From Katie Williams
AMP Board Member

November 2021

As I sit in the back room of my house writing this, there is a fire roaring in the woodstove, a hot cup of coffee sitting next to me, and a dog curled up at my feet. Autumn has officially returned and tucked our summer sun to bed with a heavy blanket of gray. While many are hunkering down, and perhaps bracing themselves for a bit of winter-induced melancholy, my brain is dancing with excitement and ideas about AMP’s future indoor space.

Our board is working hard to secure funds and rally volunteers to make our vision of a unique, all-ages music hub become a reality. This would be a major game-changer for live music in Anacortes—especially during these gloomy fall and winter months. I mean, how badass would it be to wake up our town a bit in the rainy off-season and have shows every single weekend?! Our vision doesn’t stop there. We see AMP’s spot providing a practice space available for musicians, a headquarters for our radio station, a safe landing spot for our kids to participate in our youth classes and camps, and a place to feel free to experiment and create. A place where DIY music and creativity collide to create connections and sheer awesomeness!

I am grateful to see that in the last year, some new faces have shown up to volunteer for AMP. It gives us all encouragement knowing that the community is behind us and wants to be a part of shaping our organization. Thank you from all of us and stay tuned for updates about our rad future space!

Katie Williams
Local Rockers Grind for a New Skate Park

by Liam Poor

The Anacortes Skate Park. A youth hub. A landmark on the edge of the warehouse district, one of the first things you see when rolling down R Avenue into this sleepy harbor town. For many it’s a stamp of the counterculture skate community, for others, it’s just where they spend their free time. You might notice driving by that you see more kids hanging out than dropping in. The reason is it’s just not a safe place to skate.

In talking to Rachel Muntean-Salazaar at Trinity Skate, there are some glaring issues with the 21 year old park. The bowl isn’t usable, the transitions are too steep and the bottom is flat, there’s chipped concrete on the ledges, sharp edges and plenty of cracks,” said Muntean-Salazar.” The concrete was made rough during construction, then painted over to hide graffiti, what’s left is a surface that’s both slick and coarse, thus the nickname “Cheese Grater.” The park needs an overhaul, and that’s just what Rachel’s trying to do. She’s been spearheading a fundraiser to replace the skate park with one that kids will want to skate at, and be safer doing it. To do it, she’s been putting on rock shows.

AMP Fest 2021, during a lull in the festivities, John Harrison starts chatting up Dominic Ermi. Both are leaving Anacortes soon, off to big cities to pursue their futures. A plan is hatched, the two have music to share and nothing says farewell like a few notes and a beat. John suggests Trinity Skate, he’s performed there before, and he’s coming off a successful show at the Madrona Grove. A few days is all the acts need to promote the show, and it’s quickly decided that the bands will donate all the profits of the show to the Skate Park Fundraiser.

Woo-hoo opens with Kyle Nesset’s characteristic charisma, John’s next with his New York rapper inspired flows, Buddha Dawg’s grunge pop follows, and Drink Skate Fornicate’s punky jams send a particularly badass mosher home with a broken rib. One punk-rock-grunge-rap show later, around $600 is raised, bringing the total funds raised to near $50,000. Rachel has hosted four shows like this one to raise funds, but the goal for the new Skate Park is $600,000. It’s a long way to the top with only rock and roll. A goal so large can seem daunting to anyone, but Trinity has a surprise in store.

On a wet October weekday, an anonymous benefactor walks into Trinity Skate and pledges half a million dollars towards the fundraiser. Suddenly, the new Skate Park is well within reach, only an approximate $50,000 deficit left to reach the goal. With the support the community is showing, it may be reached sooner than anyone might have hoped. Rachel Munt-ean-Salazaar is ecstatic and looking forward to racing to the finish on a dream. But there’s still a few short miles to go. So show up Anacortes, and finish this race!

To support the fundraiser go to PayPal.me/anacortesskatepark.

Keep up to date on the progress of the fundraiser at Facebook.com/anacortesskatepark.

