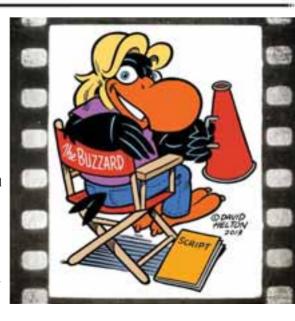


Documentary Film is the New Buzz for WMMS, The Buzzard!

By Helen Marketti

Sometimes the best things in life unfold by chance...being in the right place at the right time and creating opportunities that are innovative to grab the attention of listeners, the community, the nation *and* rock and roll. WMMS was a groundbreaking radio station that stretched the limits. Fans will remember the good ole days when radio was much different. You felt as though you were interacting with old friends and were part of the music experience. Now let's think of reliving those early days in a documentary film.

Dave Jingo (Jingo Bros Productions) was a fan of WMMS during the 1970s as a teenager living in Canton, Ohio. "I am a huge music fan and I considered WMMS my first teacher. WMMS was my big brother; it taught me new music, when a new album was released, when a band was coming to town and what was cool to listen to," remembers Dave. "Whenever we put a project together, music and sound are very important. It becomes even more important when you're working on a documentary for WMMS."



Dave and his brother, Bill are working diligently to put together a film that relives, recaps and remembers the days of WMMS, The Buzzard. "My brother, Bill and I are a team. He is an excellent director of photography and I am an editor by trade. Bill handles the production and I handle the postproduction. It's a perfect compliment and we both co-produce."

Dave explains how the project came to fruition. "It all started when I read John Gorman's book (The Buzzard: Inside the Glory Days of WMMS and Cleveland Rock Radio, A Memoir published by Gray & Co.,) I thoroughly enjoyed it because it really hit home and brought back a lot of memories. My brother and I always listened to WMMS. After reading John's book, I learned even more about WMMS, great stories and anecdotes. I started thinking that it would make a great documentary. It's a feel good story in the sense of how everyone came together, the staff, the listeners and so forth. I think it's part of rock and roll history."

"I sent John an email stating that I was interested in making a documentary film about WMMS. It was not surprising to learn that he had been approached before by individuals who wanted to do a project on the station's history. He agreed to meet with my brother and I to talk about our ideas. John liked that we were long time fans, we lived it and we understood it."

Dave continues, "We met a few more times with John and he was able to see samples of our work on other documentary projects. I suggested to him to allow us to put together a short "sizzle reel" with some interviews and stories with former WMMS staff and they could decide if this was something to pursue. John agreed with this idea and it was filmed at Cuyahoga Community College. After we put the reel together, I showed it to John and he was happy with it.



Costume

Contest!

Now Serving 10 BEERS ON TAP!

DAILY DRINK SPECIALS HAPPY HOUR 3-6PM EVERYDAY! WEDNESDAY

Mens Night...ALL NIGHT! PBR Draft \$1.25

Great Lakes Dortmunder on Tap \$3
THURSDAY

Ladies Night...50% OFF ALL NIGHT!
(Excluding Bottles of Wine)

Choice Martini \$3.75
FRIDAY

Long Island Iced Tea \$3.75 **SATURDAY**

Sex On The Beach \$3.75

Monday

4 Runners, Choice of Sauce, Basket of Fries, and a pint of PBR \$6.50

Triple Taco Tuesday with a Margarita \$6.50

Wednesday

Wing Nite 40¢/ea.

Thursday

Calamari or Chicken Lips \$5

Sunday

Big Bowl of Spaghetti with Meatball & Salad \$8.50

11 South Ridge Rd. East, Geneva 440-361-4135 www.ctavern.com





Everyone else that has seen it is pleased. We plan on using the "sizzle reel" as a tool when we meet with potential investors."

WMMS had a staff that was unlike any other in radio during those early days. "There was such an explosion of great music in the 70s and FM radio became available in stereo. The fans of WMMS were dedicated and fanatical listeners," explains Dave. "A lot of the staff came from Cleveland State during the 70's. Kid Leo, Ed "Flash" Ferenc, Jeff Kinzbach and Matt the Cat were homegrown material. John Gorman and Denny Sanders came from Boston. Look over these names

Sat.

from WMMS: this was the line up for several years. They were young, they were music lovers and they thought outside of the box. Murray Saul left an indelible mark with the "Get Downs" for weekend kick-offs People looked forward to it It's important to mention David Helton's artwork, which was as much a part of WMMS as the music. His work was so well done and perfectly tailored."

