

Jim & Jacks Final Show - 2005; Jim Breeze and I decided to head up to Jim & Jacks 3 hours early as we had 38 seats reserved and we wanted to make sure there were no problems. Jim & Jacks and our favorite hostess and sweetie, Margie, had promised us that we would have great seats and that there would be no problems and as usual they were right. We had 4 tables front row, dead center and we couldn't have been more pleased. That's why we love Jim & Jacks so much and we think of J & J's as our home away from home because we are always treated so well when we spend an evening there. As we were driving down River Road, we were trying to anticipate what kind of evening lied ahead. I think the word that would best describe what we were anticipating would have been somber.

However, we could not have been more wrong. The place was packed and the mood could not have been any more festive! There was a closeness amongst the fans between each other and also the band that was hard to describe. Everyone just seemed to be having a terrific time and you could feel it. It was just a lovefest and this was as much fun as I have ever had at a "Hot Wax" show....and that's saying a lot, because I have fun at all of them! Everyone I talked to felt exactly the same way. A lot of credit must go to our Sister "waxers" as it seemed like all of them contributed something to create this party atmosphere. Barb Helwig brought a real creative cake with a photo of our boys embedded into the icing...very cool. Barb Gabbard shared some of her treats with everybody. Let's see, how would I describe her treats....hmm.....lets just say they were delicious....LOL! Sandy Mcgee was very creative and just did a fantastic job to add to the party atmosphere. Sandy brought just about everything. Sandy brought an assortment of cool things including Xmas ornaments with "Hot Wax" painted on them. Sandy also brought decorations for our tables such as ribbons, flowers and other items like beads and whistles. Sandy also brought us some very created outfits for Jim, Mcgee and myself to wear later in the show...which were a big hit! The only thing missing from this New Years Eve party was a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne" from "Hot Wax" and a little hugging and smooching at midnight! Hmmm...maybe I'm on to something here. Maybe next year since it is the last show of the year and the last chance for us "waxers" to see each other until next year....then maybe we should stage our own early simulated New years Eve party and then we make that another "Hot Wax" tradition. We would have the hats and horns and the hugs and smooches at midnight, as we could count the clock down and our boys could blast a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne" at midnight! Is that too crazy? It sounds like a lot of fun to me and I mentioned it to a few other "waxers" who loved the idea! Let me know what you think.

I'm sure some were wondering what kind of performance that we would get from "Hot Wax" Saturday night. Some wondered that under the circumstances with the group splitting after this last show, would the guys just go through the motion....but if they felt that way ...then they don't know Bobby and they don't know "Hot Wax". I have seen "Hot Wax" play in the heat, and in the rain. I have seen our boys play in front of small crowds and very large crowds...and I've seen "Hot Wax" play when half the band was not feeling well....But it doesn't matter as the great effort is always there and Bobby wouldn't have it any other way! After a little bit of tenseness and stress, I think everyone in the band just relaxed and had fun this last evening together and I think the fans picked up on that and that was the reason we all had so much fun.

The performance by our boys was great as usual....but don't we say that every week...and we have just come to expect it from our boys. They are so consistent week in and week out and you never have to worry that you are going to see an off night by "Hot Wax". They are just too professional and Bobby just will not let that happen! Everyone was terrific Saturday night ....but I thought that Sonny, the consummate entertainer that he is, just sang his heart out on everyone of his numbers. I think he wanted to give his absolute best effort in his last appearance as a member of this proud band ....and I think he did!

We saw a few things that we don't usually see in a normal "Hot Wax" show. We saw 2 guys join Martha and her girls on stage, not just one like normal. I'm not sure if everyone knew this or not but the normal fellow on the right was Rocky, our beloved sound engineer's, Dad....and dad you did a great job! The other abnormal fellow on the left who BEARS a strong resemblance to our keyboard man Big Bear was Rick Montgomery. Rick displayed a side of him that we didn't know about...in fact Rick displayed a lot of things! Rick's pants happen to fall down at the end of their song and underneath his trousers Rick was wearing a very nice red women's garter belt. I would love to know what was going through Tito's mind when Rick's Trousers were lowered to half staff. I'm thinking that Tito got to know Rick a lot better than he intended. I also wished everyone could have seen the expression on Bobby & Bruno's face when Rick told them what he wanted to do. It was priceless...LOL! Anyway ...it was the funny and got the biggest laugh of the night! Another first was when the band performed "Chicago" and Jim, Mcgee and myself put on our black fedora hats and our sun glasses as we became extra "Blues Brothers" and we watched with great fun as we saw each band member react to seeing us...LOL! Of course my good buddy, Mr. Buddy Love, did his usual take whenever he sees me and that is to just look at me and shake his head slowly from one side to the other. Another thing that we don't get to see very often, in fact we see it only once a year, was to see Bobby do his very popular cover of "Blue Xmas". I also saw a first, well at least for me it was a first, and that was for the band to do 2 encores and we "waxers" loved it as we got to hear one of our favorite closing numbers, the rousing "Rock & Roll is Here To Stay". Now, for the most amazing first of the evening, Ole "Ambassador Bob" signed his first 3 autographs. I'm still wondering if that actually happened but I'm pretty sure it did, and thank you to the kind people who asked me. I still in shock about that, but I was thrilled to sign ...LOL!

