals and theaters, stadiums and music halls....dancing and laughing and loving and most of all living....free from their addictions and showing others that they can too! Finally surrendering to the fatal lifestyle, maybe hitting the institution scene, finding a recovery program and getting on with life.....this is the season of what now!? Physically improving, spiritually fit but musically bankrupt? I was there.....how can I do what I used to without doing what I am used to? The Wharfrats are not only pioneers at this dilemma, but they are a gift, an inspiration and an oasis of recovery and music and love in the desert! So....Summer Tour or not.....we will survive! We have proved to ourselves and others that music and phellowship and community are vital in our own personal recoveries, our families and in our lives....We can take the life lessons we have shared with each other and carry them into our work places and our schools! The Wharfrats are much more than yellow balloons.....they are kindred souls who love life.....have been to Hell and aren't in any hurry to return! So take our message to a show near you.....be it Ratdog, Phil, or DSO, or WSP.....it really doesn't matter.....take it with you always!! Hope to see some of you along the Golden Road this year.....I am, as always, blessed, grateful and proud to have found you all.....thanks for letting me be of some service..... peace, love and hugs.....Murph



## WR CONTACTS AND TABLE COORDINATORS

**Wharf Rat Home Page:** <http://www.wharfrat.org/>

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### Share in the Newsletter

Want to help? Looking for desktop publishers or interested WRats to volunteer.

### New Years Eve Issue

Looking for Volunteers...  
email Pattye ---->



### Summer Tour Issue

Pattye Mc  
San Mateo, CA  
Email: pattyemc@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, 7:15-8:45PM, 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!

### San Francisco, CA

**AA**, Contact Charlie 415-564-3340 Email: Csmcchar@aol.com  
Thursdays 8:15-9:45PM, Holy Innocents Church at 455 Fair Oaks, parallel to 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

### Philadelphia, PA

Contact Jarrod G. 215-205-9500 Email: wharfratjarrod@yahoo.com  
Mondays @ 7:30PM, Friends of August West  
Graduate Hospital, 18th & Lombard Sts., Philadelphia, PA, Room 2D of the Pepper Pavilion

### Welcome To A New Meeting Indianapolis, IN

Rats NA Drain Ditch  
Fridays 7-8PM  
Woodruff Place Baptist Church  
1735 East Michigan Street  
Contact Tim D.317-319-4697  
Email: flowerpunk89@hotmail.com



**RATS NEST**

**Moma T Sends Her Love**

Howdy Folks,  
Another year has come my oh my...Rat Dog is out there with some kick butt shows (as reported to me from Tim D and Sara; Indi's rats who have run with Rat dog for a bit, and carried the WR table on- Thanks you two)

Daniel and I have been blessed to return to Swanee Fest for great bluegrass (even after the 7" rain forming the lake at the dance stage, and flooding the main amphitheater to the sound board- Mag Music kicked in with faithful volunteers and employees moved things around so the music never stopped !) We had Yellow balloon mtgs there and tons of fun in spite of soggy campsites. It is amazing what we can do with 12 steppers and other support behind us.

Thanks to all who continue to help with this great recovery at live music events. Lefty and Lisa in OH are awesome, and Cecil from Indi along with those other two have helped me in more ways than can be printed. Got to visit a wharf rat in Miami area; Shaun and his lady Cat. They are expecting their daughter Luna in May. Cat is so beautiful. They and their roomy Galen put me up and got me to a mtg the next day Gracias ! (Mtg's are such a good thing for me when I'm on the road)

We are still hoping to hear more of summer tour. Will make Pow Wow plans accordingly. Rumors are out there for a reunion at Alpine Valley late summer early fall... Lets keep on spreading all these good vibes from yellow balloon happenings.

Peace, Love, and Hope ... Moma T

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**Dear Ratz...**

Things have slowed down a bit this past year - with Bobby being sick and Phil taking a break (at least out here on the East Coast) - the most Dead-related music we've seen of late has been Dark Star Orchestra.