"The staff at WMMS was not afraid to take chances: they were not afraid to step on anyone's toes. They would think of things that no one thought of before in terms of presenting the music they were not always authorized to play. Coffee Break Concerts, World Series of Rock, the station ID's, the merchandising...it was all unheard of at the time."

In addition to being a fan during the early days. Dave also heard from one of his WMMS idols when he was 15 years old. "I had always been a huge Led Zeppelin fan and one song I liked in particular was "Hev. Hev What Can I Do?" I could never find it on any albums so I wrote a letter to Kid Leo asking him if he knew where I could find it. I really didn't expect to hear back from him. Well, one day I received a hand written letter from him in the mail. He told me of where I could possibly find the song and eventually I did. What was more important at the time was Kid Leo wrote back and to me he was a famous person. It was so cool that he took the time to write to a 15 year old kid!"



Linda Ronstadt's first appearance at WMMS. L to R: Denny Sanders, David Spero, Linda Ronstadt, Steve Lushbaugh, Burt Stein -Elektra Records, Jeff Kinzhach, John Gorman.

WMMS staff knew what they wanted in terms of being successful radio station. "WMMS always seemed to be ahead of the power curve. The station was a band breaker," said Dave. "On a national level, WMMS introduced significant, ground breaking artists to Cleveland and eventually to the rest of the country. Bruce Springsteen, Ian Hunter, Roxy Music (Bryan Ferry), Rush, Southside Johnny, Joe Walsh and David Bowie were a few of the names where Cleveland was the beginning. The time that WMMS really came into its own was during the 70s. We know that Cleveland was going through some hard times so this was something the whole city could rally around and know they were number one in radio. What I love about Cleveland is whenever people become interested in something, they become very passionate about it and WMMS gave them the music."

Dave is hoping the word circulates everywhere about the documentary project. "We want people to get excited about it. I feel that the passion people felt when they listened to WMMS can be regenerated into the documentary. The fans back then who would now be in their 40s, 50s and 60s will look back and become very excited about this project. What I am trying to do is reconstitute the Buzzard Nuclear Army. Once we can get that going, the next thing we would like to do is track down photographs, film clips, stories and memorabilia. We are interested in hearing from people who have a fondness for WMMS. We are trying to raise money for the production of this documentary. We have a production budget and we are seeking donations. We have a 501c3 in place and people can donate at different levels and it's completely tax deductible."

"I have high hopes for this documentary project," explains Dave. "I would love for the film to be seen nationally because I think it is more than a local story. It's part of rock and roll history. Our hope and our plan are to incorporate interviews with the DJs and fans but we would also like to interview the music artists previously mentioned. I have heard things they have said about playing in Cleveland, it was important to them, and this will elevate the story of WMMS to a national level. If you are a music fan, a rock fan, interested in pop culture of the 1970s or interested in a good story, you will appreciate this documentary. Everyone seemed to follow WMMS. They were the pioneers, the trendsetters and the trailblazers."

If you have stories, photos and memorabilia to share, please email Dave and Bill Jingo at: jingobrosbuzzardfilm@gmail.com

To make a tax-deductible donation: www.fracturedatlas.org/site/fiscal/profile?id=8266

The documentary project is on Facebook: WMMS Buzzard Film



OPEN FRI. 4-12
SAT. 2-12 · SUN. 2-9
SAT. 2-12 · SUN. 2-9 Music on our patio every
1 Days of The Wood
Music on our patio every
Music on our patio every Weekend! Best place to watch the sunset on the Lake!
the sunset on the Lake!

Weekend! Best place to watch the sunset on the Lake!
Rachel Brown and the
Beatnik Playboys 7:30
Area 51 7:30
Spoon Too Soon 5:00
Headlands Beach Experience 7:30
Hanging on a String 4:30
The Lost Sheep Band 7:30
Jim Ales 4:30

6827 Lake Road West • Geneva • 440-466-9127

2-1/2 miles west of Rt. 534 and Geneva State Park Corner of County Line Rd. and Lake Road West.