



20 Years & Still Dancin'

Summer 2007

~~~~~ **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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*Wharf Rats* have now been gathering at shows since the summer of 1986. However, we first began to group using the name "Wharf Rats" in the summer of 1987 following classified Ads in both the Golden Road and Relix calling for clean and sober DEADHEADS to UNITE under the Wharf Rat banner. These were powerful words which belie so many inspirational instances of recovery. I learned in recovery that nothing happens without a reason. I remember a pre-table Wharf Rat gathering at the Grateful Dead shows in Telluride Co. during August 15th and 16th, 1987. Wharf Rats were new on the scene then and most Deadheads had never even heard of us. A few of us Wharf Rat vigilantes were passing out free bookmarks with pictures Bears on printed on them and the words HUGS ARE BETTER THAN DRUGS as well. We passed out hundreds of these and got many great hugs in return for our efforts. Mainstream DEADHEADS accepted us so freely right from the very start. Of course there was some small percentage of people who would read it and shove it back at us with disdain and disapproval. No doubt future Wharf Rats....and so it goes. We SPIN at shows .....but we don't get spun.

*That weekend* we had a serendipitous Wharf Rat adventure that ended up in a meeting at one of the locals living room Sunday morning. Local DEADHEADS from Telluride ran into the group of us on the concert field and invited us into their homes for Phellowship, coffee, recovery and a little Uncle Johns Band on Sunday morning before the Sunday show. It's a story played out thousands of times down through the years by kindred Wharf Rats and the like. We SPIN at shows .....but we don't get spun.

*Saturday evening* after the first show a bunch of us Wharf Rats banded together and hiked up a mountain trail and camped out a few thousand feet above Telluride and the concert field. Sunrise was a prolonged affair with the surrounding mountains allowing the sun to cascade into the valley a little at a time. An earthy drumbeat sounded. Micky Hart and Baba Olatunji led a drum circle as a part of the weekend celebration of the Harmonic Convergence. Telluride Valley filled with Drum Music, Chanting, Dancing and sunshine as us Wharf Rats descened a mountain trail streun with flowers, peace and jubulation. We found the living room meeting place. The stories were the same but the names are changed to protect the guilty. "Oh it's so hard to stay clean in such a beautiful Place." " Jerry and the Boyz were ON yesterday, Can't wait for today" "Wouldn't it be great if we could live like this all the time?" And so it goes..We SPIN at shows .....but we don't get spun.

*And here we are 20 years later* as we get ready to start another summer of shows, serendipitous serenity and boogieing on down the road to Happy Destiny. Red Rocks and Telluride have been replaced with names like Bonarroo and The Gathering of the Vibes. Some of the Kids at the Wharf Rat Meetings have never even seen the DEAD and /or may have been in diapers or not even thought of during the summer of 1987. No Matter. We have come home. For us Wharf Rats the war has ended. Our side won. We SPIN at shows .....but we don't get spun.

Grateful Don

*Hugs Are Better Than Drugs ! ! !*



## WR CONTACTS AND TABLE COORDINATORS

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

### East Coast NY / NJ Metro Area

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**ONE SHOW  
AT A TIME**

## WHARF RAT MEETINGS

### AOL Online Meeting

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

### East Norwich, Long Island, NY

#### Save Your Face Group of WR's

Contact: Johnny A, 631-219-6511,  
Email: Johnyarc@optonline.net, or alt. Tom 631--672-6851  
Tuesdays, 7:15-8:45PM, 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!

### Indianapolis, IN

#### Rats NA Drain Ditch

Contact Tim D.317-319-4697  
Email: walstib@netzero.com  
Fridays 7 - 8PM, Woodruff Place Baptist Church  
1735 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN

### Portland, Oregon

This meeting is considered closed. Unable to  
contact anyone associated with it.

