



Edition IX

New Year's 2003

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.

Get behind us! Work a table!

You're a Wharf Rat (or an addict or an alcoholic) when you say you are. However, you REALLY feel like you are on the beam when you volunteer for a service commitment. For us, that is primarily done by staffing a table at a show near you. You can arrive early, get a ton of hugs, carry the message and, perhaps, just maybe, provide that one-on-one contact that can change a life. We keep what we have by giving it away. Whatever tenuous hold we have on our own serenity and sobriety is strengthened a hundred fold by this simple act of giving of your time. Check out the contacts in this issue. Make a plan. DO IT! These tables and signs and balloons and glitter don't get here without YOU! With Love and Service, Charlie C. NY/NJ

Keep On Truckin' On...

The long hot summer has finally drawn to a close. It's been a season of surprise and delight, music and love everywhere. The autumnal Equinox has come and gone, and this slow train is steadily pulling toward the station for another rest after a great year of music and sharing. Ratdog and Phil & Friends are out on their Fall Tour. The holidays are closing in fast, and soon the year end will be upon us. For those of us lucky to attend, The Dead will close out the cycle with two shows at Oakland Arena on December 30th and 31st. It promises to be a memorable event. Wharf rats who can tell the tale of where the table is located, (or two times if you're really fortunate) Sobriety makes it a kind of strange experience not something we can indulge in. The give us back that special feeling of celebration of us on these nights, especially the ally heartfelt singing of Auld Lang Syne hope to see you there! Be safe and take care as the year draws to a close, and keep back!



come should look for the yellow balloons that come and share the fellowship once last time this year. New Year's Eve is a special experience for us, since the flow of champagne is gathering of Wharf Rats at these shows will be a time of fellowship and togetherness that may be missing for last, as we work our recovery. Perhaps a re-visit to the table will be in order...In any case, we care of yourselves, wherever and whenever you recovery close to your heart! Keep comin'

WR CONTACTS & TABLE COORDINATORS

Web Site: <http://www.wharfrat.org/>

West Coast Coordinator

Lynn Kravitz
PO Box 405
Mt. Hermon, Ca. 95041
Cell: 510-928-2995
Email: WCWharfrat@aol.com

Northwest Contact

Steve K.
Seattle, WA
PH 206-378-0701
stkwas@yahoo.com

West Coast Contact & Newsletter Printer/ Distributor

Ken H.
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Sacramento CA
PH: 916-451-7518
Alt PH: 916-454-3061

Southwest Contact: Arizona

Caroline "Mom" Thomas #222
9460 E. Mission Lane
Scottsdale, AZ 85258
E-mail: wharfrmomt@aol.com

Mid West Table Coordinator & Contact

Theresa & Daniel
5192 South 550
West Wabash, IN. 46992
PH: 260-563-4771
Email: darkstar96@hoosierlink.net

East Coast/New York & Metro Area Contact

Dana P.
Dix Hills, NY
PH: 631-254-1395
Cell: 516-242-7858
Email: Dana526811@aol.com

East Coast Tour Table & Boston/New England Contacts

Robert & Carol Crowther
17 Sunrise Terrace
Chepachet, Rhode Island 02814
PH (401) 568-1023
Cell (401) 413-1489
Email: robert@phellowship.org

East Coast Treasurer and Sticker Procurer/Provider

Warren F.
101 Rim Lane
Hicksville NY, 11801
PH: 516-942-5126
Email: NVRMGBK@aol.com

Southeast Asia Contact

Don Bryant (Wharfdaddy)
PH USA : 978-943-2369
PH Thailand 06-562-0617
Email: bangkokdon@hotmail.com

Web Site & List-Serv/Database

David F.
Norfolk, VA
PH: 757-623-8818
Email: david@dcf.net
<http://www.dcf.net/home>

Newsletter Team

Want to help? Please send in material that can be used for future newsletters. Send to the newsletter service team:

NYE ISSUE

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



SUMMER TOUR ISSUE

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

NEED A MEETING?

