

Official Craig Chaquico Fan Club



Fall 07

Gathering of the Tribes

MESSAGE FROM CRAIG



Happy Fall!

It's that beautiful time of year here in Chaquicoland in Southern OR, the fall colors are ablaze everywhere...reds, yellows, pinks, oranges, purples, maroons, creams and emeralds beneath a sky that is achingly blue as the last of the migrating birds and butterflies make their way south.

There is an invigorating crispness in the air with a few early snows capping the Siskiyou's titanium white on one side and the cascades on the other with the evergreens ever, green, while the wild and scenic Rogue River makes its way among horses and cows, farms and pastures through a lush Rogue valley toward the coast.

Gigantic pre-historic looking honey colored maple leaves are everywhere and it's almost that time of the year where dad goes outside right before Kyle leaves to go to school in the morning and as Kyle passes under the giant maple and past that big ever growing pile of leaves near the gate, dad will be lying down and hiding, buried beneath that big pile of leaves. As Kyle passes with all his 16 year old teenage boy adventure and bravado in saggy jeans and baggy shirt, the leaves will suddenly explode as a creature jumps up out of the formerly dormant pile of leaves yelling, "HEY, HAVE A NICE DAY, BUDDY!!!"

Books will fly among the floating leaves everywhere, perhaps a cell phone will be dropped, and two hearts will surely pound and after the primal shouts there will be much teary-eyed, bent over hands on weak knees, heartfelt laughter echoing through the otherwise quiet streets and picket fences of a small town fall morning!

This is where I like to think Led Zeppelin meets Andy of Mayberry and Halloween is a perfect example around the Chaquico household. Hey, who needs energy drinks to get going in the morning, I'm sure the payback will soon be a bitch though and I'm sure it will be right when I least expect it to.

I hope you all had a great summer; I know I did, and I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the shows we did. It's always great to have a chance to visit and chat. Recently, I was one of the many performers that were asked to take part in the First Annual Margarita Scottsdale Music Fest in Scottsdale, Arizona. The event was a blast and it was a packed event despite it being a little on the toasty and humid side.

A few days before the event, I arrived in town to stay at the great host hotel and right away we did some promo events related to the festival. KYOT, the great Smooth Jazz station in Phoenix hosted a Wine Down Wednesday at this Spanish restaurant called Barcelona. Euge Groove and I went to the event and met up there with Thano & Demetri Sahnas from Turning Point. If you've never seen and heard these guys, you are missing one of the best bands and some of the best songs and best musicians I have ever heard! We all had the chance to chat with fans and sign autographs and it was a nice laid back event and a great opportunity to promote the festival.

The next morning, it was an early call to make tracks (no pun intended) to KYOT for an interview with their morning guy Tony Evans. Euge and I had a great time chatting with Tony about the event but I am not really a morning person except when my son gets up to go to school, which isn't THIS early, at least not 6:30 in the morning early! That's way too early to try and be articulate and witty! Ha ha. So, Euge and I just played a tape of some really witty answers and stories even though it had nothing to do with what the DJ asked us live...just kidding!

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Then, it was up early again the next morning to do another radio interview at one of the classic rock stations there in Phoenix, KSLX. I had a blast, playing guess the song where I would play a little bit of songs and folks could call in and guess the song, but again, it was way too early in the morning!

That night, myself and many other artists and guests enjoyed a party at the skyline rooftop of the Hotel Valley Ho (no wise cracks ...unless yer from Idaho or are really into rap music, OK?!) where nice breezes were blowing and some rain though only sprinkles, had us wondering "Are we really in Arizona?!"

There was a 360 degree view from the top of the building and it reminded me of a southwest version of that Beatles concert they did in NYC on the roof only without all the cops. There were lightning flashes in one area, mesas aglow in the golden rays of the setting sun in another, rainbows glowing and fading and glowing again, a terra cotta sky on one side and a deepening magenta into indigo on the other.

You could see the curtains of rain from cloudbursts silhouetted by rays of light from the setting sun, while thunderheads punched their way thousands of feet high into the sky on one horizon still bathed in the full golden glow of the sun still shining on them from below the curve of the mother earth. And, a turquoise moon floated and seemed to smile down on us all.

There were warm breezes with the smell of the sweetness of the desert and the rain upon the wind with the gentle thunder softly rolling, a near musical rumble, like a symphony of nature tuning and warming up before a spectacular original once-in-a-lifetime concert still to come. It was like watching a movie and I will never forget that beautiful setting even though we did get sprinkled on just a bit it. It was all deliciously refreshing and glorious with some of the best musicians and "fan club president" in the world...it doesn't get much better than that! Did I mention it was catered and some of the sponsors were Don Julio and Guinness?

