

# Rock concert August 2-3 in Mooresboro

By LIB STEWART

Their love of rock music brought new friends Pekka (Lo De) Loikkanen of Finland and Gary Ramsey of Kings Mountain together on My Space social media three years ago and this week the two are together in person for the first time and practicing for a rock 'n roll gig in Mooresboro Aug. 2-3.

Coming to America for the first time, Loikkanen says he is enjoying every minute of his trip.

Gary and his wife, Tina, and their family are showing their Finnish guest real Southern hospitality, introducing him to home cooked country vegetables such as pinto beans, homemade slaw and chow chow. Taking time out from rehearsals, Loikkanen prepared a traditional Finnish dinner for the Ramseys that included his own recipe for macaroni casserole and Finnish bread which is sweeter than our traditional breads.

"We don't know how much sightseeing we will be able to do but we plan a trip to the mountains and to show him some of our area, including Moss Lake," said Gary. Most of the short time their visitor is here they will be in preparing for the big Rockhard Distributors/Circle J. Farms August 2-3 Jam beginning at 5 p.m. on Aug. 2 at 3613 Cliffside Road, Mooresboro. Tickets are \$20 in advance for the two day event and may be purchased at Got Books in Shelby or at the door

for the \$30 admission price for two days.

The concert will feature a number of top bands and musicians from the area. The Ramsey band will be playing on Sunday evening about 9:30 p.m. "This is a family event and there's plenty of free camping," said Ramsey.

Hailing from Savonlinna in Eastern Finland, Pekka's hard-driven guitar and musical artistry combines with Gary's lyric writing and power vocals to form hard-hitting, raw and old school rock n roll music.

Pekka and Gary have written their songs via email and collaborated with Ric Deloizer and Rockhard Distributors to promote and produce their CDs.

Ramsey started playing guitar as a teenager and wrote his first song at age 16. "I grew up on music playing in bands in Kings Mountain and my whole family (five sisters and one brother) loves music," said Ramsey, the son of Mabel Davis of Kings Mountain. His sister, Lisa Thompson, will also be performing in the August concert.

"I play for benefits and I play for a sandwich," laughs Ramsey, who enjoys making people happy. He says he wakes up happy every morning and counts his blessings.

Pekka is a life-long resident of Finland. "My wife and our 15-year-old daughter look out from our home in the village to see a beautiful castle on the hill," he said. He plays guitar, bass, drums and writes songs. Ram-



Pekka Loikkanen, far right, of Finland, meets his partner in music Gary Ramsey, second from left, in Kings Mountain on his first visit to the U. S. to practice with other band members for a rock concert August 2-3.

sey will be singing their songs and other band members will include Harold Willis, Tim Sanders, and Jeff McDonald.

"People are so friendly here and I want to come back with my family for a vacation and

the welcome mat is out to the Ramseys to visit us in Finland," said Pekka.

(For more information and music log onto [www.reverbnation.com/theramseyloikkanenproject](http://www.reverbnation.com/theramseyloikkanenproject))

# Fresh Look!

## Second annual art competition, exhibit begins August 1 at Southern Arts Society

BY LIB STEWART

The second annual "Fresh Look" art competition and exhibit will be showcased by the Southern Arts Society August 1-24 as artists in their most recent works will take a fresh look at the world around them.

This is a judged show with cash prizes as artists are encouraged to try a new style, or a new medium. A public reception will be held Saturday, August 3, from 7-9 p.m. and presentation of awards will be at 8 p.m. at the Depot, 301 N. Piedmont Avenue.

Harriet Goode, well-known fine artist from Rock Hill, SC, will judge the show and selects first, second and third place awards along with three merit awards. For the 2013 exhibit there are 132 works of art entered and on exhibit. Fifty-one artists from around the region will have their work on display and for sale to the public.

"A Fresh Look" will be on display in the galleries of the Southern Arts Society from Aug. 1-24. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. -4 p.m. For more information call 704-739-5585.



MATERNAL ELEPHANT by SHELLEY BROWN



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## Kings Mountain Country Club

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### Pink Ribbon Network

Aug. 1 12 - 1 p.m.  
CRMC Oncology Board Room  
A gathering for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients.  
Lunch served. To register, please call 980-487-3757.

### Bridges

Aug. 12 2 - 3 p.m.  
CRMC Cancer Center  
A special educational program to aid recovery during the post-operative period after a mastectomy or lumpectomy. Register two weeks after mastectomy or lumpectomy by calling 980-487-3757.

### Parkinson's Support Group

Aug. 27 5:30 p.m.  
Shelby Life Enrichment Center  
110 Life Enrichment Blvd. Shelby  
Presentation by Neurologist Dr. Kevin Klein and Doug Murphey, who is a Parkinson's patient.  
For more information, call 704-484-0405.

### Expectant Grandparents

Aug. 27 6 p.m.  
CRMC Center for Lifelong Learning  
For first time grandparents, insights into what to expect with the new grandchild.  
To register, please call 980-487-3983.

### WINGS Cancer Support Group

Aug. 5 6 p.m.  
CRMC Cancer Center  
A support group for patients with all types of cancer. For more information, please call 980-487-3025.

### Bridges

Aug. 25 2 - 3 p.m.  
CRMC Cancer Center  
A special educational program to aid recovery during the post-operative period after a mastectomy or lumpectomy. Register two weeks after mastectomy or lumpectomy by calling 980-487-3757.

### Healthy Hearts Support

Aug. 7 Noon  
CRMC Gina C. Suttle Wellness Education Suite T. R. Harris Wellness Center  
"Heart Rate/CAD"  
For more information, please call 980-487-3659.

### Life as a Suicide Survivor

Aug. 27 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Cleveland County Library Conference Room 104 Howie Drive  
This program is for anyone who has suffered the loss of someone close to them by the taking of their own life.

Some programs may require pre-registration or appointments. Some require a fee. Locations may change without notice.

## SAFE SITTER CLASSES

Safe Sitter Classes are offered for teens age 11 and older. Cost is \$40. All sessions will be in TR Harris Conference Center at Cleveland Regional Medical Center. Please call 980-487-3826 to register!

Date is: August 13 9 a - 4:30 p



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