

MAD RAT MAGAZINE

rock'n'roll ~ rockabilly ~ rhythm & blues ~ jump 'n' jive

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issue #11 July 06

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Comprehensive Gig Guide
CD and Gig Reviews
New Bands & Clubs
Interviews



JERRY CHATABOX PRESENTS

THE COLLINS KIDS

SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2006

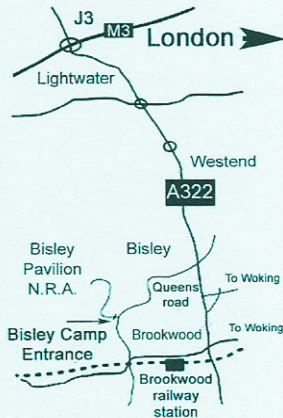
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SPIKE SPOUTS

Oï Oï

Well, I sat and pondered on the topic of my oi oi this month and I really tried very hard not to moan, BUT true to form I found after several phone calls from several people on the scene about the scene to Linette and her reporting the conversations to myself that I thought I should moan hopefully for the last time on this subject.

If you are a promoter then your contract should read (the band is requested not to play within (so many miles for so many weeks before or after this booking). Promoters should not be telling bands who they can play for or threatening cancellation of gigs if there is no contract which states otherwise..... Likewise bands should not expect promoters to sit quietly by while they play the week before up the road, they should be a bit sensitive to the promoters need to put bums on seats and therefore should be sensible when taking the bookings.

As for free pub gigs, most pubs now pay as much as the clubs do for their bands and whether they charge nothing or £50 on the

door is irrelevant, the scene is about choice and if a band has a good fan base they would go see them wherever they

played and while we are at it has anybody thought that out of the hundreds of bands currently doing the rounds your all booking the same few bands several times a year!

Variety is the spice of life after all. On the subject of hundreds of bands which has nothing to do with this next piece and no it isn't a moan thank you to all the bands and labels that have sent in their cd's for review we will get to them eventually so don't give up on us!

Thanks again to all our distributors who have experienced troubles with our courier thanks for your understanding. Thanks to everyone who writes to us about anything for any reason or just to say hi!!!! And a reminder that the only way to insure you get your mag is to subscribe to the postage and packing deal on our website or send us a cheque! UK's only free rockin mag reaching the masses with a massively gorgeous dude on the front cover!

Unlike the massively gorgeous cardboard spike that was kidnapped from the B52 and ransomed for two garden gnomes at the Country Cattin gig which was a doozy..... Bring him back safe please..... Hope to see you all pretty soon ill be sneaking up on you so be on your toes.....

See you out there

Rockin' Regards

Spike

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The Planet Boppers

The Planet Boppers have been trundling up and down motorways from all directions for what seems an eternity but it has only been the last few years that they have gained the recognition that they so truly deserve. Now a four piece the original Memphis sound hasn't been lost it still has that warm scratchy feel to it that breathes life into the rockabilly tracks that they have written and cover. Seriously under rated on the scene The Planet Boppers at last are making the headway they deserve. Using a simple PA and backline ads to this authentic sound. Are the planet bopper's technophobes or are they one of few remaining bands that search for that down home raw edged full of life Sun sound....

We asked The Planet Boppers this question and more, here is the interview.

Q Hi Guys, Can you tell me how The Planet Boppers began?

It all began in the year 2000 Mick (drums) Jim (bass) and Me Dave, got together for a jam previous to this we had all been playing with other well known bands at the time. We started out as a three piece and it worked well for a while but I didn't want to sing and play lead guitar all the time so we decided to make it a four piece, even with a four piece I ended up singing all the time .we wanted our fourth member to be just a singer front man rhythm guitarist ,then in 2003 Les joined the band which completed the rockabilly line up,

what a singer & mover Les is.

Q Why did you opt for the original sound it's obviously the best place to be at but surely authentic rockabilly means less booking's throughout the year?

As real Rockabilly venues are few and far between these days! The original sound is the only sound to have, this might mean less bookings but that don't bother us, we still do a lot of gigs through out the year, were not a band who needs to play every fri, sat and sun every week.

Q Do you have a big ambition and how far off of that do you think you are?

We,d like to release a vinyl LP containing our own songs that even the record collectors would think was some lost fifties artist, also we would like to do a European tour or even a world tour.

Q Will there be a new CD soon?

Yes there will be, were hoping to get back in the studio soon to do volume 2 of our E.P.

Q What has been your best gig to date?



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BEST GIG TO DATE, hemsby 2006

Q With the equipment that you use now would you feel secure going into a big venue or would you hope that a PA supplied would be your best bet? Are you confident in equipment?

We are always confident with our equipment, normally if we are playing a big venue the PA is supplied, 99% of the time our equipment is good enough for most venues, we used our own gear at Hemsby, if people say its not loud enough because they cant hear it at the back then they should come down the front.

Q If you could pick a final song at the end of your career which song would it be and you don't all have to agree you can have one each?

Mick, The man from Laramie (Planet Boppers), Jim, any Hank Williams. Les, Milk cow Blues Elvis, and myself working all my life (Jim Nesbitt)

Q For the ignorant among us tell us the bands/players influences?

Mick, Elvis, Carl Perkins, Johnny Burnette, Ronnie Dawson. Jim, any early country/hillbilly. Les, Elvis Johnny Cash, Hank Williams. Dave, Cliff Gallup, Scotly Moore, Carl Perkins, Leadbelly, Robert Johnson.

Q You have a loyal fan base and a lot of the big promoters in the UK are definitely big fans, do you wish that the scene was slightly more rockabilly oriented?

It would be nice to have a lot more rockabilly clubs, but it aint gonna happen, take the rockabilly rave, fantastic week-ender 3000 people boppin to rockabilly, but if you put a rockabilly/rock n roll gig on in your home town maybe 20/30 people will turn up, yet you go to a jive club probably 200 people there, there's too many of these jive clubs around putting on crap bands .MORE ROCKABILLY LESS JIVE!

Q Are you for or against the rockabilly divide? Do you believe like us that good rockin' is good rockin' and that's it?

WHAT IS THE ROCKABILLY DIVIDE? The division is brought about by individuals who really don't care about a healthy rockin scene.

Q. To be fair to the divas of last issue what's your favourite soup? And Stockings or Tights?

Jim says clam chowder and he doesn't care whether its stockings or tights as long as he can get his hands between them. Mick chicken gumbo due to low under carriage and he finds stockings and tights are very uncomfortable especially when he rides his bike. Myself stockings especially in the winter when I can wear them to work to keep me legs warm. my soup has to be Wong tong. Les prefers long johns cause they have a trap door in them, easy access. Doner kebab soup.