Best of all, nobody had to be the designated driver since we were staying there at the resort hotel, it was a 50s remodel and Frank and the Rat Pack used to hang there a lot along with many other TV and movie stars of the 50s. Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood got married there when it first opened. You could definitely feel the vibe and I felt like Dean Martin as Matt Helm when I shared a martini with Lil, although I doubt Dean had many martinis made from the prickly pear cactus tequila, but then again he was Dean "Martini," right?! Ha ha.

All in all it was a super fun night, jamming and mingling with everyone, the nice leisurely evening before the big festival. Afterwards, the band's plane landed just in time for the lads to reach the rooftop at the peak of the evening and sit in, I'm not sure anybody expected to hear a singer of Rolf's caliber at a mostly smooth jazz instrumental jam but when he hit the first notes of some classic stadium rock that I wrote for Jefferson Starship everybody let him know they wanted more so we did some Hendrix and the band was right there with us the whole way.

Then, all of us (Rolf, Jim, Marquinho and others) hit Zuzu's bar for a few drinks (see above). They served these killer drinks they called Cosmictini's and they definitely were cosmic! Ha ha. Afterwards, I made it to my room easily after finally finding my key in a pocket. Right away there was Rolf imitating a bellman saying, "Sir, I think you left something in the lounge, it appears to be a black leather guitar case with dozens of airline check tags on it with your name on Harley-Davidson luggage tag?" Yup, I left my guitar in the bar. Hey that rhymes!

Speaking of Rolf, you have a chance to get to know him in this issue of Gathering of the Tribes. Lil gets the latest scoop on our killer singer...what a voice he has and he's a great guy too! Soon, we'll feature another new member Bill Slais, on keys AND sax. (I've never seen a guy play a solo on both the keyboard AND the sax at the same time in perfect unison with each instrument, and judging by the crowd response not many others have either.)

So, stay tuned for that one and after that one, watch for one on our Grammy nominated Native American flute player, Gentle Thunder, who has been able to join us more and more in our new hybrid shows that mix the smooth jazz instrumental hits from my solo CDs with the classic rock radio hits from my Starship days with Rolf's spellbinding voice. Along with some Jimi Hendrix thrown in and some authentic Native American themes by GT on flute!

Saturday arrived and the big festival was finally here...good thing I didn't have to be on stage until early afternoon, but some rain in the area did cause a slight delay in performances and threw the schedule off a bit. The venue was jam packed, no empty space on the grassy area whatsoever...it was definitely a sold out day! The guys and I had a great time performing for the very appreciative fans and afterwards I signed autographs and chatted and took photos with a lot of the folks. I'm always so thankful for all of your support! It was great seeing club members Paul & Andrea Hlodnicki backstage after my set, thanks for stopping by!

Right now, there's a bit of a lull (if it can be called that) until the next show which is in mid-November in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but lest you think I'm not working, you'd only have to see my studio, emails and messages to know, I rarely ever get true down time. What is that?!

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CRAIG'S MAIL BAG

Hey Craig! We'd really love to hear more of the story behind your digital recording of "Just One World" which was launched into space as part of the Space Arc Program. Thanks for making the people of planet earth look so good in the time capsule and as always, thank you for sharing your awesome talent and music, and your incredible spirit, with all of us! **Best wishes, Brian and Kaye**

Hi Brain and Kaye! Great Q! Yes, I have a digital recording on a satellite in a geo synchronous orbit around the third stone from the sun, i.e. our very own mother earth. It's not the first time music has gone into space as Chuck Berry's music is on a Voyager Craft that will leave our solar system and continue out among the rest of the stars in our Milky Way galaxy and beyond, forever. Unless it gets hit by an asteroid or comet or maybe another craft from another planet

I like to think that with a tree planted for each of those CC signature guitars sold, that generations from now when people may not know any of my music anymore, there will at least be thousands of trees they can enjoy because of my music. In a way the spirit and energy in my music "goes on forever" but just changes shape in the form of trees that continue the cycle on and on.

