



Hard reign reunites for a good cause

August 20, 2008 4:25 PM

By GEORGE AUSTIN

Editor

Bands may reunite after breaking up for different reasons. The band Hard Reign which had some success in the area in the 1980s, broke up and had not played together for over 25 years because of creative and personality differences. But this weekend, the band will be playing a show together for the first time in many years to raise money for the family of a 6-year-old boy who has leukemia.

"I'm really glad we're doing it for the reason we're doing it," Scott Botelho, a Somerset resident who is the bass guitar player for the band, said. "I don't think we would get back together just to get back together. We felt because it was to help someone, it was a good reason to do it."

The benefit concert will be held at White's of Westport on Saturday, Aug. 23, with a cocktail hour at 5 p.m., buffet dinner at 6 p.m. and a concert from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The rock band Satellite will also be reuniting for the concert. The proceeds will benefit the family of Fall River resident Brandon Cusick who had leukemia. Tickets are \$20 and include the buffet. They can be purchased at the website <http://hardreign.webhop.net/> or by calling Mike Laureanno at (774) 526-6640. Tickets can be purchased at the door, but will not include the buffet.

Members of Hard Reign met in the early 1980s when they were around college age. The brothers Mike and Frank Laureanno asked Botelho if he could play bass guitar in the band and, knowing the band's reputation already, he accepted. Botelho said that in a few months, the bandmates found out they worked well together. The band also needed a new drummer and asked Somerset resident Scott Oliver. Botelho said Mike was a very good songwriter and Frank was the strongest vocalist in the band.

"There were some very good musicians in the band, very talented," Botelho said. "There was a lot of things we could do because we had the talent."

Hard Reign includes Botelho on bass and vocals, Mike Laureanno on keyboards, guitar and vocals, Frank Laureanno on lead guitar and lead singing, Oliver on drums and original members Chris Riley and Danny Perry.

Botelho remembers playing Elton John's "Funeral for a Friend" in clubs when he was with Hard Reign. Not many bands covered that song and so the band would get a big response from the audience. The dramatic "Funeral for a Friend" with all of the song's music dynamics was like the band's calling card.

"We were very eclectic at the time," Botelho, who is now a teacher at Somerset High School, said. "We played a lot of folk rock. We started to get more into rock 'n roll."

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were no hard feelings about the breakup.

In April of this year, Botelho was asked if he wanted to play a benefit show with Hard Reign. Botelho said it was great to see the band members after so much time and said the tension was gone. He said the band always had good chemistry when it was playing on stage. He said the problems came off the stage.



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