



Kingswoodstock Bigger Than Ever

by Rhianna Llewellyn and Emma DiPrizio

“It’s hard to find someone who doesn’t like any type of music,” says Karen Lovett, drug and alcohol counselor and the head of Kingswoodstock.

Kingswoodstock is a battle-of-the-bands type competition that has been running for six years. At Kingswoodstock, up to fifteen bands are featured for up to fifteen minutes at a time, and the winners receive prize donations from companies sought out by Lovett and her sound manager, Dave Roberge.

The prizes that the winning band will receive include twelve hours of free studio recording time at either Drumlin Downe Studios or Rocking Horse Studio. Also, the winning band will receive a three-by-five foot banner along with 100 decals donated by BTA Graphics. And to promote the winning band, Manchester’s PFG-TV will interview and play the winners on local and satellite television.

The biggest prize, however, is a trip to New York City and participation in M.E.A.N.Y.Fest, a bigger battle-of-the-bands competition.

Over the six years of Kingswoodstock, Lovett and her staff have found ways to keep it running smoothly and have rules everyone must abide by. Each band will get fifteen minutes to play and they are required to play at least one original. No song that a band plays on stage can have swears, and if bands break the rules, they are disqualified.

“If any bands are found booing, harassing, or giving a hard time to anyone else, they will be disqualified,” Lovett said.

As for the audience, good behavior is also necessary. The Kingswoodstock staff demands that there be no dancing at this event. “It takes away the judges’ ability to judge the bands, and it is also a liability thing,” says Lovett.

Kingswoodstock will be held on May 30th at 10 a.m. The five dollar admission fee helps fund New Hampshire Teen Institute. Opening the show will be John Garland on his keyboard, then English teacher Aaron Gauthier with his two children, showing that all ages can enjoy making music.

“It’s an important event that puts Kingswood on the map. This is a statewide battle of the bands,” says Lovett. Make sure you don’t miss it!