There is riddle that was once asked of young Native American children, "Where does the tree end and the person begin?" The answer is that they are all one and there is no end or beginning as they are each a part of the same cycle. Spiritually that probably makes a lot of sense to anybody who has ever stood beneath a canopy of old growth redwoods towering over their heads hundreds of feet into the sky in a quiet living room of nature, maybe even dancing softly on a soft carpet of redwood and pine needles while countless other creatures and plants dance in the same cycle of life all around, above and below.

Perhaps science tells us this too, with the way trees breathe out the oxygen we breathe in, in order to live, and the way we breathe out the carbon dioxide the trees breath in, in order to live. The cycle goes on and on that way and there is no place where the tree ends and the person begins in this dance that connects us all. Maybe between the science and the spirit is the music we dance to in a cycle like this sometimes?

Maybe in a small way it's the same with my music circling earth in a "time capsule" along with Jimi Hendrix and others...the mini "Starship" contains digital recordings, artwork and poetry from all over the planet. From symphonies written centuries ago to primitive songs performed by nearly stone-age tribes from Tanzania now, artwork from the masters hanging in museums to kindergarten finger-painting and cave drawings and petro glyphs...great novels and poetry and stories from masters and colleges and universities and from first graders, all in different languages, with different photos and videos from everywhere on planet earth.

How did I get on there? Well, a friend of mine who is a well known journalist and music aficionado was asked by the folks in charge of all the content of this project, what music would he think appropriate? He mentioned Peter Gabriel and Jimi Hendrix among others and also somebody he had just done a piece on in USA TODAY on a musician who had just released a new CD called Acoustic Planet, with a song called "Just One World", and he used to be in a band called Jefferson Starship and he was an avid amateur astronomer having built his own telescopes over the years. So he thought maybe his music would be worth a listen?

I submitted a version of "Just One World" which is on my Acoustic Planet CD, that had all the acoustic elements you hear on the CD, as well as an additional segue into a musical section of rock guitar and vocals by Rolf Hartley, and a little taste of me playing some of Jimi's "Third Stone from the Sun" and recordings of Native American chants mixed in. They liked it and used an edited version of this opus that now is contained as part of "the Space Arc Project" in one of those "lights in the sky" we might see sometimes gliding over our heads in the night sky and across the milky way. More info and a time line with photos can be seen at: www.spacearc.info/timeline_files/timeline.htm.

Check out the 1993 section with Al Gore's picture, that was the year Acoustic Planet was nominated for a Grammy and went to number one in Billboard, gently knocking Yanni out of that slot -by the way. And, yes they did misspell my name on the timeline there, they can land a guy on the moon but they can't get my name right...I get that a lot!

Anyway, maybe when the alien shape-shifting reptiles from the stars, and other ETIs hear all the Chuck Berry music on the Voyager Craft and they trace it back to earth someday and maybe when they check out the music on the "Space Arc" itself in its orbit cycle they will hear my song and they will probably send a message to earth saying, "We really love your music, earthlings. Please send more Chuck Berry."

Thanks again Brian and Kaye for the great Q. I actually get asked that one a lot in concert and thanks again for all your own artwork and photography that you have shared with me and the fan club on my CDs and in the newsletters. I think we should do a special fan club newsletter with just your photography and artwork sometime? Hey, the holidays are coming up, your stuff is awesome and truly an inspiration!

Just like you guys are when we get to see you at the shows, the band all say a big "YO!" to you both. **Peace - out...CC :**

Message from Craig Cont'd

I do want to also say thank you to everyone that sent me birthday cards and other surprises. Thank you so much for remembering my birthday, you guys rock! Lil's Elvis guitar greets me each day along with Maria's metal sculpture guitar man and Brian and Kaye's awesome rock crystal.

You all always make my day anyway just knowing yer listening to my music, but these pieces remind me of the level of excellence we all in the band strive for in the studio and on stage when I see the quality and beauty in these works of art and nature. Thank you! I try not to dwell on the fact that I'm another year older though! All the wonderful cards and thoughts you all took the time to share with me made getting another year older all of a sudden not so hard to handle again

I also received some cards that had my birthday say 9/26/54 and 9/25/54 and I've seen it in print BOTH ways so I'm gonna use both dates and count two birthdays each year instead of just one now. So, instead of 53, I can say I'm 106 and people will go "Dude, you look good for 106!"

On a sadder note, my dear friend Mark Kiesel from Carvin, who some of you have seen at my shows in S. California when I introduce him as the artist who designs and builds all my guitars that make my art possible, was one of the people who lost their homes in the recent CA fires. But, on a brighter note, he and his family are A-OK, no pets were in the house and he is well on his way to rebuild. His wife was on a canoe in Hawaii when this all happened so she had no idea. She was with a guide who was saying "We are all in a canoe, always paddling forward on the ocean of life...always forward."

