

BELLEVUE KENTUCKY - Beach Park Show - (07-11-06) : Ok, I have my ice tea sitting next to me and of course have my radio tuned to.....what else....WDJO 1160 am. I love that channel and it is all we listen to anymore! I just heard Chuck Berry doing "I'm so glad I'm living in the USA". Gail has the same channel on her radio upstairs and she is blasting away! Chuck Berry just can't do that song the way that Bobby and our boys do it! A few minutes ago....I heard the "Tonight" song that was in last years show. That is probably the song I miss the most from last year! That song had such an upbeat feel to it and just set the tone for the rest of the night.....and our boys did it so well.....and I loved the rousing finish! It was just a perfect song for a "Hot Wax" show!

I thought that Saturday was never going to get here as I was really looking forward to Bellevue like I always do as it is one of my favorite venues plus this year we added the "waxer" picnic for even more fun! Then Ole "A-Bob" made a major mistake and waited too long Friday night to make my music for the picnic and I wound up still working on it at 9:00 Saturday morning which meant no sleep for the "Ambassador"! Mrs. A-Bob was very upset with me for staying up all night trying to make the perfect music! I made 9 cd's with over 225 songs of mostly Do-wop and "Hot Wax" type of music! I also made one gag Cd with a few oldies and a lot of early Bee Gees on it to just have some fun with Bobby. I have been teasing Bobby forever to learn one of the Bee Gees songs "to Love Somebody". Anyway....when the boys started their sound check.... I thought that would be the end of my recorded music so I took all of my perfect Cd's to the car.....and the gag one was left in the machine. When the sound check was over.....they turned the recorded music back on again for over an hour or so.....and of course the gag cd played some more.....while all the perfect cd's that I worked on all night sat quietly in the car. On the plus side.....I have some great music for next year!!!!

I feel guilty talking about a lack of sleep because after virtually no sleep for a few of our "Syndicate of Sound" boys Friday night.....they were in Bellevue bright and early Saturday morning to make sure that we had some sound. The generators were not going to arrive until about 4:00 so my good buddy, Mr. Buddy Love and the boys plugged us into his RV.....and we were now rockin! Our hard working "Syndicate of sound guys then proceeded to set up the "Hot Wax" show.....and then worked the show all night until 11:00 or so . Then they had to tear it down and load up which probably was going to take them several hours! Then from what I understand.....our "Syndicate " boys then were heading to St. Rita's to take down another stage at like 2:00 in the morning if I have all of this straight and I think I do. Amazingly, our boys, were still a fun bunch to be around for our picnic.....and I heard no complaining! Great, great job guys and we all appreciated your effort!!!!

I cant begin to tell you how hard that Denny and Sandy (Martha Stewart) worked on this picnic.....although they were not supposed to and they will now have to report to Ole "A-Bobs" office sometime this week to explain themselves. The Rickmeister and his lovely wife Mary were guilty of overworking also as they helped Denny and Sandy out. The Rickmeister also made sure that our "Syndicate " guys were fed some breakfast or lunch! When I arrived at the park around 1:30 it was unbelievable. I had not seen such an elaborate spread or layout like that since my army days. It looked like the mess hall at Ft. Benning in Georgia....didn't it Denny? I honestly think that Sandy's layout and spread could have fed everyone at Ft. Benning! I think Sandy did feed everyone at the Bellevue park.....well except my cousin Richard! There's an inside joke there somewhere....are we laughing Sandy? I'm sure that we are...LoL!

I want to thank all of the "waxers" who pitched in and were so helpful at the picnic. "Waxers helped out on the food and the music. " Waxers " also helped people carry things to their seats and we also saved seats for those who needed them. The Jimster also did his usual great job of taking photos of this fun event. I always look forward to seeing the pics the next day on the web site! I think we can make a few changes next year to maybe make the event even more fun. Let me know....what you think!

