



20+ YEARS ONE SHOW AT A TIME

SUMMER 2009

~ ~ ~ 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.



This is all a dream we dreamed one afternoon long ago....

Wharf Rat Archives....oh yes, we have 'em. Among few others, 'Mom' in Arizona has been our keeper of stories from Wharf Rats since the first newsletter was sent out into the universe at large. She has generously sent us copies of some of these archive letters, which we'd like to share with you now. The experience, strength and hope of the Wharf Rats shine through year after year. So, here's to the road traveled..... with great love and affection, from Newsletter Summer 1995

Wharf Rats Brothers & Sisters,

Hey Now! I've been meaning to write for some time, but I've been isolating in my sorrow. I've been crying & reflecting, hiding in these feelings of mine, which I can't easily share. And it dawned on me what to do. YOU GUYS UNDERSTAND why I'm crying, so here's my little letter. It's been tough, but I didn't use! I wanted to but I know it won't fix anything. My first show was in '87. I quit going in '90 when I got clean. I knew I would have used. So I just lived the good life, by myself, in my own clean Deadhead way. I came to understand that for me being a Deadhead had nothing to do with drugs.

My higher power knew I was homesick and needed a show & after much prayer & meditation I knew I was ready. I was fortunate enough to score tickets for both Chicago shows. (HP knew something I didn't). My shows were pretty good. I was home. I smiled alot! I went to my first WR meeting on Sat. I still can't believe it! Recovery in the midst of it all, still lovin' it & everyone around me was there for the music, using or not. It was beautiful! I'll NEVER forget it! Sunday I had to go solo (my buddy started using) I knew I'd be OK 'cause you were there, somewhere, I'd see you mid-show. Well, "acid boy" found me during space & he was freaking me out so I spent most of my time at the WR booth. I needed a Meeting! It was strange. This lifestyle never ceases to surprise me!

Anyhow, to the Marine at the WR table - Thank You! I love you bro! You saved my ass & yea, Jerry saved me one more song! Plus, I got a "Box of Rain". Afterwards followed the most amazing fireworks. It ended on a good note & for the last time in my life I stood looking down at the most amazing guitar player playing songs "just for me". He made my spirit soar & just then, those last two songs, I knew I was experiencing something special. If you didn't feel it you weren't paying attention. It was as if the band was saying "this is it, hope you a good ride!. And boy, didn't we? I'm glad I understood. I left & went home alone. No vendor-hopping, no veggie-burritos, none of that. I had tears in my eyes, I knew something, but I wasn't sure quite what. On August 9, 1995, I understood.

I thank HP for allowing me to go. I feel terribly sad, but I got my "One More Saturday Night" (Sunday, too!). Plus all my other shows in the past & my DH buddies, past & present. I might have dropped out of "the scene" for years, but I never stopped being who I am, a Deadhead. It's not the drugs, the # of shows or the number of tie-dyes you got, it's what you feel, how you think & the love you got to give. Today, I got alot. Even if the rest of the boys don't play together again & it's done, I'm not. I refuse to stop being who I am. Just know I love you and I'm glad you came around. We'll be together again. Your brother.... Troy W. I cried while writing this. I bid you Good Night.



WR CONTACTS AND TABLE COORDINATORS

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WHARFRAT MEETINGS

East Norwich, Long Island, NY Save Your Face Group of WR's

Contact: Tom 631-672-6851, or
Alt.: Sabina H. 516-526-4445
Email: beanloveslife@yahoo.com
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 7:00-8:00PM,
Woodruff Place Baptist Church
1735 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN.

WR's Bradenton, Florida

Contact Richard G., Cell: 941-737-3773
Email: rgeib@tampabay.rr.com
Wharfrat NA Thursdays 7:00-8:00PM
Christ Church Presbyterian Church
515 Upper Manatee River Rd.
Bradenton, FL 34212

WR's San Francisco, CA AA Group

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.
Contact Charlie anytime. If you are in the Bay Area and can't make it to the meeting, join them for dinner before the meeting. If he can help you stay sober today, give a call.