I can smell the ocean and hear the waves and see the birds floating in the sky with the dolphins below, while she was moving forward with such joy, grace and beauty. My band and I all send Mark, Mari, and family blessings and best wishes as they paddle forward upon this angry sea, beneath a flaming sky, time in their lives as they journey on their way to getting through this challenging part of their voyage with even more joy, grace and beauty sure to come. It looks like several hundreds of people will have no homes to go home to so we all send blessing their way as well. We're all paddling forward through life and my band and I are all so glad to be able to share the voyage with you all through the smooth sailing and the angry seas "one for fun and fun for all. Argh mateys!

Not to repeat from a previous newsletter (I think?) but pirates wrote the first rap music lyrics with songs like YO and HO, ya know? Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum." That's why some of the rap lyrics now are rated AARRRRRRRRRRHHHHH. LOL.

These are the voyages of the Starship songwriter (former Starship) and lead guitar player on a yearly mission to go where no band has gone before. I look forward to the next planet fall and concert there with you all. "Scotty, beam me, um, beam me, er...just beam me somewhere, man. *Craig - Out.*

MEET ROLF HARTLEY

1. Can you tell us a little about yourself, where do you come from, what do you do when you're not on the road, etc.? I was born in St. Albans, England but I grew up in California as my family moved here when I was four. I carry both a British and US Passport which makes it very easy to move around in Europe! England is a second home to me now as I spent a number of my adult years there only having returned to the US recently.

When I'm not on the road with Craig, I spend a lot of time in my recording studio writing music. I'm fortunate to have a very complete studio with a large format mixing console and computer-based recording system. Apart from singing, I love piano and have a wonderful 6' Steinway Grand made in 1917 that I found in Beverly Hills; it just seems to write songs by itself. I love acoustic guitar also, and Craig was kind enough to lend me his unbelievable Guild Jumbo 12-string that he used to record the Jefferson Starship hit song "Find Your Way Back". Again, it's a wonderful instrument that just seems to make me a better player.

I've been singing all my life, from my father's church choir to bands in school and recording with folks like Sammy Hagar and Mike Clink (producer for Guns and Roses). I was lucky enough to become a jingle singer as well. I sang commercials for Levis, Burger King and other brands. Singing about hamburgers is weird, but it was great fun at the same time.

I was also very fortunate to work with Jonathan Cain who is great songwriter and keyboard player from "Journey." While working with Jon I toured with Michael Bolton as a keyboard player and singer. We toured with Heart and even made it to the "Tonight Show", which was just a blast to do.

2. How did you meet Craig? Craig and I met when I was working at a famous guitar shop in the Bay Area called "Bananas At Large." Craig was still with the Starship at the time and was adding to his recording studio; so I offered to help him integrate some of the new items he had purchased from Bananas. Ultimately, that chance meeting led to Craig, Brett Bloomfield (the last bassist for Starship) and I writing and recording a CD (as a new band called Big Bad Wolf) for a European record label that also had wide distribution in Japan. Though we never won a US recording contract, "Big Bad Wolf" still has a cult following today and you can find the CD for sale by pirates all over EBay! I'm just glad somebody is making money with it. While we were chasing a US distribution deal, Craig laid down the electric guitar for a while and began working on his first solo CD "Acoustic Highway"...and the rest is history!



