

**PRESS RELEASE
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**For more information call:
Spunk Amoroso – V.P. - M.A.V. Foundation
2007 Downtown Newark Bike & Blues Festival
302-737-4166**

Newark to host Bike & Blues Festival



Newark, Delaware will host the 1st Annual Downtown Newark Bike & Blues Festival on Saturday, August 18. Newark, known for its unique mixture of small town hospitality and charm coupled with the vitality and diversity of a bustling university community will be "invaded" by more than 500 motorcycle enthusiasts from all over the region and as far away as Tennessee and Florida. And Newarkers couldn't be happier about it. Mike Schwartz, owner of Mike's Famous Harley-Davidson in New Castle, DE recently said, "I've been involved in motorcycle events all over the country, and I have never come across a community more excited about hosting us! The City and the downtown businesses are rolling out the red carpet to welcome

riders. They want to make this festival an event to remember, not just for the riders, but for the whole community."

Motorcycle Accident Victims Foundation V.P. Spunk Amoroso said "Motorcycling has gained a great deal of popularity over the past several years and there are as many different manufacturers as there are different types of bikes. Unlike previous "rallies", this event will not be restricted to Harley-Davidson riders. We wanted to put together an event in which all riders of 2 or 3 wheel vehicles could gather for a very worthwhile cause and have a great time regardless of the brand name on their bikes. There will be plenty of fine music to fill out the day for riders and non-riders alike." Blues fans of all ages are encouraged to attend. All proceeds from the festival will benefit those recovering from motorcycle accidents. Event organizers send many thanks out to our sponsors; Newark Dodge, Mike's Famous New Castle, 301 Cycle, and Planet Honda; without whose help and support this event would not be possible. Tickets for the Bike & Blues Festival will be on sale at Newark Dodge through Thursday, August 16 and at the Newark Shopping Center on the day of the event.

Special events planned in Newark during the festival are:

DOWNTOWN RIDE IN BIKE SHOW

Saturday, August 18, at 1pm riders will begin registering in the Newark Shopping Center for the event. A donation of \$20 per person to the Motorcycle Accident Victims Foundation will ensure riders and non-riders alike receive all of the festival benefits and have access to all areas of the event. Main Street parking meters will be reserved for motorcycle parking only (for the bike show participants) while the City of Newark will offer free parking in all city lots for all others. This will provide a showcase of some of the world's most spectacular motorcycles for all to enjoy.

A motorcycle related Vendor Mall will be set up in the Newark Shopping Center offering many items not normally found in the Downtown area which will appeal to all motorcycle enthusiasts. Tom Biggs, general manager at Newark Dodge said "many of our customers ride motorcycles and we're very proud to be part of such a worthwhile event."

CUSTOM MOTORCYCLE PARADE

At 3:00 PM bike show participants will gather for a motorcycle parade through Newark. The parade will begin and end at the Newark Shopping Center on E Main Street on a route planned by the City of Newark Police Department. Police officers from all over the State and surrounding areas have volunteered to assist the Newark Police Department in leading the parade and Newark Fire Police are securing all intersections for safe parade passage without closing any intersections for longer than necessary. Downtown merchants are supporting the parade which will loop the downtown area twice creating yet another attraction on Main Street. The parade should last about 30 minutes, and will stretch more than a mile. The second pass of the parade will kick off the blues festival that will stretch from the Newark Shopping Center to the Deer Park. Closing Ceremonies and Awards Presentation will take place at 8:30pm in the Newark Shopping

ENTERTAINMENT for the Bike & Blues Festival will include several of the Tri-State area's best groups.



- **Kenny Jones and the Jaded Angels (KennyJonesMusic.com)**
Kenny is a Songwriter, Producer, Singer and Guitarist who is well received in the Delaware and Maryland area. The band does a variety of styles including Blues, Jazz, Rock, and Motown. The Jaded Angels will be the backup band for Delaware's Native Son, Johnny Neel who is headlining the event.

Also on the bill:



- **Bare Bones Blues** (barebonesblues.com) a high-powered Blues Band that is making a big splash all over the DE/MD club scene.



- **Southern Twist Band** (southerntwistband.com) will provide your daily dose of classic Southern Rock including Lynyrd Skynyrd and a mix of Blues and Hard Drivin' Rock.
- **The Witch Doctors** will also give you a taste of their brand of Blues. This powerful trio features local guitar slinger **Stevie Larocca**, **Bobby Dean**, and drummer **Rob** <Box tuct 6> **Chernside**.
- Solo artists will feature 2 artists Kenny Jones produced and continues to help promote: **Kristin Watts** (KristinWatts.com) a very exciting new songwriter, guitarist and vocalist showcasing several originals and her own twist on cover tunes. **Rory Barchezki**, also a protégé of Kenny, will give you his Americana based guitar and vocals, also playing a mix of his compositions and a variety of cover tunes.
- The Festival's headliner is Delaware Legend **Mr. Johnny Neel**, who toured with the Allman Brothers for several years and co-wrote songs on their "Seven Turns" album. Johnny, who now resides in Nashville where he owns a recording studio (JohnnyNeel.com) has been Grammy nominated and has written songs for many country and rock artists including Delbert McLinton, Keith Whitley, Gov't Mule, the list goes on and on. Johnny tours all over the US and Europe with a diverse line up of great musicians but always looks

forward to coming home to Delaware where it all started. Don't miss this chance to see one of Delaware's finest singer, songwriter, performers.



Ken Greenwood, owner of 301 Cycle and longtime supporter of Motorcycle Accident Victims Foundation recently said "It's exciting to be involved in this new venue of mixing Bikes and Blues to support those who do so much to help others."

The festival winds down at 9:30 PM in order to comply with the city's noise ordinances.

City Manager Carl F. Luft notes "This should be a wonderful day long event. I'm excited about Newark hosting the first annual Downtown Newark Bike & Blues Festival; and I have already picked a spot for my family to view the motorcycle parade."

Susan K. Poley, Traffic Lieutenant for the City of Newark Police Department, adds that the Bike & Blues event is well planned and should be a great experience for the community. She requests that motorists driving in the Newark area Saturday be on the lookout for motorcycles since cars turning in the path of oncoming motorcycles is a leading cause of motorcycle accidents.