



JAY C. NEDRY SMA '69

Jay C. Nedry grew up in Mt. Vernon, Virginia. He was sent off to Staunton Military Academy (SMA) at a young age to prevent him from becoming a musician. Apparently, that goal was not achieved as he was a member of the SMA Band and would later in life form the renowned Roadducks band in Northern Virginia. Upon graduating from SMA in 1969, Jay attended the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, and James Madison University. During his college years, Jay played in a number of bands. In December 1975, Jay returned to his parent's home in West Springfield, VA, where he ran into Bill Schmidle, and the two of them drove to Williamsburg and recruited Bob Gaynor to be a member of their newly formed rock and roll band, The Roadducks.



These 3 core individuals, along with Bill Culver (and other outstanding performers along the way), have created a lasting legacy powered by 5,389 shows not only in Virginia but across the nation. The Roadducks also helped spawn a cultural phenomenon as defined by the times (post-Vietnam, Women's and Civil Rights movements) that continues through to today.

The Roadducks are known for their relentless 30 year tour schedule – 2 singles – 2 albums and multiple national tours with:

- Charlie Daniels Band
- The Allman Brothers Band

- Stevie Ray Vaughn
- The Gregg Allman Band
- Marshall Tucker Band
- Blackfoot
- The Outlaws
- Molly Hatchet
- Black Oak Arkansas
- Rossington-Colins Band (members of Lynyrd Skynyrd)

The Roadducks received a Washington Area Music Association award in 1988 for their debut recording, “Get Ducked.”

In addition to drumming and singing, Jay has always managed and booked The Roadducks’ gigs. Jay has always been the driving force of The Roadducks and continues to have the “fire in the belly” when it comes to performing live on stage. From 1992 to 2012, Jay owned and operated the Jaxx Nite Club in West Springfield helping to keep rock and roll alive in Northern Virginia. He used a lifetime of contacts to change a small bar in the suburbs into an internationally famous rock and roll venue.

“It was the most important venue in Northern Virginia to heavy metal fans. It had been a club that transitioned through a few names and hosted many bands of various musical genres but it wasn’t until Jay Nedry took it over in 1994 that the venue became Jaxx. Jaxx became a place to see rock and heavy metal bands come through on tours and they would regularly book performances by underground and European metal bands that you just couldn’t see anywhere else in the area.”

“This place hosted the best Metal Bands from around the world!”

Over the last fifteen or so years, Jay has been very active with the annual SMA Alumni “All Class” Reunions, functioning as the Master of Ceremonies (MC) during the installation of plaques on the SMA-VWIL Memorial Wall and at the Reunion Banquet. Jay’s uncanny and impressive recall of SMA history and various faculty members and students is always a hit at the annual reunions.

Jay is currently back in college at William and Mary where he is pursuing a Master’s Degree in American History. He then plans to become a professor at one of the colleges in Virginia. He is working on a course entitled, “The History of Rock and Roll”, which will cover the years 1955 through 1975. He hopes to regale his students with stories of mayhem and disorder from his crazy days on the road with The Roadducks and their famous touring partners.

SOURCE: www.theroadducks.com

<https://www.discogs.com/Roadducks-Get-Ducked/release/1272803>

Edits by Mark Orr, SMA ‘73



THE ROADDUCKS