

El Dorado Fair takes musical ride back in time

A few senior citizens stand with a few bikers who stand with a family of four, including a dad in a cowboy hat and a teenager in a Led Zeppelin T-shirt, the one from the band's '71 tour – which happened, like, a generation before the kid was even born.

What, in the name of rock, can bring together such a disparate group of fans?



The Eagles, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Led Zeppelin, of course.

And, while it's not possible to see the originals of these bands today, that doesn't stop fans from coming out and it's not stopping the folks at the El Dorado County Fair from presenting the some of the most legendary music of the rock generation, live on stage.

On June 18, the El Dorado County Fair presents a "Day On The Green" featuring three of the top tribute bands working today. The event will recreate, as close as possible, that Bill Graham inspired right-of-passage of so many teens who grew up in '70s and '80s.

The musical line up begins at 5pm with Fast Lane a six-piece tribute to the Eagles based out of North Texas. The band faithfully recreates all the classic hits from the Eagles' extensive catalog, from "Take It Easy" to "Witchy Woman" and "Heartache Tonight". Fast Lane brings a new twist to Eagles' music by adding a female vocalist to songs like "Desperado,"

“I Can’t Tell You Why,” and “Love Will Keep Us Alive.”

Next up at 7:30pm is “Skynnyn Lynnyrd Reloaded,” a band that began to take form from the moment of the tragic crash that ended the lives of Ronnie VanZant, Steve and Cassie Gains, as well as Dean Kilpatrick. This tribute band believes an American saga ended on that day in 1977, leaving a void that begs to be filled by millions of fans all over the world. It’s about the music, they say, “real, honest and often edgy.” Skynnyn Lynnyrd has stripped the music down to its finest detail and re-assembled it. Every nuance and detail is pursued with passion and determination, to be performed as if by the original band.

Last up at 10pm is “Heartbreaker,” a band the *Los Angeles Times* called “the best Led Zeppelin tribute act we’ve witnessed. As close to the real thing you are apt to get.” Formed in 1998 in the South Bay, fans and critics alike say Heartbreaker is the ultimate Led Zeppelin tribute band. From the wardrobe, to the musical equipment, to the nuances of onstage movement, Heartbreaker is eerily similar to the original 1970s giants of hard rock.

The Day On The Green begins at 5pm June 18 on the main stage the El Dorado County Fair and runs well into the evening with the final band taking the stage at 10pm. Bring a blanket. Admission is free with entry to the fair.

The 2011 El Dorado County Fair, themed Rockin’ & Wranglin’, takes place June 16-19 in Placerville. For more information, call (530) 621.5860.