

Ok. I've heard of Xmas in July- but for us fanatical "Waxers" it was Xmas in August as we got to enjoy 4 shows in 8 days.Ho.Ho...Ho! I could break down all 4 shows and tell you how great our boys were but that goes without saying so I will just mention a few non - musical highlights from each show.

ST. BERNARD Show: The entire show was taped on 2 cameras to be shown later in Ohio on cable TV. The lovely Van **** girls were absent but Guitarzan did a great job filling in for them. You know, Jane kind of reminds me of one of those Van **** girls! We got to meet some very nice long time "Waxers" like Rick & Mary from Bellevue. I love Rick's enthusiasm. Because much like me you would think that every show is Ricks first! Mary. Thank you very much for telling me how much you enjoy my comments and how you look for them every week. We were also fortunate enough to meet McGee, another great guy and long time "Waxer". Maybe the best moment of the show was Sonny pulling his darling little baby girl up on the stage and holding her in his arms as he did his last number- very touching!

MASON OHIO Show: The only thing hotter than Mason on that Sunday was the band itself when rocking' on "Betty Lou" or "Livin' in the USA"! It was great to see the ole "Music Professor" introduce you guys. It was also cool to hear him all week refer to "Hot Wax" as his boys on his radio show. The Van **** girls were missing again and I heard a rumor that Mama Van **** took her girls to Hollywood where Mama was auditioning for the old Bea Arthur role of Dorothy in a remake of the "Golden Girls"! The venue itself was very unusual as the stage, and a very nice stage I might add, sat in a bowl surrounded by some of the largest hills that you will ever see. It was a great crowd for a Sunday evening.

CLEVES OHIO Show: Terrific show with a large, very receptive crowd in a quaint little residential setting. The show started with 2 city officials doing a great job in leading the crowd in singing the "National Anthem". The officials then drew our attention to an American flag immediately to the left of the stage which had been lowered to half mast and lit with a spotlight. This memorial represented the sad loss of 2 young local heroes who had lost their lives while fighting in Iraq. With the proximity of the flag so close to the stage .it was impossible to not notice the flag the entire evening and think about what it represented. On this beautiful warm summer evening in this great Americana setting as I enjoyed our boys putting on their usual great show - a thought occurred to me. Sitting to the left of me was my lovely wife who also happens to be my best friend...then - I glanced to the right of me where a couple more of my best friends were sitting...and then I realized that this terrific evening and all of the freedoms that we enjoy were made possible by the ultimate sacrifices that these 2 brave young men had made. I then thought of all of the other veterans in our countries great history who have served and also made the ultimate sacrifice. When our boys, "Hot Wax", did their patriotic part of the show that evening...it seemed a little different somehow. I think I'll always remember that special feeling that I felt on that memorable warm august evening in Cleves. I think Bobby sums it up best in one of his great songs..."I'm so glad I'm livin' in the USA"! Even with the threat of inclement weather Saturday night, "Hot Wax" Performed before a huge throng in Cold Spring! Although our boys are always great, this show was extra special as everyone in the group seemed "ON" on the same night. This was "Hot Wax's" best performance of the year in my humble opinion. There may have been a couple of reasons for that. Our boy's had performed 5 times in the last 12 days and that may have been why everyone was so tight as practice makes perfect. Maybe the enthusiasm of the very vocal crowd brought out the best in our boys. I just know that the unanimous opinion of our little "Fab 5 " group which includes Jim , Shirley , Carol, Gail and myself was that you were simply outstanding that evening! I also believe the crowd matched Bellevue as the most enthusiastic crowd of the year so far just too close to call. Hopefully my home town of Florence can take that title in their initial season. However we must remember that Last years champion, Falmouth, is still coming up on the schedule...so the best crowd title is still wide open and should be quite a battle!

I'd like to thank Bobby & Bruno for allowing me this outlet to express my enthusiasm for "Hot Wax" and I hope most of you other "Hot Wax" fans enjoy or at least tolerate my ramblings. Yeah...I know that you probably wished that I could be briefer...but when I talk about you guys the words just flow. What can I say...LOL!

By the way Deb...I'm sorry we didn't get the opportunity to meet in Cold spring...but I am looking forward

to meeting you in Florence on September 4th. Hope to see everyone in Pleasant Ridge on Friday September the 2nd. Rock On!!!