

# DOVER POST

## Local News

### Blind Willie delivers 'driving guitar rock sound'

By KATE CARROLL  
Staff writer

At a time in life when some men might use their Saturday nights to vegetate in front of the TV and catch up on sports news, Blind Willie is still out doing what they truly love.

The band has been together since March '02, and includes Carl Peters (guitar), Allen Townsend (drums) and Rob Robertson (bass). Each performs some of the vocal duties.

The guys play the music they enjoy, and Peters describes the overall effect as a "driving guitar rock sound." He shies away from categorizing their music though.

"I hate the term 'classic rock and roll,' but that's kind of what it is, 'cause people know what that means," Peters said.

The band's songlist includes covers of Chuck Berry, the Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Aerosmith, Tom Petty, and Stevie Ray Vaughn.

Like some of those artists, Blind Willie's members each have multiple decades of experience in the music business. Peters has even played previously in different groups with his two current bandmates: he played with Robertson as part of Hyde Park, and played with Townsend in Straight Shooter.

Peters quit playing altogether in '88, citing his family and "occupational hazards of playing in bands" as the main reasons for the break.

Later though, while antique shopping with his family, he was at a flea market and found a Fender Stratocaster. He credits that find with getting him back into playing. During Peters' stint with the Mari Rhodes Band in '01 and '02, Townsend became available again, bringing the possibility of Peters getting to play with a three-piece band that much closer to reality.

"When you're older like this, you want to keep it to a minimum," Peters said. He then went on to explain that dealing with just two other band members is much easier than having to deal with four.

"You pick your material that you can do, and keep it simple. There's three of us, and that's it. We can go in and we can play just about anywhere," he said.

That's a good thing when you're playing a venue with a small stage, such as Cody's. But small venues don't bother him.

"I like playing little bars, and I'm torn sometimes 'cause it would be nice to play the big rooms and clubs. But if the crowd doesn't appreciate what we're doing, then it doesn't matter," Peters said.

It's the band's hope to appeal to a cross-section of ages, anywhere from 20 to 70.

"We play material that's universally accepted," said Peters, adding that if the band tried to focus on a younger crowd and played that music for that demographic, then older people probably wouldn't appreciate it as much.

"We try to pick songs that aren't so obvious. People like stuff like Skynyrd and ZZ Top. I'm always torn between 'let's play something different and take people someplace they haven't been before,' or 'get them out there and dancing.' We try to include songs that



#### IF YOU GO

**Who:** Blind Willie

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 14, show starts at 9 p.m.

**Where:** Cody's Restaurant, Route 13, Woodside

**Artist information:** [www.blindwillie.net](http://www.blindwillie.net)

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you don't hear other bands play. It's hard to find something that's really that obscure, and still good."

Ah, the crux of the cover band. Should they play it different, or play what the crowd will like?

Blind Willie has a good rule of thumb.

"Different is not good unless it's good," Peters said.

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