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More Meet Rolf

- 3. What made you decide to work together again and are you enjoying your foray back into the music business?** Craig has always been the guitar player I wanted to work with (even when I hadn't met him or ever expected to). After Big Bad Wolf, I moved back to England. We've always kept in touch and when he wanted to add some rock back into his show, Craig called me. He had the idea to add "Jane" to the set at an upcoming benefit just to gauge what the response would be. Well, the audience went crazy when we played it; so Craig decided to try a full blown hybrid combo of smooth jazz and rock for the next show at a huge club in the San Diego area. The response again was overwhelming and as far as I see, it's just getting better and better. Craig's audience loves his music from Rock to Smooth Jazz, and I'm honored to be a part of it now and sing those great songs. I'm having a blast!
- 4. Do you have a favorite song that you enjoy performing live and why?** Well, "Jane" has to be my favorite because it fits my voice so well. For starters, it's a great song and it just seems to spin out easily for a singer like me. We have a lot of fun with it too, come check out the show and you see for yourself!
- 5. What is the most interesting or funny thing that has happened to you while performing with Craig?** Big Bad Wolf was performing in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico (Cabo Wabo) with Van Halen for one of their record release parties. Of course, the party went on very very late into the night; and there may have been a just few bottles of tequila there (not sure about that one). Well Ozzy (who was with Craig and me at the show) and I somehow ended up in a taco stand at 4:30 AM surrounded by some very drunk gang members who were being very nice to us (since we had just been on stage with Van Halen) but they wouldn't let us leave. At some point Oz and I tried to leave the taco stand, but they were determined to have us stay and party with them. Things started to get a bit tense, but strangely enough Oz and I were laughing our heads off all the while. At one point as we made a dash for a waiting taxi, my gallows-humor came through and I turned to Oz and said "I don't want to die in a taco stand in Cabo." We made it to the taxi with the gang chasing after us, and the car sped off. Oz and I just sat in the taxi laughing hysterically the whole way home. Oddly enough, we returned to look for the taco stand the next day, but it wasn't there (insert spooky music interlude here). Oz tells the story better than me, ask him about it sometime!
- 6. What inspires you?** Lots of things, many of which you might not expect.
- 7. What advice do you have for anyone that is considering getting into show business?** Music is an art and it evokes wonderful emotions, but it is first and foremost a business with responsibilities and rules that apply just like any other profession. Don't be fooled into thinking that it's an easy life. It's not. There is an unbelievable amount of hard work involved to make 90 minutes in front of the audience look easy.
- 8. Do you have a motto that you live by?** Don't believe your own press.

CRAIG TRIVIA (Continued from the summer issue!)



- 1. What is your favorite tequila?** *All of them! Cabo Wabo is right up there because of Sammy Hagar and I comparing not always just musical notes over the years, but Oz got me a bottle from Mexico that I can't remember the tequila, but the bottle is awesome with two old cowboy looking revolvers etched into the glass that is here in the studio looking great, if eventually empty, but still a grand testament to an adventurous spirit of the wild west...or south???*
- 2. What is the best vacation you ever took?** *Wow, that's a good question. All of them! Right after I joined Jefferson Starship and our first album went gold, we had two weeks off before another show so I had just bought an old German sports car and took off up the coast on Hwy 1 with a guitar and a sleeping bag and a tent for two weeks...that rocked! Except, my little battery powered guitar amp and electric guitar weren't as much of a hit among the rest of the campers as the songs I was practicing at the time for the next future platinum Jefferson Starship album...oops! SORREEEE!*
- Then 20 years later, right before my first #1 solo CD came out, I went to Yosemite and played a lot of the music around the camp fire on acoustic guitar that ended up on Acoustic Highway. The next day this guy came up while I was having my morning "campfire cowboy coffee" with grounds and all, and he asked me if I was the one playing the guitar all night. I thought he was gonna be mad at me disturbing his peace and quiet in nature like that AGAIN but, much to my surprise he said "I don't know if your famous or anything but I think you should be." I'll never forget that guy! THANK YOU!*
- 3. Do you have a favorite song?** *Hmm, right now it's a toss up between Hendrix's Voodoo Child and Cream's Crossroad but that's because I've been playing my own versions in the hybrid shows with ROLF'S amazing vocals and guitar playing! I guess songs I also helped write and played on like, Jane and Find Your Way Back, are up there too right now for the same reasons THANKS, ROLF!*
- 4. Who is your favorite artist (ex. Picasso) and why?** *Well, some of my original college and high school art teachers are famous in their own right. When I first met Paul Stanley from Kiss he didn't say anything about music or guitars but he said one of his favorite painters was a guy named Ralph Goings who he had heard was one of my art teachers in high school, true story! Otherwise, Magritte's use of "contrasts" and "opposites" was always pretty intriguing with his daylight skies over nighttime scenes, and inspired the artwork for my CD Midnight Noon. But, how can ya beat MC Escher, he is probably my favorite.*



Tour Update

2007

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|---------|--------------|-----------------|
| Nov. 18 | Kimo Theatre | Albuquerque, NM |
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2008

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| Feb. 14 | Captain Cook's | Anchorage, AK |
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| Feb. 29 | Cerritos Performing Arts Center | Cerritos, CA |
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| March 1 | Palm Events Center | Pleasanton, CA |
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| March 8 | Celebrity Theatre | Phoenix, AZ |
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| July 19 | Wilson Creek Winery | Temecula, CA |
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Check the website for updates!!!!

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