Now, for the most dramatic point of the evening to most of us "waxers". Bobby took time out towards the end of the show and called all of the band members who are leaving "Hot Wax" out to the front of the stage. Bobby then had some very kind and gracious things to say about these great "Waxers" including how each one of them would be welcome back to the "Hot Wax" organization if there was an opening and they had a desire to come back....and personally I can see that happening some day. The crowd then gave them all a rousing standing ovation. Throughout this whole ordeal which to me has seemed like it has gone on forever and not just several weeks.... everyone has handled the transition with class and dignity. That includes the talented group who are moving on to their new band "The Vibe" and the very talented "Hot wax" members who are staying and the fans. Now, I would like to wish "The Vibe" nothing but the best one last time and then I think it is time for everyone to move on.

Speaking of moving on, I was thrilled to find out that the new "Hot Wax" members were in attendance and Bruno asked me if I would like to go meet them, and of course I said yes. I couldn't wait to put some faces to the names that I had been hearing about. I met Sticky the new drummer. I also met Boomer the new bass player and his lovely wife Angie and I also met Donny Diamond the new front man and vocalist. We know that they are talented because Bobby hired them...but they all seemed like high quality individuals also. It was refreshing to see the enthusiasm that each one of them had to be joining a group like "Hot Wax". I found it amusing that all the guys in the "Vibe" are looking forward to becoming a bar band where people can dance. I then talked to the new "Hot Wax" members who had left bar bands and I asked them why. They said they always wanted to play in front of large crowds where the people are there only to watch you perform and aren't just there to dance. Some of them had never experienced that before and they were really looking forward to it! I guess the moral of this story is that the grass is always greener on the other side...LOL!

I don't know how many of you have heard the sound clip of Donny Diamond....but I have. I heard it at 3:30 in the morning after the show last Saturday night and I was in shock. I

could not believe what I was hearing. I played the clip over & over again and finally had to wake Gail to come hear what I was hearing. I was just in awe of Donny's voice....it was just simply amazing. I know a little about music and I am not easily impressed or overwhelmed....but I am just amazed at Donny's talent. I can't do his voice the justice it deserves so go listen to him on the web site as he sings parts of 3 Roy Orbison songs and he does it effortlessly! It's been awhile since "Hot Wax" has had a tenor with this high of a vocal range and it will allow us "waxers" to look forward to some of the real greats of Rock n' Roll coming back to the show. We may now be able to hear even more Roy Orbison and maybe people like Gene Pitney or the Righteous Brothers who perform what I like to call goose bump songs like maybe "Unchained Melody" or the Big "O's", "In Dreams", or maybe a song like "Cara Mia Mi" by Jay and the Americans. Some Gary Puckett and the Union Gap would be nice also with songs like "Young Girl" or "Woman". Who knows, maybe my boys will even learn my beloved Bee Gees song "To Love Somebody". Bobby & Bruno, I'm just relentless...LOL. As you can see...I am really pumped and you will be too when you hear Donny Diamond. It's impossible to hear Donny sing and not be excited and I can't wait to see him on stage performing with "Hot Wax"

In closing I would like to say that I bought the 2 new DVD's that were taped live in St. Bernard and they are excellent. They make a great keepsake if you want to remember the current edition of "Hot Wax".

It was great to see a few people that I hadn't seen in awhile like my new buddy Buckeroo Billy or as he likes to be called "Roo" . It was also nice to see very long time "waxers" Jim, Connie and Rita of Delhi who we usually only see at the outdoor shows and of course my number one fan, Debbie. I also got to meet and chat with longtime "waxers" Jim Lorenz and Jay Meyer who had a birthday Saturday night, I was told, so happy Birthday Jay!

Before I go, I'd be remiss if all of us "waxers" didn't congratulate Tiny and his lovely wife Kim on their great new addition to their family and we couldn't be happier! I would like to wish all of my great "waxer" Brothers and Sisters and the entire " Hot Wax" organization a very happy and safe holiday season and I can't wait to see everyone and the new show at Jim & Jacks in February. To Donny, Sticky, Boomer & Angie and Kingsley, check your e-mails as you may be surprised and welcome to the "Hot Wax" family!

I must be OFF & Keep on Rockin! " Ambassador Bob"