



Rhythm & Booms 2003 features World-Class Fireworks, Outstanding Music Stages, and all day Family Fun
- Fireworks to honor Columbia Astronauts -

MADISON, Wisconsin (May 27, 2003) – This year’s “Rhythm & Booms” celebration will be held in Madison’s Warner Park on Saturday, June 28, 2003. The all-day event will feature “world class” fireworks, choreographed to music broadcast on WOLX 94.9 FM, beginning at 9:30 PM.

Terry Kelly, President of the Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc. – which produces and manages the Rhythm & Booms annual celebration – announced today that the event will feature a tribute to the seven astronauts who lost their lives in the recent Columbia space shuttle accident. “These seven brave men and women will be remembered with a special fireworks tribute at the beginning of this year’s display”, said Kelly. “Through music and fireworks, we will remember their bravery, their pioneering spirit, and the accomplishments of our space program.”

Other portions of this year’s Rhythm & Booms display will commemorate the men and women who fought in the recent Gulf War. A final section, entitled “America: Old Friends and New Hope”, will seek to remind us all about the many strengths of our nation and the opportunities we all share as Americans.

It was also announced today that both major music stages at the event will feature outstanding national acts. On the Miller Beer/WOLX 94.9FM Oldies Stage “The Buckingham” will be the headliners. A great oldies group that still tours with its original members, The Buckingham

have recorded numerous hits over the years and, at times, used to open for The Beatles. Also on the oldies stage will be "The Competition", which includes a number of members from one of Madison's favorite groups, Little Vito and The Torpedoes. Also returning as a perennial favorite is "The Vic Ferrari Band".

The Triple M Blues stage will feature the "North Mississippi Allstars", a terrific group which has played to sold-out houses across the country. Other top draws to the WMMM stage will be the group, "Feel", which released its debut CD nationwide last fall, and local phenomenon "Phat Phunktion".

Rhythm & Booms 2003 will feature a full day of family events for kids of all ages. The new "Buzz" family and children's activity area, sponsored by WBZU radio, will feature special interactive rides, face painting, magic acts and more, and will be located outside the baseball outfield fence. A full carnival will also be at Warner Park and will be open both Friday night from 5-11 PM and all day Saturday.

The Madison Mallards will play Thunder Bay in the baseball stadium, beginning at 5:05 PM. Fans will be able to spread blankets in the outfield after the game, listen to the official soundtrack – which will be played on the stadium speakers – and watch the fireworks.

The American Red Cross Save a Life Tour will make its only Madison area appearance at Rhythm & Booms with their mobile museum, as part of a coast-to-coast, cross-country tour. The Save a Life Tour is a new grassroots effort that will honor the everyday people who donate blood, demonstrate public awareness, and generate excitement in the community about the importance of donating blood.

Madison Fireworks Fund officials remind the public that RV's, campers, and trucks will not be allowed in the Warner Park parking lot. Instead, arrangements have been made for paid parking in the Sherman Plaza parking lot directly across the street from the park.

The Madison Fireworks Fund is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation, and the proceeds from Rhythm & Booms, after expenses are paid, are donated to Madison children's charities. Over one-third of a million dollars has been donated to local charities from previous Rhythm & Booms

events. "We appreciate your attendance at Rhythm & Booms, and we hope that you arrive both hungry and thirsty," Terry Kelly said. "Nearly one thousand volunteers will be working at the event, and the proceeds from food, beverages and souvenir sales will go to many worthy causes benefiting our community. Please also give generously to our Wisconsin Boy Scouts, who will be walking through the crowd with donation buckets during the event."

Rhythm & Booms has a new website this year, containing extensive information about the timing and location of events, transportation and parking, safety procedures, and more. To access the website, go to www.rhythmandbooms.com.

Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc. thanks the City of Madison and Dane County for their year-round enthusiastic help and financial support of this event. Major sponsors of Rhythm & Booms are M&I Bank, Alliant Energy, American Family Insurance, and WKOW-TV27, with additional support from RSM McGladrey, Inc. Without these sponsors, and over 100 other business which contribute time, money, services and materials, Rhythm & Booms 2003 would not be possible.

For additional information contact:

Terry Kelly, President – or – Deb McCue, Vice President
Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc.
6515 Grand Teton Plaza, Suite 140
Madison, WI 53719
(608) 833-6717 or 274-5789