

IN THE FAST LANE AND ON STAGE

By Allen Kiger



Jack Russell

As I was finishing dinner Tuesday night, Jack Russell founding member and lead singer of the rock band Jack Russell's Great White called from his home on the water. Yes, he lives on a boat in Redondo Beach, Calif.

I chose to interview Jack Russell as his band will be headlining the Live Nation Sirius XM Hair Nation tour which will be performing at the Egyptian Room of the Old National Centre on October 27th. The band has had a lot of success over the years with millions of albums sold. The highest charting single "Once Bitten Twice Shy" reached #5 in 1989 and sold over 750,000 records. The song was also nominated for a Grammy award for best hard rock performance. In addition, the band has 8 gold, 5 platinum, and 1 double platinum albums to their credit. Jack Russell's Great White continues to have a heavy tour schedule of 80-90 shows per year.

The first thing I wanted to talk to Jack about was his new album, *He Saw it Comin'*, with the hit single "Sign of the Times." According to Jack, *He Saw it Comin'* is probably one of the best CD's he has recorded, with help from his writing partner and guitar player Robby Lochner. The song writing duo has elevated their music to the next level. Music sales are good and tour venues are selling out.

With all the success the band has had over the years I was curious what charities Jack Russell and his band are involved with. He was eager to talk about great white shark conservation and mentioned he participates in the tagging of the sharks. The band also performs charity events to benefit Multiple Sclerosis.

As I mentioned earlier Jack Russell lives on a boat and I was curious about his living on the water. He said he has lived on a boat for the past 8 years. His boat is a 54' Sport Fisher. He said he loves the solace of the ocean and the coziness of the boat that he shares with his wife. The boat can stay docked or he can head out to sea to go shark fishing. He was excited to talk about shark fishing. He has caught several species of sharks including hammer head and blue shark but his favorite to catch is the short fin mako.

"When you see a 700 pound mako come out of the water and do a cartwheel, it is life changing," Jack said. The largest shark he's ever caught was 750 pounds. Most times he tags and releases the sharks.

To quote Jack, "Rock and roll is my life but I live to fish."

I asked who influenced him the most musically. Without hesitation, he said the Beatles. He said he received the Beatles' *Help* record when he was 6 years old. After hearing the record at that age, he said many people might think him crazy, but he had a vision that he knew he was going to be a rock and roll star when he grew up.

He also said that another musical influence growing up in California was the Beach Boys. He remembered watching the Beach Boys Capitol Records logo spinning around on his record player. Later in life he had a contract with Capitol Records and realized how amazing it was to watch his own music on the record player and to know that his vision had come true.

Jack mentioned he has a book coming out at the end of the year called *Dancing on the Edge*. The book has taken longer to write than he anticipated but he wanted to make sure he had included everything. With 40 years of rock and roll stories of life on the road, the book sounds like an interesting read.

Jack says that even with all the ups and downs and years of alcohol abuse he feels he has lived a charmed, blessed life. He has been sober 3 years this month. Every day he said he tries to be a better person than the day before. He feels that there is more to life than big fancy cars and diamond rings and that life is about helping one another. As he was finishing telling me about the book I asked Jack if he was a religious person and he responded that he was somewhat religious but more spiritual and he believes in a higher power that he chooses to call God.

There's so much more I would've liked to have included in the story but space does not permit. I felt I had talked to a genuinely nice individual trying to make the world a better place by helping and giving back. Jack thanked me for the interview and he said he found it refreshing that the interview was different than most interviews he has done over the past 40 years.

I look forward to seeing Jack Russell's Great White on October 27th along with bands BulletBoys and Enuff Znuft on the Hair Nation tour. Tickets are still available but are selling fast.

If you are interested in finding out more about Jack Russell's Great White follow them at www.JackRussellsGreatWhiteBand.com, Instagram @jacksgreatwhite, Twitter @JacksGreatWhite, or Facebook Jack Russell's Great White

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