

Let's GO! LIVE MUSIC

Paul Roush - the one man band

By **STEVEN J. SMITH**
SUN CORRESPONDENT

After years as front man for several country and Trop-Rock bands, Paul Roush has decided to set off on his own as a solo act — and he's enjoying it just fine, thank you.

"I really enjoy it," he said. "I like the flexibility that comes with playing solo. I can play what I want. I don't have to have a meeting to decide what I'm going to play. If I want to play something, I play it. I don't have to check with six different people to decide if I'm going to take a gig or not. The independence of it all is what I like."

Roush was born and raised in Michigan, then lived in Missouri for 30 years before settling in Florida four years ago. He now resides in Port Charlotte. He specializes in playing the music of Jerry Jeff Walker and Jimmy Buffett and said he was influenced by country music star Mac McAnally and singer-songwriters Warren Zevon and Keith Sykes, to name a few, in developing his own particular songwriting style.

"I like the better storytellers out there," he said. "My style encompasses some country and classic rock. I just look for a good song. It really doesn't matter what genre it comes from."

Most of his songs, he added, are based — at least somewhat — on true-life experiences and the people he's known. He plays about 60 percent cover songs and 40 percent original stuff. As a songwriter, Roush continues to gain the respect of peers as well as fans. His song "I Wanna Be Howie" was a Song Of The Year nominee for the 2012 Trop-Rock Music Awards, and the autobiographical "Just To See If I Could" was a top finalist in the 2012 Great American Songwriting Contest. Both are included on his first solo CD, "Today's The Day," which has received great reviews among music critics and fellow musicians alike. Roush has recently released his second solo

album, "I'm Not Perfect," which features eight new tracks he wrote as well as a selection of covers from some of the finest writers in the business, including Sykes and Zevon.

Locally, Roush can be seen playing at Hurricane Charley's in Punta Gorda (July 8 and 21), Farlow's On The Water in Englewood (July 10), Nav-A-Gator in Lake Suzy (July 12) and TT's Tiki Bar in Punta Gorda (July 19).

"I do mostly three to four hour gigs," he said. "I do my absolute best to take all the requests I can. If there's something my audience wants to hear, all they have to do is ask. I mix some of my own stuff in with covers and hopefully when they go home, everybody's happy."

For more information or to book a gig, visit www.paulroush.com, email paul@paulroush.com, or call 314-229-2506.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Singer-songwriter Paul Roush brought his solo act to Florida four years ago.