



PRESS RELEASE

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Punta Gorda Woodstock Deemed a Success

Over 1,000 people made their way to the Charlotte Harbor Event Center August 16-18 to celebrate the fifty year anniversary of the storied Woodstock concert in August 1969. The three day event had bands scheduled from Friday night through Sunday afternoon. Local musician Paul Cotrell opened the weekend with his acoustic set. Nearly 20 bands later, “Gimi Jimi” closed out with an epic Jimi Hendrix tribute that included a searing Star-Spangled Banner. “Unlike Hendrix, we had a huge projection screen backdrop behind the musicians, said producer “Tiki Tom” Watson. “ “Gimi Jimi” played that rendition against a giant flag blowing in the wind. It created an epic ending to a remarkable event in Punta Gorda.”

Ticket Sales were up over 900, and with complimentary tickets and vendor participation, Watson was pleased with the outcome of the event. “A lot of people were curious if the venture was a success,” he said. “By every measure, we believe it was. Our goal was to produced an air-conditioned three-day commemoration event. With a team of peace-and-love people, we accomplished exactly that. The concert hall vibe was cool, and the stage sound was the best we’ve ever heard. Everything ran smoothly throughout the weekend.”

Watson had key leaders take charge of the operations. Moni Syravong, R.N., took charge of the front of the house, and Souls Harbor Church’s Worship Team Leader handled the back stage management. “Moni & Bernie are the real reason the event ran so well, he says. A three-day event requires a lot of

teamwork. Everybody pulled together. Steve Lineberry helped with promotion and PR, L.A. Daniels made a great Emcee, and the sound crew at the arena was truly above the call.”

Musicians commented on the sound and light show as well. “I talked to some people who were there and they said that’s the best they’ve ever heard Boogiemens sound,’ said guitarist Mike Reilly. “That was a really great show. We had a blast.” Other musicians concurred. “That sound mix was phenomenal,” said Dave J. of The Poor Boys. “All of the bands came across cleans and crisp, and with the psychedelic backdrop, it was beautiful.” Whether or not the event was profitable remains to be seen, according to Watson. “We’re still negotiating the distribution of ticket sales receipts with the event center,” he says. “There are some loose ends to tie up. I am hoping for a favorable outcome.”

Watson is exploring a follow up concert on a smaller scale during season. “Many people who would have thoroughly enjoyed this show and its theme simply weren’t here in Florida in August,” he says. “Each of the musicians wants to continue in this vain of Woodstock peace and love. Maybe we’ll form a Punta Gorda Woodstock Society and plan some future get togethers...it’s always a good thing to ‘*come on people now, smile on your brother, everybody get together*’....you know the rest. ‘*Try and love one another right now*’ as the song goes. That’s what we did. For three days, man, three days.”

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