

# A ROCK AND ROLL EVENT



BOOKING INFO CONTACT FRED DAWSON

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PHONE: 302-999-9330

[www.clubphred.com](http://www.clubphred.com)



Photos Creative Image Photo & Video

"Jamming with Club Phred is really fun. They play all of my favorite tunes. They are all really nice people that collectively have a "vibe." All great players on their instruments. Playing with Club Phred is like having dinner at someone's house."

**-Late Show with David Letterman  
Musician Tom "Bones" Malone**



## About Club Phred-

Club Phred is a group of musicians who on average have over thirty years of professional experience. We all share a love of classic 60's and 70's music and have deep roots in the Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey tri-state area. Club Phred formed in 2002 and has performed with the likes of **Mark Farner Formerly of Grand Funk Railroad** and opened up for **Pete Best the original drummer of "The Beatles"** and **The Marshall Tucker Band**.

Club Phred has won numerous awards from the Delaware media and has helped various charitable organizations raise in excess of \$2,200,000 since 2004.



**-VOTED #1 LOCAL BAND 2004 & 2007**

**-VOTED LOCAL BAND FINALIST  
2005, 2006, 2009, 2010**



**-VOTED #1 LOCAL  
BAR BAND 2005**

\*Club Phred is available for corporate events, private events, and concert/club venues.

# What Clients Say



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“Playin w/Club Phred was a gas – certainly not some amateur band... all you guys (& gal) sounded really great.” – ***Bruce Kalper Saxophonist/Late Show with David Letterman Musician***

“Jamming with Club Phred is really fun. They play all of my favorite tunes. They are all really nice people that collectively have a “vibe.” All great players on their instruments. Playing with Club Phred is like having dinner at someone’s house.” – ***Tom “Bones” Malone/Late Show with David Letterman Musician***

“Just watched Club Phred’s video! You guy’s rock! Can’t wait to sit in!” – ***Micky Dolenz***

“Bravo! Bravo!! Bravo!!! What a FABULOUS EVENING!!! Everyone who attended your performance at the conclusion of our dance-a-thon has been raving and already asking for an encore. Old, middle-aged, and young couldn’t help but dance to your music. You have enchanted us and we are adoring fans! Thank you so very much for helping our young people to organize a fund raiser and to rally the older members of our congregation to join them in an evening of fun. It was a great blending of ages and it was inspiring to see how they supported each other and shared the common love of music and Club Phred. I think that our young people saw that older folk are really just older kids. Thank you very, very much!!” – ***Annette Mehan/The young and old people of First Presbyterian Church***

“Just returned from our class reunion where your band was a real hit! We enjoyed your Motown Medley, Lady Marmalade and the saxophone the best. Thank you all for providing so many memories through your music.” – ***Linda L. Gerace***

“WOW – what a way to ring in the new year! Thanks so much for another great New Year’s Eve! Last year we attended your party and had a rockin good time! We were invited back for year #2 and we are hooked! Club Phred – you rock!” – ***Pam Chambers***

“I recently had Club Phred play at my graduation party. With over 80 people at the party, not one person had a complaint. The band sounded great and they were a delight to be around. I am just trying to come up with another excuse for a party so I can have them play again. I could not have asked for a better graduation party and Club Phred was one of the main reasons it was so great. Thank again guys!” – ***Nick DeCaire***

“You guys made the Boeing V-22 Office Party simply the Event of the Year around here! Spectacular music, great time, but most important – wonderful people who know how to have fun the old fashioned way...!! Keep it up and we want you back..!!” – ***Chuck Yerspo***

