

## Best Local Band **Freez-R-Burn**

**W**hat started as a family jam session in 1992, later developed into the Freez-R-Burn you know today. The current band members—Jim Thomas (vocals and percussion), Paul McCoy (vocals and bass guitar), Kevin Pahlau (drums), Kevin Thomas (vocals, sound and percussion) and Brian Thomas (vocals and

guitar)—have been playing together since 2004.

For these guys, it's all about the rock. "We've been described as roots rock, but I'm not sure what that means," Brian Thomas says. Key influences include The Rolling Stones and R.E.M.—pretty much anything that

relies heavily on electric guitar, bass and drums. However, the band covers everyone from classics like Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly to modern hit-makers like The Killers.

Though Freez-R-Burn gladly plays fan favorites by other artists, the members really enjoy writing their own songs. They released an album with six original tracks in 2007, and they hope to put out a full-length release in the next year. "We want to continue to write," Brian explains. "It's really gratifying to have songs come together."

Of course, the real rush of being in a band comes when it's time to take the stage. Being a true garage band, all the guys have jobs and families, so Freez-R-Burn only performs about 10-15 shows a year, often for fundraisers. "We enjoy the opportunity to play (for a crowd)," Brian says.

While he believes "every stage is a good stage," as a performer, Brian is partial to Musica. "It's a club that's about the music," he says. "Not a bar that happens to have a stage; it's a stage that happens to have a bar."

The question that's likely on most people's mind, though, is where did the name Freez-R-Burn come from? A couple of reasons: "One was that we used to practice in a barn. We would play year-round, and it was either sweltering hot in the summer or freezing cold in the winter – freeze or burn," Brian explains, adding that it also seemed that at the time the band covered a lot of songs that had hot/cold themes.

While you can learn more about the band at [freezrburn.com](http://freezrburn.com), Brian says fans can find the most updated information on their Facebook page. Simply type Freez-R-Burn in the Facebook search.—KL

