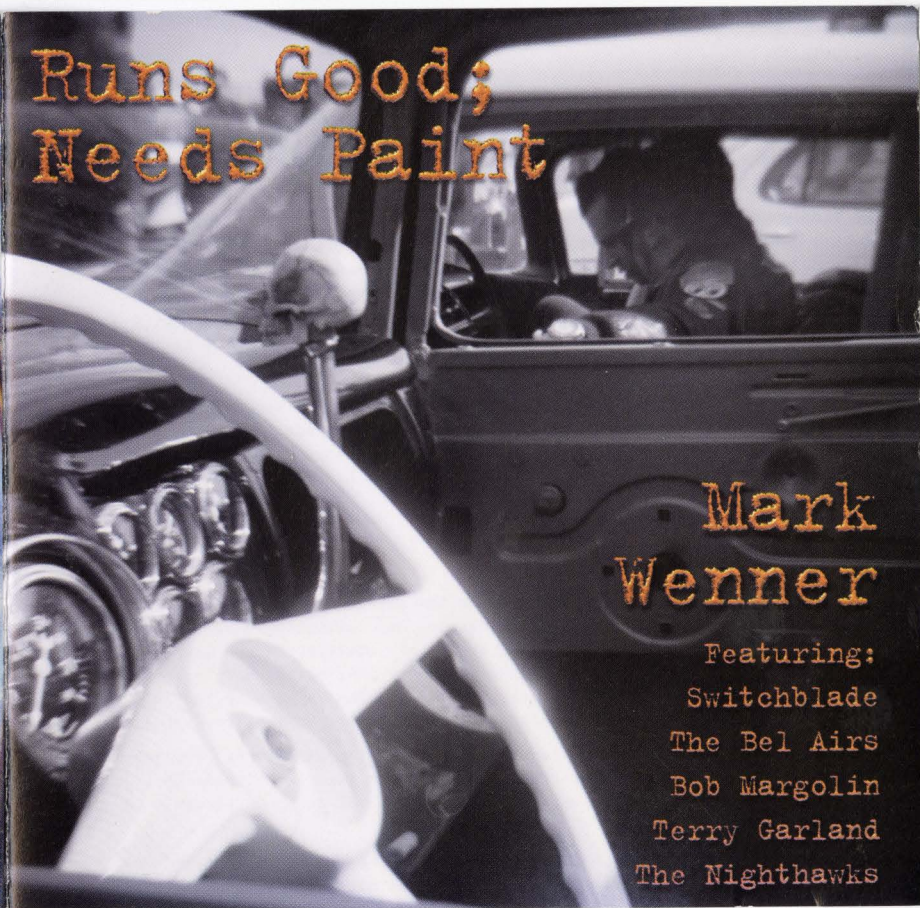




Runs Good; Needs Paint



Mark
Wenner

Featuring:
Switchblade
The Bel Airs
Bob Margolin
Terry Garland
The Nighthawks

SWITCHBLADE

The nucleus of Switchblade was The Bad Boys, as in Tex Rabinowitz and..., most famous as trailblazers in the D.C. rockabilly scene and for their two-sided hit on the Bethesda Tastee Diner's jukebox, Hot Rod Man and Bad Boy. Switchblade opened for the Nighthawks at the University of Maryland and fired off with Link Wray's Run Chicken Run. I was an instant fan!

The lineup was Ratso and Eddie Angel (Los Straightjackets) on guitars, Johnny Castle on bass and Jimmy Daugherty on drums. By the time we began to collaborate, Steuart Smith had left Root Boy Slim and replaced Eddie. The combination of Steuart's finesse and Ratso's raw power made for an incredible sound.

By the time we recorded Fugitive at Wally Cleaver's in January 1984, Giles Cook had replaced Jimmy on drums. Giles was a power hitter who left piles of sawdust around the drums in the studio. He now owns the 8x10 club in Baltimore.

Pete Ragusa took over drum chores for the 1996 Switchblade reunion shows. Johnny now plays with Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun, and still carries the heavy bottom on bass as well as the high lonesome hillbilly harmony. The approach we took on our work together can be described as Paul Butterfield meets Link Wray at a honky tonk on Route 301 after midnight.

BOB MARGOLIN

In the 70's, Bob Margolin played guitar in the Muddy Waters band. Friendly and approachable, Bob became the roving ambassador and connection between a scattered group of young blues bands and players around the country. He was the first to play live radio tapes of the Fabulous Thunderbirds for me—I nearly had to stop the car I was so impressed. This opened the door for the Nighthawks to host the T-Birds at our Blue Monday at the Bayou series and for them to connect us to our first Austin gigs.