WR's San Francisco, CA NA

Terrapin Station Group is no longer a WR's meeting, but a regular NA meeting and will no longer be listed here. This is still an active meeting, so wander in if you're a mind to.

Santa Cruz, CA Wharf Rats "A Rare and Different Tune"

Recovery, food, fellowship and music!
Contact: Lynn Kravitz: Cell: 510-928-2995
groovylynn@hotmail.com
or Jimmy Bishop: 831-818-4628
Email: rowjimmyb@yahoo.com
contact us for current meeting times and locations

IF WE CAN'T REACH YOU, NO ONE ELSE CAN ! Meeting contacts whose email addys and/or phone numbers are not active, will be removed from the list. The conclusion being the meeting is no longer active. Please keep us current with your contact info if you want to continue to be listed here. It matters... to the folks out there trying to reach us, it definitely matters. Thanks all.
Your Editor in Service.



ONE SHOW AT A TIME

All the Years Combined They Melt Into a Dream...

I had spent so many shows everywhere searching for that sound but didn't hear it till I got sober. I was honored to serve the tables during the NYE run at Bill Graham this 2008 into 2009. I met a few Rats that I had met before but never knew names or whereabouts. One of my sponsors newcomers had come with me who needed to learn what service was all about. I showed him what I was taught; leave your personality and little plans at the door and practice self-sacrifice and unselfish constructive action. Remember that there is no human power who can relieve our alcoholism.

Our responsibility was to be the best demonstration of a sober, sane, thoughtful and joy-filled example of the miracle. The two nights were magic filled! I was shown the light once again while carrying the message. I have a renewed energy for what service is and what it can be. I've not forgotten what my sponsor told me long ago, "I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help. I want the hand to be there and for that, I am responsible". Throughout both nights there were questions from curious passersby "who are you and why?" With the answer given, the response was one of surprise, smiles and so many Thank You's for providing some traction and hope. Or the joy of those who knew us because a loved one found us during that one magic moment at a show. Others, for whom the path turned another direction found the need to stop and say hello to express grateful words that we are still here. Or planting the seed in a fog filled mind while they picked through the bits of sugar on our table, a yellow balloon and saying to them "have a good show". Sometime, it's giving a wooden Wharf Rat chip to a hopeful and grateful mother for the son who was far-away but was with us in heart. Listening to her story, I wished my own mother and father had experienced just one moment of my long strange trip named sobriety. That smile and wave throughout the night from a new comrade in hope put a smile in my heart. It is so true what Jerry told us..."Once in a while you get shown the light, in the strangest of places if you look at it right" (nod to R.H. can't be suppressed).
It was December 6th, 1986 when I knew in my heart, like August West, "the life I'm living is no

good " and I'm going to die. I am not entitled to this or take foolish pride because I have a yellow dot on my chest that reads "One Show At A Time" but rather a grateful heart for those who have shown me to how to share the spirit of the Dead, to practice self-sacrifice for those in need. Thank you ever so much for helping me become the best Me I can be Momma T, Lynn K, and my sponsor. So go to shows, enjoy the music your own way, share in the sense of community, don't drink, go to a meeting, ask God for help and give your hand to a newcomer. Be well, from that Indian in Arizona, Don't Worry, Be Hopi". Believe it if you need it or leave it if you dare. Donald. N.

PS - I wanted to send this to you for the newsletter. I rather like doing things the old way, person to person, hand to hand. I hope you can use this because sometimes the selfishness of some can bring the house down. We are servants for the whole of us, or a Jerry taught us "his job is to shed light and not to master". Thanks lots for your service over the years! Keepin' it grateful after all these years. Donald..

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Sweet 16 & Warren Too, Happy Birthdays!