Mad Rat

The Earl Jackson Band -

All Saints Arts Centre, London

20/5/2006

What makes a great night out? How about a nice venue, including a sprung dance floor, smashing welcome, cheap bar and some swinging live music? Pretty good, but throw in entertainment with a capital "e" and you've got yourself a top Saturday evening, worth braving the recent monsoon-like conditions in London for.

This sums up the latest Swamp Rock event and it wouldn't have been the same without Earl Jackson! Forget the rumoured Chuck Berry link, this guy and his band are fine musicians and terrific entertainers. Despite an occasionally muddy sound mix, the dance floor was packed from the first number and stayed that way all evening. All the way from Memphis, via Mansfield with his loud suit, wild eyes, perpetual grin, ringing guitar and distinctive vocals, Earl Jackson exudes charisma and boy it's infectious! His ability to engage with his audience was apparent immediately and ignores the fact that he spent most of the mid-set break on the dance floor himself, much to the delight of certain ladies!

"Knock, Knock, Knocking At The Door" set the rock 'n' roll tone, as did "Black Diamond", both driven along by Leon Tattersall on drums, whilst bluesy versions of "Fanny Brown" and "Hip Shake" emphasised Dave Elsey's double bass and vocal talents. The band stamped their identity on a variety of styles, whilst making each one eminently danceable, none more so than Art Tattersall's funky sax that gave "Night Train" a really soulful feel. "Little Sister" showcased some nice-

ly understated guitar riffs from Earl and sparked massed strolling.

The second half included a rocking "Slow Down", closely followed by "Rockin' Daddy", featuring excellent vocal harmonies from the band. "Back In The USA" encouraged the Earl Jackson version of the Chuck Berry duck walk, before the pace slowed a little for "Don't Knock It". The climax featured a frenetic ska beat and bags of energy from the musicians during "Don't Be Angry", plus a feverish version of "Justine" for the demanded encore. All this plus Carole and Neil, Swamp Rock organisers, announcing their engagement - what a brilliant night!

Darrell Parsons

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The Sunsetters

Frank Ryan	Vocals/Rhythm Guitar
Paul Gaskin	Lead Guitar
Damion Pearce	Double Bass
Rob Tyler	Drums

This Essex based four piece are our tip for the top if not in the latter part of 06 then definitely 07 and beyond.....With only a couple of gigs behind them Frank and The Boys have already attracted a huge fan base across Essex and it's growing by the second. A four track demo containing the workings of this band boast one of the greatest voices to hit the scene in a long while (and I'm not kidding)....

The musical accompaniment is made up of two popular names from the scene Rob Tyler and Paul Gaskin with a zillion years of experience between them and two fresh and enthusiastic faces Frank Ryan and Damion Pearce.

This meeting of rockin' souls brings to the scene a new and exciting energy that wants to play everywhere and play everything and anything. The Sunsetters style is an authentic four piece sun sound that compliments the incredible vocal talents of Frank Ryan although originally they intended to play purely early sun covers the horizon now is vast and furious rehearsals means that they will step up to the plate with an all new set very soon. This journey of discovery for the band is all seeing all telling and as they discover hidden depth to the scene and enjoy the simple things that more experienced performers on our scene have long forgotten. This line up is fairly new but the feel of the latest recordings gives the impression of a long standing relationship between the guys. In any event you have to see this lot to believe them, check them out soon!



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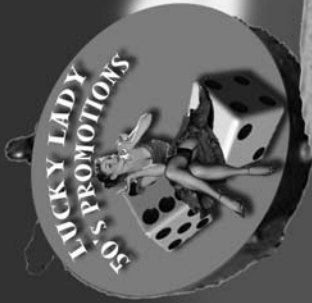
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Rattin' all over the Web

I thought it was about time I approached that glowing box of tricks that sits in the corner of the drawing room at Rat Towers and use my rodent cousin, the mouse, to do a bit of surfin' on the web. The kids avidly show me how to press buttons on a thing called a keyboard and how to manipulate the mouse. After, 3 days I started getting the hang of it and am now navigating the world wide web like a pro. So, now I've mastered it, I thought I'd bring your attention to some of the rockin' sites that are worth a butchers'. Here goes.....

Planet Jive: - planetjive.co.uk

This is one of the missus' favorites. A good site to catch up on news and gig listings. Simple design, which makes for a quick download. Gettin' the jargon, ain't it?



NotoriousKitsch: - notoriouskitsch.co.uk

A good shopping site for everything retro and generally kitsch. Good fifties feel about this site and easy to navigate. Whoa, I'm hot !!



Ocean's Seven: - oceans7.co.uk

My chums over at Ocean's Seven have revamped their site using something called Flash, which I thought was a floor cleaner!! A cracking site with music and video. Top stuff and my winner of the month.



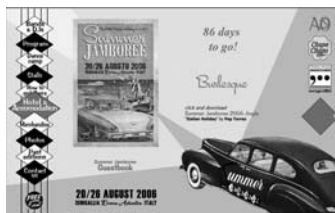
Border Radio: borderradio.com

One of the most popular web radio stations, playing a great variety of all that's rockin' Turn on, tune in and rock out!!!



jamboree.com

Home page of the well renowned Summer festival held in Senigallia, Italy in August. Nice bit of animation and plenty of archive material.



More next month surfers.....

Sum-
merJam-
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summer-

Rock and Droll

Am I the only one or are there a silent many who are getting a bit hacked off with lashing out a few bob for events that constantly roll out some of the old guard of rock 'n' roll? The "legends", those faintly talented men and women of yesteryear only to be disappointed when the artistes can only just Zimmer onto the stage, whisper their hit from 1957 and then roll out a bunch of covers such as "Shake Rattle & Roll" and "Blue Suede Shoes", whilst their enrolled backing band look on with bewilderment. Surely not!

I've attended events and seen many a flyer, that suggest a nostalgic weekend in the company of, so called, legendary performers will be good entertainment. I agree that it would be if the true legends actually attended, but unfortunately their aren't many true legends of R 'n' R left. Instead we are habitually fed the purveyors of one hit wonders and those close to their last breaths. Yes, it's great to be on the receiving end of a classic hit or two sung by the person who originally recorded it, however, when the star can only just croon in tune or has to be propped up (musically and sometimes physically) by a house band then, I'm afraid, my interest wanes. I'm sure that promoters have the rockin' publics best entertainment value intentions at heart and I have been privy to a number of great performances by some unlikely come back artistes but, I've also witnessed many embarrassing acts that some would deem as license to demand a refund.

So, to all those promoters out there who habitually dig out the same old crusties. How about headlining a few new Great British rockin' artistes and allow our nubile compatriots from Europe and the USA to take the top turn and rejuvenate our rockin' scene, because once the 'legends' have gone, who will take their place? I'm sure the punters will turn up and I'm sure that the crowd will be more responsive if the show is full of good, well rehearsed, solid rock 'n' roll / r 'n' b/jive, sprinkled with a bit of that wow factor.