Our meeting in Long Island is still going strong and many of us still go to lots of live music - just running low on the Dead. I miss them. When I heard Bobby was sick - I felt myself thinking once again - THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD GO I. My recovery program and my close circle of friends has helped me to stay clean for

over 11 years and I am so blessed! It seems like only yesterday when I met my sponsor, Kay and Mom - working a Grateful Dead Wharf Rat table. I can't believe it's been so long. My life is so full today - with my job, house, husband, children, friends, program, yoga, swimming, skiing - wow. None of this would be possible for me without my recovery. I am even off cigarettes now - for almost a year!! I thank you all for being in my life and helping me along in my journey. If any of you are ever in the Long Island area - remember - we have a meeting every Tuesday night out here and we'd love to see you!! Also - anytime anyone wants to work a Dead-related table in the New York or New Jersey area, please give me a call.

Hope to see you all at the next show!  
In loving service,  
Dana

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**Reflecting ....**

I remember Jerry walking out of the backstage area during the final run the first night at Soldiers field. He walked right up to me as I was the only person in the area that he could see in a short backstage hallway. Doug H. was about ten steps behind me and out of Jerry's view. I stopped in my tracks and sort of stood there starstruck. It was hot. I was all weighed down with the wharf Rat shit looking for the place to set up the table. The 1995 tour was intense. Way too many heads without tickets and problems at every venue clouded the whole scene. DEERCREEK and ST LOUIS had been great musically but a disaster in other respects.

Jerry walked right up to me as he was making his way out to the stage area. I got a good look at him from up close. We exchanged a cursory greeting as he walked by. When Jerry died, i got a call from Newsweek magazine asking what impact Jerry's death would have on the wharf rats. I remember thinking that Jerry looked like he had just fixed. He just looked like he was as tired as he could be. His performance those last two nights was incendiary. The Visions of Johanna the first night fuckin took my breath away along with everybody else's. The shakedown/samsom, so many roads and muddy river were as good as I've ever seen on the final night. Jerry could play more music in three notes than most musicians could play in a lifetime in my opinion even with the burden of a few short weeks of life left in him.

Nonetheless, I felt sad that Jerry was trapped in this horrible drug addiction and that helped end his life. Oh the things that might have been. I also realize that a lot of the "Jerry..... wish he were here" sentiment comes from abject selfishness which wished Jerry could be here to give us our headdies. Bunches of these same people use to bitch about Day Job and I fought the Law and

this song or that, this nuance or that. these are the same people who bitch about Bobby now. I say be here now, enjoy it for what it is, cherish it, it will be gone soon enough. Todays Throwing Stones may be yesterdays Day Job. If you enjoy it now, maybe you won't long for it so much when it is gone forever.

Anybody who dies from this disease is a tragedy in my opinion. It is a life whose potential is unanswered and unfulfilled. Be grateful for every day you get to suck air and be clean and sober. but let us not forget that Jerry died while trying to get treatment. I like to think that he died a Wharf Rat. Don

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**It is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy**

Hey now,  
just wanted to let you guys know that by the Grace of God, the 12 steps, and the Wharf Rats, I have been clean and sober for over 3 years. God shows me the way, the steps teach me how to live life one day at a time, and the Rats allow me to do what I love most~ travel, go to Dead shows, dance, and have FUN!!! Before finding the Wharf Rats, I never knew it was possible to go to Dead shows clean and sober, let alone have the best times of my life without getting drunk and high!

I want to express my gratitude to all of the Rats online and around the tables at shows- all over the country. We are everywhere... I feel truly blessed to be a part of this community and to have such beautiful, kind people in my life today. Today my closest friends are all Wharf Rats and I wouldn't have it any other way. Thanks, from the bottom of my heart, for always being there for me. I'm forever grateful...  
Peace, Love, & Light, Sarah :0)

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**WR - First Sober Show... Wait a Minute it was my first Dead Show**

So for a first timer i don't think i could have shook my ass any harder. Let me tell you what... i had such a kick ass time it was just unbelievable. Got to work the table meet a bunch of people and get recognized by Randy without even meeting each other face to face. He walked up to the table and said you must be Jess. It was so cool to have a family that i have such a connection with, and not have even met some of you face to face. Got into the show and see some old friends who were all doped or drunk up and see them with clean eyes and be grateful, then got to carry



myself on through the show and have a better time than any of them had. My mother came with me to the show and after the show wanted to go to the shows in Milwaukee and Indi..... so one thing led to another and we are leaving sunday AM at about 9 AM to get tix and head to Indi with the pops o daddy also. It made me feel so good to be the only one out of a small crowd of old friends that could shake my ass through the whole drum solo which seemed like it went on forever but i wished it would have never stopped.

