

"Lemon City, 92"

by Chris McCarron

A legendary rock 'n roll lineup assembled on Saturday, March 28th at Lemon City Florida. Twenty of rock's best played in Sullivan Stadium in Lemon City just north of Miami. These people donated their energy for a good cause, money to aid the Commonwealth of Independent States, formally the Soviet Union.

The event was kicked in proper spirit by Spinal Tap. They had the 82,000 capacity crowd roaring in amazement as the mighty Spinal Tap played "Sex Farm", "Stone Henge" and "Shark Sandwich".

The mood changed quickly as Metallica set up, they attempted to blow the people out of their seats. "Trapped Under Ice" "The Unforgiven" and "snowblind" were all played at top skill and top volume. A definite highlight of the day. Neil Young was there. Of course, Neil is always there to play for any good cause. Neil played "Rockin in the Free World" and "Only Love can Break Your Heart". Only Neil could combine feedback and high volume with acoustic guitar and high voice. Neil is still rockin well at 45.

Guns 'n Roses came after Neil. They played "Mr. Brownstone" and "Patience" then left the stage, more on Axl soon. After the disorganization displayed by Guns 'n Roses, George Michael stepped on stage. He sang "Monkey". Then he introduced Elton John to help him sing "Don't let the Son Beat Down on Me". In the middle of this gentle song, a drunken frustrated Axl Rose stormed on stage and grabbed a microphone saying "Those guys are f***en queers". Everyone was in shock, but then Bruce Springsteen saved the day by manhandling the scrawny Axl Rose, Rose was dragged off the stage by the Boss. Springsteen had once again pleased the whole world. The Boss and the E Street Band played a 4 song set which began with "War". Bruce said, "wars happen when closed minded people like Axl Rose are allowed to squirm around". "Dancing in the Dark" "Born in the USA" and "Fire" were celebrated with dancing and cheering in the crowd.

The Grateful Dead did their thing. One song was what they played, it was 15 minutes long and Jerry Garcia called the song "Dark Star".

Tina Turner displayed that her talent is as fine as ever, thank you. She sang the crowd favourite. "Better Be Good to Me". Then she surprised everyone by calling out Bryan Adam. Bryan came out and they sang "It's Only Love". Bryan stayed to perform "Everything I Do" and "Run to You". The applause for Bryan Adams was only surpassed by a few heavyweight rockers that day.

Jack Nicholson introduced Don Henley, "This song tell it like it is. And if any rocker cares about the world it is Don Henley." Don played two of his sensitive songs, "Forgiveness" and "Not Enough Love In the World". Don Henley is well loved in Lemon City, Florida.

The New Kids on the Block played next. A lot of people were critical of the "Kids" playing in Lemon City but you can't argue against success. Jimmy Page and David Coverdale worked with a band trying to be the next Zeppelin. Robert Plant refused to redo the Zeppelin thing with Page and so Jimmy got former Whitesnake singer, David Coverdale, to sing for his new band. Page and Coverdale did "Ramble On" and "In the Still of the Night". Robert Plant was in Lemon City telling anyone who would listen how "Such as ***hole Coverdale is and how Jimmy Page is a greedy traitor".

Eric Clapton sang his new song about his deceased son, "Tears in Heaven" everyone loved it. Then Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page and Nigel Leforest from Spinal Tap jammed with Eric Clapton on "Train kept a Rollin".

For most fans the high light of the day came in the evening when Aerosmith and the Stones played together. It was like seeing double as two big lipped men sang into the mic. Then you saw double again as you saw two scruffy, cigarette smoking guitarists. The music was tight and natural as the two bands worked together on "Walk This Way" and "Rock Off".

Michael Jackson closed the show. Jackson is a superstar if there ever was one. Yet, many feel that he needn't have closed this historic show. Jackson brought along his 11 year old friend, star of "Home Alone", MacAulay Caulken. They sang "Black or White" with Slash playing guitar. The rock superstars raised 100 million for the desperate people living with lineups for hamburger and everything else. The musicians responded to the Commonwealth's problems when Bush wouldn't. Jackson finally persuaded Jagger to sing with him on "State of Shock" a song recorded back on 1984. In Jackson's 1984 tour, Jackson asked Jagger to fly to New York City and sing "State of Shock" Jagger refused saying "I won't fly 2,000 miles to sing one song".



The Stones at Lemon City
(Larger photo)