San Francisco, California

Contact: Charlie 415-564-3340
Email: csmcchar@aol.com
Wharf Rat Group of N. A meets Wednesday, 8:00 to 9:30 at Church, 3728 Ceasar Chavez (near Guerrero)

Venice Beach, California

Venice Beach Group Welcomes All Wharf Rats, Phellowships, and Jellyfish. We meet Wed. 7:30 PM and Sat. 7:30 AM



Southern California Meeting

Larry B. continues to be interested in getting a WR Meeting started up. Interested? Please call or email him. Also, for additional WR information while you're in the area, call Larry! HM: (909) 369-6515 C: (909) 818-6458 Email: chefflarry@sbcglobal.net

East Norwich, Long Island, NY.

Contact: Dana 631-254-1395 or Warren 516-942-5126
E-mail: Dana526811@aol.com
E-mail: NVRMGBK@aol.com

Philadelphia, PA

Contact: Jarrod G. (215) 205-9500
E-mail: wharfratjarrod@yahoo.com
Monday Wharf Rats meeting - Philly Graduate Hospital 18th & Lombard Sts Pepper Pavilion, Room 2C 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

AOL Online Meeting

There is an online Wharf Rat meeting on Wednesdays and Sundays on AOL at 10:00pm (EST) 7:00pm (PST) Go to keyword: Rose Garden

The SAVE YOUR FACE Group of the Wharf Rats now meets Tuesday nights from 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM in East Norwich, Long Island, NY, at the Community Methodist Church Take the LIE to Exit 41N (106N) Take 106N to 25A (Northern Blvd.) Make a U-turn on the corner of 106N and 25A. Church is right there on 106 and Vernon Ave. Entrance on Vernon Ave. (Fellowship Door) COME ONE, COME ALL.





RATS NEST

I'm Robert, Wharfrat in recovery. My first encounter with the wharfrats was in 1991 at Giants stadium. I stumbled and laughed my way into a meeting at intermission in the hallway. I was severely intoxicated and on a massive dose of LSD when I realized this is the serenity prayer, I should go.

Years later 10/9/99 I woke on the floor of my roach infested hotel that I was living in, to the sharp pain of my stomach and a unsettling fear that I may not be able to get up off of the floor to throw up, crap or make it to the telephone to call for help, (I surely didn't have the strength to yell) and my memory of that day had to offer was a empty half pint bottle, an empty cooker for heroin and some used and burned up chore boy for the crack pipe I had long since scraped.

It was on this morning that the impending doom had consumed me so terribly that I felt a fear of dying on that floor or never taking another sober breath. I don't know where the hope or inspiration came from or what sparked the willingness to try but I mumbled, "God Help Me". Minutes after, I managed to make it off the floor and out the door where I found a copy of the "Big Book" and a "Grapevine" balancing on the fourth floor banister of the stairway as I passed by to the bathroom. I grabbed the hope and help that was offered and made my way through to this life I have now. On 10/13/99 I walked to Oznam detox had one last beer a block from the door knowing it would be a very long night.

The floor mats were such a warm bitter sweet welcome for me. I knew it would be a long road to recovery and starting at the bottom had no significance. The first thing I did was let my pride go, then I opened my heart to the love that my god had waiting for me. The time has healed a lot of the wounds left by my childhood and my using but the scars remain etched upon my soul. A reminder of what awaits me shall I choose to use again.

A summary of what getting honest open-minded and willing has done for me is I stopped using and creating evil, I have gotten my physical health back, my mental condition of utter fear shame and hopelessness has dwindled to near non existence with only faint memories and ghosts of what it was like then. My family has taken me back into their arms with all of the gentleness of my childhood needs, my

fiancée is by my side and believes in me and trusts me. Undoubtedly, the state of California has decided I am sufficient in my trade to operate and run my own business with their support.

Today I can honestly say I have become the person I never thought I could be. My home group is the Wharfrat meeting in San Francisco Thursday night at 8:15 pm. My sponsor is Doug T. My sobriety date is 10/13/99. None of this is the opinion of the Wharfrats; this is only my personal experience.

Robert G.



Hi fellow wharfrats, Chef Larry from South Hern California checking in. It has been a tremendous year for me in regards to Dead shows. Beginning the year with the last set played in Oakland during the first several hours of 2003, and getting to Jones Beach, Red Rocks, Irvine and Shoreline so far. With the hope to wrap things up again in Oakland this New Years Eve!!!!

