

Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Plank Road

After nine years together, Plank Road will be doing their last show on September 17 at the Water Street Bar & Grille in downtown Sandusky.

Stop out to support Scott Stiert, Andy Bauman and Mike Gildenmeister.

When one door closes, another one is sure to open in a new direction, as is the plan for Scott Stiert of Plank Road. "I've enjoyed my time with Plank Road but after nine years, I felt it was time to move on. The whole clarity of it just came to me one day and I knew that I should be writing more music and recording. I had heard the new music by Amos Lee and it made me think that this is the kind of stuff I would really like to do."

Scott is becoming more focused on his solo project, Acoustic Scotty so it seems the time is right to pursue it further. "I'm really into the blues but I also like Neil Young, James Taylor, Jim Croce and Led Zeppelin," said Scott. "I started playing drums when I was nine years old. My parents had a country band and I would play on the set that belonged to the drummer. After that, I had my own set but seemed to lose interest. When I was around seventeen is when I started playing guitar then stopped for about fifteen years until I picked it up again. I love playing the electric guitar. I loved Hendrix, Clapton and Page and all those guys right down to Muddy Waters and Elmore James because I loved the blues guys, too."

"I've never had a guitar lesson in my life. It just comes to me. I really can't explain it. I just play by ear. Plank Road doesn't do many of the typical cover songs that many of the area bands do. We're more of the "B" side style. I'm the kind of guy that likes to go off the beaten path," said Scott.

Plank Road has several songs written by Scott that they incorporate into their sets. "We've played original material in between cover songs and have found that people like our music. Sometimes, people are open to a band's original style but you can't always play your originals," he said. Listening



Scott Stiert

Photography credit: Patrick Joreski

to their original work makes for an entertaining evening to hear something refreshing other than the tired and worn. Songs like "Little Miss Gin", "Chasin' the Sun", "Lockdown" and more are songs that spice things up for the audience. "Little Miss Gin" is based on a true story about a girl I once knew who never seemed to find the right guy and was always drinking," explains Scott. "When I write songs, sometimes the music comes first then the lyrics. It goes both ways. I have pulled my car over to write down lyrics so I won't forget them. You never know when inspiration is going to hit. A lot of the songs I have written are either from experiences I've had or things that I have seen."

Plank Road has had experience opening for national acts such as Ekoostik Hookah, The JiMiller Band and more.

Scott was part of the Music Brewing Series through PBS that was part of the WBGU channel. "It was filmed at a coffee house in Findlay," he said. "That was in 2007 and it gave me an opportunity

to play my original material. From what I understand, it still plays on the station which is cool."

"I think the style of music that I play is a combination of blues, rock, folk; a little bit of everything because my taste in music is so vast. I've always felt that Plank Road has their own sound. I think that you should take all of your music influences and make it your own instead just copying someone else. It's an awesome feeling when the audience responds to what you are doing. That's my whole objective is for the audience to feel what I am feeling. If I don't feel it. I don't do it."

For more information on Plank Road, please visit: www.myspace.com/PlankRoad3

Acoustic Scotty may be found on Facebook.

Fremont Ross Music Alumni Foundation, Inc. Hall of Fame Gala set for September 3

The Fremont Ross Music Alumni's 14th Annual Music Hall of Fame Gala is September 3 at the Fremont Moose Lodge Ballroom, 2507 Hayes Ave. The evening begins with a Social Hour at 5:30 pm, and dinner at 6:30 pm. The Induction ceremony is at 7:30 pm, with dancing to follow until 10:00 pm. A Silent Auction will be ongoing throughout the evening,

Tickets are \$27.50 each or a Sponsor Table for 6 is \$165.00. All seats are reserved and must be purchased by August 26th. Tickets are available at DaVinci's Coffee House, Croghan Colonial Bank Main Office in downtown Fremont, as well as Stotz Music, 1219 W. State Street. You may also call Don Harlan 419-332-2132 for tickets or additional information.

The 2011 Inductees are: Tom Sieberg (1973 graduate), is a member of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra; Arturo Santana (1974 graduate) professional singer who accompanies himself; Thomas R. Swartz (1962 graduate) was a percussionist and Music Store owner, and will be inducted posthumously; Kirsten C. Kunkle (1998 graduate) is the first recipient of the FROMALUM music scholarship, and is a wonderful singer and is Assistant Professor of Voice and Opera; and Bunny Steiger (1962 graduate) is a retired Band Director.

The FROMALUMs, founded in 1997, is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation, dedicated to raising money to offer two \$1,000 scholarships each year to graduating seniors for music educations. Donations and endowments are generally tax deductible. Membership in the organization is open to anyone. Donations can be mailed to Jan Sorg, Treasurer, 212 Briarwood Drive, Fremont, OH 43420.

Come and join us in the Alumni Band at the Ross Football game on Friday September 2. Rehearsal for the Alumni Band performance is Thursday at 7:00 pm at Ross Band Room and Friday at 5:15 pm at Ross Practice Field, then on to Don Paul Stadium at Harmon Field.



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