Got to experience my first wharf rat meeting in between sets which was awesome and got to experience the art of dancing without the use of drugs and being perfectly secure with myself. i don't think the night could have got any better. Truth be told i had some moments when i "thought about the BAD OLD Days" but i didn't have the desire to use. My dad says he'll see how i'm doing in a week..... i told him i'm just going to want to be at another show. i can't thank the wharf rats and all of you enough for letting me have the best time of my life clean. i knew i could have good times once the drugs were gone but i never knew how great of a time and memories i was going to experience. i'm so high on life right now nothing can bring me down from these yellow "one show at a time" balloons i'm hanging from. I LOVE YOU AND EVERYONE YESTERDAY TODAY AND FOR THE REST OF TIME Love Jess P.

{{to all that experienced my first show with me and the many more to come and especially Bob E. for letting this be known to me}}

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**INDY WR Meeting Anniversay**

The 1 year Indy Wharf Rat Anniversay was awesome!!! I would encourage all to come next year! :0) We had an open JFT meeting first and we had the most people there we've ever had- 30! It was a beautiful meeting sharing experience, strength, and hope. We had people there who traveled from 5 hours away just to get there! People from Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, and from all over Indy! A lot of new clean & sober heads who had just discovered the Wharf Rats for their first time. It is such a beautiful thing, ya know?! :0) We ended the meeting with The Wheel and free hugs.

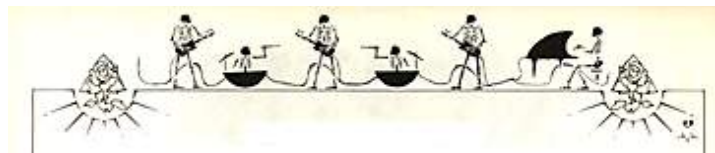
Then we had food, fun and fellowship at the dance. Pizza, veggies, and dirt pudding (which is the bomb, btw). We had a Wharf Rat table set up at the dance too. There were so many new faces that were way interested in learning more about us. So many newcomers who were filled with hope, who were very happy to find us! I totally remember that feeling! We had a kick ass sound system in the gym and we listened to 4/24/78 Normal, IL (which was a surprise to all of us -except one- until set break);

Set 1: Promised Land, Ramble On Rose, Me & My Uncle > Big River, Friend Of The Devil, Cassidy, Brown Eyed Women, Passenger, It Must Have Been The Roses, Music Never Stopped

Set 2: Scarlet Begonias > Fire On The Mountain > Good Lovin', Terrapin Station > Drums > Not Fade Away > Black Peter > Around and Around, E: Werewolves of London

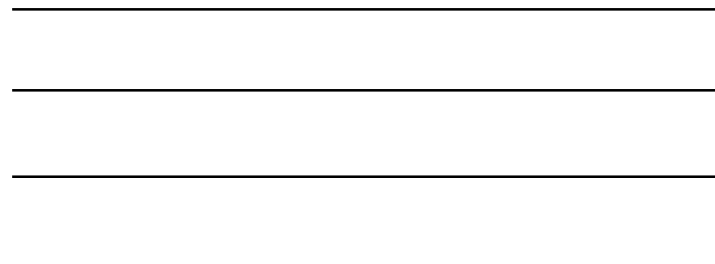
It was a really Grate show and a Grate time! I know I heard We Bid You Good Night at the very end, though (hey, was that a filler or something?). We had a Wharf Rat meeting during the setbreak and Mama T started it off with the yellow balloon and Daniel ended it with the yellow balloon. There was such good energy and a few more new faces for that meeting. We all had our One Show At A Time stickers on! :0) It is almost impossible to put into words the beauty of the entire celebration...