# Songs covered by



A Whiter Shade Of Pale  
Bad Time  
Born To Be Wild  
Brown Eyed Girl  
China Grove  
Dancing in the Street  
Devil With The Blue Dress On  
Domino  
Europa  
Evil Ways  
Footstompin Music  
Georgia On My Mind  
Gimme Some Lovin'  
Givin' It Up  
Good Lovin'  
Green Eyed Lady  
Groovin'  
Heart Of Rock And Roll  
Heat Wave  
Higher And Higher  
I Can't Turn You Loose  
I Got A Line  
I'll Be Around  
In The Midnight Hour  
Jenny Jenny (867-5309)  
Knock On Wood  
Lady Marmelade  
Locomotion  
Long Train Running  
Maybe I'm Amazed  
Mony Mony  
Mustang Sally  
Ooh, Baby, Baby  
Rescue Me  
Respect  
Secret Agent Man  
Shotgun  
Soul Man  
Spooky  
Summer Of 69  
Unchain My Heart  
Walk Away  
What I Like About You  
Wild Night  
You Belong To The City

PROCOL HARUM  
GRAND FUNK RAILROAD  
STEPPENWOLF  
VAN MORRISON  
DOOBIE BROTHERS  
MARTHA & THE VANDELLAS  
MITCH RYDER & THE DETROIT WHEELS  
VAN MORRISON  
SANTANA  
SANTANA  
GRAND FUNK RAILROAD  
RAY CHARLES  
SPENCER DAVIS GROUP  
DELBERT McCLINTON  
THE YOUNG RASCALS  
SUGARLOAF  
THE YOUNG RASCALS  
HUEY LOUIS & THE NEWS  
LINDA RONSTADT  
JACKIE WILSON  
OTIS REDDIN  
SPIRIT  
THE SPINNERS  
WILSON PICKETT  
TOMMY TUTONE  
OTIS REDDING  
PATTI LaBELLE  
GRAND FUNK RAILROAD  
DOOBIE BROTHERS  
PAUL McCARTNEY & WINGS  
BILLY IDOL  
WILSON PICKETT  
SMOKEY ROBINSON & THE MIRACLES  
ARETHA FRANKLIN  
ARETHA FRANKLIN  
JOHNNY RIVERS  
JUNIOR WALKER & THE ALL STARS  
THE BLUES BROTHERS  
ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION  
BRYAN ADAMS  
JOE COCKER  
JOE WALSH  
THE ROMANTICS  
JOHN MELLENCAMP  
GLENN FREY/EAGLES

# Charitable Organization Performances



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**485<sup>TH</sup> ARMY CM BN GOLDEN DRAGONS FAMILY READINES GROUP**  
**ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**  
**AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY**  
**AMYLOIDOSIS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**AUTISM SOCIETY OF DELAWARE**  
**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF DELAWARE**  
**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MARYLAND**  
**CAB CALLOWAY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS SPIRIT MARCHING BAND**  
**CHRISTIANA CARE MARATHON**  
**CHRISTINA EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FUND**  
**DELAWARE BREAST CANCER COALITION**  
**DELAWARE FEDERATION OF HOUSING COUNSELORS**  
**DELAWARE HIV CONSORTIUM/AIDS WALK DELAWARE**  
**DOWNTOWN NEWARK PARTNERSHIP**  
**FOOD BANK OF DELAWARE**  
**FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES/JIMMY DURANTE FOUNDATION**  
**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**  
**HOCKESSIN MEMORIAL FIRE HALL**  
**JONATHAN KREWATCH FOUNDATION**  
**KINFOLK**  
**MARCH OF DIMES**  
**MISSIONAIRES IN HAITI**  
**NEWARK ARTS ALLIANCE**  
**NEWARK FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**NEWARK MORNING ROTARY CLUB**  
**OPERATION AMERICA RISING BENEFIT**  
**REBEKA G. LEITHREN FOUNDATION**  
**THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE – WILMINGTON DE**  
**TOWER HILL SCHOOL-GREEN & WHITE CLUB**  
**UPPER BAY COUNSELING**  
**WAVE OF RELIEF CONCERT SERIES/RED CROSS (TSUNAMI RELIEF)**  
**WELLNESS COMMUNITY**  
**WILMINGTON VA HOSPITAL – WELCOME HOME THE TROOPS**



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**IN THE NEWS**

## **Wearing ties in line at Deer Park**

**By JIM STREIT**

NEWARK POST STAFF WRITER

THIS TIME of the year, it's not unusual, even on a weeknight, to see a queue in front the Deer Park Tavern, a parade of patrons waiting to enter the historic watering hole.

