

Chicago radio stars to meet fans in the Region

Those rock fans who came of age in Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland during the late 1970s and early 1980s will surely want to check out the new book "The Loop Files," from Chicago publishing house Eckhartz Press. One would be hard pressed to find a region rocker during that time period who didn't have at least one black "Loop" T-shirt in their wardrobe.



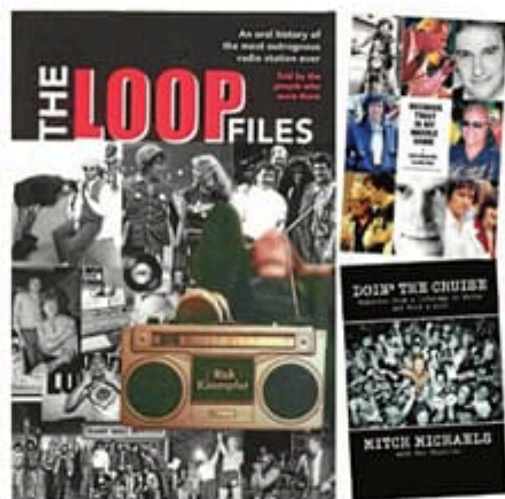
TOM LOUNGES

The 350-page paperback is a broad collection of tales, remembrances, reflections and behind the scenes revelations that serves as an oral history of Chicago's most outrageous radio station, WLUP (aka "The Loop"). Author/publisher Rick Kaempfer collected the information from direct interviews with people who were there and were part of the craziness of that era. Among them are broadcast legends — Steve Dahl, Garry Meier, Mitch Michaels, John Landecker, Bobby Skafish, Bob Stroud, Jonathon Brandmeier, Patti Haze and Sky Daniels — plus dozens of other radio hosts, producers, programmers and key players in the colorful Loop story.

"The response to this book has been amazing," said Kaempfer. "I think I really tapped into something here, because people miss the kind of radio we had back then. People of a certain age look back fondly on The Loop because these radio personalities were very much a part of their lives. We'd turn on the Loop in the morning and leave it on all day long. Each one of the DJs had their own unique style and way of connecting with the listeners. They were the fabric of Chicago at that time."

Kaempfer is doing a book signing this Saturday from 3-6 p.m. at Bridge's Scoreboard (121 N. Griffith St.) in Griffith, and he's bringing along two of the station's most famous personalities — John "Records" Landecker and Mitch Michaels — who not only share stories in the new book, but also have recent Eckhartz Press book releases of their own to sign for fans.

Other Loop alumni are also expected to stop by Saturday, including guitarist Roman Sawczak of Steve Dahl's Teenage Radiation Band and noted sportscaster/producer Dan McNeil of Highland. Hear more about the new book and the Loop's history by listening to my hour-long



PROVIDED

A trio of books about Chicago radio stations and legendary DJs.

interview with Kaempfer now free on demand at lakeshorepublicmedia.org/show/midwest-beat

Music notes

■ A night of laughs with Emmy and Grammy-nominated comedian Bill Burr happens Friday on the Hard Rock Live auditorium stage at Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana (5400 W. 29th Ave.). Burr has had numerous television and film roles, along with his stage work. Tickets start at \$142.50.

The Hard Rock Cafe Stage features the Alanis Morissette tribute act, Jagged Little Pill on Friday at 9:30 p.m. Guitarist and songwriter Joe Marcinek performs on Saturday at 9 p.m., with an impressive line-up of guest players that includes Alex Podowski, Ryan Gallagher, Rick King, Kevin Mardirosian, Reilly Comisar, Ola Timothy, Marcus Safirt, and Ed Strudas.

New shows added to the Hard Rock Live schedule include Indiana's world-famous Jacksons. Marlon, Tito and Jackie Jackson return to their hometown of Gary to perform at Hard Rock Live on May 11 to bring 50 years of musical hits to the stage, including favorites like "ABC," "I Want You Back," "Blame It On The Boogie," and "Shake Your Body (Down To The Ground)". Tickets start at \$69.50.

Also added to the Hard Rock Live schedule for an 8 p.m. June 29 concert is Canadian alt-rock band Metric. Tickets start at \$69.50. A final new addition has ska-rockers Sublime coming Aug. 17 with special guest Rome. Tickets start at \$49.50. All shows on sale tomorrow at 10am. More:

hardrockcasinonorthernindiana.com.

■ Eagles tribute group, Heartache Tonight, wings its way back to the stage at Hobart Art Theater (230 Main St.) on Friday for an 8 p.m. performance with tickets starting at \$17.50. A 7 p.m. show concert by Metallica tribute band, Damaged Justice, follows on Saturday with an opening set by the all-female Black Sabbath tribute, Sabbath. Tickets: \$10 advance/\$15 day of show. More: brickartlive.com.

