

The Chamber Connection: Summer Events that you do not want to miss

FD and Rodeo

Rosland River Run

The Newberry Event third year. After two years of Brewer and Shipley, the Newberry event continues with the Terry Robb Trio, Melody Guy, Rum and the Sea, Lino, and it is the second year for Craig Chaquico from Jefferson Starship and the Pink Floyd Tribute band Pigs on the Wing. The festival now adds headliner; Fishbone (Circa 1979, LA- and they play soul, Ska, Funk and Punk rock and hard rock.)

GCAT Gilchrist Summer Cruise in Back to the jackets and the hot summer nights and street dancing for a night of fun and cars

Coop Tour

Annual Summer Boil South County Fundraiser.

So, you have a hotelier who loves his wife and his music and together the couple (hosts at DiamondStone Guest lodges in Lazy River) decide they want to do something that makes a difference. Since Doug Watt is a musician with a gift of making friends and his lovely wife Gloria is an organizer who happens to be fighting Multiple Sclerosis (MS) the two of them came up with a way to raise funds for the fight against MS by hosting a much needed venue for music in South Deschutes County!

The Newberry Event was born out hard work and incredible negotiations with some of the region's finest musicians to appear at what started as a small backyard (five acre site) event and now it is growing- in its third year towards reaching a bigger goal of bringing people to a fantastic venue that ultimately produces an amazing series of musical performances for three days and on top of all of it- it raises money for the MS Society while it feeds the needs of the musically hungry.

I have been to both events- and I can say personally that there is something special for everyone! Besides a place to camp and enjoy a spectacular setting, there are food vendors and beverage vendors (local brewers and kombucha brewers led the way) and artisans who make organic and eco-friendly items for sale.

Year one featured act after act ending with the iconic act of Brewer and Shipley. A multitude of the friends Doug and Gloria Watt have made over the years turned up to support a worthy cause. Watt made sure there was great sound and plenty of open space for people to stretch out their wings and dance or sit and listen. Unfortunately it

was not well attended and when the Watts reviewed the comments and experiences they had, they took a risk and planned year Two.

Year two added to the depth of variety and surprised folks with every kind of act from the Sons of the Pioneers to Vagabond Opera from Portland (Belly dancing and Klesmer music among the other features of the band.) Many of the first year friends returned and provided festival attendees with a second look at their music while new acts were introduced. I am not just featuring a couple of my favs here, because, seriously, there are too many to write about and each band offered so many different types of music, I could not figure out why there were not thousands of people at the event.

Now, tickets are on sale (541-536-6263) for a third year at the Newberry Event and Watt will not disappoint! Besides a few of the festival regulars (each act is a headliner in their own right), the watts have found a way to add to the venue to wow us again this year with Craig Chaquico- from Jefferson Starship, The Terry Robb Trio- who can and do play everything, the big tribute band to Pink Floyd-Pigs on the Wing will be back for the floydies and he is adding Los Angeles icons from the late 70's to headline with Fishbone- (known for Ska, Punk and Hark Rock, funk and fusion sounds.) The list of other contributing bands is 23 names long- too much for this little piece, but I want to finish with the final word:

If you can imagine the cascade mountain peaks rising up behind the aspens as a back drop- If you can imagine seeing the stars above during the evening performances- If you can imagine music that plays on for three beautiful summer days and nights- If you can imagine a family friendly (no dogs please) environment with camping, great food, art, craft beers, wine tasting, vendors, dancing, yoga and plenty of room for all members of the family- then you can imagine the beauty of a home town event that you can go to each day, or camp and stay as a staycation that won't disappoint, then you can imagine the Newberry Event and helping to make a difference in the fight against MS!

If you want to buy your pass to a great event, call the DiamondStone guest lodges in Lazy River South. They are located next to Quail Run Golf Course right off HWY 97. Come support our local entrepreneurs, Doug and Gloria Watt while they bring us a don't miss event on July 24, 25 and 26th. Address:16693 Sprague Loop, La Pine, OR Phone: 541-536-6263 for info.