However, it is unusual when those lined up are sporting coats and ties or wearing high heels.

Such was the case one Thursday evening last fall when the Downtown Newark Partnership hosted its annual fall mixer. It is an autumnal opportunity for fellowship and networking that draws Newark businesspeople. Each year, the DNP fills the second floor of the Deer Park with a steady stream of well-dressed, business card-carrying hand-shakers.

However, last fall we had so many attendees that a line was required. As someone left the second floor, another businessperson was allowed up. It was crazy.

The crowd draw was the first public performance of a classic rock-and-roll band now named Club Phred.

The ensemble of middle-aged musicians was formed two years ago by Newark native Fred Dawson. All band members at one time were professional musicians. Some had dreams of making the big time. Eventually, all got real jobs and music became a dormant avocation.

Until 2002.

Now, each Tuesday night in Dawson's basement, a financial advisor, a lawyer, a city building inspector, two furniture salesmen and others gather to practice.

Even though each has a successful career and all are busy, they plan their schedules around the Tuesday night jam sessions.

Dawson and attorney Mark Sisk, both fellow Rotarians, tell me Club Phred has brought a new dimension to their lives. Other band members echo this devotion to the band.

Dawson, who describes himself as "a legend in his own mind," plays his classic 60s rocking Hammond B-3 organ. (Do you like "Good Lovin"?) Sisk, a columnist for this paper, plays rhythm guitar and attempts to pass himself off as a vocalist. Both played in Newark-area bands when they were in their teens.

I watched the legendary Peter Frampton play at the Grand and he is no better than Club Phred lead guitarist Keith Ayars (though Frampton did at one time have much curlier hair). Last summer, Ayars played with his high school classmate, Bruce Willis, and Grand Funk Railroad's Mark Farner on stage in Atlantic City. (I was there but prefer not to publicly offer details. Let me just say I did not go to school with Keith and Bruce).

Ayars and drummer Augie Parodi are furniture salespeople at Good's. For years, Augie and his father have played at Three Little Bakers.

A claims processor at the Veterans Administration, keyboardist Kathy Littlefield is also the group's bluesy vocalist.

City of Newark employee Brian Daring complements the others with his skilled bass playing.

The only professional musician in the bunch is Bouncin' Vinnie Vinciguerra. His spirited and sometimes soulful alto sax adds depth to Club Phred.

This mid-life-crisis band plays good ol' rock-and-roll classics from the 60s and 70s.

And, trust me, they are good. That's why there was a line in front of the Deer Park last fall. The music was so good, none of those attending the DNP mixer left. Not bad for a band's first public performance.

Those of you turned away last fall and any person interested in supporting a good cause can hear the band on Tuesday, March 23, when they return to the second floor at the Deer Park for their second out-of-basement appearance. Shows are planned at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Deer Park owner Bob Ashby is furnishing the room, sound tech and heavy hors d'oeuvres. That allows most of the \$20 per person fee to go directly to the coffers of the non-profit Christina Educational Enrichment Fund.

I've written about CEEF before; it's a devoted group of volunteers that work to honor outstanding youthful citizens within the Christina School District.

Now, this is just a guess, but if history predicts the future, there will be a line again on March 23. Space is limited at both shows.

If you want to help honor good kids in Christina schools and enjoy some good classic rock while doing so, I urge you to reserve today by calling Carla Grygiel of CEEF, 832-5879, or e-mail your reservation to [ceef@dca.net](mailto:ceef@dca.net)

That's worth standing in line for.

**When not wishing he could play more than just a radio, the writer is publisher of this and two other Delaware newspapers. Old 45 r.p.m.'s of "Evil Ways" and "Time Won't Let Me" often can be heard being played loud outside the family home in the Cherry Hill neighborhood of Newark.**

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Contact the *Newark Post* at: [newpost@dca.net](mailto:newpost@dca.net).