The UK Rock 'n' Roll scene will only survive if the new blood are given a chance to entertain the dwindling crowds of music lovers. Hopefully, with new bands being promoted to the top slots, a younger set of rockers may turn up at the shows.

With a noticeable migration of punters to weekenders in Spain, Italy and the Netherlands, I expect the promoters of Britain will smell the coffee and change their approach to attract the migrants back to the world famous weekenders across the UK.

Robert J.

Dear Rocin' Scene,

14 years ago i had an idea to form a Rockin' band with a little bit of energy in how they played their music. After numerous auditions the band known as The Wildkatz was formed and to coin a phrase "The rest is history".

As you have probably heard by now, Trev has left the band. This is NOT!! the end of The Wildkatz, The Wildkatz will continue to play our style of music with myself, (Dave), taking on the role of lead singer. We have already played a number of venues providing top quality entertainment with great reports from promoters and audiences involved. However! we have had one or two gigs cancelled because of two reasons.

The first reason comes from a promoter via our agent, Mr Paul Barratt. His reason being simply "I don't want you without Trev". Well thanks for that, thanks for giving us a chance when we have given you 12 years of commitment, dedication and support, how can this promoter be so cruel and narrow minded after all we have given him? I would like to say the same thing to the other cruel and narrow minded people who commented to Alan, (promoter of Banbury r'n'r club), that they would not be supporting him, or us when we play there because Trev is no longer with the band. Thank goodness that you cruel and narrow minded people are in the minority. The other reason being the FEE! Yes i know that we are now a three piece band and our fee will be less but please promoters, don't take the Micky as one did when he tried to reduce our fee by £150. We offered him a compromise, he wouldn't budge so the gig was cancelled. Well thanks to you too, you know who you are. Another promoter left our fee in the hands of his secretary, minus £100. Thanks to you too, maybe your packed audience on the night should ask for a £1 or £2 back off the entrance fee that you charged, how would you feel about that then?

Please don't forget folks, this music has been my life. I am passionate about it, I don't make any money out of it and I have given my heart and soul to this Rockin' scene throughout my life so please bear these things in mind and at least have the decency to give The Wildkatz a chance before you rip out our hearts and destroy our souls.

Thanks & keep rockin'

Dave

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DJ Little Carl

Can you give us a little information on how you came to dig 'Rock n Roll' and how you got the DJ bug?

I grew up with it really; my parents were into pretty much all aspects of 50's rock'n'roll music so I listened to a lot of Jerry Lee Lewis, early Elvis, Buddy, Chuck & Bo and a lot of Rockabilly including Sun, King and a lot of the smaller labels that my father had collected. I used to go to a lot of gigs/dances with my parents whenever they could take me and my younger sister (it saved them having to get a sitter in ha ha), we didn't mind we loved it. We always hung around the decks out of the way with 50's Flash and Wild Cat Pete at their clubs and at the Caisster weekenders and I was fascinated with records and record decks. My dad would let me play his 45's from as early as I can remember (under his supervision) and I had my own record player since the age of about 9 or 10 years old (a Dansette I bought from my next door neighbour which I still own). I knew at quite a young age that I wanted to DJ.

Can you remember any of those records you borrowed from your father for your first gig?



It's hard to remember but it was definitely a handful of 45's that my dad and me picked. We chose 45's so I had less chance of messing up (fair enough). I was 14 years old. The club was the British Railway Club in Luton run by Gary Den-

sham and maybe a couple of others and was on once a month. I had 30 minutes at some point mid evening and I hit them with pretty much all rockabilly boppers, which did include:

Red Hot Mama - Wayne Worley
Oakies In The Pokie - Jimmy Patton
One Hand Loose - Charlie Feathers
Grand Daddies Rockin - Mac Curtis
Got Love If You Want It - Warren Smith
Rocket 88 - Bill Haley (I think was the first record I played with the car horn at the beginning up loud)

After that I did do a regular 30-minute spot up there.

I know you play a mixture of old and new Rockin' music. Do many clubs give you limitations on what you can and can't play?

No not at all really. I usually ask when people book me to play what styles they want other than that I tend to use my judgement.

What's your opinion on clubs that'll only book DJ's on their own terms?

I myself have not been in that situation. I think promoters of clubs should book DJ's for what they play and their style, it makes them who they are. I don't see any point for a club or promoter to book a DJ and then tell them what to play it makes no sense, they might as well put a tape on or book a DJ that will cater for what they want.

Do you feel you get more freedom to play a wider range of our music (stretch the borders so to speak) in the London clubs, as opposed to clubs elsewhere?

I don't know, because London is where I mostly DJ. I sometimes find a track that does well in the London area might not work so well somewhere out of town. It's not that bad really, People are travelling further nowa-

days to gigs so it's not a problem. Again you get a feel for what would work and what wouldn't on the night.

Tell us a little on how you got the gig at the 1st Speedsfreaks Ball?

I've known Mick "Speedfreak" for a few years through Robin Scott when he used to DJ at Hillingdon football club and he now and then would come to Harefield football Club when I DJ'd there and occasionally if there was a night I couldn't do Mick would cover and vice versa. I had gone to see the Meteors Play at Dingwalls about 2 years back and was at the bar waiting to be served (some things don't change) and Mick was dishing out some leaflets for the first Speedsfreaks weekend. He gave one to me and asked me if I could be one of the DJ's. Simple as that!

Little Carl Presents! Have you any plans to promote our music via a Weekender or do you think we have enough around at the moment?

I would love to. Unfortunately my organisation skills are nil. I also think there are enough weekenders on at the moment. There are so many that cater for different styles and there are a lot more outside the UK where the weather is much better. I have no plans at present to organise a weekender. I'll leave that to the professionals.

Best gig you've played so far?

That's a tricky one. I would have to say late Saturday night at the Rockabilly Rave for the buzz and response I got while doing it. You know it's going well when you can hear a roomful of people cheering and whistling and you see a sea of heads bobbing around to the music. A close second would be when I did the first wild rockin party at the Winchester Hall Tavern with my good mate Shaun, again great atmosphere.

And the worst?

Would have to be an all-dayer I was booked to play last year. There were some great bands, Stargazers, Deltas, Infernos, Sugar Creek Trio and the Tunebusters. But due to poor advertising and promotion combined with probably the hottest day of the year, the turnout was poor.

I love Rockabilly music as well as country and hillbilly. Of all the Rockin' music out there what is your favourite style?

First Rockabilly especially Charlie Feathers and Cash, I love loud guitar rock'n'roll and a lot of the black rockers too like Little Richard, Esquerita too. To me any record that has a great dance beat wins. I can't just put it to one genre; there are so many great fractions to rock'n'roll be it Classic rockabilly, blues, country rock, 60's garage and surf plus all the newer bands too, anything on the wilder side of rockin'.

Do or did you have any inclination to play and perform musically?

I have three guitars at home, they must all be broken or I can't play any of them ha ha!!

