

M.C. and Headliners



Chris Beckham, M.C., lives in Tifton, GA, and broadcasts on Radio FM 105.9 WVGA.

Joe Smothers, from Reidsville, NC., lives in Valdosta, and often plays The Salty Snapper, with a second home in Cortez, FL, with his wife Murphy. Joe's mom Betty purchased a Stella guitar at the local pawn shop when he was thirteen. Joe was asked to be a performer at Doc Watson's funeral, and at every Merle Fest (26).

Laura D'Alisera, from Albuquerque, NM, lives in Jacksonville, where she manages the Jacksonville Songwriters Group and plays frequently. She loves the stylings of the Carter Family, EmmyLou Harris, and Linda Rondstadt. She won last year's contest and joined the organizing committee for this year.

Judges



Tony Buzella lives in Lake City, and was raised in Miami, Florida. He studied under many great teachers, and he has performed with many great musicians over the years.

John Jeffery (J.J.) Rolle lives in Valdosta, and has fronted two bands, plus performing 5 years at the prestigious Guinness International Jazz Festival, and his own 6-pc. Soul/Funk/Disco band, JJ's Soul Funkshun.

Tim Teasley plays in several bands around Valdosta, and is the studio keyboardist for Soil Of The South Studio, owned by Mark Neill (Grammy Award-winning producer of The Black Keys).