Bobby, Bruno and Carol arrived very early in the afternoon....and we thought that was great! I told Bobby that that was one of the disadvantages of being the leader of the band. Whether Bobby wanted to be there early with us "waxers"....or not ...Bobby is almost forced to be there as a good public relations move with us "waxers". However, Bobby told me very quickly and very convincingly that he was glad to be there and that he was truly enjoying himself. I think I know Bobby well enough that when Bobby said he was glad to be there with us "waxers"....he was being very genuine! I believe that is why Bobby is always a favorite of the "waxers". We truly believe that he enjoys being around us "waxers" and it is not an act!

Speaking of being with us "waxers", Bobby and Barb Helwig challenged my good buddy, Lesli, and myself to a game of corn hole. Barb was a real trooper as she was playing with a very bruised sore shoulder....and it made me hurt just to watch Barb throw! Neither Bobby or myself were on our game. Thank God that Lesli was good or we would still be playing! Our game took longer than it takes to read one of my commentaries! We had Bobby in the sun so long that it is amazing that Bobby had any strength to go on and perform at 7:00! I was told that the team of Buddy and Tiny was outstanding....and that Buddy Love threw a bag in the hole on about every other shot! I don't believe that Bobby had played any corn hole this year and I know that I haven't and we were both playing on my professional slick as ice boards! However, I believe that Bobby & I will be ready to take on those "Syndicate" boys by the end of the year at either another get together when the band is not playing or maybe in Falmouth. We will play that by ear! I'm sure that ESPN ,the sports network, would be interested in televising that titanic event and of course all the money raised would go to a worthy causelike sending Rick on Tommy Casino's next vacation! The Rickmeister barely survived this one!

I had a pleasant surprise as a large contingent of my family members....who I hadn't seen in quite awhile showed up and it was great to see them! Jimmy, Pat, Darlene, Patty, Richard, Tracy, Joe, Trisha, Tracy, Donna & Jim....thank you so much for coming to the show. These very nice folks aren't just my cousinsbut great friends also and I am thrilled that most of them will be at the Crystal Palace for the "End of Summer" bash on August 26th! My cousin Darlene is responsible for teaching Ole "Ambassador Bob" all of those terrific dance moves you see me displaying at the shows! Darlene, a deal is a deal and since you are going to see my "Hot Wax" boys again in August....I will see your "Rusty Griswalds" band at the Newport levee on the 2nd of August! How's that?

Prior to the beginning of the showOtto had printed up some very official subpoena's to be served to Bruno, Bobby and the lovely Miss Tina involving the now infamous "Hoopgate " scandal. I talked my cousin, Richard Paden, into serving the subpoenas and Bruno and Bobby thought they were very funny. I think we startled the lovely Miss Tina a little bit and the look on Tina's face was priceless! Thanks Tina for being such a good sport. I have a feeling that Tina's life was so much simpler before Ole "Ambassador Bob" came along! I have used "Hot Wax's" first lady Tina's, name in several of my commentaries in a fun and hopefully sometimes flattering way.....and Tina has been great about it The lovely miss Tina has never complained ...not even once! Thanks Tina! Richard Paden, thank you for serving the subpoenas and playing your role of Officer Kern so well! I think I see an academy award in the very near future for you!

(The HOT WAX SHOW) : As we have come to expect every time "Hot Wax" rolls into Bellevue, there was a huge crowd on hand and estimates had the crowd numbering anywhere between 2500 to 3000 people or maybe even more.....and they were a very responsive bunch! Estimating crowds has never been an exact science and probably never will be. The Great Sigsbee was going to be performing in his first full show Saturday night and there was a buzz of anticipation in the air.....even during the sound check. Unfortunately, I did not get a chance to hear much of the sound check as the Jimster steered me to a friend of his named Tommy who was a very nice fellow and Tommy gave me some leads about a potential job in Covington at the Madison theatre.....so I was anxious to get all the information I could. However, while I was talking to my new friend and long time "waxer" Tommy.....all of a sudden I heard some kind of what I would call country licks being played on the guitar. I have no idea what it was....but everyone was smiling

and tapping their toes....and I thought it sounded awfully good! Bobby and I looked at each other at the same time during the sound check....and we were both smiling and that is always a good sign!

