

## The Rancho Allstars

LIVE MUSIC by Leighton Cosseboom

It is only reasonable to expect the Rancho Allstars to be no less than rock stars. With Angela Strehli on lead vocals, "Takezo" on guitar and vocals, Sam Page on bass, Terry Baker on drums, and Mike Duke on piano, the Allstars bring the Rancho's house music to a new level.

"Angela has her own career out of Austin, Texas. People like Muddy Waters know her," Duke says. "She is on a first name basis with B.B. King." According to Duke, Takezo is from Japan, but sings like a "Philly soul man" and is a blues rock virtuoso. Page and Baker are also classic examples of seasoned rhythm and blues veterans.

Duke, originally from Texas, says that the Allstars are inspired by anything that would qualify as good tunes. "I have a James Brown song I do, called 'Good Lovin,' that the audience really likes. We play blues and classic R & B from the 60's, but danceable with a little rock and roll thrown in," he explains. "We also do a couple of Sam Cooke songs." Duke originally moved out to West Marin in the 80's to write with Huey Lewis. "I wrote 'Hope You Love Me Like You Say

You Do' that Huey had a hit on," he says. Duke also wrote Lewis' hit "Doing it all For My Baby."

Duke has jammed with Boz Scaggs, Chuck Berry, Delbert McClinton, and has performed at two presidential inaugurations. Huey Lewis is also a close personal friend of his.

While Duke and the Allstars have exciting histories, so does Rancho Nicasio. "The Grateful Dead did a pool party here one time!" Duke says with a chuckle. With common visitors such as Van Morrison and Bonnie Rait, the Rancho hosts high-profile yet intimate gigs. The restaurant also features artwork by Carol Satriani, sister of world-renowned speed metal legend Joe Satriani. "One time, I remember Neil Young was just in the crowd at one of Boz's shows here at the Rancho," Duke says.

While classic blues is Duke's forté, he understands that every generation needs to seek its own sound. "Music does not stay static. Kids demand something that is theirs," he says. But, Duke does hope that the spirit of classic blues lives on, especially through venues and bands like Rancho Nicasio and its Allstars.

*The Rancho Allstars will play at the Rancho Nicasio on August 28.*



Shane Dougherty and Faith Anne Davis of Cave Junction, Oregon announced their engagement. The bride is the daughter of Ben and Laurie Davis and is the sixth generation from Point Reyes Station. The groom is the son of Jim and Teri Dougherty of Cave Junction. Their wedding date is planned for June 26, 2010 at the Davis family ranch.

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