Ditto.

For more info on Carl and his DJ schedule check out www.littlecarlrecordhop.co.uk

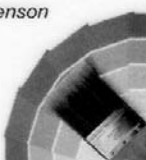
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Leigh-on-Sea,
Essex.

Office: 01702 527659
Mobile: 07947 766881 / 07979 861412
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John Grand (1930 - 2006) The quiet (but not silent) Comet

This biography isn't going to re-hash what you've read in books and magazines about the history of the famous Bill Haley & His Comets, so you will find I gloss over or ignore some of those main points. The purpose of this mini bio is to give you some insight on John Grande, who was the last surviving partner in the Bill Haley corporations who really didn't talk about himself very much. I'd finally gotten him to talk about his adventures on the road, but it was only weeks before he got very ill, so obviously, while I was able to get notes, they are nowhere near as complete as I'd like for them to have been. NOTE: This article was being planned for awhile, but due to recent tragic events, it's now a memorial. Hopefully, this bio will bring answers to some questions, shatter a few printed myths and just make for plain good reading. It just proves you don't have to be flashy to be a vital part of an organisation.

One point to remember is that Johnny



was on all the Key Stone, Center, Holiday, Essex, Decca, and Warner Brothers recordings with Bill Haley. That means for the casual reader, he record-

ed all their hits from "Crazy Man Crazy" in 1953, "Shake Rattle and Roll", and of course the legendary "Rock Around The Clock".

Sometimes, when you're over to the side on stage, people will look only to center stage. Even during the 1950s, when he usually carried an accordion, John Grande would stand to the back side of the stage. It didn't matter to him. The music and the partnership/corporation he had with Bill Haley came first. "Bill was the leader, and he had the spotlight. That was okay, because I was still a partner, and I always liked Bill, we got along well, and it worked".

Born January 14th, 1930 in south Philadelphia PA, John A. Grande came from a musical family. On his father's side, a great Uncle once played for John Philip Sousa when he came to town. Various other relatives were musically inclined and in bands as well. The idea of taking up an instrument, the accordion, came from his parents originally. Something to keep the boy entertained.

But it was never something his father expected him to take up professionally. There was more than a little argument when the teenage John decided to pursue music more than working for the same company as his father.

John took his music lessons (classical) for over seven years. He learned to read and write music, eventually learning to play "La Traviata" on the accordion. Young John picked up on music quickly, and it became his profession while he was still a high school student. "My mother told me to get a high

school diploma, I got it" and that was his education.

While John was taking his lessons, a friend of his, Monte Rosci, would ask him to fill in for him at some live shows he couldn't make. The shows were western shows held at Sleepy Hollow Ranch in Quakertown Pennsylvania. Sleepy Hollow Ranch was an open air park with a regular band, the Sleepy Hollow Ranch Gang, that included Rosci. John was about sixteen years old when he would work these shows, and he ended up working for people like Texas Jim Roberson, Jesse Rodgers, Mac McGuire, and Tex Ritter. John became quite proficient at playing western music ("It was popular, I made money at it"). The time here provided John with great experience backing both regional and national performers, of which there were many.

It was during this time period John met some of the other bands and became acquainted with them. One of the groups he met was Bill Haley & The Four Aces of Western Swing. John had already known Al Constantine from his accordion class ("Al was really a great accordion player. He never got much credit for it"), and he became friendly with Barney Barnard and Bill Haley during this time. At times, Al Constantine could not make some of their shows either, and John would fill in for him (historians note this, too bad we don't have any photos!). So in reality, John is the only performer other than Bill Haley who played with the Four Aces of Western Swing, The Saddlemen, and The Comets.

The local western community was somewhat tight knit, and everyone seemed to converge on Sleepy Hollow Ranch for performances. So it was through these natural turn of events John, a steel guitar player friend of his, Billy Williamson, and Bill Haley eventually got together to form a new partnership and a new band, the Saddlemen in late 1949. John always told me, it was a business partnership because the three of them enjoyed playing music and figured they could make money at it. Besides, there was no way John could stand the thought of ever driving a coal dump truck to make home deliveries ever again (and he never did)

After the Saddlemen concept stopped and they started dressing in suits instead of Stetsons, the new band, the Comets, went to have their photos taken. You'll find the photo in several books and on the sheet music for "Stop Beating Around The Mulberry Bush". All the new Comets, Bill Haley, John, Billy Williamson, and Marshall Lytle...had different bow ties on. None of them matched. "I hated those pictures" John told me. That's a major reason it's so hard to find his individual picture from that session. He probably threw his copies out years ago. The band did a lot of experimenting, and John was a vital part of the organization not just as a partner, but as their musical arranger, since he was the only one who could read music. If you really wanted to irritate John, one of the things you could have said was to refer to the Comets as a band who got lucky by becoming an overnight success.

"Overnight success???" he'd raise his voice "Overnight success HELL. We worked long and hard for years, scrimping on meals, long hours at places like the Spigot club where they had chicken wire around the band...and I invested a lot of time and money into that band for years." (To dispel another myth perpetuated by the late Jimmy Myers, Johnny said he NEVER had to go bail them out of the club as a bunch of drunks. They NEVER behaved, as a band, in such a manner).

As the band's success grew, so did everyone's fortunes and their travel itineraries. There were many good times on the road. When they were in Brazil in the '50s, their plane was not operational. Since the band needed to leave, the people at the airport pulled a plane out of "mothballs"/storage. It was a world war II vintage aircraft complete with bullet holes! Johnny always said Ralph Jones HATED to fly, and when he saw that plane, he promptly proceeded to the bar to get drunk.

There were the movies, of course, and

John was fortunate enough to meet many people along the way to Hollywood like Charlton Heston, Burt Lancaster, Janet Leigh, Tony Curtis, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Harry James, and Betty Grable. Harry James in particular, he said, had a photographic memory.

John and Billy Williamson had looked at some fashionable homes for their families a few years earlier. They were shown some expensive homes, but John opted for a nicer but smaller home. Billy Williamson invested heavily in a new home. In later years, when the band's fortunes weren't that great anymore, John said Billy lost the house. It was a blow he would never recover from, and it was the first step in several giving him mental reason to disassociate from the band in later years.

As the band's fortunes continued to dwindle in the late '50s, they went on to record the album that was to remain John's all time favorite, "Strictly Instrumental". In 1960, when they moved to Warner Brothers, his favorite single release was "Tamiami", and we had both agreed the best album cut was "Cold Cold Heart" (I used to tease him that great minds thought alike).