Most of us "waxers" do not know enough or have we heard enough to decide whether the Great Sigsbee is better than our other two very talented Guitar players.....but I was very impressed with the Great One! To play lead guitar all evening on his first night out was very impressive considering the very short time Sigsbee has been a member of "Hot Wax!" Like I said earlier without being at rehearsals or anything and not hearing him before the other night it is very difficult for us "waxers" to judge the Great One. We aren't talented enough to evaluate another guitar player like another guitar player would. We simply just are not qualified to do that in most cases. However, I was able to evaluate the Great One in a much simpler way. Did all of the songs sound pretty much the way that they were supposed to sound? We thought that they all did! Like all of our new "Hot Wax" members this year.....as Sigsbee gets more comfortable and gets more reps with the material.....he will then be able to play more confidently and more by instinct instead of thinking about every song. Sigsbee will then get even better! I do know that both Tommy Casino and Bruno just rave about Sigsbee and that is good enough for me! Sigsbee looks like another great hire for "Hot Wax" and the "Waxer" nation is very excited to have him! I also got to meet Sigsbee's lovely lady before the show and she couldn't have been any nicer! She will fit in just fine with the "Hot Wax" family! We "waxers" would like to welcome the both of them aboard!

I purposely did not tell most of the first timers that I had met.....that Tommy Casino was not going to be performing Saturday night or in other words that we were missing a very talented member of the group. I didn't want to influence anyone's opinion of "Hot Wax" before they had a chance to hear them! When I asked some of these people after the show what they thought of the show.....most of them responded in the same way. Most of them wanted to know how "Hot Wax" could be so good and still be missing someone as talented as Tommy Casino? I told them that as good as the show wasthat they haven't seen nothing yet and that Tommy adds much more than just the song "Cara Mia". Tommy, in my humble opinion, is just as valuable for what he brings to the table in other areas such as making the harmonies so much tighter and more impressive.....which I have always felt was a huge strength for "Hot Wax" and maybe the number one factor that hooked me! Tommy adds to the choreography.....and obviously we know that Tommy is a great lead vocalist. Tommy is also a great guitar player but with the Great Sigsbee aboard now.....Tommy can now just focus on his other talents that I have just mentioned! Tommy just brings something extra to the group and is the consummate pro! When I told everyone that they need to come back and see us again with Tommy.....I think that I have peaked their curiosity! I know that my family members are coming back again to the Palace just to see if it is possible for "Hot Wax" to be even better than they were the other night! I can't wait to see their faces when Tommy holds that 7 second note in the middle of the "Cara Mia " number"!

There are more reasons that I am anxious for the first timers the other night to come back. We have only seen 10 band members for one show and that was the Murphy theatre in Wilmington. I loved that 10 member look! We will now also have 4 four front men again....so better harmoniesand better choreography....which gives the entire band a better look.....and sound and with the very talented Sigsbee having another show under his belt. This Evandale show has the potential to be one of the best shows in a very long time....and I can't wait!! I also love new venues....because everything will be new to a lot of the Evandale folks.....and I love talking to new fans and watching their reactions during the show!

One of the highlites of the Bellevue Show to me and quite a few others was when a group of about 10 little 8 year old girls appeared out of nowhere to sit right in front of the stage when Bobby was doing his Elvis. These little cuties giggled and squealed every time Bobby made a move! Bobby said that he got a kick out of them also and that he felt like David Cassidy for a moment or two! I think these little ones need to become a permanent part of the show! Bobby just seems to charm all of the ladiesdoesn't matter if they are 8 or 80....LoL! Mary and Rick

Montgomery's very sweet 8 year old granddaughter , Khrystian, who also happens to have a crush on Bobby was not very happy to see all of these other little girls in front of the stage with her....and Krystian pouted the rest of the night. I guess life has it's trials and tribulations even at the young age of 8.