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## Local band headlines benefit Club Phred will play at Christina fund-raiser

By **MICHELE BESSO**  
Staff reporter  
03/22/2004

The Christina School District Educational Enrichment Fund is planning a fund-raiser Tuesday at the Deer Park Tavern, featuring Club Phred, a Newark-area rock band.

The fund is a nonprofit group that supports the Christina School District and provides scholarships and awards to students who display citizenship and leadership skills. There are college scholarships for seniors and summer camp opportunities for younger students.

The group also plans to recognize about 60 students at a banquet later this spring, Executive Director Carla Grygiel said. She hopes the Deer Park event will raise \$3,000.

The fund typically gives away \$10,000 to \$15,000 in awards each year. Its major fund-raiser, the Office Professional Appreciation Luncheon, is set April 23 at the Hotel du Pont. That event will recognize district staff members.

A major selling point at Tuesday's benefit will be Club Phred, formerly known as "The Banned," an ensemble of self-proclaimed middle-aged musicians formed two years ago by Newark native Fred Dawson, a local financial adviser. The seven-member band plays classic rock from the '60s and '70s and also features Newark attorney Mark Sisk, 51, on rhythm guitar, and Brian Daring, 48, on bass. Daring works for Newark's building department.

Dawson, 54, an enrichment fund board member, plays the organ and said he has appeared with several recording stars, including Micky Dolenz of The Monkees.

The band played their first gig to a packed house at the Downtown Newark Partnership's fifth anniversary event at Deer Park. Grygiel said she hopes about 200 people will attend on Tuesday.

Reach Michele Besso at 838-3187 or [mbesso@delawareonline.com](mailto:mbesso@delawareonline.com).



Mark Sisk (left), Brian Daring and the rest of Club Phred will play at Deer Park Tavern on Tuesday.

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Club Phred playing at benefit for Christina Educational Enrichment Fund

**WHEN:** Tuesday. First show: 5:30 to 7 p.m.  
Second show: 7:30 to 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Deer Park Tavern, 108 W. Main St., Newark. Free heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. \$20 per person (covers food and cover charge)

**INFORMATION:** Call Carla Grygiel at (302) 832-5879.

## Arts & Entertainment

# Local band creates series to benefit charities

By Kevin Barrett  
Staff Reporter

A few weeks ago, the seven piece, classic rock band "Club Phred" helped raise more than \$5,500 for the medical expenses of a young woman, Laura, who is fighting Leukemia.

The band is hoping to help raise money for other charitable causes, as well, with a Monday night concert series which is being held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Shaggy's on Main in Newark.

The award-winning band, which was founded in 2002 and has opened for several well-known artists including The Marshall Tucker Band, is scheduled to play at Shaggy's on many Monday nights for the next few months said Fred Dawson, 57, of Yorklyn, organist for and co-founder of Club Phred.

The money for the charities is raised through the cover charge at the door - \$10 for the general public and \$2 for University of Delaware students. Dawson said that half of the money raised through the door charge goes to the charity, and the other half goes to Club Phred. What's nice, he said, is that the arrangement is completely safe for the charity - all the charity needs to do is provide people to guard the door. The arrangement also poses no risk to Shaggy's or the band, he said.

"The bottom line is that no one is at risk for anything significant, except for a little time," Dawson said.

The band has been attempting to create a benefit series for about nine months, Dawson said. In fact, he said, the series was set to be held at Kahunaville before it closed, and at one time there was also the possibility of it being held at Three Little Bakers in Pike Creek. Shaggy's is a great environment for the series, Dawson said, because it is well-lit, clean, has a great sound system, and the staff is extremely friendly. So far, Dawson said, everything has worked out very well with Shaggy's, and owner Joe Van Horn has been extraordinarily helpful.

The series is beneficial to the band as well as the charities, Dawson said, because it gives the band exposure. Getting paid is not the goal, he said, although it is nice for the band to make a little money, especially because a couple of the bands members drive from New Jersey. The ultimate goal,



Greenville financial advisor Fred Dawson (third from left) leads Club Phred, a classic rock band that also includes Mark Sisk, A.J. Malme, Kathy Layfield, Brian Daring, Keith Ayars, and Gaetano Vinceguerra.

he said, is helping charities - something the band does frequently. He said that, in the past few years, the band has helped raise more than \$400,000 for charities, and the band rarely turns down playing a gig for free if it is for a charitable purpose.