### Bradenton, Florida

Contact Richard G., Email:  
rgeib@tampabay.rr.com  
Wharfrat NA Thursdays 6:30 - 8:00 PM  
Christ Church Presbyterian Church  
515 Upper Manatee River Rd.  
Bradenton, FL 34212



Save Your Face

### San Francisco, CA

**AA**, Contact Charlie 415-564-3340 Email: Csmcchar@aol.com  
Thursdays 8:15-9:15PM, Holy Innocents Church, on Fair Oaks,  
between 25th & 26th Streets. Fair Oaks is parallel to and  
between Delores & Guerrero Streets.

You can contact Charlie anytime, especially if you are in the  
Bay Area and can't make it to the meeting, join them for dinner  
before the meeting, and if he can help you stay sober.

**NA**, Terrapin Station Group Wharf Rats, Contact Andrew K.

PH: 510-235-0103; Alt. No. 510-928-6598.  
Email: kish\_construction@yahoo.com  
Mondays, 8 - 9:30 at St. John's Church at 15th & Julian Street.  
Entrance on Julian Street.

### Philadelphia, PA

This meeting has closed.  
See Jarrod's message to us in submission  
section on the next page.

### Southside Columbus WR's

This meeting is considered closed. Unable to  
contact anyone associated with it.

**IF WE CAN'T REACH YOU, NO ONE ELSE CAN EITHER!** Meeting contacts whose email addys and phone numbers are not active, will  
be removed from this list. The conclusion will be that the meeting is no longer active. Please keep us current with your contact info.  
Thanks all. Your Editor in Service.



**THIS IS YOUR  
BRAIN ON HUGS**

Maybe you'll find direction...

behind some corner where it's been waiting to meet you!".....Or, you can look for inspiration, commitment, dedication, service and responsibility at a Wharfrat table near you. Keep an eye out for the yellow balloons flying high and free this Summer at one of the many festivals beckoning you. Hit the road with anticipation of great music, kind friends, beautiful phellowship.....Find our banner of peace and freedom waving in the breeze...baskets of candy, awesome bumperstickers and newsletters proclaiming our gratitude and stories of clean and sober experience of life on the road! Smiling, colorful nomads ready and willing to share their experience, strength and hope with newcomers, weathered veterans and the curious. We are like minded kindred souls who have been down the destructive path of drug and alcohol addiction, only to emerge into the light of recovery. Most of us have our own life stories and the path that has chosen us...whether it is through the 12 steps of NA or AA, Smart Recovery or countless others. As we sit at the table we are not affiliated with any of these but we have our own choice of program...We all have something in common.....We are a group of concert goers who have chosen to live alcohol and drug free...To be able to go to festivals or shows and to be able to do what we love, without doing what we used to do is nothing short of a miracle...and you know we need one every day!

Every year about this time I not only get the itch to start touring, meet up with life friends, shake some rust off the winter weary bones and dance to the best music there is, but I also get the itch to share! Every April I write to Pattye and proclaim "It's that time again!" And she always graciously tells me to get typing!

This year I am so grateful to share....I have written stories of gratitude for this beautiful and lifesaving newsletter for 5-6 years now...I always reflect on the previous years shows that I have had the privilege of tabling and the ones where I was blessed enough to participate and this year will be no different....The Gathering of the Vibes was totally amazing in 2006....I would be remiss not to mention my fellow travelers who sat there with me....Amanda...you are the best....always makes me smile and is tireless in her service...thank you! Johnny...you rock! Whether making us laugh while dancing with his

Polar Bear/Kitty/Rat or whatever kind of head he was wearing...or just rapping with a newcomer...thank you too! Brian...sharing from the heart and also making us laugh...is there a common thread here? Definitely....commitment, responsibility, devotion...or is it simply Love? The giving away of what was so freely given us!

