

# Still Fumin' News



 **Still Fumin' Records** 

Spring 2013

# Coming Soon: Summer Tour 2013

Tom Savell's Superior Olive band will be hitting the road again this summer! The tour schedule is listed below, which includes a stop at the band's old stomping grounds in Escondido, CA.

Also, drummer Michael Saint John has recently been traveling between southern Oregon and Santa Cruz to record with Superior Olive! Please check [www.superiorolive.com](http://www.superiorolive.com) in the coming months for more updates!

## Superior Olive Summer Tour 2013 Preliminary Schedule:

*Fri, June 14, 6pm:* **Shasta Lake, CA.** Friday Night in the Park, Clair Engle Park: 1525 Median Ave.

*Sat, June 15, 9pm:* **Rogue River, Oregon.** Cattlemen's Saloon: 108 Depot St.

*Sat, June 29, 7pm:* **Escondido, CA.** CA Center for the Arts: 340 N. Escondido Blvd.

*Sat, Aug 24, 1pm:* **Santa Cruz, CA.** Garden Tour / Concert at Still Fumin': 205 Stone Crest.

*Sat, Aug 31:* **Private Ranch Party, CA.**

## Billy Cox: Hendrix's First and Last Bass Player

Billy Cox was Jimi Hendrix's bass player before he got famous. The two were Army buddies and jammed together for years until Hendrix was discovered by the Animals' Chas Chandler in 1967. Jimi actually wanted Billy to join him on that first trip to England as his bassist, but Billy declined due to lack of traveling funds. Noel Redding was then selected in England to be the bassist for the Jimi Hendrix Experience, along with Mitch Mitchell on drums. That lineup would only last a couple years, however, and Cox would get another chance at stardom as Jimi's bassist in Band of Gypsies with Buddy Miles on drums. Jimi's last band that he featured at Woodstock and the Isle of Wight concert was with Mitchell on drums and Cox on Bass. Billy is a rock solid bassist, and more of a traditional "bottom-end" stylist compared to Noel Redding, who was actually a guitar player first. The difference can be heard when listening to and comparing the two playing styles.

## Dick Dale: Facts about the King of the Surf Guitar

Credited as the inventor of Surf Rock with his first hit song, *Let's Go Trippin'* in 1960.

Was the first guitarist to use an extremely loud amplifier, which Leo Fender of Fender Guitars developed to Dick's specs, but only after hearing how loud the audiences were at Dale's shows!

Uses extremely thick guitar strings. Most electric guitarists use string gauges ranging from 8 to 12 for the bottom string up to 42-52 for the top string, while Dale's bottom and top strings are 16 and 56 respectively. They are custom made that way especially for him because guitar strings normally aren't available that thick!

The Jimi Hendrix song *3rd Stone from the Sun* has the line "Then you'll never hear surf music again", which is a nod to Jimi's friend Dick Dale, who was suffering from rectal cancer at the time. The intent was to encourage Dale to recover, which he eventually did.

Like his late friend Jimi Hendrix, Dick Dale plays guitar left-handed.

## People Complain Too Much

*From Santa Cruz Sentinel "As You See It" Section, Jan 6, 2013*

Santa Cruz has become a city of whiners. First, complaints about train noise, then about the Basketball Arena, people enjoying Segways, and Surf Coverage! What is acceptable, tree-hugging?

Those tracks were laid in the 1800's, long before most houses. I found that air horn more soothing than the noise from my UCSC Student Neighbors houses, Professors! And yes, I live just down the street from the tracks. I look forward to further train service.

*Gary McCourt, Santa Cruz*



# Decemberchild 2012 Recap



*Tom Savell was both host & Rock Star at Decemberchild!*

The annual Decemberchild Benefit Concert returned to the Kuumbwa Jazz Center in Santa Cruz for another successful event. Event organizer Jacob John Save had assembled the greatest pool of raffle prizes ever seen in the 17 year history of Decemberchild, including several guitars, violins, go-carts, mini-drum sets, and toys galore!

All proceeds went to Children's Hospice & Palliative Care Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving hospice & palliative care for children.

Young local band Almost Chaos opened the show and played a solid, spirited set of originals and covers. Almost Chaos' Derek Mather is a talented young guitarist and has been friends with Superior Olive & Still Fumin' Records for a few years now.

Tom Savell's Superior Olive band headlined the concert, delivering the high quality, innovative Rock n Roll that knowing audiences have come to expect from them.



*This year's raffle prizes were the best yet, culminating in these guitars and violins*



*Almost Chaos rocked as the opening act. L-R: Mack Hesson, Derek Mather, Jose Picazo and Liam Gillespie*

## Humor: Mel Brooks on Romans & Christians

From Mel Brooks' "History of the World, Part I." Mel plays Comicus, a "Stand Up Philosopher" living in Rome, who was performing (i.e. philosophizing) live at Caesar's Palace (The one in Rome, not Vegas) in front of Emperor Caesar and his court.

