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Surf Band Rocks the Cleveland Shore

Guitar Player Overcomes Great Odds to Lead Award-Winning Band

by G. L. Rocky

Billed as The Rock & Roll Capital's number one Surf Rock Band, KB and the Riptides is led by guitarist Kirk "KB" Sporck.

Sporck has spent his life defying the odds, overcoming many hurdles to do what he loves most – playing guitar. Born with three fingers on his left hand did not stop him when, as a youngster, classmates laughed at him. The laughter made him even more determined to learn to play guitar.

"It did make holding a pick more difficult and finger picking was a special challenge, not to mention playing lefty even though I am right-handed," he said. "Normally you play guitar on the fret board with your left hand, and that's called playing right-handed. I had to learn to play left-handed, the way Jimi Hendrix played."

Early in life he hid his left hand "so people wouldn't know," he said, but as he grew older he came to embrace his disability.



Guitarist KB Sporck turned a disability into an asset and became the frontman for an award-winning band.

those fingers that I was not given at birth. I would choose, if I could, to pass them on to another who may have lost them in an accident. My hand has helped shape me – my mind, my compassion and my life. It makes me even more unique."

Sporck, as far as he knows, is the world's only three-fingered, left-handed, lead guitar player. "That's eight fingers total,

instead of 10," he said with a smile.

In addition to playing guitar, Sporck is a musical instrument technician, qualified to build and modify guitars. Not only does he love playing and building guitars, but he also shares his knowledge by teaching guitar at the Brecksville School of Music. For more than 20 years he has taught hundreds of students from the surrounding area.

"I generally have 35 students a week, and some have gone on to Berklee College of Music in Boston and numerous other music colleges, he said"

Students from Brecksville, Independence, Broadview Heights, Richfield, Akron, Cleveland and Garfield take lessons from Sporck.

Originally from the Bedford-Walton Hills area, Sporck went to Bedford High School and currently lives in Old Brooklyn. He originally started playing guitar on his own, took lessons from friends and, in junior high, studied music at Cuyahoga Community College, from which he graduated with honors.

Sporck's interest in music was sparked by headline groups of the 1970s like Led

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14 Magic by MORRIS 4-6pm INDEPENDENCE	8 EVERY MONDAY \$4 Guinness Imperial Pints	9 Business Networking TWINSBURG	10 Winkle Wing Wednesday! 35¢ ea.	11 NEW BARLEYCORN Live in Twinsburg 7-10pm	12 Live Music! BOGO FISH FRY! Buy One, Get One Half Off!	13 Irish Murder Mystery Dinner! INDEPENDENCE
21 Magic by MORRIS 4-6pm TWINSBURG	15 AND BOGO Corned Beef! Buy One Dinner or Sandwich, Get One Free!	16 ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR Lots of St. Patty's Day Surprises!	17 St. Patty's Day! KEGS & EGGS! 8-11am Special Menu 11-10pm Party with Mavis ALL DAY!	18 BOGO Corned Beef! Sandwiches & 1/2 PRICE Bloody Marys All Day!	19 BEER OF THE MONTH Great Lakes Conway's Irish Ale	20 Irish Murder Mystery Dinner! TWINSBURG
28 Winkle Watchers Healthy Options for Eating Out!	22 EVERY MONDAY \$4 Guinness Imperial Pints	23 EVERY TUESDAY Enjoy Any Burger Platter for only \$6.99	24 Winkle Wing Wednesday! 35¢ ea.	25 NEW BARLEYCORN Live in Independence 7-10pm	26 BOGO FISH FRY! Buy One, Get One Half Off!	27 Every Saturday HALF OFF Irish Whiskeys! Happy Hour Pricing 'til 7PM!
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FEATURES & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT INDEPENDENCE

March 3rd: Business Networking 5-7PM - Free Appetizers

March 6th & 20th: Irish Dancers (Burke School) 7 PM

March 7th & 14th: Tableside Entertainment "Magic by Morris" Fun for ALL ages! 4PM - 6PM

March 10th & 18th: Irish Dancers (McCulloch School) 7 PM

March 12th: Live Music - Beggips 5-6PM and Logan Wells/Tim Tucker 8-11PM

March 13th: \$45pp Irish Murder Mystery Dinner

March 16th: Happy Hour All Day 11:30AM to 10PM, Plus LOTS of St. Patty's Day Surprises!

March 17th: St. Patty's Day! 8AM - 11AM Kegs and Eggs; Special Menu 11AM-10PM All Day FUN! Live Music 7-10PM Sing with Logan Wells/Tim Tucker

March 18th: "Recovery Day" BOGO Corned Beef Sandwiches & 1/2 price BLOODY MARYS

March 21st: Irish Dancers from O'Hare School - 5:00PM

March 25th: Live Music with - The New Barleycorn 7-10pm

TWINSBURG

March 1st & 21st: Tableside Entertainment "Magic by Morris" Fun for ALL ages!

March 4th & 27th: Irish Dancers (McCulloch School) 7 PM

March 9th: Business Networking 5-7PM - Free Appetizers

March 11th: Live Music with The New Barleycorn 7-10pm

March 13th & 19th: Irish Dancers (Burke School) 7PM

March 16th: Happy Hour All Day 11:30AM to 10PM, Plus LOTS of St. Patty's Day Surprises!