In the early '60s, John maintained an apartment in Mexico. "It was great at the time. I paid something like \$12 a month, and it was a nice place, it even came with a full time maid. Musicians would come over and jam. We had fun. When I was getting ready to come back home, I'd leave the maid \$100, which was just a fortune then, and she'd keep



the place up until I came back again". But as sure as anything else, that came to an end when the pressures of running the corporations and the band got to John. He made sure all the debts were paid up and the books were straight with their final tax audits before he left. When he left at the ripe age of 32, he left with three stomach ulcers and was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. He ended up back home at his mother's house until he was nursed back to health. As he recovered and sought out a new life, he worked odd jobs such as a music instructor to kids in a music shop, and then at WALBER'S club with a group named the Grandees (the owner thought of it, and you didn't argue with the owner). They had a good run of 9 years, but another offer came from the Media Motor Lodge, and John knew it was time for a change. He moved over to the Lodge and formed a new group with Joseph "Buddy" Charles, also a well known local performer. They called it the "Buddy Charles Trio".

It was during this time John almost had a meeting with Bill Haley. Rudy Pompili called him, told him Bill was in town and would like to see him. John told me he was really looking forward to seeing Bill, because there had never been any animosity in their parting. But it was not meant to be, Bill Haley left town under cover of night. John and Bill would never cross paths again. In the 1980s, suddenly Florida looked promising for John. His parents had moved down there, and he decided it was time for a change. He moved to Lake Placid where he would take over running of some restaurants. It was also during

this time he had his first heart attack. He told me the technicians and the doctors in that Emergency room did everything just right, they saved his life. He was flown to Orlando for further treatment, and went on his way after that. 1987 was the fateful year when Dick Richards and Bill Turner rounded up and reunited the "Original Comets" for a Dick Clark show. "We passed each other in the hall" John said "We didn't even recognize each other!".

Two years after that, they were back in England and Europe with manager Dave Hirschberg. To make a long, well known story short, as they say, the rest is history. We as fans were blessed to have them perform with John until this year. The Comets will continue to carry on the legacy in Branson and other venues.

It was always said, if you want the true story about Bill Haley and the birth of rock and roll, ask John Grande. He'll tell you. So I did. The immediate response was "What the hell do I look like? A walking encyclopedia? Sure, I'll tell you what happened, but at least give me a hint where to start. I was in on over 400 recording sessions with Bill, and there have been a lot of years since then" And bless you Johnny, you did tell it the way it was, because you were there. I consider myself a very lucky fan to have known you so well.

Denise
www.d4haley.com

RAT'S GIG GUIDE

Gratuitously pinched from the web and
from information sent by bands & promoters.
Please check with venue before travelling

Saturday, 1st

Sat 1 Jul Banbury RnR Club General Foods S & S Club, Spiceball Park, Banbury, Oxon Blue Sapphires Big Bounce 01295 278127

Sat 1 Jul Belfast Rockabilly Roots Round-Up Barrow Square, Clarendon Dock, Belfast, Antrim BT1 3BG 2pm - Sabrejets / 4pm - Madcatz 353 1 839 6428

Sat 1 Jul Belfast Rockabilly Roots Round-Up Barrow Square, Clarendon Dock, Belfast, Antrim BT1 3BG 6pm - Tennessee Hotshots / 8pm - Restless 353 1 839 6428

Sat 1 Jul Brampton Heath Golf Centre Sandy Lane, Church Brampton, Northampton, Northants NN6 8AX Strollers

Sat 1 Jul Durley RnR Appreciation Society Durley Memorial Hall, Durley, near Southampton, Hants tba Switchback 023 8040 5121

Sat 1 Jul Folkestone RnR Club - DHB Dover Harbour Board SC, White Cliffs Business Pk, Whitfield, Kent Kingcats plus DJ 01303 257786

Sat 1 Jul Ford Sports & Social Club Gardiners Close, Basildon, Essex Black Cat The Raven 01268 584789

Sat 1 Jul Globe Inn - Aberdeen 13-15 North Silver Street, Aberdeen, Scotland Buick 55s

Sat 1 Jul Halifax RnR Club Siddal Ex-Servicemen's Club, Halifax, W.Yorks HX3 9JS Colin Paul & the Persuaders (ticket only event) D. J. the DJ 01422 354876

Sat 1 Jul Horsham RnR Club Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, W.Sussex Sundowners plus DJ 07966 526260

Sat 1 Jul Pat's Bar 19-22 Princes Dock Street, Belfast, Antrim BT1 3AA Barnstompers (10pm) 028 9074 4524

Sat 1 Jul Rock House Club Sports & Social Club, William Street, Saxilby, Lincoln, Lincs Skiprats Wainyboy + guest 01522 681221

Sat 1 Jul Rotterdam Bar 54 Pilot Street, Belfast, Antrim BT1 5HZ Pep Torres (10.30pm) 028 9074 6021

Sat 1 Jul Stage One Cobden Oxford Street, Long Eaton, Derbys Rip It Up plus DJ 0115 973 4928

Sat 1 Jul The Mop Weavers Arms, Brunel Street, Halliwell, Bolton, Lancs BL1 8AS record hop only (50s rock'n'roll) Big G 01204 849008

Sat 1 Jul The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Midnite Flyers 020 7622 4001

Sat 1 Jul Yeadon Town Hall High Street, Yeadon, Leeds, W.Yorks LS19 7PP Rockin' The Joint Swinging Sue 01924 36680

Sunday, 2nd

Sun 2 Jul Barnsley RnR Team - BG Barugh Green WMC, Higham Common Road, Barnsley, S.Yorks S75 1LD record hop only Jive Bop Record Hop 01977 613841

Sun 2 Jul Barnsley Trades & Labour Club Racecommon Road, Barnsley, S.Yorks S70 6AA Jump & Jive 01226 237087

Sun 2 Jul BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Ian Terry Trio Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

Sun 2 Jul Beauwaters RnR Club Beauwaters Club, Nelson Road, Northfleet, Kent Blast Off Pete Bruce 01322 407110

Sun 2 Jul Belfast Rockabilly Roots Round-Up Barrow Square, Clarendon Dock, Belfast, Antrim BT1 3BG 2pm - Madcatz / 4pm - Aces Wild 353 1 839 6428

Sun 2 Jul Belfast Rockabilly Roots Round-Up Barrow Square, Clarendon Dock, Belfast, Antrim BT1 3BG 6pm-Charlie Thompson/8pm-Annita & the Starbombers 353 1 839 6428

Sun 2 Jul Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey Corsairs 020 8647 1951

Sun 2 Jul Pat's Bar 19-22 Princes Dock Street, Belfast, Antrim BT1 3AA Pep Torres (10pm) 028 9074 4524

Sun 2 Jul Rotterdam Bar 54 Pilot Street, Belfast, Antrim BT1 5HZ Sabrejets (10.30pm) 028 9074 6021

Monday, 3rd

Mon 3 Jul Darrel Higham & The Enforcers Holtwhites Sports And Social Club 1 Kirkland Drive Enfield 0208 363 4449