"Being 57 years of age, everyone of the charities we're playing for have directly or indirectly influenced people I know and love," Dawson said.

The first two benefit concerts at Shaggy's, which were precursors to the actual series - the first was for the woman who is fighting Leukemia, who is a friend of Dawson's, and the second was for the Christina Educational Enrichment Fund - were very successful, Dawson said. Club Phred did not share in the proceeds of the first two concerts.

The first official concert in the series, he said, was held on February 26 to benefit the Wellness Community, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free emotional support, education and hope for people with cancer and their loved ones. That concert, he said, was not very successful, with only about 50 people being in attendance. Because only about \$500 was raised, he said, Club Phred did not share in the proceeds from that concert, either.

While the first concert was somewhat of a disappointment, Dawson said he generally is optimistic about the series. Club Phred has a following, he

said, but the success of the series is also largely dependant on the efforts of the charity in terms of it getting its supporters to attend. Furthermore, he said, as time goes on, he expects more and more adults in the Newark area to view Shaggy's as a destination for dining and socialization. The band is also working to

find more charities that would like to benefit from the series.

"I'm thinking this whole thing, if done properly and given time to evolve and grow, can be nothing but a win-win-win for everyone," Dawson said.

Also, Dawson said, Mondays are generally a slow night at Shaggy's and

for restaurants and bars in general - something that he is hoping his benefit concert series will change. In anticipation of such, Dawson has created a slogan for the series - "Monday is the new Friday".

Van Horn said he also thinks the benefit series is a win-win-win situation for everyone, and that

### PERFORMANCES

Upcoming Club Phred performances in the series include March 26 to benefit the American Cancer Society, April 2 to benefit the Autism Society of Delaware, and April 23 to benefit the Delaware HIV Consortium. More information on Club Phred and the their benefit series is available at [www.clubphred.com](http://www.clubphred.com).

Shaggy's regularly hosts fund-raising events. There are benefit series concerts lined up, he said, until July, and the series could possibly on even longer than that.

Van Horn said he provides a space for the band to play, use of his sound system and technician, and \$100 in food and drink to Club Phred. The benefit to his establishment, he said, is the exposure it gets from the series, as it attracts people who might not normally patronize Shaggy's.

"It's a chance for me to expose different people to the restaurant," Van Horn said.

In addition to Dawson, who plays a 400-pound Hammond B3 organ, there are six other members of Club Phred - Keith Ayars, Brian Daring, Kathy Layfield, Mark Sis, Gaetano "Vince" Vinceguerra, and A.J. Malme.

# NEWARK POST

Thursday, March 8, 2007 11:23 AM EST

## Club Phred to play benefit concerts

The Newark-based classic rock 'n' roll band Club Phred will be putting on a series of shows to raise funds for various charity organizations over the next few months.



The shows will be on Monday nights, from 6 to 9 p.m., at Shaggys on Main at 45 E. Main Street in Newark. Those organizations that will benefit include the American Cancer Society, March of Dimes and the Delaware HIV Consortium.

Club Phred, made up of Keith Ayars, keyboardist Fred Dawson, vocalist Kathy Layfield, drummer A.J. Malme, guitarist Mark Sisk, bassist Brian Daring and saxophonist Gaetano Vinceguerra, has raised more than \$400,000 for charities over the last three years.

The idea to play regular charity shows came to member Fred Dawson a few months ago. "The members of Club Phred think that there is an audience out there for classic rock 'n' roll. Club Phred wants to play a regular venue, as our followers want to see repeat performances of that genre of music. CP also wants to do fund raisers for worthy causes," he said.

Shaggy's owner Joe Van Horn agreed to provide the venue space. Club Phred will split all cover charge proceeds with the various organizations. Cover will be \$2 for students, \$10 for adults.