Gail and I passed out a few flags to be waved during Bobby's stirring "American Trilogy" number and also for Bruno's very moving "Proud to be an American" song.....and I thought that was pretty cool. Might be neat if more of us did that! It was pretty neat to see all of the lighters lit up during Bruno's number also....and that brought back a few memories! Otto's idea that we should all stand the first time when Bobby mentions thanking the "Boys in the Band" when he does his tribute to the "Fans" song seems to be catching on. It is a nice touch and Ole "Ambassador Bob" likes it! The Bellevue show ended with a terrific fireworks display that gets better and better every year! Mary & Rick then were nice enough to invite us back to their house for some more of that delicious food that Sandy, Mary and the girls prepared for our picnic. We enjoyed the food just as much the second time.....thanks guys!

(A FEW MISCELLANEOUS FAN NOTES!) : (1) - It was great to see some of my favorite ladies that I have not seen in quite awhile....like Jean. Jean, you looked great like always....and I am sorry that you missed hearing Bobby do our favorite song "Hurt" again while you were standing in a line. I didn't cheer extra hard this time when Bobby was done singing ...like I did for you in Lawrenceberg Jean....because this time I didn't know you were missing in action!

(2) - It was great seeing Katie..... as the show just doesn't seem right when Katie isn't there! I also was glad to see Tiffany....don't think we had seen Tiff in a about 5 or 6 weeks. Tiff, make sure your Dad gets his Cd's we made for him....LoL! It's been awhile since I had seen Pat and Debb also . Both have had some tough times recently but it sure was fun to watch the both of them smiling from ear to ear from the moment "Hot Wax" hit the stage until the end of the show when our boys left the stage! Debb, I also enjoyed sitting next to you at the show and really enjoyed our sing along with Bruno as he sang "Wildwood Days". Who knows...but maybe the next time Tommy is missing....we may be able to fill in!

(3) - It was great seeing Gail's Mom, Margaret, and her friend Viola at the show. Gail's sister, Joan and her husband Randall were there also.....and their good friends Orlando & Barb.....and it was great to see all of them! I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to talk to Orlando & Barb.....but you were gone by the time I could get back to you. Lesli Fite....you know how happy I am anytime I get to see you....and thanks a million for coming. Our gang just loved you! I hope I can get you all to our "End of Summer" bash at the Palace in August on the 26th!

Ok, I need to finish up but I would like to say in closing.....great show "Hot Wax", great job "waxers" and last but not least, great job Bellevue! Thanks for having us back every year and doing such a first class job of putting on this show every year! Much thanks to the Bellevue city officials who I talked to last year who promised that they would move the restroom facilities much closer to the show. It was a great improvement and our older fans really appreciated it. It is gestures like that from the city of Bellevue that makes Bellevue one of our favorite venues on the " 2006 Hot Wax Tour! "

I think I'm donebut wait....what do I hear? I here some murmuring....and it seems to be getting louder! Now ...it sounds like a chant. I hear it now and it sounds like.... "One more line...One more line....One more line!" Alright, if you insist, I will do a little encore and talk about the Evandale show coming up in two weeks on the 22nd of August at 8:00. Bruno says it is a very good outdoor venue and looks like a venue that we would love to play every year. We need a large crowd to impress Evandale.....so please try to bring some friends with you! Good outdoor shows are hard to find! I should have thrown a fake word at Bobby during my encore ...just to mess him up....like he does me with those fake dance moves on his encore!

"One more line....One more line....One more line!" Ok, but then I truly must quit. Most of you "waxers" know Barb & Nancy Helwigs very nice Mother Mary....who is at nearly every show in her black "Hot Wax" t-shirt. I kind of consider Mary to be the Godmother of "Hot Wax" and Mary will be celebrating her birthday the night of the Evandale show so you might want to stop by and wish Mary a very Happy Birthday! I know Mary will enjoy that!

I think I hear a chant again....yep...."A-Bob, please shut up....please shut up!" I must be OFF (insert your wisecracks here!) See everyone at Evandale!

"Ambassador Bob"