

## Van Halen in regular routine

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LAS VEGAS, NV - MAY 17: (L-R) Bassist Wolfgang Van Halen, singer David Lee Roth, drummer Alex Van Halen and guitarist Eddie Van Halen of Van Halen perform during the 2015 Billboard Music Awards at MGM Grand Garden Arena on May 17, 2015 in Las Vegas.

*Photo by Ethan Miller/Getty Images*

Since Eddie and [Alex Van Halen](#) reunited with original lead singer [David Lee Roth](#) nearly a decade ago, [Van Halen](#) has fallen into a familiar long term pattern. Periods of intense activity (three tours, two albums, two national TV appearances) are surrounded by extended stretches, sometimes two or three years of appearing to put the band in mothballs.

After wrapping up a successful 44-date North American tour this past October, the 4 members of Van Halen seem to have retreated to neutral corners. (Given the [reported inability](#) of Eddie and Roth to be friends offstage, that post-tour separation may be a good thing.)

Although his eponymous band appears to be hibernating since the last tour ended, the legendary guitarist has been busy. [Eddie Van Halen](#) did an [extensive interview](#) with "Guitar World" magazine in which he shared details about the live rig he used during the last tour. That extensive feature appeared in the magazine's February 2016 issue.

He also continues his charitable work. Earlier this month, Eddie attended a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the [Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation](#), which supports music education in underfunded public schools. The nonprofit noted that "Not only did Eddie donate 75 guitars four years ago, he and his brother Alex just made a \$100,000 donation to MHOF."

Meanwhile, Roth put out 4 new episodes of his popular "[The Roth Show](#)" in the last 3 weeks. His wide-ranging talk show covers topics such as [David Bowie's influence](#) on his fashion choices in the early 1970s to [memories of the Pop Warner football](#) he played as a young boy and the finer points of tailgating to reposting a video of himself with legendary Japanese tattoo artist Horiyoshi III, to a [50-minute episode](#) that covers myriad topics from his studies in the ancient Asian strategy game Go to a one minute clip of a previously unheard song he wrote, "Red Bull and Pop Tarts."

And just as the study of physics tells us that nature abhors a vacuum, whenever there is a lull in Van Halen activity and news, like during the last almost six months, the rumors of the band's demise, Roth leaving/being fired and former replacement singer [Sammy Hagar](#) (1985-1996, 2004) replacing him once again resurface.

First, Roth [was going to perform a few songs](#) with his former "Eat 'Em And Smile" band last November (before the fire marshal shut down the show at the Lucky Strike Jam in Hollywood, for being well over capacity). Then there was the brief Twitter exchange in late January between [Hagar](#) and [Eddie Van Halen](#) on the guitar legend's birthday, marking the first public civil communication between the two in more than a decade, sparking fierce fan and media speculation about a reunion between the two former band mates.

The guessing game intensified when Roth posted online a melancholy song he wrote and recorded at an unspecified time ("Ain't No Christmas") that had many fans and journalists wondering if this was the singer's bitter goodbye to the band. At first, his management [revealed to the Van Halen News Desk](#) that "It's poetry. It has nothing to do with Van Halen." Days later, the internet chatter continued and the singer changed the front page of his recently relaunched [website](#) to an embedded video of the song and the following text: "On second thought if all work is autobiographic maybe this song is about Van Halen..." The site soon reverted to its recent format a few days later, and nobody connected to the band spoke about this again.

There is one person who often speaks about the band and openly theorizes about its future, especially when it may involve him. In a March 26 [article](#) on RollingStone.com, Hagar said that people have been asking him if the rumors of his second return to the band are true. He added that after the sudden deaths of rock icons David Bowie and Glen Frey earlier this year, "I realized that I didn't want to take any enemies to my grave." Hagar has come a long way from last summer's [expletive-filled video](#) in which he called Eddie a liar and yelled that he should do something lewd to himself, to publicly musing that he'd be receptive to getting together with the Van Halen brothers, if they reach out to him first.

In the meantime, a couple of Roth-era Van Halen songs will be included on the soundtrack to the soon-to-be released (April 1) movie "Everybody Wants Some," director Richard Linklater's follow-up to cult classic "Dazed and Confused." The movie title was taken from the 1980 Van Halen song of the same name.

In other words, more of the same from Van Halen, complete silence from the band regarding any future plans while the individual members pursue various projects and interests.

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