

Great White Primed to Play at New Twin Falls Amphitheater



15 HOURS AGO • [ERIC GOODELL](#)
EGOODPELL@MAGICVALLEY.COM

TWIN FALLS • Members of the rock band Great White try to give everything they've got each time they take the stage, says guitarist Michael Lardie, but knowing that they will be the first headliner to play in a new venue in Twin Falls will provide more incentive.

"It's pretty cool," said Lardie. "We do attempt to give our performances our absolute best, and, hopefully, we will put some good energy into that

particular place."

The amphitheater has taken shape in Old Towne near Red's Trading Post. It is a business venture of Curt Gallegos, his brother Mark, and Mark's business partner, Alan Moss from Salt Lake City. The Gallegos brothers grew up in Burley.

"It is ready to go," Curt said. The stage was moved onsite Thursday, and final setup, including sound and lighting, will be completed Friday. It was an ambitious undertaking, given that the group didn't get approval to construct the amphitheater until June 22.

Gates will open at 5 p.m. Saturday. Opening act Special Reserve, a local rock band, will play at about 6 p.m. with Great White taking the stage at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$28 in advance and \$34 at the gate. Tickets can be purchased at smithstix.com, or at locations including Hometown Bar Sports Bar & Grill, Dunkley Music and Twin Bean Coffee. People will be allowed to bring folding lawn chairs into the venue. Bleachers will be installed for the upcoming Restless Heart concert Aug. 15, but lawn chairs will still be allowed at all performances.

The band is not new to the area, having played several times in Jackpot, Nev. "We have great fans in Idaho," Lardie said.

Great White formed in Los Angeles in 1977, and gained fame in the late 1980s with the hit songs "Once Bitten, Twice Shy," "Rock Me" and "Save Your Love." "Once Bitten" hit No. 5 on the Billboard Hot 100 and the album "Once Bitten ..." was certified platinum.

Those days of top hits are gone now, but Lardie, who joined the band in 1986 as a session musician and eventually became a permanent member, said the band continues to write new material and its latest work shows how members have progressed and matured.

“We have always looked for having a career, instead of just spending five minutes at the top of the mountain,” he said. Band members are not content on relying strictly on its hits from the 1980s.

The band is working on a new album expected to be released next year.

What will it sound like? “It will sound like Great White,” Lardie said. “It is the sound we created. If we were to play ‘Mary Had a Little Lamb,’ it would sound like Great White.”

The band has had its ups and downs, with breakups, a tragic fire during a concert in Rhode Island, and lawsuits regarding a band’s use of “Great White” in its title. One of the original band members, Jack Russell, now leads the group “Jack Russell’s Great White” under a lease arrangement.

When dealing with four or five personalities, some adversity is a part of life — “and that is not exclusive to just musicians,” Lardie said. But the fact that the band is still around proves its staying power, he said.

The band performs 40-55 shows per year, a schedule that allows members to spend time with their families. Members fly to venues, instead of riding a tour bus. “The older we get, and we continue to do this, you appreciate the fact that we are able to do it.”

And Lardie still gets a rush when he performs, saying “It’s the joy of rock ‘n’ roll.”

Want to Go?

Great White will perform Saturday, July 25, at the Rock Canyon Amphitheater in Twin Falls. Gates open at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$28 in advance and \$34 at the gate.