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Guitarist Greg Koch mans the Tone Controls

Last Updated: April 3, 2003

Band name

Greg Koch

Who's who

Guitarist Greg Koch backed by the Tone Controls: drummer John Calarco and bassist Tom Good

When formed

Koch's latest lineup first got together in '98, but Koch began playing with various Tone Control units in 1990.

Web site

www.gregkoch.com

Most recent album

"Radio Free Gristle"

He says he sounds like

"A savory caldron of plectrum-fueled skulduggery."

We say he sounds like

A six-stringing blues-rock maestro who's hit overload but made peace with it.

Describe your look

"Sasquatchian."

Sell yourself in 20 words or less

"Imagine Chet Hendrix meets the Kings (B.B., Freddie and Albert) at the first annual Zeppelin & Hendrix Coffee Guzzler's Hoedown."

Favorite food on the road

"Ribs - if I can find a Houston's on the road, I'm there."

Unofficial band beverage

"Coffee."

What other musician could you take in a fight?

"Gwen Stefani."

First gig

"The Christ King Church cafeteria in Wauwatosa."

Worst gig

"Playing for the Brett Favre family party at a bar during the Super Bowl weekend in San Diego the year the Packers lost."

Weirdest fan encounter

"We were playing at the Hoist House in Platteville. Everyone in the bar was outrageously smashed, and a few guys started dancing before the stage with life-size Eddie Van Halen cut-outs."

Song you've written that you're most proud of

" 'Fall from Grace,' the song I wrote for my daughter, Grace Elizabeth. But make sure you mention that I've written songs for all my other kids, including 'Dylan the Villain' and 'Ila Rose.' "

Favorite cover song in your live show

" 'Message to Love' or some other Hendrix tune."

Biggest band achievement

"Getting signed and having my last album, 'The Grip,' distributed internationally." (Both "The Grip" and "Radio Free Gristle" were released on Steve Vai's Favored Nations label.)

Why do you do this?

"I was bewitched by Jimi as a child, and the rest was destiny."

Where do you want to be in five years?

"Retired."

What's the greatest song ever written?

"Wind Beneath My Wings."

Local Riffs



Photo/File

Blues-rocker Greg Koch and the Tone Controls play April 4 and 5 at Up and Under Pub.

Past Coverage

 [Greg Koch](#): Koch enjoys breakthrough year

A version of this story appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on April 4, 2003.

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