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PHlockers Magazine caught up with Paul Roush at the recent Phins Reunion at Lulu's in Orange Beach, Alabama during Stars Fell On Alabama. Paul's fans phlocked to hear the band once again, and we know his fans had some questions for him.

**1) Paul Roush, you are one of the most prolific trop-rock song writers out there today. Your songs seem so personal to you, but so many of us relate to your lyrics. Where do you find your inspiration?**

95% of my songs are about things I've done, places I've been, people I've known, or some combination of these. I find it more difficult to write about things I haven't experienced. I guess you could say that I'm just not that good at making stuff up!

**2) Some songwriters need to be in a particular frame of mind or mood to write. What's yours?**

I think it's less a "frame of mind" than a "state of inspiration". When that elusive topic finally hits home, I can sit down and try to make something out of it, but I haven't yet mastered the concept of, "Ok, I guess I'll go write a song".

# Paul Roush

### **3) Songs like *Three Sailors and Fools, Drunks & Children*, evoke such a strong emotion for your listeners... Do you ever have difficulty performing them?**

Not really. The most difficulty I have is while I'm actually writing them. When I wrote "The Voice", it took a few tries to get the demo down, but for the most part, deep down they're songs that celebrate people, not songs that are meant to emphasize the sadness of them not being in our lives anymore.

### **4) Have you played *Three Sailors* for you Dad?**

Unfortunately, with the exception of "Fools, Drunks, and Children", all of my songwriting has happened after both of my parents had passed away. But I'm pretty sure they've heard them, and that they approve!

### **5) Your song *I Want to Be Howie* is a fan favorite. Tell us how this one came to be. There has got to be a story behind it!**

Before I moved to SW Florida, I - like many others - lived vicariously through the pictures and postings of my pal Howard Livingston. One particularly brutal winter day, however, there must have been a photo that made me snap, because I found myself wishing bad things for my friend. I mean who in their right mind would wish for someone to get "big old blister"? The whole thing was rather tongue-in-cheek, and after playing it for Howard, he even agreed to be on the recording, as did Brent Burns.



**6) Do you have a favorite song that you wrote, and if so, why is it your favorite?**

My favorite ones are probably the most personal ones - "Today's The Day", "Three Sailors", and "The Voice". These are stories that no one else could tell.

**7) We want to know a little about Paul Roush, the man. Where do you call home?**

Paula and I currently live on the outskirts of Port Charlotte, FL, about 15 minutes from our favorite beach, Englewood Beach. And while there are countless beautiful places in Florida, we feel that we settled in the perfect little community for us.



**8) Do you have a day job?**

Unfortunately yes - for now. I'm working really hard at getting to the point where my music is my job - although calling it a "job" doesn't really seem to be accurate. I think you know what I mean, though!

**9) You were close friends with Troy Allen. Think we'll hear a song about Troy one day?**

Quite possibly. There are definitely some stories to be told!

**10) Ok, in your home, who is the best cook?**

We each have our own specialties. I consider myself the master of the grill, and most things that involve red meat. Paula, on the other hand, handles most of the seafood, salads, and vegetables - not to mention the world's most delicious chocolate chip cookies!

**11) When you have a little down time, what do you like to do? Any hobbies? Favorite beaches?**

About my favorite thing to do when I'm not working or playing music is to catch one of the unbelievable Florida sunsets, along with an ice cold beer, at our local favorite, Englewood Beach. Unless, of course, it's too crowded, then we head to the state park on Boca Grande.

**12) You have a new CD out, *I'm Not Perfect*. Another great compilation of originals! So much fun to listen to. Tell us about the writing process for this one. Great job, by the way!**

Thanks! As with all of my projects, there wasn't really a "writing process", it was more of an "Ok, I finally have enough material" situation. The songs on this CD were written over a 3 -4 year time-frame, with some not being finished until the actual recording process had begun.

**13) Listening to your new song, *I Want to Sail*, is so beautiful. Are you a sailor in real life or do you only dream about it? Do you have a boat?**

I would consider myself a "sailor-in-training". Paula and I have both taken instruction in basic sailing, and while we've had a few opportunities to actually go out and practice what we have learned, those opportunities are few and far between. Getting a sailboat is in our long-range plans, just not in the immediate future.

**14) Your band, Phins, was a trop-rock icon. You recently performed a reunion gig at Lulu's in Gulf Shores, Alabama for the event, *Stars Fell On Alabama*. Is there any hope you all will play together again one day?**

The gig at Lulu's went pretty well - I think we were all quite pleased with the overall performance. As for future performances, we'll just have to wait and see what opportunities lie ahead. I'll go on record saying I wouldn't be against the idea!

**15) Anything else you'd like to share with your fans?**

All I can do is thank everyone who has been there to support me and my music. It goes without saying that I wouldn't be able to do what I love without that support, and it's something that I never have, nor ever will take for granted.