But the most important and vital thing I share this year is a great and heart wrenching loss....My friend, fellow tabler, Yankee lover, biker, prankster, sponsee...Unruly Dave....in a moment of confusion and pain, took his own life on New Years Eve....David was 10 years clean and sober when his life ended. He kept his fears and secrets to himself and forgot, momentarily of the love we bring. Him and I had been tabling together for 7-8 years...Ratdog, Phil shows, DSO, 3 years in a row at the Vibes...He volunteered for the Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, spoke at our local rehab, Toys for Tots Bike rallies raising money for underprivileged families...etc. etc...This is not a testament to his life...It is a message of utmost importance to all of us and it is simple...That the most important thing I do in my life is to take care of myself...for without me I am no good for my family, my boss, my community...

By committing to share my story with other recovering people I invest in my future and the future of those yet to come...We can pave the Golden Road with hope...we can open our arms and embrace the hopeless with love....we can offer an oasis of phellowship and attract others to dance without dope...we can reach that high on music...we provide that much needed traction in those slippery environments!

The time is right....get those mail orders ready...air out your tents....gather up your posse of like minded souls...pack up your spirit of freedom and hit the road! We will be waiting with open arms and happy feet! "Look into any eyes you find by you, you can see clear to another day"

Until then.....peace, prayers and love.....Murph

**Chances are.....**

Chances are if you are reading this you are here, or have recently been here. At the table. Look around, think back . . . what do you see? what did you remember? Smiles, first -- right? Hugs too. Big, arm slapping bear hugs. Glitter, love, light, laughter. All there and here too. So maybe you are now therewhere we were. The jumping off point. Can't live with drugs and booze any more. But can't imagine living without them.

Clean? Sober?!? -- what's THAT like??? Hang around. We will tell you. Show you. Want what we have? All you have to do is do what we did. Latch on to someone. Anyone. We are just like you. Only different. We don't use anymore. Me?!? -- just another Wharf Rat. Freed from a lifetime obsession



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

to drink and drug. Freed from the illusion that my life was fine, just a little out of control. Free.

Charlie ~ ccjc2\_ssdd@yahoo.com  
Recovery -- Installed and Serviced since 1998

**On the Philly WR Meeting**

Sadly, just like Buffalo Bill, the Friends of August West (Philly) group of the Wharf Rats is defunct. Thank you to all who stopped by over the years, and for those who helped support the meeting and keep it going while it lasted.

Although we will no longer meet weekly, members of our group will still staff tables in the Philadelphia area until the music stops, which hopefully won't be any time soon. If you have a year or more of sobriety and are interested in volunteering for a show, please contact Jarrod G. at 215-205-9500 or wharfratjarrod@comcast.net  
Thank you. Jarrod

**WR Richard, Florida Checks In...**

Hello, My Name is Richard G. and I'm a Wharf Rat! In the spring of '95 I was struggling with recovery. Spending too much time comparing and leaving too little room for identification. I was a Deadhead and they told me I couldn't go to any more concerts let alone tour again. Needless to say this left a bigger hole in my soul than the cessation of drug use.



Through my recovery and it's ever changing world view I'm able to reflect on these days of early sobriety and try to identify other ways in which a newcomer can so quickly get a sense of belonging and security to surrender themselves to their higher power with out reservation.

Early on I was struggling as I mentioned, a relapse began when I was depressed over missing the Salt Lake shows. My addiction was spiraling down even further. I was still going to meetings but getting high throughout and was ready to throw in the towel and end it all, but at the noon Wednesday meeting I saw a poster for the Weekly Wharf Rats meeting in that very church. This sign was there

for months and I never noticed it before until my desperation yet again opened my eyes. The sign read "The Mr. Bubble Group meets here every Tuesday 7:00 – 8:30 room 315". My memory may be failing me but I guess this was the gist of the poster. Hope, Joy, Fear, I have to stay clean and alive for a whole week and make this meeting!

Well, I made it somehow and met a great group of individuals with a message of hope. I never had to use again and need not die from my disease. Furthermore, with the guidance and help from my new friends I could go to shows again. They did point out that you need to have a secure foundation in recovery, be spiritually fit and be pure in motive. Then, hopefully with the support of fellow Wharf Rats and your higher power, you could successfully attend shows and stay clean. Look for the Yellow balloons!

