

# NOW WE'RE TALKIN'

By Helen Marketti

## A CHAT WITH KEITH NELSON OF BUCKCHERRY

*Buckcherry will be giving a FREE concert in downtown Sandusky on Saturday, June 6 for Ohio Bike Week's Block Party!*

Buckcherry's recognizable hits, *Crazy Bitch, Lit Up, Don't Go Away, Riding, Crushed, Sorry,*

*Everything...* and more will be rockin' Sandusky, Ohio in a BIG way on June 6. As the band was getting ready to hit the road for their tour, lead guitarist, Keith Nelson took some time to talk about the longevity of Buckcherry, playing guitar and riding motorcycles.

"The earliest music I became interested in is what my dad was listening to such as R & B and Country. James Brown, Marvin Gaye, Sly & the Family Stone, Merle Haggard and Johnny Cash. Those were some of the artists we were listening to at my house," said Keith. "When I got into rock and roll, I started listening to AC/DC and Humble Pie."

"I originally started out as a drummer but at some point I wanted to start writing songs which I found easier using the guitar. (*laughs*) I became interested in the guitar when I was about 17. My approach to the guitar is that it's a vehicle to use to write a song. Some people approach it as they want to be the greatest guitar player and that is very noble. However, for me it's what you use to write a song. I love the shape of the guitar, the way it looks and the way it sounds. It's been a love affair that started many years ago and there's no end in sight," explains Keith.

Keith is a guitar collector but focuses on the quality of his collection rather than quantity. "My collection actually gets smaller but becomes more valuable. At one point, my collection was pushing at least 150 guitars and now I have about 50 or 60. What I am doing is refining my collection. I have a 1959 Gibson Les Paul which I consider my most prized guitar in my collection," said Keith. "I can have any number of guitars on the road with me. It just depends, I may have my '59 Gibson with me for Ohio Bike Week."

While some guitarists work to design their own guitars, Keith has no particular interest. "I think the best designs in guitar happened long before we got our hands on them. As far as guitar design, there really hasn't been an evolution since the mid-60's that has really peaked my interest. My favorite designs are from the 50s and early 60s. If you look at guitars, recording equipment, motorcycles and cars, those were the years that were magical times for invention. The designs were right on the money."

It will be nearly 20 years that Buckcherry has been together. "I first met Josh (lead singer) in '96. We all live in LA. We spend a lot of time together on and off the road. It's all about making rock and roll," said Keith. "I don't think we would make music that we wouldn't buy ourselves. We wouldn't want to be a band that we wouldn't want to see. Having said that we all love what we do, we love to make records and tour. We record together in the studio. The commonality keeps it real, keeps it honest and keeps us together."

"Inspiration for writing music comes from daily life and being a fan of music. Sometimes I'm not sure where the songs come from, they just come. The goal is to get out of the way and let them happen. We have very normal lives outside of rock and roll. We each have families, people we care about back home, and that is what keeps us grounded."

Motorcycle riding is relaxing for Keith. He enjoys riding when he gets the chance. "I ride and so does our drummer, Xavier. We are both big motorcycle enthusiasts. I have an American made V Twin motorcycle. I mostly ride Harleys. Riding for me is about the freedom and a good way to clear your mind. When you're riding a motorcycle you have to keep your mind on the road and not think about anything other than what you are doing."

Fans can expect a new album from Buckcherry later this summer. "We have a new record that is about to drop. It should be ready by late July or early August. We just finished it and then we're touring and doing what we do best. We can't wait until we get to Sandusky for Ohio Bike Week and get the party started!"

For more information: [www.buckcherry.com](http://www.buckcherry.com) [www.ohiobikeweek.com](http://www.ohiobikeweek.com)



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