Tuesday, 4th

Tue 4 Jul Parklands Ballroom (ex ICI/Dupont SC), Wheatley Hall Road, Doncaster, S.Yorks Rock n Roll Knights Dave B 01302 884707

Tue 4 Jul St Peters Social Club Normanby Road, South Bank, Middlesbrough, Cleveland Some Like It Hot Andy 07845 403035

Tue 4 July Charity Night In Aid Of The Great North Air Ambulance St Peters Social Club Middlesborough Tickets £3-00 Or Pay On Door. Featuring Some Like It Hot PLUS Record Hop.Contact Andy On 07845 403035

Thursday, 6th

Thu 6 Jul Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road,

Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (hot rod night)
Little Carl's Record Hop 020 8961 1000

Thur 6 July Rock'n'Rollin' @ Tithe Farm 151 Rayners Lane,
Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middx. HA2 0HX Classes & Club 8
- 12 Classes & Club, Record Hop with Rockin' Rico 8-
11:30

Thu 6 Jul Berni Woods & The Forest Fires The Cardinal
Wolsey, The Green, Hampton Court Road, East Molesey.
KT8 9BW. Phone 020 84873651 Mobile 07940 350 329

Friday, 7th

Fri 7 Jul Bristol Jive Club - BHRFC Barton Hill RFC, Dun-
combe Lane, Speedwell, Bristol Earl Jackson Band Will
0117 938 0483

Fri 7 Jul C'mon Everybody Record Hop St Marys Social
Club, Melton Street, Crossbank, Batley, W.Yorks WF17 8PT
Some Like It Hot Johnny Whiteshoes 01924 376141

Fri 7 Jul Dale Tavern West Street, Worsborough Dale,
Barnsley, Yorks S70 5PG Juke Box Jive Dave B 01226
205611

Fri 7 Jul Rockin' The Fens Hiam Sports & Social Club, Put-
ney Hill Road, Prickwillow, Ely, Cambs Oo Bop Sh' Bam
Rockabilly Bob 01638 741402

Fri 7 Jul Rockin' The Post Winning Post, Chertsey Road
(A316), Whitton, Twickenham, Middsx tba Big Bounce 020
8894 2772

Fri 7 Jul The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea,
London SW8 4BX Flying Saucers 020 7622 4001

Fri 7th Rock-Ola Mark Keeleys Good Rockin Tonight The
Paddocks Long Road Canvey Island Essex 01268 794734

Saturday, 8th

Sat 8 Jul Bristol Jive Club - FFC Filton Folk Centre, Elm
Park, Ffilton, Bristol Earl Jackson Band plus DJ 0117 938
0483

Sat 8 Jul Festival Inn Ilkeston Road, Trowell, Notts NG9
3PX Jellybean Rhythm Stompers plus DJ 0115 932 2897

Sat 8 Jul Guildford Hot 50's RnR Club Fairlands Hall, Fair-
lands Avenue, Guildford, Surrey Kingcats Wildcat Pete
01483 856744

Sat 8 Jul Luton RnR Club Roman Way, Tomlinson Avenue,
Luton, Beds Tonemasters Tartan Ted 01582 518211

Sat 8 Jul Met Police Sports Club The Warren, Croydon
Road, Hayes, Kent Flames

Sat 8 Jul Newtown Social Club Durham Road, Stockton-on-
Tees, Cleveland record hop only (r'n'r/rockabilly/jive)
Rockin' Jukebox Record Hop 0191 410 2914

Sat 8 Jul Northampton RnR Club - FC Far Cotton WMC,
Main Road, Far Cotton, Northampton., Northants NN4 8EN
Reservoir Cats AJ The Rockin' DJ 01604 713851

Sat 8 Jul Paris Rock Club - WAC Waterloo Action Centre,

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15th July

Brick Lane Boogie Boys
and
Dixie Sounds

07759 874167

14 Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA record hop only Mad
French Wolf/Dave 07944 775556

Sat 8 Jul Pear Tree Hotel 7 Devonport Road, Stoke, Ply-
mouth, Devon PL3 4DJ record hop only Slim Jim's RnR
Disco 01752 563260

Sat 8 Jul Railway Club - Exmouth 15 Victoria Road,
Exmouth, Devon Rockin V8's 01395 264423

Sat 8 Jul Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road, Brighouse,
W.Yorks Colin Paul & the Persuaders Bradford Dude 01274
392380

Sat 8 Jul Stockcross Rock'n'Roll Village Hall, Stockcross,
near Newbury, Berks record hop only (50's
rock'n'roll/jive/bop/stroll) 01488 658186

Sat 8 Jul The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea,
London SW8 4BX Old No 7 020 7622 4001

Sat 8 Jul Hipbone Slim And The Knee Tremblers and DJ
Frog Virginia Creepers Club 2 Duke Of Cumberland Hotel
Whitstable Kent 07956 295842

Sat 8 Jul Thorngate Halls Bury Road, Gosport, near
Portsmouth, Hants Jive Street Mr Rusty's Roadshow 023
9242 8732

Sat 8 Jul Worcester RnR Club Christopher Whitehead
School, Bromwich Road, Worcester, Worcs Dynamite
01905 213313

Sunday, 9th

Sun 9 Jul BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Glenn Darren & the Krew Katz Slim Reed - Not Before '54 0117 976 8065

Sun 9 Jul Beaconsfield RnR Club Beaconsfield Football Club, Slough Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2SQ Bernie Woods & the Forest Fires Wildcat Pete 01494 672605

Sun 9 Jul Rockabilly Sessions Live Band And DJ 1pm - 4pm free admission Farningham Village Club Farningham High Street Kent 0870 333 1950 (replaces Kavs workshop at Acacia Hall.

Sun 9 Jul Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey Fever 020 8647 1951

Sun 9 Jul The Sporting Green corner Hertford Road & Green Street, Enfield Highway, Enfield, London Cavaliers Captain Caveman 020 8926 8577

Thursday, 13th

Thu 13 Jul Hanworth RnR Club Royal Naval Club, Park Road, Hanworth, Middsx record hop only (rock'n'roll) Wildcat Pete 01464 672605

Thu 13 July Rock'n'Rollin' @ Tithe Farm 151 Rayners Lane, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middx. HA2 0HX Classes & Club, Record Hop with Harry J 8-11:30

Thu 13 Jul The Roosters The Cardinal Wolsey, The Green,

Hampton Court Road, East Molesey. KT8 9BW. Phone 020 84873651 Mobile 07940 350 329

Friday, 14th

Fri 14 Jul Athletic Club - Kettering Rockingham Road, Kettering, Northants Johnny & the Jailbirds (ticket only) Bill Guntrip 01536 510779

Fri 14 Jul Borough Green RnR Club Village Hall, Borough Green, Kent Sundowners Two Hounddogs 01732 887033

Fri 14 Jul Crooked Billet Billet Lane, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 0AR Avengers The Pirate 01375 672159

