

Entertainers of the Month - the Mr. Nice Guy Band

This is the band everyone is talking about! The Coconut Telegraph is proud to present Entertainers of the Month - the Mr. Nice Guy Band. Check out Gilbert's Resort schedule on page 7 for their next appearance.



Tommy Hall Guitar, Keyboards, Vocals

Born August 31, 1960 in Miami, Tommy began playing piano at age 8 and guitar at age 11. In the late 70s he formed the band "Napoleon" and with Mr. Nice Guy bandmate John Quinn, toured Europe and Asia for the U.S.O. and played frequently in the Virgin Islands. In 1983 Tommy moved to Northern Virginia and played in "somewhat cheesy" hotel lounge bands for 6 years. At the same time he did studio work on advertising jingles. In 1990, he moved back to South Florida (the Ridge), and shortly thereafter began playing with the "Backbeats," along with MNG drummer Dave Webster.

In late 2002, they formed Mr. Nice Guy. In 2003, Tommy played guitar and keyboards briefly with former Bad Company vocalist Brian Howe. Shortly thereafter he began playing bass guitar with MNG keyboardist John Quinn in the "Livesays." In 2005 Tommy played lead guitar with "Foghat" original member Tony Stevens and continues doing shows under the band name "Slowride."



John Quinn Keyboards

Brought up in New England, John played around the New Haven and Hartford areas. Soon after high school he moved to Florida, where he played in a local band that toured the Midwest. Finally settling in Miami, he met up with Tom Hall and "Napoleon."

This group toured all over the world, playing concerts and clubs for the military (USO, DOD, PACAF). The band played many bases in Europe, the Middle East and the Orient. "Napoleon" made its home in the Virgin Islands where it had a house gig for a couple of years playing covers and originals.

John then met a group called the "Livesays" which was playing all-original music. The band was opening shows for national acts at big concerts. They played with such acts as Cheap Trick, Edgar Winter, Foreigner, Steppenwolf, Moody Blues, Bo Diddley, and many more. John and Billy Livesay (of the Livesays) ended up joining The Clarence Clemons Band in 1998, the Big Man with Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band. John played with Clarence Clemons for a couple of years, and then Mr. Nice Guy was soon in the picture.



Magoo Bass Guitar, Vocals

Many attempts have been made to secure a Magoo bio, all have failed. Magoo is a very talented musician who can literally play every instrument on the stage plus about a dozen more. But it's his bass playing that fuses the MNG Groove™ that gets people up on the dance floor and keeps them there.



Dave Webster Drums

Dave was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, in January of 1955 (for the record, it was 52 below zero, not the best day to come out of the womb). Being an Air Force brat, he lived all over the country during his youth, and started playing guitar at age 11. Once he saw the Beatles on Ed Sullivan, and saw Ringo shake his head and make hundreds of girls scream, he thought, "I gotta learn how to play drums."

At age 15 Dave started playing nightclubs (illegally). He somehow survived disco

in the 70s, then moved north to play and record with local groups in Pittsburgh and Long Island. He returned to Florida in the 80s, playing in a few local hair bands (with less hair) and in "Oliver Twist" with Jim Oliver.

Dave had stopped playing for a few years until a call came from Brooks Reid and Tom Hall, who were looking for a drummer for "The Backbeats." He says, "This is all their fault, I was happily retired!"



Johnny O Vocals, Sax, Flute, Harmonica, Percussion

Johnny O (Onderlinde), formerly from Philadelphia, PA and born in Baton Rouge LA, has opened for the likes of Steppenwolf, Joan Jett, Eddie Money, Morris Day and the Time, Bobby Womach, Jewel, Soul Asylum, the Lemonheads, Lakeside, Robert Hazzard and the Heroes, the Stylistics, Santana, Tito Puente, and others. Johnny O was a member of the original Village People band, and received a gold record with "Instant Funk," formerly Bunny Sigler's band, famous for the hit song 'Let The Good Times Roll.'

Johnny shows his diversity from his early days backing up the Village People to his stint with the Ritchie family, to his nightclub days in the 90s at the top of the Philly club scene, to his pres-

ent classic Rock n' Roll and soulful R & B that will sooth your soul. He has sung with War, Mark Farner, and Huey Lewis and the News. Now, he is having a ball playing along the southern coastline with Mr. Nice Guy, a band he thinks is the best! Playing sax, percussions and holding up the occasional lead vocal, Johnny O has never lost track of what's important: that is, the music must be recreated flawlessly, and the party must be off the chain!



Alex Lencina Vocals/Percussion

Alex is a California native who started his musical career as a drummer in a little town called Placerville. After successfully taking part in various well-known bands in northern California and realizing that breaking down a drum set can really suck (yea no kidding, Dave!), he decided to take on singing and did so during his travels to South America, where he recorded with two record labels and rocked with some of South America's best.

His vocal influences include Wilson Pickett, Jimi Hendrix, James Brown, Cory Glover, TT Darby... pretty much anything that grooves and or rocks. He has shared the stage with the likes of BB King and Jeff Healey.

On his return to the US he decided to settle down and explore other avenues in the music and radio industry. In other words, he

stopped singing (bad idea). Several years passed until he was introduced to MNG by a co-worker (you know who you are). The rest as they say, is history. Alex certainly brings his own unique style to MNG.



Maria De Crescenzo Vocals

Here's the story... a long time ago in a decade far far away (the 80's... remember the 80's?), members of MNG played with Maria in a couple of local Miami bands, "Top Secret" and "Maxx." Even back then, her talent as a vocalist and entertainer showed that this was her calling; they knew she was going somewhere.

Fast forward 30 years (wow), Maria had gone on to a very successful career as a prominent member of KC and the Sunshine Band. With her own projects, she has been performing for thousands of fans around the world. Of course with her schedule, the other members of MNG had not seen her since the old band days.

Through a series of events (coincidence or fate?), they caught up with her recently and proposed a crazy idea about doing some dates with the band whenever she is in town. And she loved this crazy idea.

Maria can sing anything, but she is a rocker at heart, and the band is excited about the chance to

reunite with her once again and rock the house like old times!



Martin Engineering

Martin is the behind-the-scenes 8th member of the

band. He helps the band move and setup the gear, makes sure everything is plugged in, locates Magoo and reminds everyone to shut the monitors down at the end of the night.

This is a volunteer effort by him, he just likes helping out the band. Everybody in the group is getting spoiled with him around, and the times he's not there makes the guys really appreciate his help (they have lots of heavy stuff). So next time you see him, be sure to shout out "MARTIN!!!"



The Mr. Nice Guy Band (above, at Gilbert's) also plays at Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill, and you can visit them online at www.mngband.com. This is the best band The Coconut Telegraph has ever heard in the Keys. This is a show you don't want to miss!



Helicopter visits a raft-up of small boats. Photo by Skip.