March 17th: St. Patty's Day! 8AM - 11AM Kegs and Eggs; Take the BUS to the Parade \$50pp includes Food, Drinks, Bus & more! Special Menu 11AM-10PM All Day FUN at Mavis

March 18th: "Recovery Day" BOGO Corned Beef Sandwiches & 1/2 price BLOODY MARYS

March 20th: \$45pp Irish Murder Mystery Dinner

March 26th: Live Music - Logan Wells/Tim Tucker 8-11PM

Zeppelin and The Rolling Stones. He has been with KB and the Riptides for over 10 years. Other members of the trio are: Scott Velardo (also a teacher at Brecksville School of Music), who plays drums and percussion, and Dave Kasl, who plays base guitar and sings lead and backup vocals.

For recreation Sporck enjoys scuba diving (he is a certified emergency first responder rescue diver), tango dancing and visiting places of adventure like Machu Picchu in Peru and Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Over the past decade, KB and the Riptides became a fixture on the club and party circuit performing at many community events, including Brecksville's Concert on the Square. Additionally, they do an annual Holiday Extravaganza to benefit

charities. A year-end tradition, the trio has produced the show for nine years. No admission is charged, but donations are requested. Beneficiaries of past shows include Cleveland City Mission, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Wigs for Kids, Waiting Child Fund and more.

"This show is not about making money to me, it's my celebration of a childhood dream of becoming a guitarist and performing on a lighted stage," Sporck said.

Currently working on a record, KB and the Riptides was named Cleveland's 2009 Best Surf Rock Band by *Cleveland Scene* magazine. KB and the Riptides have performed at many functions including The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Guitar Mania, Taste of Cleveland, Cleveland

Metroparks Zoo, Cleveland outdoor lunchtime concert series and various car show cruise-ins.

Sporck is also a Cleveland Icon Award recipient from the Cleveland Entertainment Coalition. Other Icon Award recipients include Michael Stanley, Joe Walsh, the Belkins and many other Cleveland greats.

Most recently, KB and the Riptides signed with Rock Capital Productions and Talent Agency.

To learn more about the band, hear their music, book a performance or find out where the trio is performing around town, visit Web sites kbandtheriptides.com or gigmasters.com/beachband/KBAndTheRiptides. ∞

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Breckville \$429,500
Colonial in Country Woods. 4 BR 3.5 BA 4500 sf incl. fin bsmt. w/full bath. Vaulted family room w/fireplace. Kitchen w/island, ceramic tile, & built-in appl. Deck w/retractable awning. 3 car gar. Sprinkler, security, central vac.



Breckville \$268,900
Amazing cluster 3 BR 2.5 BA. 1st fl master w/glamour bath. Hardwood flr. 2 fplcs. Deck w/awning and private wooded backyard. Fin. Bsmt. Security Sys. 2 car heated garage. Walk to center of town. Immediate Occupancy.



Macedonia \$227,500
9 yr young Cape Cod. 3 BR 2.5 BA Over 2000 SF. 1st fl master. Living rm w/fplc. Ear-in kit w/skylights & all appl. to stay. Full bsmt. Sprinkler sys & Deck. Dev. w/pool, tennis, and close to Cuy. Valley Park System.



Breckville \$649,500
All Brick Colonial Over 5000SF + 2234 SF in-law suite. 4 BR 5 full 2 half baths. 4 fireplaces. 1st floor den. Suite access from 3 car garage. Private backyard w/2 decks, patio, & pond. Call for all the details.



Broadview Heights \$529,500
All Brick Colonial 4/5 BR 4.5 BA. 3 fplcs. 5278 SF + fin. Lower level. 4 car garage. Bonus room used as recreation room. Private yard w/2 tiered deck & patio. Country Lakes Dev. has pool, tennis, lake, and playground. Immed. Occupancy!



Broadview Heights \$459,900
9 yr young Colonial Over 5000 SF w/fin. LL. 4 BR 4 full baths. Kitchen w/granite & SS appl. Vaulted family rm w/fplc & plasma tv. Fin. LL w/full bath. Fenced yard w/wheat in-ground pool. 3 car gar. Security, sprinkler, & c-vac systems.



Broadview Heights \$124,900
Cluster 3 BR 2.5 BA. 1st fl master. Great room w/fplc. Ear-in kitchen w/all appl. Formal DR. Private wooded view from front porch and deck. Over 1800 SF. 2 car garage. Immediate Occupancy!



Breckville \$337,500
Colonial 3 BR 3.5 BA. Large eat-in kitchen w/all appl. Family rm w/fireplace and doors to Hot Tub room. Large deck and sunroom. Master suite w/sitting rm, walk-in closet & HIS & HER closets. Over 3300 SF + fin. Bsmt. w/full bath. Many updates. 1/2 acre lot.



Broadview Heights \$167,500
Freestanding Ranch Cluster. Like new. 2 BR 2 Full baths. 1400 SF. All appliances to stay. Low monthly fee of \$85. 2 car att. Garage. Development w/pools, tennis, & walking trails. Immediate Occupancy!



Broadview Heights \$347,900
Gorgeous Colonial 10 yrs young. 2800 SF 4 BR 3.5 baths. Private yard backs to golf course. 2 story foyer & fam. Rm. Ear-in kit. w/island & all appl to stay. Fin. LL w/full bath & 5th bedroom. Vaulted master w/glamour bath. Pella windows. 3 car gar. Devel. w/pools & tennis.



Avon Lake \$429,000
Amazing Colonial 4 BR 4.5 BA. 1st fl mstr. den, & laundry. 4021 SF incl. fin. LL w/granite bar, built-in entertainment center, large rec. rm. Hardwood flrs throughout 1st fl. Large dining rm & vaulted fam. rm. 3 car gar. Development w/pools and tennis. Conv. On border of Bay Village.



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