Fri 14 Jul Dance Jive Memorial Hall, Bodhyfrd (off Chester Street), Wrexham, N.Wales Maria Vincent & the Millionaires plus DJ 07812 369702

Fri 14 Jul Gold Star RnR Club Red Lion, Great North Road, Hatfield, Herts AL9 5EU tba Hounddog Jim 01279 657122

Fri 14 Jul Kirk Hallam Social Club Dallimore Road, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston, Derbys Rockin' The Joint plus DJ 0115 932 9909

Fri 14 Jul The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Alleycats 020 7622 4001

Fri 14 Jul The Revenue Devonport, Devon record hop only Slim Jim's RnR Disco

Saturday, 15th

Sat 15 Jul Chicken Shack Brogborough Club, Bedford Road, Brogborough, near Milton Keynes, Beds Jack Rabbit Slim Rollin Rock Record Hop 07960 991236

Sat 15 Jul Easington Colliery Welfare Hall Seaside Lane, Easington Colliery, Easington, County Durham Jets 01845 525293

Sat 15 Jul Hamble RnR Club Aerostructure Club, Kings Avenue, Hamble-Le-Rice, Southampton, Hants Joey & the Jivers Wild Wolfie Smith 023 9264 0208

Sat 15 Jul House Of Bop Windsor Club, Windsor Road, Neath, Glam Darrel Higham & the Enforcers Simon Flintstone 07815 158585

Sat 15 Jul Jive Party - Rivoli Rivoli Ballroom, 350 Brockley Road, Crofton Park, London SE4 2BY record hop only Ken/Graham 020 8946 2664

Sat 15 Jul The Firebirds and The Spitfires Tickets only Rock-Ola Paddocks Long Road Canvey Island Essex 01268 794734

Sat 15 Jul Juke Joint RnR Club Shrublands Community Centre, Hawthorn Road, Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk Sundowners The Professor/Rockin Shades 01760 722803

Sat 15 Jul Miners Welfare Club - Staveley Market Street, Staveley, Chesterfield, Derbys John Lewis Rock'n'Roll Trio Dino's Good Rockin' Tonite 01246 281522

Sat 15 Jul Mynster Club - CH Coronation Hall, Burrowbridge, Somerset TA7 0RJ record hop only (no bar - BYOD) Ian's Blue Jean Bop 01823 698618

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Sat 15 Jul Newmarket RnR Club Exning Road WMC, Newmarket, Suffolk Cool Cats Rockin Lee's Record Machine 01638 750724

Sat 15 Jul Pit Stop RnR Club Coventry Colliery S & S Club, Bennett Road, North Kersley, Coventry, W.Midlands Ian Fenn & the Starcats 024 7633 6533

Sat 15 Jul Preston RnR Club Deafway Centre, Brockholes Brow, Preston, Lancs Flying Saucers Neil/Gaz 01253 852594

Sat 15 Jul Rockin The Joint Gloucester R n R Club St Peters Social Club Black Dog Way Gloucester Cherished Memories Record Hop call Zeb 01242 232188

Sat 15 Jul RBL - Coleford & District Royal British Legion, Anchor Road, Coleford, Somerset BA3 5PB Alleycats/Wee Willie Harris club 50th anniversary 01373 812200

Sat 15 Jul RBL - Hersham Royal British Legion, 6 Heathfield Road, Hersham, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 4PL Kingcats plus DJ 01932 252850

Sat 15 Jul Shoreham RnR Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex Oo Bop Sh' Bam plus DJ 01903 243392

Sat 15 Jul The Heartbreakers The Cardinal Wolsey, The Green, Hampton Court Road, East Molesey. KT8 9BW. Phone 020 84873651 Mobile 07940 350 329

Sat 15 Jul Swing Dance Company Admiral Lord Nelson School, Dundas Lane, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 5XT Slamers Maximum Jive Band

Sat 15 Jul The Famous Firkin 2 Adelaide Place, Stonehouse, Plymouth, Devon PL1 3JD record hop only Slim Jim's RnR Disco 01752 201566

Sat 15 Jul The Leather Craftsmen St Johns Road, Kettering, Northants Strollers

Sat 15 Jul The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Fairlane Rock 020 7622 4001

Sunday, 16th

Sun 16 Jul BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Johnnie Fox + Dooomsday Rockers Slim Reed - Not Before '54 0117 976 8065

Sun 16 Jul Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey Rockin' The Joint 020 8647 1951

Tuesday 18th

Tue 18 Jul Parklands Ballroom (ex ICI/Dupont SC), Wheatley Hall Road, Doncaster, S.Yorks tba Dave B 01302 884707

Thursday, 20th

Thu 20 Jul School Of Rock'n'Roll Deanland Woods Park, Golden Cross, E.Sussex BN27 3RN Midnite Shift (music from 6pm) classic car & bike cruise 01323 849528

Thu 20 Jul The TT's The Cardinal Wolsey, The Green, Hampton Court Road, East Molesey. KT8 9BW. Phone

Thursday 20 July 2006 Rock'n'Rollin' @ Tithe Farm 151 Rayners Lane, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middx. HA2 0HX Classes & Club, Record Hop with Rockin' Rico 8-11:30

Friday, 21st

Fri 21 Jul 3R's RnR Club Reading Civil Service Club, James Lane, Burghfield, near Reading, Berks TTs Mick the Mike/Wildcat Pete

Fri 21 Jul Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (rockers n' classic bike night) Big Beat Kris 020 8961 1000

Fri 21 Jul Badderley Green WMC 922-924 Leek New Road, Badderley Green, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST2 7xx Fever Dancin' Dave 01782 537292

Fri 21 Jul Dale Tavern West Street, Worsborough Dale, Barnsley, Yorks S70 5PG Strollers Dave B 01226 205611

Fri 21 Jul Leabrooks Club Greenhill Lane, Leabrooks, Nr Alfreton, Derbys Glenn Darren & the Krew Katz Mr Jive 01773 833035

Fri 21 Jul March Jive Club Windmill Rooms, Whitemoor Road, March, Cambs PE15 OAF Rock Island Rebels The Professor 01354 741501

Fri 21 Jul MBM's Mytchett Community centre, 140 Mytchett Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6AA Heartbeats Oh Boy Record Hop 01276 504898

Fri 21 Jul Pear Tree Hotel 7 Devonport Road, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon PL3 4DJ record hop only Slim Jim's RnR Disco 01752 563260

Fri 21 Jul Rayners Rock'n'Roll Grove WMC, Penleys Grove Street, York, N.Yorks YO31 plus DJ 07752 333094

Fri 21 Jul Rock-Ola RnR Club The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex B17s plus DJ 01268 515696

Fri 21 Jul South Wales RnR Club British Legion Club, Penlline Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, S.Wales Jive Krazy Crazee Dave 029 2061 9271