"This is a simple way for many folks to support their favorite charity, have a great time, and an easy way for the charity to make money," said Dawson.

Upcoming performances are as follows:

- March 26, to benefit the American Cancer Society
- April 2, to benefit the Autism Society of Delaware
- April 16, to benefit the Wellness Community
- April 23, to benefit the Delaware HIV Consortium
- May 7, to benefit the March of Dimes
- May 14, to benefit the American Cancer Society
- June 11, to benefit the March of Dimes
- June 25, to benefit the Delaware HIV Consortium

For more information, visit [www.clubphred.com](http://www.clubphred.com) .

# Newark's Club Phred rocks out for philanthropy

By: Elan Ronen

Posted: 3/20/07

Fred Dawson hauls his 430-pound Hammond B-3 organ to every performance his band, Club Phred, attends. Dawson continues to use the bulky, four-legged relic from the '60s because of the unique sound it generates from its spinning Leslie speakers.

"It is still kicking butt and taking names," Dawson said.

The Newark-based band has used this sound to raise more than \$400,000 in the past three years for charities in the area.

Dawson, who has played with Roger Daltrey from The Who and Mickey Dollens from the Monkees, said his band tries to emulate the sound from this era.

Club Phred keeps the sound of classic rock tunes from the '60s and '70s by using vintage instruments such as the Hammond organ and Fender Stratocaster guitars, he said.

At 57 years old, Dawson is middle-aged like the rest of the band members, but he said the music keeps them young.

"I have Peter Pan syndrome," he said. "I don't want to grow up."

Formed in 2002, Club Phred has raised money for numerous non-profit organizations, including the Christina Educational Fund, The Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition and the Wellness Community, by playing at local venues like Shaggy's on Main and The Deer Park Tavern.

Annalisa Ekbladh, executive director of the Christina Educational Enrichment Fund, said Club Phred has an incredible influence in the area.

"I do not know any other band that is so mindful on what their role in the community can be," Ekbladh said.

Club Phred has a tremendous impact on the non-profit organizations they support, she said.

"We would not be able to exist with just the grants that we get," Ekbladh said.

The Christina Educational Enrichment Fund provides support and enrichment opportunities for children in the Christina School district from kindergarten to 12th grade, she said. CEEF provides monetary scholarships to graduating seniors and issues vouchers for qualified students to use for a cultural

enrichment activity.

"We are opening up a world to students that would not ordinarily have this opportunity," Ekbladh said.

Joe Van Horn, owner of Shaggy's, said Club Phred usually performs Monday nights in front of crowds ranging from approximately 50 to 350 fans.

"We market to students, but a slow night like Monday is an opportunity to draw an older crowd," Van Horn said.

After a performance, the band splits the profits with the non-profit foundation chosen to receive a donation, he said.

Van Horn said Club Phred brings people into the restaurant for a good cause and exposes the audience to more than just "Mug Night."

Dawson said his band played at Shaggy's one Saturday night in front of a university crowd and he enjoyed the experience of performing in front of students.

"They were wild," he said. "They seemed to have an appreciation for Club Phred and the music even though they were young.

"It keeps us young. It feels like my fifth time through puberty, and there is always a sixth time."

## Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy

**Club Phred passes a fundraising milestone with a little help from some famous friends.**

**F**red Dawson is working feverishly to make another rock 'n' roll slam dunk.

His band, Club Phred, jammed with the horn section of the "The Late Night with David Letterman Show" band at the Baby Grand last October, which put the band past the million-dollar mark in cash raised for charity.



Club Phred, in fact, has raised more than \$1.2 million for organizations such as The Wellness Community and the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition since it formed in 2002, just by rockin'.

Dawson, a financial planner and organist, met "Late Night" band trombonist Tom "Bones" Malone in 1994. Malone, who arranged music for "Saturday Night Live" from 1975 to 1985, wrote the chart for the skit that turned John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd into The Blues Brothers and started a phenomenon.

