

# LIVE ENTERTAINMENT TOUR:

## Leon Smith & Friends

by Mary Barton

Outdoor Resorts of America (ORA) is proud to announce a year of complimentary entertainment featuring the music of former Marathon Coach sales manager Leon Smith and friends. As a former Top-40 record holder for his hit single, *Little Forty Ford*, Leon has years of experience playing music and entertaining crowds. His first-class tour, showcasing at ORA's Rancho California, Port St. Lucie, Pacific Shores and The Ozarks, will feature a bevy of well-known entertainers.

A former member of *The Ventures* rock and roll group, Nokie Edwards, who was nominated for a 2004 Grammy Award for his *20th Century Gospel* album, will join Leon in the show. Merle Travis' son, Thom Bresh, who has two Grammy awards, will appear along with Buster B. Jones, who was the 1990 winner of the National Fingerpicking Championship held yearly in Winfield, Kansas. Other entertainers to stop by will include Paul Biondi, who is one of the better saxophonists, better horn players that you'll ever hear, as well as Bobby Gibson, who puts on an amazing acoustical guitar show.

Leon and his wife Sherry will act as host and hostess for the events. As Leon commented, "It is really great that we have this opportunity to play at the ORAs. It

gives Sherry and me a chance to work together, and we've got a lot of friends out there. The one thing that we really want to stress is how much we enjoy seeing all the Marathon people, the Prevost Prouds people, and the owners at Outdoor Resorts because we've been associating with them for years. It's really, really neat to get to see them again. And quite frankly, it's fun to be back in the entertainment business after 32 years off. We're going to do 15 events in 12 months for ORA."

If you can't attend the concerts, you may want to order Leon's CDs. The CD, *Leon Smith: 1958-1963*, is a compilation of Leon's early rock and roll recordings, while *The Smith Kid Rides Again* CD has every type of music on it, except classical.

Leon explained the variety of songs on his CDs: "*60 Minute Man* is an upbeat, almost Louie Prima kind of a blues song. *Questions on My Mind* is a soft folk song that I wrote. *Only My Heart* is an instrumental that is just a real pretty song that a guitar player that



I'm acquainted with wrote. *Big Boss Man* is an old Jimmy Reed blues song; *Faded Love* is an old country song, but I do it a little different. Of course *Georgia on my Mind*, is *Georgia on my Mind*. *Empty Chapel*, this fellow and I wrote that: It is a classic country song. *Working Man Blues* started out as a country song with Merle Haggard—I don't do it that way. *Happy for Sam* is a thumb-style fingerpicking song that I

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wrote, a guitar instrumental. *You Don't Know Me* is the same Ray Charles thing that has been done so many times. *Time* is a Roy Orbison kind of song, and *Frankly* is just a little instrumental tid-bit that I put together. There are just so many different types of music."

"My other album (*Leon Smith: 1958-1963*), is strictly dated '58 to '63 rock and roll. It's all of our original material that we did back then. We got real lucky with one. We had a Top-40 record out of one of them and a lot of activity out of another."

"I did a show a year ago September for a "Rockabilly" faction in the Seattle area, just kind of a nostalgic event. They asked me to do this as another example of early rock 'n roll in the Northwest. So that is what started the process of that compilation. People have been so warm and so wonderful to us. It has been great. They were pressing real hard for us to do the CD, so we went ahead and did both of them."

## **St. Lucie West**

*March 5*

800 N.W. Peacock Boulevard  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
(866) 456-2303

## **Rancho California RV Resort**

*March 19, September 10, October 22*

45525 Highway 79 South  
Aguanga, CA 92536  
(888) 767-0848

## **Pacific Shores**

*May 7, July 9, July 30, August 20*

6225 North Coast Highway 101  
Newport, OR 97365  
(800) 333-1583

## **The Ozarks**

*May 28, June 18,*

*September 24, October 8*  
1229 County Road 663  
Oak Grove (Blue Eye), AR 72660  
(888) 749-7396

"The *Leon Smith Rides Again* CD came largely from the fact that a lot of the Marathon coach owners requested it," Sherry added.

Contact Marathon boutique manager Teri Moser at (800) 234-9991 to receive your copy of Leon's CDs, or you may order the CDs

online at [leonsmithmusic@aol.com](mailto:leonsmithmusic@aol.com). For more information about the concerts, contact Outdoor Resorts of America. •