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Country rockers, The New Riders of the Purple Sage came together in the late '60 s in San Francisco. The band was comprised of The Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia, Phil Lesh and Micky Hart, Big Brother and The Holding Company guitarist David Nelson and sometime Dead session guitarist John Dawson. They scored an early FM radio hit, "Panama Red."

Last month, the band, still led by Nelson, released its 17 th studio album, "17 Pine Avenue," that features seven songs penned by Nelson and Grateful Dead lyricist Robert Hunter. The New Riders have nearly two dozen concerts on their schedule beginning in May and running through August. They've opted to play quite a few smaller, often quirkier festivals, including the Mighty High Mountain Fest in Tuxedo, New York, on May 20, when they'll be joined onstage by Blues Traveler singer-harmonica player John Popper.

By Steve Smith