

Here is a review of a band I have been keeping in touch with. Watch for future shows in Wisconsin

### Joe Santana & Motley Jackson Band Revved Up Bikers at Harbor Tavern

By Rick Grant  
Entertaining U Newspaper  
[www.entertainingu.com](http://www.entertainingu.com)

On their way to Daytona for Bike Week to perform a series of eighteen gigs, Joe Santana & Motley Jackson Band stopped by the Harbor Tavern last Friday night to rev up the bikers headed to the mother of all motorcycle soirees in Daytona, where the term "jugs" has double meaning.

Yes, for me it was *deja vu*—an encore visit to the Harbor Tavern to check out this legendary touring band. And, I wasn't disappointed. This group of grizzled road dogs has been touring the biker bar circuit and other rock venues for many years.

Joe Santana leads this amalgam on lead guitar and vocals with Dan Graham on drums and vocals, Clyde Birbeck on bass and vocals. These cats can groove with seasoned skill. Joe has a great blues rock voice and carries the band with his advanced technique. On drums, Dan Graham is a groove machine who also sings and has a permanent savvy smile indicating that playing the drums is fun and he can't believe he's getting paid to do it. Bassist Clyde Birbeck is steeped in funk and grooves as a bottom end engine with the drummer Dan.

Dan and Joe met at Sturgis, South Dakota where the biggest and most prestigious biker bash happens. Dan was playing with Motley Jackson and Joe was playing with Joe Santana and the Knockers. When Dan lost some musicians, he called Joe to join forces, and Joe Santana and The Motley Jackson Band was born. They picked up Clyde in New Hampshire.

Together this group plays on a high level of tightness that only years on the road can achieve. Joe said that they play many biker functions across the country along with biker favorites Lynyrd Skynyrd, Foghat, Rick Derringer, Styx, Georgia Satellites, and George Thorogood. All these name bands are booked for Biker Week [www.bikerweek.com](http://www.bikerweek.com) in Daytona.

"We play many biker bars and events but we also play blues clubs and other venues. We are one of the few independent bands still on the road with our self produced CD. We like to keep it simple and real with a scaled down PA and no extra crap," Joe said.

Joe Santana and Co. are the type of band that hovers of the fringe of big time recognition, and are legendary among niche audiences like the loyal biker community. Jim Thackery played with the Nighthawks for twenty-five years and recorded fourteen albums with them. Jim went out on his own as a blues artist about eight years ago. This was a band similar to Joe Santana's outfit. They were the Rolling Stones to the biker community.

Joe Santana and Motley Jackson plays a clever blend of originals and classic rock. The group's original songs are catchy hits waiting to happen like Road Dog, The Bullet Left the Gun, Camel Toe, Muleskinner Blues, Phoenix, Tears in Your Eyes, I Love My Baby, and A Rose Tattoo.

When Joe and Co. crank up the Motley Jackson engine, they roar like a Harley on steroids, yet they can play ballads like Dock on The Bay with sensitive dynamics. It's a lean mean rocking machine that revs up the bikers and rockers with 100 proof rock'n'roll moonshine.

Joe and Motley Jackson will be playing gigs down at Bike Week which runs Feb. 27th through March 7 at the Cabbage Patch Thurs and Friday Feb 26 -28 and Broken Spoke and No Name Saloon on Sunday, Feb 29th. Then they rock the Last Resort and No Name Saloon Mar. 1st, Broken Spoke Mar. 2, Cabbage Patch and No Name Saloon Mar. 3rd. Then the band plays Broken Spoke through Mar. 6 and at No Name Saloon Mar. 7.

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