

## Gathering Of the Vibes 2009: It Begins

July 24, 2009

As the vibe tribe began to assemble, the faithful flocked to Seaside Park Thursday, seeking out good weather but reinforcing against the threat of rain. The 14th annual [Gathering of the Vibes](#) began with blue skies but ultimately couldn't escape the storms that have plagued the summer.



[All Photos by Jeremy Gordon]

Luckily, however, there was enough sunshine to power the wonderful new GreenVibes stage with its partial solar energy requirements. Reckoning, a local band from Long Island lit up the afternoon with its set including hits from The Dead, the Allman Brothers as well as a take on Phish's Birds of a Feather, putting everyone in the party mindset. Local Artist P.J Pacifico opened the main stage with a folk-tinged roots rock set including a very intimate Beatles cover.

The Donna Jean Godchaux Band (aka the former Zen Tricksters) continued on in the legacy of the Grateful Dead with the former singer giving us a taste of her famous vocals. With Donna's voice mixing wondrously with Jeff Mattson's guitar, you are almost transported to a time 30 years ago. Though the rain began to fall, the crowd spun along to new originals and favorite Dead tunes like Sugaree, Scarlet Begonias and Samson & Delilah.

[READ ON](#) for more from the 2009 edition of Gathering of the Vibes...



It was during Donna Jean's set that all pre-planning for the festival by Ken Hays and team was apparent. From bales of hay being readied and distributed as the drizzle began to the recycling initiatives and use of compostable disposables, the big thank you from the stage after DJ & ZT finished up seems to be well deserved. Many of the kinks of previous years seem to be ironed out from the load-in to the stage setup (which seem to have been slightly rotated to improve sightlines).

As the rain pelted harder, Dark Star Orchestra treated fans to an upbeat China > Rider opener and a Lazy Lightning > Supplication to end the first set. The second set continued with perennial favorites in St Stephen > Shakedown Street. Though the field was only moderately filled due to increasing downpour, the campsites spread all over the park (and even those at home) were still able to listen along on with RadioVibes (89.5 FM Bridgeport) <http://www.wpkn.org/ontheair.html> which was broadcasting through the night.



Pink Floyd virtuosos The Machine and the covered GreenVibes stage were on everyone mind as the rain continued on. With DSO cutting their set short due to flooding on stage The Machine took to the tent around 12:45 AM as the lights began to blaze and Shine on Crazy Diamond exploded from the stage. The opening notes called out to all those who were hiding in the campsites to come join in on the music and enjoy. The Machine continued with hits like Breath and Time to the absolutely packed tent.

The Gathering of the Vibes continues into its second day, Day Passes as well as weekend camping tickets are still available on site.



Words: Carla Danca

Photos: Jeremy Gordon