"I just got back from Venice and boy are my arms tired!"

"You wanna know how to make a Venician Blind? Poke him in the eyes!"

"Have you heard of this new sect, the Christians? They are a laugh riot! First of all, they are so poor... <How poor are they?> Thank you! They are so poor... that they only have one God!"

"But we Romans are rich. We've got a lot of gods. We've got a god for everything. The only thing we don't have a god for is premature ejaculation... but I hear that's coming quickly!"

"What's the rage today? Losing weight is all the rage. Everybody in Rome is either in a steam room or a vomitorium. Half or Rome is either cooking or puking!"



# NAMM Show 2013: Day 1



This intricate guitar body was generated by a 3D printer, as seen at the 3DSystems booth



Tom playing the "Wheelharp" at the Antiquity Music booth. Pressing a note on the keyboard triggers an actual bow on a string like a violin to create the authentic stringed instrument sound



Jacob checking out a classic Sequential Circuits synthesizer - the same model he used in the 1980's - at the Midi Manufacturers Association (MMA) booth



Tom with bassist Curt Lusk and soundman Gilbert Good



Michael Saint John, Yamaha Rep Athan Billias, and Tom Savell at the Yamaha Suite in the Marriot



"Curved keyboard" version of the Wheelharp at the Antiquity Music booth



Yamaha honored its 125th year of manufacturing musical instruments with this wall-sized timeline

## NAMM Show 2013: Martin's Jam at Hennessey's

While at the NAMM show in Anaheim, Tom, Jacob, and the rest of the band headed down to Hennessey's Pub & Restaurant in nearby Dana Point to participate in Martin Gershwitz' weekly Thursday night jam. Martin is an accomplished keyboardist who has toured with many acts including Lita Ford, Eric Burdon, and Iron Butterfly. His Thursday jam regularly features high-powered industry musicians such as guitarist Keston Barker from the Bus Boys and Lavell Jones, drummer for Neil Diamond and Seal.



*Tom Savell (far left) jamming with Martin's house band, consisting of (l-r) Keston Barker, Lavell Jones, Tom Croucier, and Martin Gershwitz*



*Yamaha honored its 125th year of manufacturing musical instruments with this wall-sized timeline*



# NAMM Show 2013, Day 2



*The spectacular lobby of Disney's Grand Californian Hotel where the Savell brothers stayed*

Most years at NAMM, Friday is probably the ideal day to be there. Thursday can be looked at as a "warm-up" day, but Friday is when everything is in full swing: The last minute details are completed, all the bugs have been worked out, and the celebrities have arrived, but the scene is thankfully lacking the overwhelming crowdedness of Saturdays at NAMM. Superior Olive took full advantage of the day while walking the floor.



*Trade Show Model*



*The Garrett Borns band performing at the Sonor booth*



*Jacob (bottom right) at the Muse Research booth with Muse's Bryan Lanser & Matt Christiano.*



*Michael Saint John trying out a drum set at the Ddrum booth*



*Tom trying out the Extra large harmonica at the Hohner booth*



*Friday Night, the Savell brothers and Superior Olive went over to Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen at Downtown Disney to relax, eat a delicious New Orleans style meal, and listen to their good friends Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans*



# NAMM Show 2013: Disneyland!



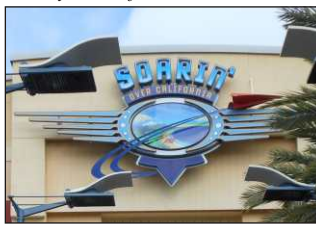
*The gut-wrenching Hollywood Tower ride at Disney's California Adventure*

Saturdays at the Winter NAMM show are always the most crowded, noisy, and flustering days to be walking the trade show floor. So rather than subject ourselves to the abuse, we went across the street to Disneyland and its sister park, Disney's California Adventure!

First stop would be the Soarin' Over California ride in Disney's California Adventure, which takes the audience on a simulated flight over California's most beautiful areas, complete with the smells, sounds, and wind in your face. It is a total immersion experience and is alone worth the park admission price.



*The famous Star Tours ride*



*Soarin' Over California is our favorite ride at Cali Adventure*



*Michael, Will, Jacob, and Tom cruising Disney!*



*Superior Olive enjoying a fine meal at Catal, a great Spanish restaurant in Downtown Disney*

## Disney Shuts down LucasArts

*From Santa Cruz Sentinal, April 3, 2013*

Disney abruptly shut down its LucasArts' "Star Wars" video game franchise just five months after the entertainment giant bought Lucasfilm and its video game subsidiary for \$4.06 billion. LucasArts had been updating its "Star Wars" video game titles with "Star Wars: First Assault and Star Wars 1313."