Left: John Harrison lays some bars on the crowd gathered on the showroom floor of Trinity Skate. Woo-Hoo preceded, Buddha Dawg and Drink Skate Fornicate followed. Photo courtesy of Gabe Droppo.
Three very specific memories:

Windows down in the little white Toyota pickup, on our way to Campbell Lake. A Beach Boys cassette in the player but our voices all but drown it out as we sing to, “I Get Around.” It’s late in the ‘80s, late in the summer—the last really hot day of the season—and we’re about to claim our last few laps on water skis until the following year. He does the “wah wah ooh”s and I do the “round round/get around”s.

The red truck this time. The Chevy. The sky is midnight blue, but it’s probably only 9:30 or so. A school night. The headlights hover over Oaks Avenue pointing toward home and the original “Hazy Shade of Winter” is on the radio. When it’s over—after we’ve matched both Simon and Garfunkel word for word—he asks how the hell I know the lyrics to that old song. He says maybe my brain is some kind of language supermachine. Because I want him to go on believing that, I don’t tell him that the Bangles just covered it, that I hear their version on MTV all the time.

That big clunky van he bought years later, ostensibly for camping. We’re parked at Cornet Bay just for the afternoon, ostensibly so his wife can go fishing. I’m distracted by the sensation that I’ve never been here before even though I’m sure that I have when that Don McLean song starts rippling through the speakers: “A long, long time ago...” I start to say something about how this spot feels weirdly foreign but he shushes me and fixes the volume, higher. I turn my head and smile at my window reflection because most of the world rolls its eyes and cringes when “American Pie” comes on, but not my dad. Eight minutes and 35 seconds later the music dies and he asks me what I had been about to say. I tell him I can’t remember.

I have so many memories of being my father’s daughter around town; from the top of Cap Sante to the backside of Bowman’s Bay, and not all of them are good—but the ones tied to whatever was in the tape deck or on the amphitheater stage or in the 3-ring binder sheet music songbook are the ones that still come through crystal clear. Like a movie, like a picture book, like time wrapping itself into a spiral. My dad was born in November and then, 76 years later, he died in November. The collage on the cover is called, “You Are Here,” and it’s my way of making the memories and all the lost moments manifest again—if even just for this month. It’s dedicated to whomever you miss, and all the places you go to say their names.

—Laura Sullivan Cassidy
AHS Class of ’90

You Are Here

November Cover Artist Laura Sullivan Cassidy

In an upcoming Show Chime Series, we’ll be taking a dip into the AMP archives, starting with a showcase of the young pop-rock trio-turned-quartet, New Uniform.

Under New Uniform’s page in the AMP archives, you can find a recording of New Uniform’s act at the last AMPfest. I remember that night vividly. At the last minute, a storm rolled in, and the teardown began during New Uniform’s set. In the middle of it all, New Uniform played on. The small crowd was going crazy. More than once, celebrity guest Mother Nature interjected with a clap of lightning over the channel. In the blur of the ozone-scented moment, I remember thinking this to myself, like some revelation: holy expletive, they’re good!

For leadman Alex Heubel and bassist Dylan Geer, the roots of New Uniform run deep. They first collaborated under the banner of Sleepy Lagoon at the age of twelve. In their junior year of high school, they met their drummer, Taylor Dunton, and New Uniform was born, nourished by Anacortes’s thriving music scene and mentored by local music legends like Karl Blau. In 2019, Carson Paddock joined their ranks. To the local music junkies Paddock needs no introduction—but to the uninitiated, that’s the dude with the ‘do from Anacortes grunge band The Opines.

New Uniform’s most recent available release dropped in 2017 as a self-titled album. Alex Heubel’s vocals are rich, dreamy, and emotional, complemented by energetic yet warm instrumentals from bassist Geer and drummer Dunton. The product is luscious, bittersweet pop-rock for summer evenings and night drives, indie-charming yet highly polished.