It has been an emotional year for me, turning 9 (8 more months till double digit sobriety!!!) was almost as much of a high point as marrying my lovely wife Denise during Jazz Festival in New Orleans earlier this year. Unfortunately the bad often equals or outweighs the good. I lost my dream this year, almost closing, then selling my restaurant I have owned for the past 5 years at a tremendous financial loss. Bad things still happen even in sobriety!!!

On a positive note, no matter how good or bad it has been this year, nothing and I mean nothing could cause me to drink or do drugs today. The challenges were many and the pleasures extreme, but celebrating or drowning out my pain would change who I have become. A sober member of this fellowship, who has learned to live life on lifes terms. Trying on a daily basis to understand the path that has been laid out for me, and to leave control in god's hands and not mine.

I know 2004 will be different, filled with it's own version of joy mixed with potencial for sorrow and pain. I say bring it on!!!! I have my beautiful sober family to surround me and some awesome music to listen and dance to.

I wish each and everyone of you a wonderous and joy filled holiday season and the splendour of all life has to offer us in sobriety.

Love, Chef Larry



THANK YOU, Wharf Rats, for being such a powerful inspiration in my life. Without your collective support at shows, I would not be able to attend them, atleast not without gathering up a group of local friends to hang with. I cannot imagine seeing a show without the Rats (or others) in presence. I say I would not be able to attend shows, but frankly I just would not want to. The fellowship of friends means much more to me today than just catching another set. Furthermore the interaction I get on a daily basis with folks with similar musical interests and vibes is a very important part of my life. Its been a while, but I've said this before, the list-serve introduced me to the Wharf Rats and showed me that I was not the only clean and sober Dead Head out there. Early on in recovery, when I was adjusting to that drastic lifestyle change and trying to reconcile my past and identify who I was, it was important to see that my interest in the music was not the reason for, or a symptom of my disease. Today the music we share, the ideas we exchange and the good times we have, are a major force for my recovery. I look forward to many happy times to come in recovery with the Wharf Rats. I hope I get to meet each and every one of you some day. Love and light to you all! SHINE ON.

Root

I'm a recovering addict and wharfrat named Melissa. I first heard about the wharfrats from my counselor in an outpatient program four and a half years ago. I was clueless as to what the Wharfrats were, regardless of the fact that I'd been to many shows. Not too long after that, with 6 months clean, I went to my first show clean and sober. I saw the table but I didn't stop. I didn't have a desire to use so I didn't see the point. Later on that evening I met someone who said he was clean and sober and a Wharfrat and that's where it all began for me.

Over the last few years I have met a number of good folks at the tables however it wasn't until GOTV 2002 that I got a chance to spend some good quality time with these people and get to know them. Between that weekend, joining the list serve, and the Camden shows this past summer I have gotten to know alot of people, some of whom are very near and dear to me now. I've gotten a chance to experience the unity that recovery and the wharfrats have to offer. Although I can't even remember the last time I had a desire to use I am very grateful that there are people committed to setting up and working these tables. I couldn't imagine going to a show and not having a place to go for a little break from all of the insanity. Thanks to my Higher Power I'm not sleep walking through this jouney and I can be there for any addict who still suffers.

Melissa

A Short Goodbye

To my dear friend Mike B.: the moment you shared with me at this summer's Lauderdale show, and showed me they do have meetings at dead shows, made me feel more comfortable knowing there are other addicts with me at that moment... i wish you were still here, you are greatly missed. Love always--- all of us

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

☼ **Wharf Rats** ☼

WHARF RATS
High On Music



Save Your Face

ANOTHER DOPELESS
HOPE FIEND

True Deadheads Get
High On Music

THIS IS YOUR
BRAIN ON HUGS



You Don't Need Dope
To Dance

Let Go & Let Jerry



Save Your Face

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 are always in need of support. Table service, or 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

New Year's Eve

the dead

Oakland Arena

December 30 & 31

Doors 5:30 PM Show 7:00 PM

Dec. 31 Features Robert Hunter & The Funk Brothers



American Airline Theatre
Miami, Florida

Doors open 7 PM, Show at 8 PM



Auditorium Theatre
Chicago, IL
(SOLD OUT)



Philips Arena
Atlanta, GA

Doors open 7 PM, Show at 9 PM