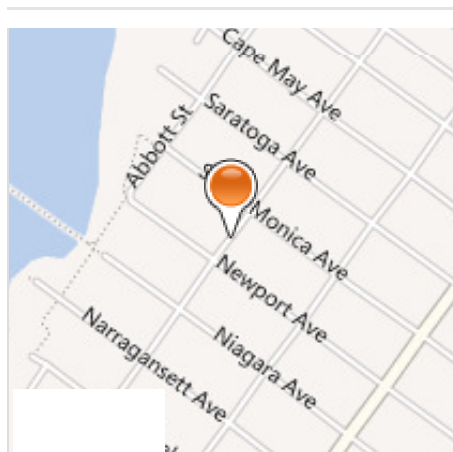


GREENSKY BLUEGRASS | April 28, 2012 | [ADD A COMMENT](#)

Greensky Bluegrass breaks down on the beach



Greensky Bluegrass will be at Winston's in Ocean Beach on April 28
Photo credit: Van Buhler



Location: Winston's Beach Club

Related topics:

[Greensky Bluegrass](#)

[winston's](#)

[bluegrass](#)

[ocean beach](#)

[california](#)

[Music](#)

Ocean Beach, CA – The festival circuit having launched, though not quite in full stride, has generated a buzz in general around southern California. Bands could be headlining a set at a festival one night, and then playing at one's neighborhood watering hole the next. The San Diego music scene, as a reflection, has been burgeoning lately with various different acts.

Winston's Beach Club in Ocean Beach is a prime example of how to be treated to a great show - with various national touring acts playing weekly. While the San Diego music scene, and the music scene at large, remains dominantly electronically driven acts like Greensky Bluegrass, who will be playing at Winston's on April 28, are keeping the spirit of bluegrass alive in California.

The boys of Greensky Bluegrass have their roots in Kalamazoo, Michigan, but have Appalachian laden bluegrass chops. Although bluegrass, remaining a traditional form of music, has its style and structure, Greensky's approach is a heady mix of technical improvisation to rowdy barroom energy. Currently, and luckily for San Diegans, Greensky is on tour on the west coast after recording their fourth studio album, *Handguns*, in January 2011.

"California has always been a hotbed for musical progress," says Greensky banjo picker Mike Bont. "Bands like New Grass Revival have kept the bluegrass spirit in California since the 1970s, and with all the festivals going on here, crowds are generally open minded to different options."

Last time Greensky was in town, they played at the Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach, which is an intimate venue, but still much larger than Winston's. After the Winston's show, Greensky is heading to Stagecoach in Indio, California.

"I heard it was like 106 degrees for Coachella," jokes Bont, "we're definitely looking forward to the warm weather, and enjoying everything the west coast has to offer."

Bont says that mandolin player Paul Hoffman and guitarist Dave

Bruzza write most of their songs while on the road, and while they are constantly generating new material, there are a few older tunes they have kept around.

Like millions of bluegrass fans, Bont was turned on to the art form while in college in Grand Haven, Michigan, listening to Jerry Garcia and David Grisman's *Shady Grove*. Prior to this, Bont had played guitar, but always liked the way the banjo sounded. Having done his homework, running out to buy CDs to work on the instrumentation he set out to master picking. Though surely a great guitarist, Bont's role in Greensky is a steady force, much like a drummer, as they truly are a string band in the classical sense.

Although this Greensky tour is not as extensive as in the past, the boys are hitting some of the finer points of the festival circuit. They will be playing at the All Good Music Festival, at the new destination of Legend Valley, Ohio on July 19-22, which should be noted as a major highlight of the summer. Furthermore, Greensky will hit High Sierra, the Strawberry Festival, Telluride, and the Northwest String Summit (a personal highlight for Bont).

"As a unit, we have been playing very well," says Bont. "I would highly encourage anyone to tell their friends. After this two month boot camp we just went through, our chops are at their meanest."

In this technologically altered world of music, Greensky Bluegrass is truly peddling a pure art form. It is certainly a guarantee that the Greensky boys will turn on future bluegrass fans at the Winston's show, much like what New Grass Revival or Garcia and Grisman did for them.



Blake Bunch, San Diego Music Examiner

Music has always been a driving force in my life. I have been writing music articles about touring acts from all over the United States. I am originally from the East Coast, Charleston, South Carolina, to be exact. Here I published over one hundred articles covering various topics for Lucky...