I’m sure you know the drill by now. The future is looking uncertain for independent musicians. And yeah, I guess you could stream New Uniform’s music. But on most streaming platforms, artists get the short end of the stick. On Spotify, artists make less than a penny per stream. Tidal is a good alternative platform (and you still get a Wrapped at the end of the year!). But the best way to support New Uniform is by heading to newuniform.bandcamp.com and buying their music directly. All their stuff is pay what you want, so pay them what they’re worth, if you can afford to. It’s well worth it.

From the Archives:
New Uniform

by Katie Reyerson

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Live Music Calendar
November 2021

Sunday, November 7
7:30 PM
McIntyre Hall
La Traviata
Opera  All Ages

Pacific Twang
Rockfish Grill
Fiery Old-time  All Ages

Tuesday, November 9
6:00 PM
Farmstrong Brewery
Nick Mardon
All Ages

Wednesday, November 10
6:00 PM
Rockfish Grill
The Dmitri Metheny Group
Jazz  All Ages

Anacortes Eagles
Marcia Kester
Fun Entertainment  21+

Thursday, November 11
6:00 PM
Brown Lantern
Open Mic Night
Local Talent  21+

Saturday, November 13
7:30 PM
Brown Lantern
Ebb, Slack & Flood
Funky Dance  21+

Saturday, November 17
6:00 PM
Rockfish Grill
The Pension King
Acoustic Rock  All Ages

Thursday, November 18
6:00 PM
Brown Lantern
Open Mic Night
Local Talent  21+

Tuesday, November 22
6:00 PM
Farmstrong Brewery
Released From Quiet
All Ages

Wednesday, November 24
6:00 PM
Farmstrong Brewery
Fidalgo Swing
Swing  All Ages

Wednesday, November 25
6:00 PM
Anacortes Eagles
Marcia Kester
Fun Entertainment  21+

Tuesday, November 27
7:30 PM
Rockfish Grill
Amanda Richards and the Good Long Whiles
Alt. Country  All Ages

Saturday, November 30
6:00 PM
Farmstrong Brewery
Savanna Woods
All Ages
Sponsor Spotlight: Rockfish Grill

The Anacortes Rockfish Grill has been a mainstay of the local music scene for two decades, under the management of Rick Star. Rick, an accomplished brewer, musician, and former aerospace engineer, regularly features local music on Wednesday nights, as well as regional and national acts on Saturdays. The walls of the establishment are festooned with black and white headshots of such harmonica luminaries as Lee Oskar, and many others. Rockfish is a long-time AMP sponsor and strong supporter of local music, providing year-round gig opportunities for local musicians as well as support for local festivals and events. I had the pleasure of sitting with him on a recent sunny mid-October morning. Here is our conversation.

SC: Rick, we’d like to extend our appreciation for your support of AMP, and other community events.
RS: Our pleasure. It’s our pleasure as an organization to be able to do that.
SC: What was your first band, and what did they play?
RS: Oh man, oh man. It was a trio and we did popular hits of the ‘70s. Well, let me take that back, they weren’t necessarily popular hits. They were progressive rock pieces. We did Uriah Heep, Deep Purple, Hendrix. We may have done some Bad Company too, as I recall. I was voted the vocalist because I was the least terrible singer of the band. It all started there. Humble beginnings in Santa Monica, playing lunch at school.

RS: I know right away which one it is. It was Mark Hummel, James Harmon—who is one of my all-time favorite West Coast bluesmen that passed away last year, and Billy Boy Arnold, a first-generation Chicago bluesman. I knew Mark – Mark had been here with his own band. They were doing a Canadian tour, had just come down from Vancouver and were on their way to Seattle. They had an off night on Sunday. So he approached me about bringing that show in here.

It was a Sunday show, which was unusual for us, and it was a ticketed show, which was also unusual for us. We’ve never been able to make a cover work here, the music is always free.

It was an amazing show – we packed the place. The band had a great time. Billy Boy shared with me that it was one of the best nights on the tour that they had, because of the close interaction and how enthusiastic the people were.

