



# Marvin T. Stuckmeyer

## Lead Vocals and Harmonica

As a young penguin growing up on Ross Island in the Antarctic, Marvin T. Stuckmeyer was obsessed with two things, Geocaching and becoming the lead singer for a rock band. Given Antarctica's lack-luster music scene, and the fact that there are only 35 geocaches on the entire continent, he very soon realized that he'd have to leave the blistering sub-zero comfort of his hometown to fulfill his destiny.

So, like any good troubadour, he packed up his guitar and his GPS and headed West. After circling the South Pole a half dozen times, he realized that West might not have been the best choice and set a new course due North.

Above the arctic circle, Marvin found a whole new world waiting and quickly began learning the trade of a musician as the rhythm guitarist for several bands in and around Manhattan.

But it wasn't until he meet world famous blues man Lead-bottom Joe one night after a show that Marvin realized his true calling on the harmonica. "Joe handed me this old harmonica that looked like it'd been retrieved from the Titanic wreckage and told me to give it a try. The instant I blew a few notes on that crusty old harp, two things happened: I contracted a horrible case of smallpox, and I realized the harmonica was the instrument I was meant to play. It was so much better for me than the guitar. Do you know how hard it is to play a C minor seventh chord on guitar when you have no fingers!"

Marvin spent the next 6 months perfecting his harmonica style and eventually decided it was time to step up to the lead mic. He formed and fronted the band **Cold and Smelly** and began a period of furious songwriting during which he penned over 40 tunes for the band including their hit "*Man, Is It Hot In Minnesota*".

**C&S** bassist and co-founder of **The Travel Bugs** Shelley Rickenbacker recalls, "Marvin's work ethic was crazy! We'd come into the studio to find him asleep on the floor with a half eaten bucket of fish heads and the sheet music for 3 or 4 new songs!"

The band achieved national recognition and soon found themselves playing gigs around the United States and Europe. Marvin was finally living the life he'd always dreamed of, fronting a successful band and Geocaching whenever time permitted. However, he wasn't satisfied to rest on his laurels.

He had an epiphany one evening at a **Traveling Wilburys** concert. He realized that he could combine his two passions into a single career, and in a shocking move Marvin and Shelly turned their backs on their current success, leaving **Cold and Smelly** and forming **The Travel Bugs**. They began writing a new Geocaching-based repertoire and playing small shows around New York City, gradually adding new band

members as they met other Geocacher musicians until **The Travel Bugs** became the group that we know today.

"The marriage of Geocaching and music is a match made in heaven", Marvin says , "Now our music is deeply connected with our love of Geocaching... and our tour expenses are minimal . The Geocaching community has been happy to move us around from gig to gig and there are so many caches to stay in for free."

**The Travel Bugs** debut album "*Found It!*", released in 2010, is available at the Groundspeak online store, and more information about the band's activities can be found at [www.thegeocachers.com](http://www.thegeocachers.com).

The logo for The Travel Bugs features the word "The" in a small, dark purple, sans-serif font positioned above the word "Travel". "Travel" and "Bugs" are written in a larger, brown, cursive script font. The "B" in "Bugs" is notably larger and more stylized than the other letters.