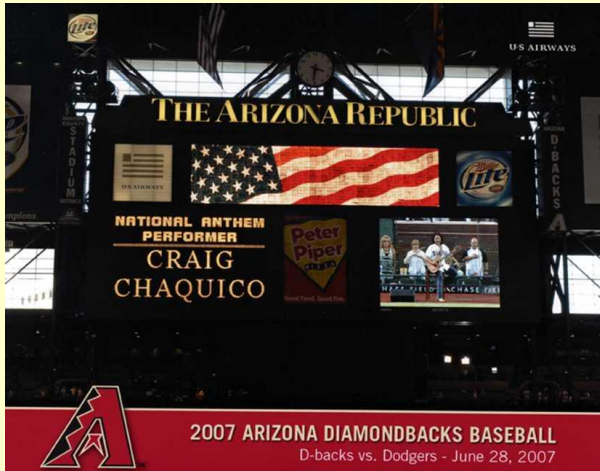


Official Craig Chaquico Fan Club



Gathering of the Tribes

Summer 07



Message from Craig

Summer is here, can you believe it?! I hope you're all having a great time and enjoying some vacation time or that some vacation time awaits you in the near future! As for me, I've been working in the studio on some extra tracks to include with the live CD and some covers of a song or two I wrote in the classic rockin Jefferson Starship days now that we have such an amazing singer with Rolf Hartley doing some shows with us now and so I've been keeping myself pretty busy, no rest for the weary I always say!

Plus, I do admit to procrastinating when my son asks me for some guitar lessons that I trade with him for martial arts lessons now that he's such a 1st place champion in his competitions. It's been pretty easy for him to

talk me out of spending a few hours in the studio during the spring and summer in favor taking him out in the old sports car so he can practice his stick shifting on some really amazing and beautiful roads in southern Oregon. He's actually better at it than I was at his age and he just celebrated his 16th birthday on July 11 and took his drivers test for his license.

The live CD is coming along nicely and there may be a project coming up with some music for a TV show too, but when the weather is so nice it's hard to stay in the studio sometimes. Touring wise, there are some great events on the horizon. We were at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento, CA on June 15, then in Sin City, Las Vegas on July 14 at the Santa Fe Station. I took the family along to catch some of those awesome shows there on the strip. Kyle is also excited about the roller coaster ride I told him about that was built on the top of a hotel 1500 ft in the air in Vegas at the Stratosphere.

Plus, we had a great show with David Sanborn in Lake Tahoe on August 2. After that, I am looking forward to heading out to Wisconsin on August 9th to do more of a rock show at the Wisconsin State Fair with vocals and lots of tunes from the Starship days and some Hendrix along with some rockin' versions of my acoustic stuff, corndog anyone? No amusement park rides for me though, just a Harley ride planned with some friends while I'm there.

Later on in the summer I'll be at the Park City Jazz Festival on August 26 and in sunny Scottsdale Arizona for the Scottsdale Music Fest on September 22. Check out page four of this newsletter for more tour dates and as always, you can check my website www.craigchaquico.com for the latest in tour updates.

I had a great time with Lil doing some of the TV and radio promotions for the Scottsdale Music Fest (www.scottsdalemusicfest.com) tickets are on sale now! Plus, we got to do the anthem for the Arizona Diamondbacks and enjoy the game with some deluxe seats and play with one of my favorite bands from Phoenix, Turning Point for a few songs. I seem to remember I wasn't driving and there was some Top Shelf tequila in there with the festival promoter? Lil was an ANGEL the next morning in the lobby at 6 am before the TV show and radio shows with a delicious mocha AND a muffin to help get me started. :)

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I don't know how many of you have seen my new hybrid show that we've done here and there with my friend Rolf Hartley doing vocals, but the feedback we've received from folks who have has been tremendous. It's been great to revisit some of those great songs from my Jefferson Starship/Starship days like Jane, Winds of Change and others, but having Rolf sing some Hendrix songs has been a blast. I urge you to come out and see me on the road this summer to check it out for yourself! We try not to overdo the rock stuff so we don't scare the kids but it's been really fun finding the balance between the two major influences in my musical journey starting in the 70s with songs still on the radio from there to the 80s, 90s and now the 00s.

It's funny to think about the course my music has taken along with so many truly talented fellow musicians and singers that hopefully had some of their talent rub off on me over the years? The musical road from Jefferson Starship to Starship to my instrumental CDs and now back to some of the classic rock blended in the hybrid show with some Hendrix and Clapton thrown in makes for a pretty fun ride for a guitar player like me to complete a circle in there somewhere. Hopefully for people who like all that guitar playing it's as much fun for them as it is for me and having some vocals in there makes for a nice change of pace I think?

Of course none of this would ever be possible without the support and encouragement from everybody in the club who let me know they are still listening and coming to shows to see what we're all gonna do next. I love the spontaneity and surprises that happen along the way on this musical road we are all on together. It reminds me that the same road that is the Hollywood freeway in the middle of a huge urban city with buildings of glass and steel and teeming autos turns into the redwood highway in an immense living room of nature among the lakes, waterfalls, streams and wildlife and Bigfoot sighting. As in music -so in life as the Higher Octave motto goes.

Here's a toast for a great summer ahead, may you enjoy some fun R&R, great family moments and in the mix, my music if you're planning to catch any of my shows. I think I hear Kyle rattling the sports car keys outside my studio door and a scenic road under a big sky beckons. :)

Salud! *Craig*

Q & A with Craig



Hi Craig,

Since you hit it big at a very young age with the Starship, how did you get that initial big break without being in the business for years as others sometimes have to endure? Thanks much for taking time out to answer.

