

SOUTHINGTON BAND BACKERS, INC.

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SHS Blue Knights Marching Band Member Organizes Benefit Concert for Hurricane Relief Effort

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Southington, CT --- Back in April 2005, two members of the State Champion Southington Blue Knights Marching Band organized and headlined a benefit Punk Rock concert in hopes of raising a few dollars for the music programs at Southington High School. Senior Drum Major Tom Jacob and his sophomore brother Chris who plays trombone in the marching band, rented out the Polish Falcon Club in Plantsville, invited five local bands to play, put up posters in school and around town and even printed and sold tickets to the show. The event was such a success, raising over \$1,200 that Chris has decided to take another run at it.

This time around the goal will be different ... to raise money to assist those devastated by Hurricane Katrina. "We are horrified by the tragedy this disaster has caused for people in the Gulf States, and we felt we just had to do something to help," said Chris.

"We felt the timing of this concert offered the perfect opportunity to raise funds for the relief effort," said Southington Band Backer President, Tom Jacob. "We will have plenty of other opportunities to raise funds for our band program ... the people who are suffering from this catastrophe need our help now."

This concert will offer a breadth of music styles much more diverse than in the previous show. Whereas the April show featured pure "punk" from local Southington bands, the upcoming show will deliver a combination of Ska/Punk with a little Jazz thrown in.

In order to serve up the variety he was looking for, Chris has signed up bands from Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The recruitment process was long and at times arduous, but exciting too. Chris says "I started contacting people about playing the show way back in May. I had to listen to their music, check

their availability and get to know them a little bit". The "getting to know them part" was hard because of where they are all located, but was made easier by having access to a computer and the Internet. It also helped that Chris has friends in the business who were able to recommend some of the bands scheduled to appear. Chris noted, "Over the past couple years I'd say I've been to over 100 shows just like this one. I see a lot of the same people and a lot of the same bands over and over again. You become friends."

The show has added significance for Chris due to the fact that he has been working with headliner "Math the Band" on producing a Greatest Hits CD for the artist on Chris' basement-based recording and production company "Haus Records". The show is being billed as the "CD Release Party" for the new CD.

Other bands scheduled to appear are "Squinty and the Screw-Ups", "Spikkit", "The Kleptos", "The Cliches" and "Honeycreeper". The show is being held at the **Falcon Hall, 33 Knowles Avenue, Plantsville, on Saturday, September 3, 2005**. Doors open at **6:00pm**.

Admission is **\$5.00**. Tickets are available in advance by calling **Chris** at **860-276-8820**. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. **Net proceeds from ticket sales, along with any additional donations, will be sent to the American Red Cross.**

For more information, contact Tom Jacob, Southington Band Backers President, at 860-276-8820, or the Southington High School Music Department at (860) 628-3229 ext. 250. You can also visit the Blue Knights Marching Band Website at www.shsbands.com.

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