In 1972 and 1973 Charlie Hubel, Jimmy Thackery and I would attend every show Muddy played at the Cellar Door in D.C. Two shows a night for five nights. This was no mean feat for three very poor musicians! We arrived as early as possible to commandeer the front table.

By 1976 the Hawks were always Muddy's opening act at the Cellar Door as well as at venues from Philly to Atlanta. Bob began spending his off time in D.C., virtually

becoming the fifth Nighthawk. In 1986 and 1987 Bob filled in for the recently departed Thackery on a number of shows, including the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival (along with Jim Solberg) and the prestigious Peer Festival in Belgium.

Bob relocated to the D.C. area following his departure from Muddy's band. He moved into a house with Tom Principato and Steve Jacobs and began playing the local circuit as band leader. His first solo release, The Old School, was recorded at Wally Cleaver's in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and released on Principato's Powerhouse label. I was co-producer and harp player on those sessions. Bob, along with Jeff Sarli and Big Joe Maher, also recorded with me at Wally Cleaver's for my Nothin' But album. During the late 80's and throughout the 90's I have been a frequent guest with his band. In spring '99 I got to join Bob and Pinetop Perkins for a wonderful set at the Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival.

THE BEL AIRS

The Bel Airs from Columbia, Missouri, is one of the very best roots music bands in America. For two decades they have toured extensively in the Heartland. Powered by the magic of the Pruitt brothers, Dick on bass and David on guitar, the Bel Air's repertoire ranges from lowdown blues to sweet Memphis soul. Their sound is a natural for much of the material I have done with them, live and on my 1988 solo release, Nothin' But.

Nashville's Mike Henderson played slide guitar and harp in the initial lineup and can be heard on the band's 1985 Blind Pig release, I Need Me a Car. Following his departure the band became a trio.

In 1987, with the future of the Nighthawks up in the air, I joined the Bel Airs for some great tours. We played throughout the Midwest and mid-Atlantic. I even missed a John Lee Hooker tour with Pete Ragusa and Jan Zukowski because I was having too much fun with the Bel Airs in Kansas and Nebraska.

Dick handles most of the lead vocals but David sings as well. The brothers' extra special magic is their harmonies, a sound that has earned them the name "the Everly Brothers of the blues."

Mike Cherry joined the band on drums in 1994, replacing long-time drummer Pat O'Connor. Pat's loose, swinging backbeat shuffle groove can be heard on Nothin' But.

The band's latest CD, Hoo Doo Party, was released on Blueberry Hill Records in 1999.

TERRY GARLAND

Originally from northeast Tennessee, Terry Garland made his mark in Richmond, Virginia, as a member of the popular band, the Offenders, contemporary with the early Nighthawks. A long-time friend by way of keyboard player Greg Wetzel, Terry called me to play on his first solo recording, Trouble in Mind, an acoustic blues session. What followed was years of national and international dates together as a dynamic duo, from regular Sunday nights at Colonial Seafood in Fredericksburg to a high profile slot at the Brugge Blues Festival in Belgium. I have played on most of Terry's recordings and asked him to join me for an instrumental session at Wally Cleaver's.

THE NIGHTHAWKS

Since 1972, when I formed the Nighthawks with Jimmy Thackery, the band has been my life, my career, my livelihood, my obsession. My partnership with Pete Ragusa and Jan Zukowski now spans more than twenty-five years and includes as many recordings. Pete Kanaras from Poughkeepsie, New York, joined the band as guitarist in 1995.

—Mark Wenner

When Mark Wenner asked me if Right on Rhythm would be interested in a project he was working on, the answer was yes without hesitation. I viewed it as a great opportunity to dig around more in the blues scene/history of the D.C. area that Mark has had a great hand in developing and nurturing. The live cuts of Switchblade, though a little rough in sound, show a band that knew how to rock the house down. When he came up with the title "Runs Good; Needs Paint," I viewed it as a stroke of genius. Put the headphones on, turn it up and you'll swear you are standing right in front of these guys in a hot club setting, dripping with energy. Add in Mark's work with Bob Margolin and Jeff Sarli, The Bel Airs and Terry Garland and you end up with a vehicle that still gives you a great ride.

