Impressive lineup of country music stars set for Deerfield Harvest Festival Oct. 7-9

Country music fans will be in their element at this year’s Deerfield Harvest Festival with 15 groups set to perform from Friday through Sunday at the annual event on Morton Avenue, Rosenhayn, on the fire hall grounds.

Headlining the entertainment on Saturday night, Oct. 8, are performers Uncle Kracker (8:45 p.m.), Jaron & the Long Road to Love (7:30 p.m.) and Randy Montana (6:15 p.m.). Stars on Sunday evening include Love and Theft at 8:30 p.m. and The Lunabelles at 7:35 p.m.

In addition to the non-stop entertainment are amusement rides, crafters, food vendors and special events such as a baking challenge, a Singfest Contest Friday night at 7 p.m. and a tribute to “Hometown Heroes.”

In keeping with the theme of the festival, “A Salute to America and Hometown Heroes,” individuals who have served the community will be recognized. Categories are humanitarian, fire fighter, law enforcement, emergency personnel/medical, workplace, youth and animal rescue. Persons for the awards have been nominated in a process open to the public.

The Performers
Uncle Kracker has had impressive success as a songwriter and performer. His 2008 album, “Happy Hour,” produced by multiple Grammy Award winner Rob Cavallo, is a blend of country-flavored pop and

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rock and roll. He is known to many from his early years as the DJ in Kid Rock’s Twisted Brown Trucker Band, although he signed his first record deal at age 15 with an independent label in his native Detroit. “Stranger to Shame” was his second album in 2002, which spawned a hit version of the Dobie Gray classic “Drift Away.” In 2004 he released the album “Seventy Two and Sunny,” which featured a track by well known country singer Kenny Chesney. His hit singles include “Smile,” “Follow Me,” and “Drift Away.”

Jaron Lowenstein, of Jaron and the Long Road to Love, first emerged on the music scene in the late 90’s as half of Evan and Jaron, identical twin brothers who produced a run of successful singles including the multi-platinum song, “Crazy for this Girl.” They also had their songs featured in movies such as “Runaway Bride” and “Serendipity.” Jaron debuted as a solo act in 2009. The album “Getting Dressed in the Dark,” has topped the iTunes chart for top country albums as well as rounded out the top 10 albums in all genres.

Randy Montana, son of award-winning songwriter Billy Montana, had his first two singles, “Ain’t Much Left of Lovin’ You” and “1,000 Faces” charted in the top 40. He started playing guitar at age 10, writing songs at age 16 and performed his first song publicly at one of his father’s writers’ nights at age 17. He was an award-winning high school quarterback, earning All-State honors for leading the state in passing yards and touchdowns his junior and senior years. He now applies that same dedication and discipline to the music industry.

Love and Theft is a new harmony-based country-pop band out of Nashville consisting of three singer/songwriters, Eric Gunderson, Stephen Barker Liles and Brian Bandas. Each take turns singing lead. They made their chart debut in early 2009 with the single “Runaway,” which reached the Top 10 on Billboard’s Hot Country Songs. It is included in the band’s debut album, “World Wide Open.”

The Lunabelles consist of sisters Dominque, Gabby and Olivia Arciero, originally from Chester Springs, Pa. A fourth member, Alex Kline, who attended Boston’s famed Berklee College of Music, was added to round out the group. They have performed on Kenny Rogers Christmas show and toured with the Jonas Brothers in 2005.

Friday performers are Gerizim at 6 p.m. and the Jack Neff Band at 9 p.m.

Other musicians performing Saturday are The Idol Kings, 3 and 5 p.m.; Mach Five, 4:10 p.m.; Kids Don’t Bounce, 1:50 p.m. and Route 9, 12:50 p.m.

Also appearing on Sunday are The Henningsens, 6:40 p.m.; Bruce in the USA, 3:50 and 5:30 p.m.; Sensational Soul Cruisers, 1:50 and 4:10 p.m.; and The Good Tymes, noon.

Admission to the Festival on Friday is free. Admission on Saturday and Sunday is $1 for those six and over. There will be a large official parking lot near the site. The parking fee is $5, which includes admission to the Festival for up to five people per auto.

The Festival parade will begin at noon on Saturday at the Deerfield Township School on Morton Avenue, Rosenhayn. Sponsors include Comcast, the Cultural & Heritage Commission and the N.J. State Council on the Arts.

For detailed information on the Festival and packages for main stage seating, visit the web site, deerfieldfestival.org, or call 856-453-3200.