



## **American Speedway CD Review**

By Joe Milliken

Philadelphia based, punk rockers American Speedway are old school. No Emorock sheen or modern, sterilized metal for these boys. With their debut release *Ship Of Fools*, it's simply full-throttle, straightahead rock with a few driving hooks and kickass choruses to tie it all together.

Formed in 2007, American Speedway surely grew up listening to bands like Motorhead, AC/DC and the MC5, and bring that type of loud, raw energy into their songs, both on record and in their live performances.

Although considered punk by today's standards, this band is quite frankly, reminiscent of the legendary Detroit 60's rockers MC5, without the political connotations and innuendos.

Simply plug in and blast out the crunching chords while singer Michael Thursby of Speedway creates a vocal presence that falls somewhere between Motorhead's Lemmy, AC/DC's Bon Scott and the Sex Pistol's Johnny Rotten.

With a running time of only 32 minutes, these 10 songs come out of the blocks fast and hit the road screamin' on such numbers as the roaring <sup>3</sup>Drinkin<sup>1</sup> and Drivin<sup>1,2</sup>, the guitarscorched <sup>3</sup>Cocaine<sup>2</sup> and the anthemshouting <sup>3</sup>Same Old, Same Old<sup>2</sup> and <sup>3</sup>Ship Of Fools.<sup>2</sup> For that matter, I could list every track with descriptions such as these.

Recorded at Thursby's Pennsylvania home studio in order to help capture their <sup>3</sup>raw live element<sup>2</sup>, the packaging and artwork is first rate and also available on vinyl that includes a special bonus CD as well.

So if you want to check out a new rock band that fuses their own punk sensibilities with that of the <sup>3</sup>golden age of rock and roll<sup>2</sup>, (isn't that a Blue Oyster Cult song?) hop on board the American Speedway and let them take you for a ride. Wear your seat belt!

NOTE: The **Message** serves the areas of and is the paper of record for Chester, Londonderry, Ludlow, Rockingham, Springfield, West River Valley and Weston, Vermont.