

G. Love plays The Starboard to a packed house

His touring bus may have looked out of place in the small Dewey Beach parking lot, and his road crew may have been taken aback by The Starboard's intimate environment and laid back attitude, but there was no doubt that G. Love was exactly where he belonged when he returned to perform at The Starboard June 30.

G. Love's spirit, his classic rhythm and blues, guitar, vocals and harmonica rang out in the iconic beach haunt where he has performed annually since 2006. With musical roots embedded in folk music, the blues and Bob Dylan, G. Love and the intimate atmosphere of The Starboard create a perfect fit.

The only thing more exciting than the audience's delight at being so close to the artist was his thrill at being so close to his audience.

"This is it! It's vibrant and it's real," G. Love told the crowd. "Thank you brother Monty."

The Starboard's owner, Steve "Monty" Montgomery, says the annual appearance of G. Love is now a tradition that, as with most Starboard traditions, began over drinks at The Starboard.

Montgomery said the hundreds of people who attended G. Love's performances in past years, when the only announcement was on The Starboard's

marquee the day of the event, did not prepare him for the onslaught of telephone calls and emails received this year - the first when the event was announced officially in advance.

"The phones were ringing off the hook with calls from people who wanted to know how much the tickets were. They just didn't seem to believe us when we told them The Starboard never charges a cover and never sells tickets," Montgomery said of the free performance.

G. Love led off with the cover to his most recent 2011 release, "Fixin' To Die." The release captures his spirit and sound, fabulous melodies, and incredible lyrics, and includes originals he has been contemplating for more than a decade.

Positive and inspired, "Fixin' To Die" is fast on its way to becoming G. Love's latest record-breaking hit, but it was "Peace, Love and Happiness" that best describes his impact on his fans at The Starboard.

"We're not sure when G. Love will be back here next year, but he will be back," Montgomery said. "He's a friend."

For more information about G. Love, go to www.philadelphonic.com.

For more information about The Starboard, go to www.TheStarboard.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

KYLE DIXON, Randy King, Shelby Nash, Kevin DiCostanzo, Andrew Wasnieski and Derek Park, all of Milford, celebrate King's 31st birthday at the G. Love performance at The Starboard June 30.



G. Love thrills a full house at The Starboard in Dewey Beach.



Arriving early to stake out a place by the stage are The Corner Crew, (l-r) Dan Bates, Melanie Spradly, Rick Riley, Nikki Riley, Kevin Blackwell and Kim Cunniff.