Dawson met Malone again two years ago while recording "Gimme Some Lovin'" with Spencer Davis, the guy who co-wrote the classic, during a rock 'n' roll fantasy camp. When Malone and the "Late Night" horn section popped into the studio unannounced, they decided to accompany Dawson. "You could see the wallpaper peeling," Dawson says. "We all came unglued." Dawson was so juiced he swore he'd get the guys to Delaware. Now he wants to get them back again. Malone thinks it's a possibility.

"Jamming with Club Phred is really fun," Malone says. "They play all of my favorite tunes, they're all great players, and they collectively have a vibe."

Meanwhile, Club Phred will rock your house.

"We're available for certain private parties," says Dawson. "But we don't know 'The Chicken Dance' or 'The Macarena.'"

Check out [www.clubphred.com](http://www.clubphred.com). —*Maria Hess*

*Page 3: Declaration of Independents | When it comes to building custom choppers, Jeff Shelton tips his welding mask to the spirit of the original bikers.*

## Declaration of Independents

**When it comes to building custom choppers, Jeff Shelton tips his welding mask to the spirit of the original bikers.**

**L**ike a blacksmith or a sculptor, Jeff Shelton is able to create an original work of art from mere chunks of metal. Who but a true artist would attach Corona and Miller High Life bottle caps to

## Local rock band helps rake in \$2 million for charity

By **Adam Zewe**  
**Community News**

Posted Nov 18, 2010 @ 07:39 AM

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to



Yorklyn, Del. — The melancholy, opening strains of Procol Harum's "Whiter Shade of Pale" echo throughout the lower level of Fred Dawson's Yorklyn home.

Seated at a Hammond B3 Organ, Dawson continues playing the soft melody as the remaining six members of his band, Club Phred, join in for the first verse of the classic tune.

In a little more than two weeks, Club Pred will be performing with the iconic 60's band, Procol Harum, for The Grand Opera House's 2010 Grand Gala fundraiser.

Not bad for a band that got started eight years ago as a friendly jam session.

"We thought, for sure, it would be over in two months," said Dawson, the bandleader.

The seven friends, many of whom have played in bands since they were teenagers, never really expected to become part of a rock group.

They were drawn together by a love of classic rock and play a wide array of tunes from the 1960s and 1970s — the kinds of songs are too much a part of America's musical history to ever go away, said Mark Sisk, rhythm guitar player.

"But we are not a cover band. We put our own spin on classic rock," he said.

They never expected to carry their love of classic rock as far as they have, Sisk said. Club Phred played the last show at the Stone Balloon in Newark before the infamous bar closed, Grand Funk Railroad lead singer Mark Farner has jammed with them at Dawson's home and they've even opened for Pete Best, the would-be drummer for the Beatles, Dawson said.

But what makes Club Phred unique is the kinds of gigs they gravitate toward, particularly events for charities across the First State. The band has helped raise \$2 million for charity, he said. They've played at benefits for the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition, Wellness Community, March of Dimes, Boys and Girls Club and the AIDS Walk, just to name a few.

"We bring a sense of fun to the event, a sense of lightheartedness, which counters the very serious work many of these charities do," Dawson said.

Plus, many of the people who attend these kinds of charity events are big classic rock fans, so Club Phred is typically very well received, he said.

But classic rock can also reach across the generation gap, Sisk said, as evidenced by the age range of Club Pred's members, which spans 27 to 72.

Yet despite the success of the band, it remains a hobby for its members. Dawson is a wealth manager by day, Sisk is an attorney and drummer Ron Wintersgill manages a division at a major helicopter manufacturer.

Playing together is a huge stress relief for the band members, Wintersgill said, and to be able to help raise money for charities makes the whole thing a very rewarding hobby. For true musicians, not playing is not an option, he said.

"It's a passion for musicians," he said. "The whole band takes pride in its musicianship."

Club Phred, which performs about eight major gigs a year, has no intention of slowing down, Dawson said.

Though it may not pay the bills, being in a rock band is all that it's cracked up to be and more, Sisk said.

"When you talk to these guys who have been to the mountaintop, they have the same inner 13- and 14-year-old who wanted to play music, they just took it a bit farther than we did," he said. "But they don't have more fun than we do."

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