I had the opportunity to take Billy Boy to the airport the next day so I had two hours with him and he gave me two hours of genealogy of the entire Chicago blues. He took lessons from Sonny Boy (the first) Williamson, on the harp, through Sonny Boy’s being killed at a speakeasy after he had cleaned out some guys in a poker game.

For anyone reading who’s interested in this, Kim Field has written a book with Billy Boy. All these fantastic stories are in this book, which has just come out, so look it up!

SC: You were in the Chamber Orchestra at Loyola Marymount. What did you play?
RS: I started as a cellist. I did not come to the bass through the guitar, necessarily, as most bass players would do. I did have an opportunity to play the bass and realized that it was fun. I could play entirely different kinds of music with it. There was the potential to actually make money doing that. Nobody was hiring cello players. I played cello all the way through college in the Chamber Orchestra at Loyola Marymount.

RS: I knew, that could vary. When I went to Seattle last week—because occasionally I still do deliver kegs—it was Superfuzz Bigmuff by Mudhoney. The extended version, like the two-disc set, kept me occupied for quite a while. On the way back, it was probably Bowie’s Tin Machine.

SC: We’re getting into fall and the holiday season. What kind of seasonal brews should people look forward to?
RS: It’s currently October, and we’ve just released 4 beers. The last week of September we did the Fresh Hop festival. It was the first event that the Washington Beer Commission has done since the start of COVID. We released our Oktoberfest, of course. We’ve released our Pumpkin beer. We did the Great Pumpkin Beer Festival for Elysian – that was the first weekend in October. We were one of 30 brewers there—a pretty select group. And we did our Lemon Drop Pale, which is part of our Experimental Series.

SC: Tell us what’s coming up at the Rockfish in the near future.
RS: Of course, we continue to have live music here. In fact, we are one of the oldest live music venues in the Skagit Valley that continue to feature music on a regular basis. It was always part of our business model, me as a musician and Allen as a lover of music. We always, from day one, figured that this would be a place where we would have music. We didn’t know how the community would respond to it. We were quite pleased that they were as enthusiastic as we were about the whole idea.

So as soon as we were able to bring live music back, we did. We’ve continued to do that straight through, every Wednesday and every Saturday now. We’re committed to that. Wednesdays tend to be local acts, it’s hard for a group from Seattle to get up for a 5:00 load-in like a day gig. We have some great local acts, regional acts, and national acts as well.

We have Harp Attack coming up—that’s an example of a show that we’ve been doing for many years now. With the exception of last year it’s been an annual tradition. It’s hosted by Mark Dufresne and his band. Mark will put the lineup together and We’ll have two other local, excellent harp players who will be part of that. And that is Saturday, December 4th.

The Anacortes Rockfish Grill is located at 320 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes, WA. Check out their calendar of events at anacortesrockfish.com.
Anyone who has ever gotten lost in the liner notes knows that reading the lyrics of a song can give you a whole new perspective on a band or musician. Here we highlight the words of one song. Each piece of writing featured here has a unique Anacortes connection. This month we have lyrics from AMP’s forthcoming release, Terribly Quiet, a collection of songs from women of Fidalgo Island that came out of this turbulent year. This month we have lyrics from musician and songwriter, Caitlin Roberts.

**Pinpoint**
*by Caitlin Roberts*

small fear comes with hiding from reaction to the truth
i freeze; watch a wall go up
i dismiss that child’s defense
hold up tall
less deference
defend our pride
work for what’s right
ideal is broad and dull
an action is a pinpoint
worlds part; plain contrast
love alone can’t solve it
searchlight burns
on both ends
thought as a tool
not as a cage

**New Releases**

From Kellen Murphy:
*I Look to the Skies...*
Kellen is a 16-year-old multi-instrumentalist and songwriter from Anacortes. He was formerly the bassist/keyboards for Tripping Upstairs and is now the guitarist for Meta-noia. He challenged himself to record, mix, and master an album all by himself in a day. *I Look to the Skies...* is the result.
September 8, 2021
Cover art by Kellen Murphy