"After evaluating our position in the games market, we've decided to shift LucasArts from an internal development to a licensing model, minimizing the company's risk while achieving a broader portfolio of quality 'Star Wars games,'" Disney said in a statement to the Game Informer blog. "As a result of this change, we've had layoffs across the organization. We are incredibly appreciative and proud of the talented teams who have been developing our new titles."

In December, Disney announced that it acquired Lucasfilm, special effects giant Industrial Light & Magic, LucasArts and sound studio Skywalker Sound for \$4.06 billion in cash and stock from its sole owner, George Lucas. Disney said at the time that it issued 37.1 million shares and made a cash payment of \$2.21 billion to buy the maker of "Star Wars" from Lucas.

The video game blog Kotaku, citing an anonymous source, reported Wednesday that Disney's pullout of LucasArts meant that 150 people were laid off and that "Star Wars: First Assault" and "Stars Wars 1313" were canceled.

Disney has said it plans to revive the "Star Wars" movie franchise beginning with Episode 7 in 2015.



# NAMM Show 2013: Final Day



*Superior Olive posing with Roland's Mike Kent at the Roland Suite*



*Tom joking with Martin Gershwitz while Martin was performing at the Grand Illusion booth, which makes grand piano-shaped shells for synthesizers and electric pianos*



*Tom and Jacob at the Hammond Booth*



*Jacob comparing canes with a fellow NAMM guest*



*Beautiful Southern California sunset as seen from the freeway*



*Southern California traffic never looked so lovely!*

## Charn Thai Restaurant

On their many trips from Santa Cruz to Southern California and back, The Savell brothers and Superior Olive never miss a chance to eat at Charn Thai Restaurant in Camarillo, CA. Charn, the owner and chef, frequently travels to the far east to bring back exotic ingredients from Thailand, which really helps to make his Thai food authentic and delicious.

Tom and Jacob have been coming here for decades and are good buddies with Charn. If you're ever in the area and want excellent food, please visit them at 65 East Daily Drive in Camarillo.



*Charn Thai Restaurant sign, as seen right off the 101 freeway at Las Posas Rd in Camarillo, CA.*



*Tom, Charn, and Jacob. Charn is a master Thai chef, and Tom & Jacob have known him for 20 years plus!*



## Cab Calloway: Funny Funny Reefer Man

In 1932, legendary Jazz singer, dancer and bandleader Cab Calloway recorded a humorous, energetic song called *Reefer Man*: “Have you ever met this funny reefer man . . . If he trades you dimes for nickles, and calls watermelons pickles . . . then you know your talkn’ to that reefer man.” This was four years before the notorious 1936 propaganda film *Reefer Madness*. Reefer, of course refers to marijuana, which at the time was associated with Jazz and Blues musicians, who were mostly African-American. Marijuana was demonized along with the Blacks and Latinos who were presumed to be using it, and in 1937 it was made illegal.

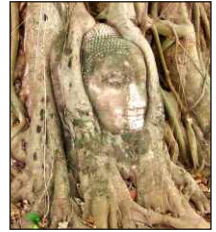
Born in 1907, Cab Calloway is considered one of the best Jazz bandleaders of all time. His first big hit was 1931’s *Minnie the Moocher*, featured in Betty Boop cartoons along with other Calloway songs. He has worked with many other well-known Jazz greats, including trumpeters Dizzy Gillespie and Doc Cheatham, who were helped to stardom by playing in Cab’s band.

## Historic Figures: The Buddhas

Buddha in the Indian language Sanskrit means “Enlightened” or “Awakened”, so by that definition, anybody who has achieved a spiritually enlightened or awakened state of being, such as Jesus Christ or Mahatma Gandhi, could be called “Buddha.” The Theravada Buddhist tradition recognize 28 historically significant Buddhas, the 28th being Siddhartha Guatama, the well-known Buddha that is associated with modern Buddhist philosophy. Furthermore, The Hindu culture from which Buddhism came from believes in the concept of Avatars, or Vishnu (God) incarnate as a human, Krishna (Christ) being the 8th Avatar, while Guatama would be known as the 9th Avatar.

Gautama was a wealthy prince living in ancient India, circa 560 b.c., who one day left his guarded palace to visit the poor and see how they lived. After seeing the poverty and suffering of the common people, he decided to leave his privileged life for good, gave up all his worldly possessions and became a monk. He studied for years with the Indian spiritual leaders of the time, but still not satisfied that he had achieved true enlightenment, went out on his own to find his path to Nirvana. After fasting to the point of starvation, he sat down beneath a fig tree and swore to not get up until he had reached true enlightenment. For many days he sat through temptation, but kept his vow until finally, having found the wisdom he was looking for, left the tree and taught his philosophy for many years until his death.