■ On Saturday, Toad The Wet Sprocket singer/songwriter and guitarist Glen Phillips brings his solo folk/rock show to Acorn Theater (107 Generations Drive) in Three Oaks, Michigan for a 7 p.m. Central/8 p.m. Eastern performance. Phillips is promoting his new solo album, "There is So Much Here." Opening is Portland-based Americana artist, Chris Pureka. Tickets: \$35.

English singer/songwriter and NPR radio darling, Beth Orton performs at 7 p.m. Central/8 p.m. Eastern on Sunday. Tickets are \$35 each show. More: acornlive.org.

■ Tonight is "Open Mic Night" with hosts Marty "Carr" Edmaiston and Leo Lopez of Shuddup & Drive fame at Montego Bay Grille (322 Main St.) in Hobart. Local talents of all ages are welcome. Full menu and bar available. More: 219-940-3152 or facebook.com/mobaygrille.

■ South of 30 is at Lake of the Four Seasons in Crown Point this Saturday, performing a 9 p.m. show at the 19th Hole Bar & Grille (1054 Sunnyslope Drive), covering the gamut from classic rock, vintage pop and country hits. More: facebook.com/southof30band.

■ Finnegan's Pub (1074 Joliet St.) in Dyer has acoustic duo Munde & St. Clair tonight at 9 p.m. Singer/songwriter Rodney Golsen performs Saturday at 9 p.m. Weekly "Open Mic Jams" happen Sundays and Tuesdays at 9 p.m. Next Wednesday has Chris Grove & Friends playing acoustic on stage at 8 p.m. More: finnegansdyer.com or 219-865-9896.

■ Karaoke happens tonight at Leroy's Hot Stuff (333 W. U.S. 20) in Porter from 8-11 p.m. Live music by The Crawpuppies at 8 p.m. hits on Friday, followed on Saturday by AC/DC tribute, Bonfire. A weekly "Sunday Blues Jam" happens from 7-11 p.m. Next Wednesday, finds Johnny V. playing acoustic from 5:30 to 8 p.m. More: leroyshotstuff.com or 219-926-6211.

■ Three's Company performs tonight from 7-10 p.m. at Northwoods Falls (8101 Wicker Ave.) in St. John. Rock, pop and country music covers from the 1980s and 1990s come courtesy of Kristyana & Party Foul on Friday, with The Crawpuppies returning on Saturday. Weekend music starts at 8:30 p.m. More: northwoodsfalls.com or 219-351-5148.

■ Classic rockers Dave Dodge & Flashpoint return Saturday for a 9 p.m. gig at The Track Lounge (318 N. Jackson St.) in Crown Point from 2-5 p.m. More: 219-663-9838.

■ Like a well-stocked juke box, the nostalgia-rooted rock trio — Ed Hill & The Unusals — will bust out covers by '50s and '60s artists this Saturday at Uncle Bud's Bar & Grille (9700 S. Cicero Ave.) in Oak Lawn. More: 708-529-7226.

■ The Time Bandits will rock the house at Smokey Jo's (475 W. Burville Road) in Crete on Friday, followed on Saturday by the southern-fried country rock of The Jeff Givens Band. Music starts both nights at 8 p.m. More: 708-672-3383 or facebook.com/SmokeyJoCrete

■ Teenage guitar virtuoso Mason performs instrumental blues and jazz live at Goblin & The Grocer (1 W. Dunes Hwy.) in Beverly Shores this Sunday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. This NWI rising star is a monster player who will impress. More: rockenguitar.com

■ Thrown Together busts out Beatles tunes and much more on Friday at Buddy & Pals Place (1206 E. Summit St.) in Crown Point. Music starts at 8:30 p.m. More: 219-662-0088.

■ Northwest Indiana musician T.J. Aubuchon performs some of his original songs live on air and discusses his music and newly released, debut CD — "Edge of Night" — this Tuesday (7-8 p.m.) on my "Midwest BEAT with Tom Lounges" radio program on 89.1FM-Lakeshore Public Media (stream at lakeshorepublicmedia.org).

Blues fans can catch a new "Midwest BEAT Blues" program, every Friday from 7-9 p.m. on Lakeshore Public Media. The program also airs Sundays from 4-6 p.m. and Tuesdays from 5-7 p.m. on WIMS-AM/FM — AM-1420, 106.7FM and 95.1FM — while streaming live at wimsradio.com.

Opinions are solely those of the writer. Reach him at beatboss@aol.com.