Always, Sherry Scott, Milwaukee, WI

Hi Sherry,

That's a great question. I was 10 when I started taking accordion lessons and not much older than that when I realized the accordion was maybe not my favorite instrument. Then, when I was 12 when I got hit by a drunk driver and woke up in the hospital to begin playing a lot on little acoustic guitar while I mended broken bones in my hand, wrist, thumb, arms, leg, ankle and foot. I could only reach the high e-string with my fingers in casts, but I played the heck out of that one string there for a while with a song that was written in the hospital and later appeared on the Grammy-nominated CD Acoustic Planet titled Center of Courage. 99% is still played on one string, my doctor was named Elizabeth and the song was on the e-string, so I sub-titled it E-lizabeth's song in her honor and to all the people who helped me through that difficult time.

Fast forward to 14 years old in high school and my English teacher, Jack Traylor heard my band playing on the senior lawn when I was a freshman and asked me to stay after school that day...oh-oh! Freshman weren't supposed to be on the senior lawn, but to my surprise he went out to his car and pulled out this beautiful acoustic guitar and started playing me some songs that he wanted me to play lead guitar on in HIS BAND!

- Continued -

Q & A continued

So, at the age of 14, wearing a fake mustache and lying about my age, I began playing with guys who were way better players and about 15 yrs older than me in nightclubs all around CA. The flute player was a barber by day and was able to find me a very realistic looking fake mustache to glue on which would often end up in my glass of water in the ice cubes where I would think it was a caterpillar or something before I realized I needed to glue it back on or lose my gig as a guitar player. (By the way our original flute player is still a fantastic barber and came to a show in Sacramento and sat in on a song with us with his helicopter instructor 24 year-old daughter and in the front row along with his wife of 30 years.)

So, when I wasn't riding my bike to school and trying to keep my grades up I was playing guitar non-stop. Turns out that my English teacher was admired by Paul Kantner and Grace Slick as a musician and songwriter and they would come to our shows sometimes. Next thing I knew was that they wanted one of Jack's songs on one of their solo albums and asked me to play the lead guitar.

By the time I was in college taking art classes I had been on three or four Paul Kantner and Grace Slick albums as a guest guitarist along with some of the biggest names in the Bay Area like Santana, members of the Grateful Dead, Quicksilver Messenger Service, the Pointer Sisters, Crosby, Stills and Nash, etc who were also guests on these albums.

So, my English teacher's band, with me in it did some demos and got a small recording contract with the Jefferson Airplane label and we went on tour for about six weeks playing every night opening for bands like King Crimson or Blood Sweat and Tears, or Linda Ronstadt and various other bands on tour at the time and every other night we opened for what was dubbed the Jefferson Starship also with me in that band as lead guitar player. I played in the opening band and the headline band on those nights.

My band drove around in a station wagon followed by an old bread truck with the gear and we met the Jefferson Starship outfit every other night. After the tour I was asked if I wanted to go back to college right away or maybe move to San Francisco for a few months and record this new Jefferson Starship album with the Airplane members and Pete Sears on bass and piano who also guested on most of those albums when he wasn't playing with Rod Stewart (Maggie May, Gasoline Alley). And, our drummer, John Barbata was the drummer from the Turtles and CSNY and besides the Airplane alumni with Grace Slick and Paul Kantner and Marty Balin and Papa John Creach, we had David Frieberg from Quicksilver who had recently joined the Airplane.

Our first album went gold and the second went multi platinum with every one after going gold and/or platinum and I guess you can say that became my higher education for millions of albums sold, videos, and miles of music since I never went back to college except to visit my art teachers. That's me on lead guitar on every song, video, tour from 73 to 90 but I think my art classes gave me a perspective on my musical approach.

So that's how you do it without having to pay all those dues, I guess you can say I did it backwards, if ya don't count my first couple of bands. By being on the ground floor of a huge band that had its roots in several other huge bands at an early age and now going back to playing "smaller venues" than the super huge stadiums with bands like Fleetwood Mac, Heart, Nugent, Foreigner, Journey, etc. opening for us.

CRAIG TRIVIA!



Some little known facts about Craig:

1. **Are you left or right handed?** *Right.*
2. **What is your favorite season and why?** *All of em, I love the dance of the seasons! Spring, summer and fall are maybe a little higher on my list than winter sometimes.*
3. **Do you have a favorite movie?** *I guess Blade Runner jumps out for some reason.*
4. **What do you like to do for fun and relaxation besides playing the guitar?** *I love the outdoors, so Harleys, mountain bikes, camping, star gazing, skiing, scuba diving, horses, all jump out to me with some old German sports cars thrown in there.*
5. **What is your favorite type of food?** *Gotta be sushi, with Italian a close second!*
6. **Is there someone you've always wanted to meet or work with and why?** *Anybody in CSI because I love that show! Seriously, besides loving that show, the guy who does the music is amazing. Maybe 24 with Keifer Sutherland. MUSICALLY besides the guys and gals I have loved to play with over the years, I would say Clapton. I've already played and recorded with Santana and a LOT of my heroes; I was even Jimi Hendrix's roadie for a day and painted the American flag in a famous photo of Jimi taken at that show but never Clapton...although he did stand behind me checking into a little hotel in LA one night.*

More Craig trivia coming in the next issue!

Tour Update

2007

- Aug. 9 Wisconsin State Fair West Allis, WI
- Aug. 10 Hyatt Newporter Newport Beach, CA
- Aug. 11 Lake Clementia Amphitheatre Rancho Murrieta, CA
- Aug. 26 Park City Jazz Festival Park City, UT
- Sept. 22 Scottsdale Music Fest Scottsdale, AZ
- Nov. 18 Kimo Theatre Albuquerque, NM

2008

- Feb. 29 Cerritos Performing Arts Center Cerritos, CA

Check the website for updates!!!!



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Happy Summer!

