

GhostRocket Review

Cliff Wagner (Fiddle)

(photo due soon)

CLIFF WAGNER has got a resume that stretches further than the tattoos on his arms, and is one talented mother.

He was raised in Greenwood, Mississippi, home of blues legend Robert Johnson. His 1st instrument was his grandmother's banjo-uke (he was 7 years old). He started playing 5-string banjo at 11, and picked up guitar after he and friends decided that that's how you got the chicks. He's played with his father, who plays stand-up bass, in a local bluegrass band in MS till he moved to Boston to attend Berklee College of Music.

While in Boston he played music in the street and subway for a living. His group was a roots music band called 10W40. He got sick of Boston and moved to NYC with band mates and kept playing roots music, till he started playing banjo in local bluegrass heros Drinkin' and Cheatin' with mandolinist extraordinaire Bob Grant, formerly of the Bad Livers, now with Tim Graves and Cherokee. Cliff's been heard to say that he'll never play with a drummer again.

He now fronts Cliff Wagner and the Cahoolawatchi River Boys, who play every other Sunday at the XR Bar on West Houston Street in NYC. First Place winner in the 21st Annual Staten Island Banjo and Bluegrass Band Contest, Cliff also fronted Crushed Velvet & the Bovine Growth Hormone Boys with Buddy, and has a GREAT new CD called Greatest Hits Vol. 1 #01 (featuring guest appearances by Boo Reiners and Buddy) full of his trademark crackerjack picking and excellent songwriting.

Cliff has recently added fiddle to his repertoire, and has graced the stage with the GRox on many an occasion (garnering a "worst dressed" review from former Guest Rocket Richard D. "Snapper" Smith). A great guy with a wicked sense of humor and a short fuse, he and his lovely wife Robin are always welcome at any GRox gig. They've been known to host some pretty great pickin' parties too, as Mickrocket can attest. You can order his CD by contacting wagco2@pipeline.com...you won't be disappointed!