The laughing, chubby Buddha often seen at Chinese restaurants is Budai, an eccentric 10th century Chinese monk who would travel around and give candy to impoverished children. Budai is often thought of as an incarnation of Maitreya, the 29th Buddha in the Theravada Buddhist tradition.



*This Buddha head in Ayutthaya, Thailand is embedded in the base of a Banyan Tree which slowly grew around the head.*

## Pete Seeger: Folk songwriting legend

Pete Seeger is one of the most important and controversial figures in folk music history. A talented singer, songwriter, and instrumentalist, Seeger also remains a political activist to this day at the young age of 95. During the 50’s and 60’s, his outspoken political activism sometimes got him in trouble with the conservative American establishment of the time, even banned from many venues and media outlets for singing politically charged protest songs.

As a folk songwriter, he has been a major inspiration for multiple generations of folk singers, writing or co-writing the timeless classics *Where Have All The Flowers Gone?*, *If I Had A Hammer* (with Lee Hays), *Kisses Sweeter Than Wine* (with the Weavers), and *Turn! Turn! Turn! To Everything There Is A Season* which was a huge hit for the 60’s folk rock band, The Byrds. He also revived and reworked the traditional *We Shall Overcome*, and popularized the Malvina Reynolds song *Little Boxes*, which both his and Reynolds’ versions can be heard on the popular Showtime series, “Weeds.”

# Studio K



*Gravity Hill  
Singer & Bassist  
Lauren Dair Owens*

Curt and Kathy Lusk are great musicians and longtime friends of the Savell brothers, and in honor of Superior Olive visiting San Diego county, the Lusks threw a party at their beautiful home, complete with a killer jam room & studio, called "Studio K." It was quite a trip down memory lane seeing all the old faces and friends that night.

Curt and Kathy's son Adam has been playing drums for the band Gravity Hill, which is getting exposure in the LA music scene. Gravity Hill will also be opening up for Superior Olive at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido on Saturday, June 29!



*Joel Savell*



*Sean Lusk*



*Tom Savell feeling patriotic*



*Adam Lusk normally  
plays drums for Gravity  
Hill, here playing guitar*

## Music Feature: Quincy Jones



*Quincy (right) seen here with Ray Charles*

*From USA Weekend, April 12-14, 2013 Issue.*

When Quincy Jones was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for lifetime achievement, he was no stranger to the 701 members already enshrined. He studied with many, mentored others, collaborated with more. At the first ceremony, in 1986, he inducted lifelong best buddy Ray Charles.

A producer, arranger, composer, musician and humanitarian, Jones reshaped jazz and pop while building a staggering résumé: 27 Grammys from a record 79 nominations. He produced Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, history's biggest-selling album, and

1985's all-star *We Are the World*, the fastest-selling U.S. pop single ever, which raised \$63 million for famine relief.

"His music has touched so many lives in so many different ways," says LL Cool J, the *NCIS: Los Angeles* actor and rapper who began his TV career in 1995's *In the House*, produced by Jones. "Greatness is not trendy. The *Mona Lisa* is a very, very old painting. People will forget it and then ... discover it. Young people growing up today, they'll discover him."

Jones, 80, has known Stevie Wonder and Aretha Franklin since they were 12. Barbra Streisand and Snoop Dogg are pals. Nelson Mandela and Colin Powell are on speed dial. And those are just a few of the luminaries that music's most storied impresario has known in his 65-year career.



# Museum of Making Music

While in San Diego, a visit to the Museum of Making Music in Carlsbad is always a worthwhile excursion. Tom, Jacob, and Joel did just that, which wound up being the perfect topper to a fun, music filled trip to S.D.! The Museum of Making Music is located at 5790 Armada Dr in Carlsbad, CA. For more information, see their website at: [www.museumofmakingmusic.org](http://www.museumofmakingmusic.org).



*The Rickenbacker "Frying Pan", an all-aluminum lap-steel guitar from the 1920's*



*Fender Carved Floral Stratocaster, built in Fender's custom shop & hand carved by artist George Amicay.*



*The Steinway "GI Piano", 1944. During WWII, thousands of these "Victory" pianos were shipped over-seas & parachuted into camp to boost morale & entertain US Soldiers.*



*North County San Diego is famous for its colorful flower fields, arranged like gigantic paintings in the landscape, such as this impressive example seen from the road in Carlsbad, CA.*



*Red, White, and Blue flowers in Carlsbad, CA arranged as a football field-sized flag of the United States of America!*





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