



Joanne Broh, from Eugene, will perform with guitarist Garry Meziere, from the Salem area, at the Peninsula R&B Festival.



Scott Holt, a Tennessee Blues guitarist who spent 10 years playing with Buddy Guy, is the headliner at the fourth annual Peninsula R&B Festival.

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Blues fans eager to boogie at the beach

Peninsula R&B Festival returns to Nahcotta

BY PATRICK WEBB

When Char Walters heard guitarist Scott Holt play, she was entranced.

Visiting her hometown Jackson in south-east Missouri, her brother, Chuck, had taken her to a bar called Stooges where a big-name Tennessee blues star was set to perform.

"He was an amazing guitar player," Walters said, recalling how the tall, thin, tattooed musician wowed the crowd. He had everybody laughing when he included her in his show.

"He threw his guitar in my lap and asked if I could play," she said.

Afterward, Walters approached his manager about booking the guitarist to travel to the Long Beach Peninsula. She realized it was a long shot as Holt had toured the world with Blues legend Buddy Guy, appeared on TV shows and played the Hollywood Bowl.

That's when she learned Holt preferred intimate venues.

"He was so down to Earth," she said. "I was so thrilled."

Walters alerted Long Beach promoter Clint Carter. Holt was set to appear at the Peninsula R&B Festival in 2020. But coronavirus concerns shut down live music for a year.

Keeping the Blues alive

Now, as some events resume, Holt will be the headliner for the fourth annual festival. It will be held Friday and Saturday at the Port of Nahcotta on the northern tip of the Long

Peninsula R&B Festival

5 p.m. Friday; 1 p.m. Saturday.

Port of Peninsula, 3311 275th St., Nahcotta, Washington.

Tickets from [tickettomato.com](https://www.tickettomato.com), \$20 Friday, \$25, Saturday, \$40 combination, or at the gate.

[peninsulabluesfest.com](https://www.peninsulabluesfest.com)

Beach Peninsula.

Carter, the event organizer, was delighted at Walters' enthusiasm, which fits nicely with his mission, which he proudly describes as "keeping the Blues alive on the coast."

Holt reportedly calls the Blues, "a supreme form of prayer" or a "soulful communion." He heard a Jimi Hendrix album and fell in love with the guitar when he was a pre-teen in Tennessee.

At the end of his teens, his father introduced him to Buddy Guy backstage at a club in Florida. Holt spent 10 years of his musical career traveling around the world and played