

JAG FEST

April 3rd was a busy day for the small town of Southbridge, Massachusetts. This was the date of the 6th annual JAGFEST put on by Craig Gaumond and the crew from Dirtnap Entertainment. **T&D issue 11** had an article by Chuck about JAGFEST and what it's all about. It is a charity event, so please check the article out if you missed it and support JAGFEST in the future.

Tool & Die was invited to be a part of it as a sponsor and it was a privilege to have done so. Held at the Artist Development Complex, there were approximately 40 bands scheduled to play divided amongst 3 stages within the same building. A logistical nightmare in its own right, not considering some of the other challenges Murphy's Law would bring; like just before starting the elevator gets stuck for over an hour between the 1st and 2nd floors, with one of the stage managers in it! Overall, it was a well run operation, there are just some things you cannot plan for!

We traveled out there early Saturday morning with the band Augustine, who was to play at 1:30pm then drive back home for a gig that night in Syracuse. We arrive just about 11am, and things were starting to get busy as bands were arriving from all over. Chuck and Brand New Sin had driven out the day before and played Friday night elsewhere in Mass., so they show up at the venue shortly after we did. Music started around 12:30 and went nonstop on all 3 stages till well after midnight. Cyn was a trooper spending most of her day manning the **Tool & Die** table while Chuck and I bounced around the

3 different stages checking out the bands. So other than the bands I already knew and heard before, such as Bone Jar and Stonewall (whose set I missed, dammit!), and of course Augustine and Brand New Sin, I had an opportunity to watch some of the bands that have been in past issues of **Tool & Die**. On stage 2 which is where the **T&D** table was, I watched Mercury Wings, a somewhat new band that I was impressed with, Roadhorse was there, interviewed in **T&D** issue 11, and



Our T&D Table, photo by Hop. Stop by to say "hi"!

Vinny from Roadhorse pulled up out front on the Roadhorse bike that was featured in **T&D** issue 10. Whiskey Chapel was another memorable band, Spider Rockets played and you'll be seeing an interview with them in a future issue. Then there was Craig's band Fuel of War playing on stage 1, I had to check them out and they absolutely rocked!

It was good meeting so many musicians and others throughout the day, getting to know a little about them and/or their bands and spreading the word of the **Tool & Die Zine**. Since there was so much going on and no way to keep up with everything, I asked for some input from a few people that were there. Here is what they said:

Vinny from Roadhorse:
www.myspace.com/roadhorse1

We had a fun time playing. Dirtnap are really great people to work with, good venue & sound as well. Ok, there could have been a bigger turnout this year but still; lots of bands, lots of talent and we were happy to be a part of it. I also personally enjoyed being able to ride my scooter to the gig; which doesn't happen very often cuz I usually drive the band van!

Tim Cabral, Bassist, Mercury Wings:
www.myspace.com/mercurywings

Jagfest was definitely a great opportunity for us (Mercury Wings). We got to perform in front of a great crowd and gain some new contacts. We played on stage 2 alongside awesome bands like Whiskey Chapel, Kobra Kai and Dangerous Toys. Also we were able to get a live recording of our set and a video interview. Both the music video and interview will appear on the Jagfest 2010 DVD.

I think we left a good mark on Jagfest. It was a fun show and I hope we are able to be a part of it next year as well.

Ozzy, Bone Jar:
www.bonejar.com

Jagfest was a great event with a great cause, supporting animals in need of care and a scholarship fund inspired by a brother who had passed away. The trip was long but the visit was well worth it. The event space (Artist Development Complex) was amazing with 3 different sized bar areas and we played in the largest of the three

that could hold a couple thousand people. The building was perfect for such an event which was holding different genres in different areas of the complex.

As for the highlights, well networking was the best part in which we got to mingle with a lot of other bands and some famous names in the rock industry. Local bands we were able to connect with as well some larger ones including Murder League All Stars and some members of Shadows Fall that have a sweet cover band Cobra Kai. Craig, the event coordinator, was great and the experience was amazing. Thanks to all of our new friends and fans that made the event what it was. It was definitely a noteworthy experience.

Josh, Fuel Of War, Lead guitar:
www.myspace.com/fuelofwarmetal

Jagfest was an excellent experience for us as a band coming up in the ranks of Massachusetts Metal. The crowd was one of the best we have had in quite a while and gave off tons of energy for us and we gave just as much back. It was a fantastic event for meeting new people not only fans but also in a business sense as well. We as a whole enjoy giving back to our respective communities, so it was a great feeling to give back by participating in Jagfest 2010 and we would do it again in a heartbeat.



Craig Gaumond

Mercury Wings photo by Angie Santos "borrowed" from Myspace



RoadHorse photo "borrowed" from Myspace



Augustine photo by Cyn



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