

BOOIE BEACH

Booie Beach grew up in Branford, Florida and began playing guitar when he was 11 years old. As a child, he started listening to his mom's collection of Stanley Brothers records and George Shuffler's lead guitar playing, as well as hearing Junior Blankenship live with Ralph Stanley, cemented his interest in crosspicking. From there, he discovered Tony Rice and immediately started to incorporate ideas from Rice and other contemporary players into his own style.



As a teenager, Booie fronted Beachville Bluegrass, as the guitarist and lead singer. The group attained a level of success rarely seen in regionally based acts, appearing at many key festivals in Florida and bringing with them a huge, loyal fan base. Also an avid athlete with football scholarship offers to leading universities in the state, Beach was unsure of his career path. A knee injury in high school, however, prompted him to focus on music and led to the start of his professional career.

In 1991, a few years after graduation, Booie joined the Larry Stephenson Band. Then based in Fredericksburg, VA, commitment to Stephenson's band resulted in a weekly 12-hour commute from Florida. Beach, who had started a family and had two small children at home, eventually had to leave the group, but only after recording *Can't Stop Myself* and laying the foundation for what would become another stint with the band.

Next, Booie became the lead singer and guitar player for After Five, where he first met fellow LST member, Kim Gardner. The group recorded *Walls of Time*, featuring Booie's lead vocals, and also won the SPBGMA band contest. In March of 1995, Beach moved to Nashville, TN to rejoin The Larry Stephenson Band, where he stayed for 3 years. By then, the band was also based in TN, making the logistics of playing music for a living much more feasible.

From Stephenson's group, Booie moved on to become a consummate and long-standing member of Larry Cordle's Lonesome Standard Time. He was featured on the group's Grammy-nominated album, *Murder on Music Row*, in addition to *Songs from the Workbench* and *Lonesome Skynyrd Time*. Beach's contributions to the group are invaluable on and off the stage. His harmony singing and signature lead guitar skills help provide a distinct identity that few groups enjoy today.

Booie plays a 1988 Santa Cruz Tony Rice model, made of Brazilian rosewood, with a German spruce top. He uses Black Diamond Strings.