From Megadose:
*Wild & Free*
Megadose is a power pop outfit from Seattle, fronted by Stephen Steen, with support from James Kasinger, Laura Seniow, and Mikey Ferrario. The group’s roots originate from Steen’s hometown of Anacortes where he and guitarist Mikey Ferrario were inspired from a young age by a small but powerful community of DIY organizers, artists and musicians. They deliver punchy pop rock anthems punctuated by smooth guitar riffs and tight vocal harmonies.
released September 23, 2021
Cover art by Kiersten Amelia

From Young Hunks:
*In Your Area*
An indie rock band composed of vocalist and guitarist Jonah Umayam, bassist Mason Bakke, and drummer Brendan Hodgson, Young Hunks has quickly gained a large following for their energy, witty lyrics, and fluidity between music styles. *In Your Area* is their first full length album.
released October 31, 2021
Cover art by Maya Mendoza
**Share the Local Music Love!**

**Call for Contributors**
Show Chime is looking for volunteer contributors to help us cover the local music scene. Cover one show or become a regular contributor. Contact us at THESHOWCHIME@GMAIL.COM to start the conversation.

**Get in Touch!**
Want your music projects or shows mentioned in the Show Chime? Want to submit a piece of art or an article? Have ideas for Show Chime you’d like to share? Show Chime only happens because of people like you. We would love to hear from you! THESHOWCHIME@GMAIL.COM

**Anacortes Music Channel**
Do you know about the Anacortes Music Channel? One great pool of Anacortes music just churning away—24/7! Tune in day and night at anacortesmusicproject.org.

**Call for Band Bios**
The AMP archive of Bands, Venues, Shows, Compilations, Events, and Players is just getting started! We are compiling photos, videos, and music, along with details of each artist/band. We need help from the community to build out this amazing resource. If you want to have your band included, just fill out our Archive Questionnaire!

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**AMP’s Yule Bizarre Variety Show is What Started it All**
Five years ago some friends conjured up a wild rockin’ holiday party to celebrate the darkest time of the year. It was such a wholesome success, and highlighted so much local talent, the idea of a non-profit was born. AMP has become so many more things, but our foundation remains rooted in putting on incredibly fun shows. Don’t miss this year’s offering, get your tickets online before it is sold out!

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**Represent!**
Here at AMP we have big plans for the future. In addition to the promotion, publication, and distribution of the SHOW CHIME music calendar, AMP is committed to creating events that feature local musicians, developing a scholarship and mentoring program, continuing the development and collection of archives past and present, and shaping exciting visions for the future, such as a physical space for our community’s very own radio station and music space. Your support amplifies the music and musicians of Anacortes.

**Go to anacortesmusicproject.org and click on the sponsorship button.**

**Become an Amplifier!**
Becoming a monthly donor is easy, you can scan this code with your phone and choose the amount you would like to contribute to AMP each month. Your donation helps us pay our musicians and artists, fund our events and festivals, offer AMP music camps, and move into an amazing new venue space for all to enjoy!

**Stay in Anacortes**
Coming to Anacortes for a show? Stay the night! Check out the range of options at Anacortes.org/stay

**Thank You!**
Thank you to our monthly donors; Jessica Redman, Brenda Treadwell, Jenn White, Cami Velin, Lisa Jackson, and Jensen Lovelett! Thank you to our sponsoring businesses; Mugsy at The Red Snapper, Hal, Sheryl, and Erik at The Brown Lantern, Nick and Carolyn at Bikespot, Mark and Willy at Guemes Island General Store, Clay Christopherson at Farmstrong Brewing Company, Rick Star at Rockfish Bar and Grill, Barrett Community Caring Project, and the good folks at the Anacortes Food Coop. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Terrell, and Keith Eyer at How It Works. Thank you to Laurie Racicot for editing and design. This November issue of Show Chime was printed by How it Works and made possible by a grant from the Manieri Endowment. Getting the Show Chime to you each month is a community effort! This issue was written, edited, printed, distributed, and probably read on the traditional lands of Samish, Skagit, Swinomish, and Puget Sound Salish people.