I'm Grateful to report that I was able to see JGB at the Warfield, and the Dead @ Shoreline and Giants Stadium before Jerry succumbed later that summer to his disease. The memorial service for him in Seattle was extremely moving for me on many levels. When I was able to survive that grief with out using and in the company of my fellow Wharf Rats, I knew I never had to use again no matter what life handed me.

I've tried; to the best of my ability, to give back what was so freely given to me. With the help of others, two new Wharf Rat weekly meetings have been formed. Even though the Mr. Bubble Group no longer exists I still live by their motto, "... It's More Fun Getting Clean Than It Was Getting Dirty".

I may be wrong, but I'm under the impression that that was the only weekly Wharf Rats meeting in existence then. My higher power showed me that poster when I was ready. Through her strength and love and with the caring fellowship found in these rooms, I've been able to keep that clean date ~ 04-05-1995 ~. Thanks to all those who came before me and those who continue to arrive, Some Climb, Some Fall, To Get To ... Don't Give Up Before The Miracle !! Richard G. ~ Wharf Rat, Bradenton, Fl.

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**and a Hey Now from Sheri, up Oregon way.....**

Would like to say - thanks to this newsletter - I was kept informed about WR happenings for many years before the computer became so popular. Back in the 80s and early 90s - I relied on getting my copy at the first summer Grateful Dead shows.

I was cleaning out some old files the other day - and I ran across some very old copies of our Newsletter. I can't wait to sit down and re-read them and see where I was and where I am today!!! Also found copies of the old Mississippi 12 Step newsletters - an offshoot of our own. Fun stuff to reflect back on. The beginnings and the progression thru the years.

How we have stayed strong - like our band members - and how we have grown and evolved - the same as they do every year. When a loss occurs - we band closer - just as they do when PigPen, Keith, Brent, Jerry and others passed - the band members grew stronger in talent still. So do we - the Wharf Rats - founded out of the times of wonderful shows and grateful communities, continue to grow and become on a very supportive path.

Though the Grateful Dead as a whole has changed and grown in different directions - so do we grow as a community - yet we remain the same. The bond never breaks and the unity never fails. That is the Wharf Rats, That is strong, positive Recovery, and to add to our attraction - we have LIVE music at our meetings!!!!  
 Peace and Namaste' Sheri Hoffman Portland Oregon

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**Momma T from the Mid West.....**

Greetings family. We are still growing. Sometimes it seems a bit blown apart.... Sadly there is only a bit of confirmed shows for the midwest, even sadder with my busy sched I can only make one, God willing I will be in CHGO for Rat Dog. Lucky for me Lefty is running most of the midwest shows. ( thanks Buddy ! ) On the bright side of my crazy life our dtr was married last week west of CHGO and our son

plans on getting married home at Darkstar Farm early Aug. We are blessed. Another good note in the midwest is a yellow balloon table happening at Wakaroosa as I write this. Bob E a well known rat along with Wide Spread Patrick will be helping that effort, Thanks guys. Still get occasional call from a newby Rat... yes this addiction thing is still out there kicking peoples asses. Thank you HP and recovery people, I'm not there. Bless us all Love Momma T.



**Y O U R T R I B E**

**get that number .... stay connected**

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**Tap into clean show communities.....**

- \*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.phish.net/faq/phellow.html>
- \*Free and Clear- Sober Hippie Crossroads:  
<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Hall/2776/>
- \*The Velcro Kangaroos - Yonder Mountain String Band fans:  
**Can't find you guys anymore... new URL?** Let us know and we'll plug your address in here.



--"Europe 81", Stanley Mouse.

**Chef Larry Sending Love to all**

Hi All, Chef Larry from Southern California checking in. As usual, it has been a long strange trip. The wheel for me today is music and and the Wharf rats is what makes my life go round and round.