—Wayne Kahn

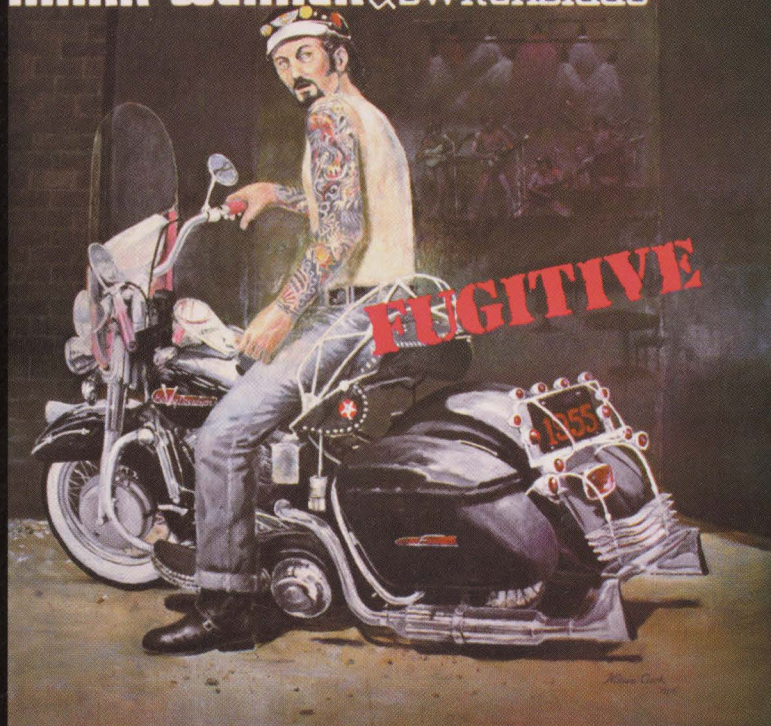
MARK WENNER



NOTHIN' BUT ...



MARK WENNER & switchblade



1. Back to the City 4:03
(Wenner, Ragusa, Zukowski, Thackery;
Nighthawks Music, BMI)
January 1984, Wally Cleaver's,
Fredericksburg, Virginia
Peter Bonta: engineer
Mark Wenner: producer
Ratso (Jim Silman): guitar, back-up vocals
Steuart Smith: guitar, back-up vocals
Johnny Castle: bass, back-up vocals
Giles Cook: drums
Mark Wenner: harmonica, lead vocals
2. Too Much 2:59
(Bernard Weinman; Elvis Presley Music,
BMI, Southern Belle Music, BMI)
January 1996, Tornado Alley,
Wheaton, Maryland
Jim Barnett: engineer
Chris Murphy: house mix
Same personnel as #1 except
Pete Ragusa: drums
3. Lonesome Fugitive 3:07
(C. Anderson, E. Anderson; Acuff Rose
Music Inc., BMI)
same as #2
4. Shade Tree Mechanic 6:38
(W. Godbold, A. Prestage, J. Shamwell;
Malaco Music Company, BMI)
same as #2
5. Honky Tonk Hardwood Floor 4:39
(Margaret Ann Patterson; BMI)
same as #2
6. The Wild One 2:44
(Merle Kilgore, Tilman Franks; Universal
Cedarwood Publishing, BMI)
same as #2
7. So Lonesome I Could Cry 2:53
(Hank Williams; Acuff Rose Music Inc., BMI)
same as #1
8. Love's Gonna Live Here 3:54
(A. Owens Jr.; Sony/ATV Songs LLC, BMI)
same as #2
9. Too Young to Know 3:14
(McKinley Morganfield; Watertoons, BMI)
1987 Wally Cleaver's,
Fredericksburg, Virginia
Peter Bonta: engineer
Mark Wenner: producer
- Bob Margolin: guitar, back-up vocal
Jeff Sarli: upright bass
Big Joe Maher: drums
Mark Wenner: harmonica, lead vocals
10. Rollin' and Tumblin' 3:14
(McKinley Morganfield; Arc Music, BMI)
same as #9
11. Made up my Mind 3:02
(J. West; Excello Music, BMI)
same as #9 except
The Bel Airs
Dave Pruitt: guitar, back-up vocals
Dick Pruitt: bass, back-up vocals
Pat O'Connor: drums
12. Chitlins Con Carne 4:34
(Tyrone G. Smith; Phenomena Music, BMI)
same as #11
13. I Want to Be Loved 3:22
(Willie Dixon; Hoochie Coochie Music, BMI)
September 1998, Cue Studio,
Falls Church, Virginia
Chris Murphy: engineer
Jim Solberg and Mark Wenner: producers
The Nighthawks
Pete Kanaras: guitar
Pete Ragusa: drums
Jan Zukowski: bass
Also Darryl Davis: piano
14. Amazing Grace 2:22
(traditional)
1994, Wally Cleaver's,
Fredericksburg, Virginia
Peter Bonta: engineer
Terry Garland: National steel guitar
Mark Wenner: harmonica
All tracks remastered 1999, E.O.P.
Recording, Bethesda, Maryland
Richard Krents: engineer
Front and back cover photos: Jim Chaconas
Skull shifter photo: Mark Wenner
Fugitive cover art: Bill Clark
Nothin' But cover art: Alex Van Keuren
CD layout design: Jer Olsen

Mark Wenner plays Hohner harmonicas

Runs Good; Needs Paint

Mark Wenner



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