It was 16 years ago today that I dedicated myself to a new way of living. Life without the use of drugs and alcohol. It has not always been easy, but my life would not have been the same. I appreciate all the love and support I have had along the way.

I share my anniversary with my dear friend Warren. We have done many shows together, have our belly button birthdays a day apart (albeit different years), and have a love for djembes and other hand drums, There are no coincidences (just Incidents LOL) Thanks for helping me be.
Ah-ho Mitakuyae Oyasin ~ Miko

From Warren: I woke up clean this morning which happens to be the 4,383rd day in a row which also translates into 12 years today. I found the Wharf Rats coincidentally on my first day out of rehab at an NA meeting (DJ Bob who gave me his number, and Kevin (kage). Although I did use again 2 days later, somehow I kept Bob's number and one of the first things I did getting clean was make a phone call to Bob, found the local Long Island Wharfrat meeting and show up.
Warren/LI NY Wharf Rat Treasurer

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"It was the spirit that brought us together...."

I have been attending Grateful Dead shows and happenings since 1967 when I first moved down to SF Bay Area and discovered the wealth of music and community spirit that was building there. I immediately connected with those whose ideals and dreams were to form loving and caring societies and incorporate that into the "family" of Deadheads and other music genres. It was the Spirit that brought us together at each and every show. Then in 1985 I quit drinking and it was 2 years before I attended my next GD show - Eugene, Oregon. We share music, love, laughter and tears and stay connected in ways not found anywhere

else in society. When one is hurting - we bring healing - when one is celebrating - we offer hugs - we see each other at shows and offer sober help to those who choose to attend in a more natural state and it is much easier to accomplish this when two or more are gathered. It is most important to stay connected with those whose lives correspond to my own. I will be GRATEFUL always for each member of the WRs and know where I can find the hope, peace and strength for each day. We can discover the wonders of nature... Peace Sheri H Portland OR

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Archive Summer 1996 The Long Arm of Sobriety....Sweet

Dear Wharf Rats,
When my son David was younger I used to take him to 12-Step meetings and he would introduce himself by saying "My name is David and I am the son of an alcoholic". Well, I would like to introduce myself to you by saying "My name is Beth, and I am the mother of a Deadhead". David introduced me to the Grateful Dead and took me to several shows - my favorite part was the Wharf Rat table with the yellow balloons and the meetings between sets which kept me feeling grounded and safe in a shaky environment. I am very grateful for all the people who have made the Wharf Rat thing happen.

Always Grateful, Beth H.

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And Yet Again..... Summer Newsletter 1996 (minor edits)

Dear Fellow Recovering Freaks,
I'm Ron, grateful recovering alcoholic, drug addict and Deadhead. Been clean since 01/07/90. In the past 6-years of recovery I've had heightened periods of spirituality. In time I met fellow recovering Deadheads and went to my first clean show. The WR Meeting in Orlando Arena April 1991 sent chills up my spine. It almost made me cry to see recovery brought into the Dead concert scene. I had been to only 3 shows in recovery and the spiritual high was so much greater than those experienced at shows from chemical induction. My last show was Tampa Stadium. The day of the show we had an extra ticket. There I was walking around frustrated in the parking lot trying to sell the ticket. I didn't want to sit next to a dooper. Finally my friend suggested I "turn it over" and I sold it to the next person I saw looking for a ticket. My friends and I went into the show and found our seats on the floor, and there was the kid I had sold the ticket to. He then gave me a big hug and thanked me for selling him such a good ticket. Intermission came and my friends and I headed to the hallway towards the yellow balloons. Before we had reached the meeting I could see the kid I sold the ticket to standing in the circle.! What a long strange trip it's been. May God Bless you my fellow Wharf Rats. We Will Survive!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Love, "Crazy Ronny"



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.

