

MUSIC

High-energy dance party

Taos Mesa Brewing to play host to Renewable Taos benefit with live music and information

By Andy Jones

If you're looking for a good time that's also good for the environment, then look no further than the homespun and sustainable dance party benefit for Renewable Taos this Friday (Oct. 2).

Billed as "Re-Energize Taos," the event will feature Katy P. and the Business, John Pepe, The Planktons, DAB and DJ Crystalline, at Taos Mesa Brewing, beginning at 5 p.m. with a meet and greet for members of Renewable Taos.

Musician Teddy Malley, also a Renewable Taos member, said he wanted to try to do something to raise funds and awareness for the organization, whose mission is to make 100 percent renewable energy accessible to all residents of Taos and the surrounding communities.

Malley, who says he is a relatively new member of the organization, says he wanted to figure out a way to contribute.

"This is my first attempt to do something on my own," he says. "Admission will be for a suggested \$10 donation, but we really want people to come and hear what we're all about. No one will be turned away if they're tight on funds."

And in addition to providing a whole lot of information about Renewable Taos and the work they are doing to promote and facilitate a full transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency, there will also be some great music to put you in the mood to dance.

Katy P and the Business will start things off with a set at 5:30 p.m., followed by a short talk from Renewable Taos founding member William Brown.

Local singer-songwriter John Pepe will take the stage at 7 p.m., accompanied by Last To Know keyboard player Howie Roemer and Malley on hand percussion.

At 8:30 p.m., former Arizona State University professor of ornithology and the head of the Tucson Audubon Society, Paul Greene, will speak about climate change and its impact on birds.

From 9 to 10 p.m., local instrumental ensemble DAB will bring the crowd a blend of tribal and world influences with a funky blues foundation.

Then, at 10 p.m., Renewable Taos founding member Jay Levine will speak about electric vehicles and the future of transportation.

The music continues with up-and-coming rockers, The Planktons, playing from 10:30 to 11 p.m., and DJ Crystalline from 11 to midnight.

Malley, a djembe player who is also studying permaculture, said he found Renewable Taos after efforts to organize people around similar topics failed to generate much energy or focus.

"I went to a Renewable Taos meeting and I was so impressed," he says about his initial introduction to the group. "They've been working on these questions, of why we aren't using more wind and solar, and they've been working with the (Kit Carson Electric) Co-op, the state, and local political leaders."

As an inspiring homesteader and off-grid enthusiast, Malley has been working to establish a homestead on the land he owns in

the Carson area with fiancée Katy Palmier (of Katy P. fame), and Taos Mesa Brewing brewer Chris Jones.

They built a passive solar home and are working hard to establish gardens, fruit trees and everything else they need to be free from the grid. But Malley knows that lifestyle isn't for everyone, which is one of the reasons he is drawn to Renewable Taos, a group that advocates for large-scale solar projects that will put renewable energy into the grid, instead of taking everyone off of it.

Malley said he wanted to figure out how to make his own contribution to the group. He said others in the group have impressive backgrounds in high finance, business and other areas, but he knew he could find his own niche in the group.

The concept of high-energy music combined with information about energy independence is something Malley hopes can be a regular event to bring more focus to the cause of Renewable Taos.

"We're hoping to make this a regular event, whether that's biannual, every couple of months or something else," Malley says. "It's been a learning experience for me. I've never put on a music event before but I'm psyched to do it again."

For more on Renewable Taos, call (575) 758-5362 or visit renewabletaos.org.



DJ Crystalline will lend her talents to the Sustainable Taos benefit at Taos Mesa Brewing.

Courtesy Ryan Leon

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