I'm really grateful that the Indy Wharf Rats have survived for a whole year! Thank God for our die hard Dead heads on the clean and sober scene, Tim D., Matt Rat, & Mikey, who have stayed with the Rats NA Drain Ditch since Day 1!!! And I think after our Anni, we have attracted even more heads and our meeting will continue to grow stronger each week and every year. Please come visit us anytime! Thanks to Beautiful Brothers Bob E. & Randy, who both made the trek. Love you guys! :0) It wouldn't have been the same without you. Peace, Love, & Light, Sarah



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 Hippie Crossroads:

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

\*The Velcro Kangaroos - Yonder Mountain String Band fans:

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/velcrokangaroos/>



**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



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 should be 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



**Ratdog**

Last Tour Date Posted online:  
May 1st - Magic City Music Hall - Johnson City, NY  
more shows TBA

**Phil & Friends**

Friday, May 13th, The Warfield, San Francisco, CA

Wavy Gravy's 69th Birthday Party  
Berkeley Community Theater, Berkeley, CA  
Sunday, May 15th

**BONNAROO 2005  
JUNE 10TH - 12TH  
MANCHESTER, TN**

Bob Weir & Ratdog,  
(Bobby and Co. will be on the main stage Sunday night, June 12th)  
Particle, Bela Fleck Acoustic Trio  
Trey Anastasio, Keller Williams,  
Widespread Panic, Yonder Mountain String Band,  
Jurassic 5, The Word, My Morning Jacket, STS9,  
O.A.R., Toots & The Mays, Umphrey's McGee,  
Xavier Rudd, Ray LaMontagne, The Gourds, Blue Merle,  
Earl Scruggs & Friends, Dave Matthews, Jack Johnson,  
The Black Crowes, The Allman Brothers Band, John Prine,  
The Perceptionists, Ollabelle, Old Crow Medicine Show, RJD2,  
Iron & Wine/Ozomatli, Rilo Kiley, Karl Denson's Tiny Universe,  
Drive By Truckers, Joanna Newsom, Peter Rowan & Crucial Reggae,  
Signal Path, Allison Krauss & Union Station, Modest Mouse, Gov't Mule,  
Secret Machines, Donna the Buffalo, Mouse on Mars, John Butler Trio,  
Citizen Cope, Brazilian Girls, M. Ward, Madeline Peyroux, DJ Crush,  
Assembly of Dust, Amos Lee, Tea Leaf Green, Heartless Bastards, Josh Ritter,  
The Mars Volta, Benevento Russo Dou Feat / Mike Gordon, Joss Stone, Kings of Leon, De La Soul

**15TH ANNUAL HIGH SIERRA MUSIC FESTIVAL  
JUNE 30- JULY 3, 2005**

**Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds • Quincy, CA**

Michael Franti & Spearhead, Yonder Mountain String Band, Les Claypool  
Steve Kimock Band, Mike Marshall & Chris Thile, The Waifs, Railroad Earth  
Everyone Orchestra, Perpetual Groove, Chuck Prophet, Two Gallants, Lotus  
ThaMuseMeant, Sharon Gilchrist, Jamie Janover, Goddess of Funk, Free Peoples  
Gabby La La, Flowmotion, Lymbyc Systym, Meltone (Japan), DJ Williams Projekt  
The Dead Keny G's, Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, Kan'Nal, Papa Mali, Carolyn Wonderland  
Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, Keller Williams and Friends, Leo Kottke & Mike Gordon  
Blue Turtle Seduction, Brett Dennen, Ten Mile Tide, The New Mastersounds (Great Britain)  
Kinky, Bill Frisell Band, feat. Greg Leisz, Jenny Scheinman, Viktor Krauss & Matt Chamberlain  
Soul Rebels, Man vs. Machine feat, James Blood Ulmer, Jamaaladeen Tacuma & Calvin Weston  
Majek Fashek, Conspirator, feat. Marc & Aron from Disco Biscuits & Omen from Final Phaze NYC  
The Duhks, Tea Leaf Green, New Monsoon Mother Hips, Hot Buttered Rum String Band, ALO,  
Garaj Mahal, Maktub, Skerik's Syncopated Taint Septet, Jon Cleary & the Absolute Monster Gentlemen  
JP Cutler Band, Living Folklore Medicine Show  
plus more TBA!