NEW STICKERS NOT SHOWN HERE: "FRIEND OF AUGUST WEST" & "THE PHELLOWSHIP", CONTACT WARREN



Save Your Face

**ONE SHOW
AT A TIME**



Save Your Face



You Don't Need Dope
To Dance

WHARF RATS
High On Music



**THIS IS YOUR
BRAIN ON HUGS**

**ANOTHER DOPELESS
HOPE FIEND**

**STILL CRAZY AFTER
ALL THIS SOBRIETY**

**True Deadheads Get
High On Music**

Let Go & Let Jerry

Wharf Rats



YOU DON'T
NEED
DOPE
TO DANCE

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 could be one? Tables and tablers are always in need of support. Table service, covering tables for dinner, restroom 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 so 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

Spring/Summer Tour 2009

THE DEAD

Sun 4/12/09 Greensboro Coliseum Greensboro, NC
Wed 4/15/09 John Paul Jones Arena Charlottesville, VA
Fri. 4/17/09 Times Union Center, Albany NY
Sat 4/18/09 DCU Center Worcester, MA
Tue 4/21/09 HSBC Arena Buffalo, NY
Fri 4/24/09 Nassau Coliseum Uniondale, NY
Sun 4/26/09 XL Center Hartford, CT
Wed 4/29/09 IZOD Center E. Rutherford, NJ
Fri 5/1/09 Wachovia Spectrum Philadelphia, PA
Sat 5/2/09 Wachovia Spectrum Philadelphia, PA SOLD OUT
Mon 5/4/09 All State Arena Chicago, IL
Tue 5/5/09 All State Arena Chicago, IL SOLD OUT
Thu 5/7/09 Pepsi Center Denver, CO
Sat 5/9/09 The Forum Los Angeles, CA SOLD OUT
Sun 5/10/09 Shoreline Amphitheater Mountain View, CA SOLD OUT
Thu 5/14/09 Shoreline Amphitheater Mountain View, CA
Sat 5/16/09 The Gorge With special w/Allman Brothers Band & The Doobie Brothers, Quincy, WA

THE STRING CHEESE INCIDENT - TOUR - SCI'S ONLY INCIDENT OF 2009

July 2-5, 2009 **ROTHBURY, Rothbury, Michigan A Sustainable Camping Festival**

THE DEAD • Bob Dylan and His Band • Willie Nelson & Family • The Black Crowes • Damian Jr. Gong' Marley & NAS
• STS9 • G.Love & Special Sauce • Gov't Mule • Broken Social Scene • Yonder Mountain String Band • The Disco
Biscuits • Les Claypool • Cold War Kids • John Butler • Chromeo • Ani DeFranco • Matisyahu • Guster • Girl Talk •
Femikuti & The Postive Force • Mstrkrft • Martin Sexton • Flogging Molly • Railroad Earth • The Hold Steady • Toot
& The Maytals • Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys • Brett Dennen • Zappa Plays Zappa • Grace Potter &
The Nocturnals • Shpongle DJ Set • Son Volt • Jackie Greene • Lotus • Soulive • Man Man • Peter Rowan Bluegr
Band w/Tony Rice • King Sunny Ade & His African Beats • Kid Cuti • STS9 (Live PA Set) • The Glitch Mob • Davy
Knowles & Back Door Slam • EOTO • Pretty Lights • Moseley, Law, Sipe & Droll • Rebelution • Quannam All S'
Lyrics Born • The Mighty Underdogs • Quannum Gift of Gab & Lifesavas • Toubab Krewe • Sam Roberts Banu
Country Revue • Kyle Hollingsworth Band • Lipp Service + Elliot Lipp & Members of Pnuma • 2020 Soundsystem •
Break Science • FT Adam Deitch • The Hard Lessons • The Low Antherm & Underground Orchestra • Futurerock
• The Macpodz • Steepin' In It • Giant Panda Gorilla Dub Squad • Chris Pearce • Rachel Goodrich • The Rag Bi
Four Finger Five, and , additional artists to be announced.....