

# Concerts in the Park: Rocked by Beach Music and Catered by Firemen



The volunteers from the El Segundo Firefighters' Association that were fire-manning the BBQ stand.

By Jesse Blake McCann

Last Sunday, El Segundo experienced an almost perfect summer day with blue skies, bright sun and warm weather. It was an ideal day to go to the beach, have a picnic, or leap through sprinklers. But there was definitely one thing missing from this seaside city: Music.

So it was lucky for El Segundo that the Surfing Safaris came rolling into town. Lead singer and guitarist Bob Fetherolf advertises his band as an “instant beach party,” regardless of the locale. “Whether it’s at a concert in the mountains at 5,000 feet or in a valley,” he said.

The beach party on that day occurred at El Segundo Library Park, as the band played for anyone willing to come out and stake a spot on the park’s grass (most preferred the shade of the trees due to the beach weather sun). The Surfing Safaris kicked off this summer’s cool Concerts in the Park series, hosted by the El Segundo Recreation and Parks department.

The Surfing Safaris, with all their band members clad in Hawaiian shirts, is a sea-style tribute band. Besides Fetherolf at the concert, Scotty Mitchell was on saxophone, Dave Batti on bass, Dave Ortega on drums, and Rick Spencer on keyboard.

Fetherolf said they do the great surf guitar music of the 1960s, the Beach Boys, Jimmy Buffett, reggae, and just about everything else if somebody makes a request. “We can play all styles of music, but we prefer doing the beach music,” he said.

And the music crashed down like waves on the park. *Surfin’ USA*, *Margaritaville*, and *The Hop* were among the tracks played. As a beach bonus, the band changed some of the song lyrics during their performance to include the words “El Segundo.”

Fetherolf said he is particularly proud of his surf guitar medley that he arranged. He explained it starts off with the *Pipeline* song, and ends with *Hawaii Five-O*, with *Secret Agent Man* in the middle. It was the song that the band opened with at the concert.

The band performed in the gazebo in the middle of the park. Fetherolf explained that the gazebo gives them a different kind of sound and keeps the sun off their heads. They were very animated while playing. At certain points in songs, Mitchell would rush off the stage and get closer to the audience on the grass for a sax solo. Mitchell said his band is a fun group and everybody has

a good time. He added that the band feeds off the crowd and vice versa.

And where would any beach party be without some grub? Very appropriately, firefighters came to the rescue. The El Segundo Firefighters Association (ESFA) rolled out a giant BBQ to feed the hungry beach bunnies and bros. They had a sizzling deal of a meal that included a hot dog, chips, and a soda for only \$2. The BBQ stand was run by volunteers from the association and will be present at the rest of the summer concerts.

Not only is the food a good deal, the money earned goes toward a good cause. “We’re a non-profit association,” ESFA First Vice President and El Segundo Firefighter Tony Del Castill said, “So any type of money that we do raise, [it goes] to charities.” Del Castill added that the Association supports different charities throughout the year.

The firefighters’ reason for attending the “beach party” was to mix and mingle with the locals. ESFA Treasurer, El Segundo Firefighter and coordinator of the BBQ Joe Inez explained that for the most part, the community only sees firefighters at the annual open house pancake breakfast or if on call out to a residential house. So many of the younger guys in the department are stepping

up now and they want to be a part of the community, Inez said. “Show that we care about our community that we work for,” he said, “So that’s a big part of us being out here today. Hopefully this will get us started, get us a little more recognition in the community.” Inez

also hopes the firefighters can be a part of other events that take place throughout the year.

El Segundo resident Alan Rush, 48, was one of the park concert attendees. He came out with his wife because it was such a beautiful day and they felt like relaxing. He said the band is helping him do this.

Sax man Mitchell hopes to come back to El Segundo and said Library Park is beautiful. “It’s a great venue for a concert in the park and we’re looking forward to performing here,” he said before his band went on stage.

The Concerts in the Park summer series continues every Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Library Park, until August 9. A new band is scheduled for each Sunday in the following order: the Doo-wah Riders, Susan Hansen Latin Band, Ronnie and the Classics, and the Jumpin’ Joz Band. To learn more about the band that already played, the Surfing Safaris, visit their website at [www.thesurfingsafaris.com](http://www.thesurfingsafaris.com).



007- Surfing Safaris member Scotty Mitchell came off stage to perform a sax solo.



The Surfing Safaris on stage at El Segundo Library Park.



The El Segundo Firefighters' Association serves food to hungry concertgoers.



Attendees brave the summer heat for the show.

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