In a previous message I included in a newsletter, I mentioned the trial of having my stepson go through his own bout in the cycle of abuse and finally into treatment. I have the pleasure of sharing that he is now almost two years sober and is catching up on his missed time in school, and will likely graduate Highschool on time next year. Not bad for a kid who was heading for jail or death (he did the institutions already).

For my own personal sobriety, I am proud to be approaching my thirteenth sober birthday on July 8th. I will be seeing a ton of music this summer and having the ability to do several sober tables (for other fellowships, we need more Dead family music in Southern California!) around town and in several other spots. The biggest thing I wanted to share with anyone reading this is that my life has been blessed and transformed by being allowed to do service for our sober music community. I am honored to continue on this path and I have received and continue to need ..... "A Miracle Every Day".....

Peace, Love & Harmony! ~ Chef Larry ~ cheflarry@sbcglobal.net

**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 our Sticker Coordinator, Warren F., listed on the Contacts page. Please make sure to specify which and how many stickers you want.



Save Your Face



Save Your Face

ANOTHER DOPELESS  
HOPE FIEND

Wharf Rats

THIS IS YOUR  
BRAIN ON HUGS

You Don't Need Dope  
To Dance

WHARF RATS  
High On Music

True Deadheads Get  
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 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



# SUMMER TOUR INFO

**Phil Lesh & Friends,**  
No Summer Tour Dates at this writing.  
Check Deadnet for updates: <http://www.dead.net/>

**High Sierra Music Festival**  
July 5 - 8 - Quincy, CA

**Gathering of the Vibes 2007**  
August 9-12 - Bridgeport, CT

## **Bob Weir & Ratdog Summer '07 Tour Schedule**

|              |                                              |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Sun 06/17/07 | Manchester, TN Bonnaroo Music Festival       |
| Sat 07/07/07 | Atlanta, GA Chastain Park Amphitheatre       |
| Mon 07/09/07 | NY, NY Central Park SummerStage              |
| Tue 07/10/07 | Boston, MA Bank Of America Pavilion          |
| Wed 07/11/07 | Lincoln, RI Twin Rivers                      |
| Fri 07/13/07 | Masontown, WV Marvin's Mountaintop           |
| Sat 07/14/07 | Charlottesville, VA Charlottesville Pavilion |
| Mon 07/16/07 | Clev, OH Time Warner Amph.@Tower City        |
| Tue 07/17/07 | Columbus, OH Lifestyle Communities Pavilion  |
| Thu 07/19/07 | Chicago, IL Aragon Ballroom                  |
| Fri 07/20/07 | Detroit Lakes, MN Soo Pass Ranch             |
| Sat 07/21/07 | Council Bluffs, IA Harrah's Council Bluffs   |
| Tue 07/24/07 | Morrison, CO Red Rocks Amphitheatre          |
| Wed 07/25/07 | Santa Fe, NM Paolo Soleri Amph.              |
| Fri 07/27/07 | San Diego, CA Humphrey's Concerts-ByThe Bay  |
| Sat 08/11/07 | Bridgeport, CT Seaside Park                  |
| Sat 07/28/07 | Los Angeles, CA Greek Theatre                |
| Sat 08/11/07 | Bridgeport, CT Seaside Park                  |
| Tue 08/14/07 | Bristow, VA Nissan Pavilion                  |
| Wed 08/15/07 | Burgettstown, PA Post-Gazette Pavilion       |
| Fri 08/17/07 | Camden, NJ Tweeter Center At The Waterfront  |
| Sat 08/18/07 | Bushkill, PA Mountain Laurel Center          |
| Sun 08/19/07 | Darien Center, NY Darien Lake Theme Park     |
| Tue 08/21/07 | Wantagh, NY Nikon At Jones Beach             |
| Wed 08/22/07 | Holmdel, NJ PNC Bank Arts Center             |