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## HOT TUNA Band takes time to visit local fan



Karl Rabe photos/Poughkeepsie Journal

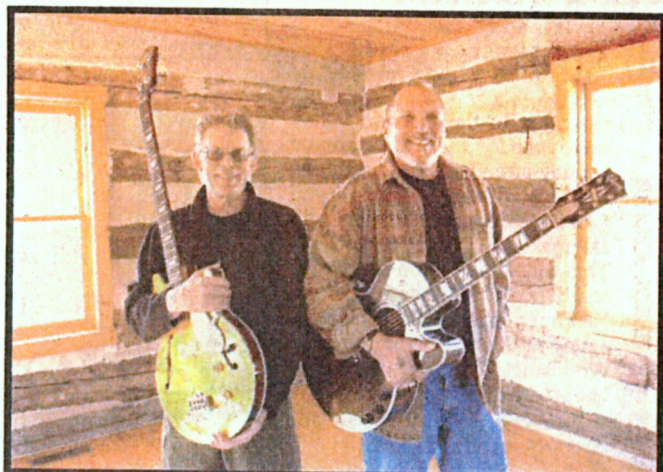
Rock and Roll Hall of Famers and Hot Tuna founding members Jorma Kaukonen, left, and Jack Casady, center, talk with Marbletown Hardware owner Brian Murphy while shopping during a visit to the Stone Ridge hardware store.

### Hardware store is really rocking

By John W. Barry  
Poughkeepsie Journal

After tearing through two sets of music in Poughkeepsie with their band Hot Tuna, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame members Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady Monday dropped by a Stone Ridge hardware store to meet one of their biggest fans and buy two pairs of pliers.

Kaukonen and Casady, former members of the super group Jefferson Airplane, surprised Marbletown Hardware owner Brian Murphy Monday morning. Murphy, a Stone Ridge resident, who attended Hot Tuna's sold-out show Sunday night at the Bardavon 1869 Opera House in Poughkeepsie, has been a fan for more than 30 years. Dozens of photos of Hot Tuna and other rock bands are plastered on the walls



Courtesy photo

Hot Tuna features Casady, left, and Kaukonen.

of his Route 209 hardware store.

Kaukonen and Casady spent about an hour at Marbletown Hardware, wandering the aisles, browsing the inventory, talking to customers and signing many autographs. A cluster of about a dozen people gathered around the

cash register, watching the musical duo's every move, while other customers came and went, seemingly oblivious to the buzz.

The band made a small detour en route from Poughkeepsie to Vermont, where they play their next show Wednesday, after hear-

### @ On the Web

- For more photos from Hot Tuna's visit to Marbletown Hardware, go to: [www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/photos](http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/photos)
- For more about the band, visit [www.hottuna.com](http://www.hottuna.com)
- For more on Marbletown Hardware, visit [www.marbletownhardware.com](http://www.marbletownhardware.com)

ing about the photographs and the exhibit space. The ensemble's 45-foot-long tour bus slipped easily into the store's parking lot, past pickup trucks owned by the shop's regulars.

"It's just fantastic," said a grinning Murphy, a Bardavon member. "What else can you say? I can't sum it up in words."

Murphy's collection of photographs — Elvis, John Lennon, The Band and Mick Jagger in addition to Hot Tuna and others — supports his friendly boasting of the store as "The World's Only Rock 'n' Roll Hardware Store." He originally put the photographs up

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### Performers are consumers

Though they passed on the drill, each musician purchased a pair of needle-nose pliers — Casady spent \$5.39, Kaukonen shelled out \$6.79.

"And worth every penny of it," beamed Kaukonen, who was dressed in a pullover sweatshirt and jeans and flashing a big smile.

Kaukonen, who lived in Mount Tremper years ago, said he enjoys returning to the Hudson Valley each year for the band's annual Sunday-after-Thanksgiving show at the Bardavon — they played their sixth this year. Kaukonen said exiting the New York state Thruway at exit 19 on the way to Marbletown Hardware brought back memories. That is also the exit for Mount Tremper and Woodstock, which Kaukonen frequented while a nearby resident.

Kaukonen also recalled the many shows he and Casady played at Uncle Willy's on Broadway in Kingston, a now-closed nightclub near the Ulster Performing Arts Center. Some of those shows were captured in photographs on the store's walls.

"That place was like my living room," Kaukonen said of Uncle Willy's, adding he would often grab a guitar, drive from Mount Tremper to Kingston and play at the club, sometimes three nights in a week, sometimes three nights in a week.

### High-wire act

Casady recalled an interesting story behind a black-and-white publicity photo of himself Murphy had placed under a piece of glass at the cash register. The photo shoot for the picture, Casady said, took place on the roof of an 11-story building. When he posed for the shot, Casady was standing at the edge of the roof with nothing between him and the street.

As they prepared to leave, Casady placed a Marbletown Hardware work apron into his Marbletown Hardware canvas shopping bag.

Kaukonen signed one last autograph and said he is glad to oblige when asked to sign something. Autograph requests, like the homage paid to him and Casady on the walls of Marbletown Hardware, Kaukonen said, mean a lot.

"It's always nice," Kaukonen said very tenderly, "to know people still care."

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## Hot Tuna: Rock history highlighted on store's walls

Continued from 1A

to entertain people with no interest in hardware who were accompanying someone shopping.

"In L.A., at my Home Depot, they don't have a picture of me up on the wall," joked Casady, who was dressed in a baseball cap and ski jacket. His bass lines, along with Kaukonen's haunting guitar licks, anchor the Airplane's hit "White Rabbit."

Kaukonen, a former Ulster County resident, seemed to just take it all in.

"This is great," he said several times.

Including Poughkeepsie, Hot Tuna had just concluded seven concerts in eight days. On Monday, the pair looked as happy to be wandering the aisles of a hardware store on a day off from performing as they did gazing at pictures taken of them two decades ago.

Yvette Lee, a High Falls resident who has worked at Marbletown Hardware for a year, snapped pictures of the musicians throughout their visit.

"It's great to talk to Jack," she said. "They're terrific guys."

Casady, who on stage typically plays the straight man for Kaukonen's jokes, was horsing around Monday, picking up a DeWalt drill on display and telling Kaukonen they needed to purchase the tool.

"What's better than a hardware store?" he asked. "I'm like a kid in a candy store — a kid in a hardware store."