Fri 21 Jul Tap & Spile 21 Hungate, Lincoln, Lincs LN1 1ES Curse 01522 534015

Fri 21 Jul Taunton RnR Club North Petherton RFC, Beggars Brook, North Petherton, Somerset record hop only Moose 01823 332180

Fri 21 Jul The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Cat & the Hot Tin Trio 020 7622 4001

Fri 21 Jul The Twickenham Boogie Chertsey Road (A316), Whitton, Twickenham, Middsx Juke Joint Jump Jumpin' Jim 020 8894 2772

Fri 21 Jul Village Hotel - Nottingham Brailsford Way, Chilwell, Beeston, Nottingham, Notts NG9 6DL Alleycats dinner/dance 0115 946 6808

Fri 21 Jul Ye Olde St Annes Castle Main Road, Great Leighs, Essex record hop only (rockabilly/rock'n'roll/jive) Maurice's Rocking Machine 01245 361253

Saturday, 22nd

Sat 22 Jul Boston Arms Junction Road, Tufnell Park, London NW5 record hop only Cosmic Keith + guests 020 8925 3050

Sat 22 Jul Boston Arms Junction Road, Tufnell Park, London NW5 record hop only (rockabilly/rock'n'roll/blues Cosmic Keith/Be Bop Kaz 020 8925 3050

Sat 22 Jul Charmandean Centre Broadwater Road, Worthing, W.Sussex Hicksville Bombers/Skiprats/Sundowners/Slim Slip & the Sliders/Planet Boppers all dayer Boppin Gav/Flatfoot Sam/Marvin 01424 220616

Sat 22 Jul Crondall RnR Club The Village Hall, Crondall, near Farnham, Surrey GU10 5QG Moonshiners Oh Boy Record Hop 07903 145018

Sat 22 Jul Cuxton RnR Club Village Hall, Norman Road, West Malling, Kent Rat Pack Moonshine Mama 01732 780076

Sat 22 Jul Hotel Elizabeth Rockingham Rockingham Forest Road, Corby, Northants NN17 1AE Strollers

Sat 22 Jul It's Only Rock'n'Roll Sale Masonic Lodge, Sale, Cheshire Colin Paul & the Persuaders Jivin' Jim Killey 0161 929 0413

Sat 22 Jul The Sunsetters B52 Club Diner London Southend Airport Eastern Perimeter Road Rochford Essex 01268 457767

Sat 22 Jul Ivy Leaf Club - Peterborough 1 Gracious Street, Whittlesey, Peterborough, Cambs PE7 1AP Alleycats Johnny Be Good 01733 202579

Sat 22 Jul Jeanette & Michelle's RnR Club Village Hall, Westfield Road, off Church Rd, Uphill, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset Rockin' The Joint Rockin' Don 07881 912798

Sat 22 Jul Melksham RnR Club Assembly Hall, Market Place, Melksham, Wilts Chas Hodges Rock'n'Roll Trio/Raz-zle Dazzle Cockney Rebel 01225 706463

Sat 22 Jul Newtown Social Club Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland record hop only (r'n'r/rockabilly/jive) Rockin' Jukebox Record Hop 0191 410 2914

Sat 22 Jul Port Slade Town Hall Victoria Road, Port Slade, Sussex Darrel Higham & the Enforcers Stompin' Steve + guest 07745 453765

Sat 22 Jul Quorn Jump Jive & Swing Village Hall, Leicester Road, Quorn, Nr Loughborough, Leics Big Boy Bloater & his Southside Stompers Steve 01455 843292

Sat 22 Jul Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road, Brighouse, W.Yorks Mark Keeleys Good Rockin' Tonight Bradford Dude 01274 392380

Sat 22 Jul Starfighter RnR Club Village Hall, Wreningham,

near Norwich, Norfolk John Leyton + Rapiers Rockin Roland 01508 494735

Sat 22 Jul The Oddfellows Arms 60 Devonport Road, Crabtree, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon record hop only Slim Jim's RnR Disco 01752 563129

Sat 22 Jul The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX 020 7622 4001

Sat 22 Jul Whipton & Pinhoe Labour Club Vaughan Road, Exeter, Devon EX1 3JT Be Bop Daddies 01392 205843

Sat 22 Jul Worcester RnR Club Christopher Whitehead School, Bromwich Road, Worcester, Worcs Tonemasters 01905 213313

Sunday, 23rd

Sun 23 Jul BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Jets Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

Sun 23 Jul Eyre Court Hotel Queen Street, Seaton, Devon Be Bop Daddies (4pm) 01297 21455

Sun 23 Jul The Sporting Green corner Hertford Road & Green Street, Enfield Highway, Enfield, London Paul Ansell's No 9 Captain Caveman 020 8926 8577

Thursday 27th

Thu 27 Jul Hanworth RnR Club Royal Naval Club, Park Road, Hanworth, Middsx Sundowners Wildcat Pete 01464 672605

Thu 27 Jul Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (Harley night) Fifties Flash 020 8961 1000

Thu 27 July Rock'n'Rollin' @ Tithe Farm 151 Rayners Lane, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middx. HA2 0HX Classes & Club, Record Hop with Harry J 8-11:30

Thu 27 Jul Midnite Flyers The Cardinal Wolsey, The Green, Hampton Court Road, East Molesey. KT8 9BW. Phone 020 84873651 Mobile 07940 350 329

Friday, 28th

Fri 28 Jul Barnsley RnR Team - BHSSC Barnsley Hospital Sports & Social Club, Pogmoor Road, Barnsley, S.Yorks S75 2EP Emperors Of Rhythm Jive Bop Record Hop 01977 613841

Fri 28 Jul Basingstoke Rock n Roll Club Good Rockin Tonight Westside Community Association Paddock Road South Ham Basingstoke RG22 6QB 01256 462305

Fri 28 Jul Blue Moon RnR Club North Walsham Community Centre, New Road, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 9DE Mark Keeleys Good Rockin' Tonight Eddie's Golden Sounds 01692 500863

Fri 28 Jul Boogaloo RnR Extravaganza Warners Lakeside, Fishery Lane, Hayling Island, Hants PO11 9NR Alleycats/Jean Vincent & her band see special events 01252 793430

Fri 28 Jul Borough Green RnR Club Village Hall, Borough

Green, Kent Ravens Moonshine Mama 01732 887033

Fri 28 Jul British Railway RnR Club Broad Green, Wellingborough, Northants Kingcats Strollin Steve 07748 306989

Fri 28 Jul Eastleigh RnR Club Comrades Club, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants record hop only Long Tall Girl/Rocking Glenn 023 8061 1953

Fri 28 Jul High Royds RnR Club High Royds Social Club, Menston, Otley, W.Yorks LS29 6AQ Hot Wires Flashback Billy 07818 246823

Fri 28 Jul Inn On The Park - Skegness Tower Gardens, Rutland Road, Skegness, Lincs PE25 2AX Unknowns (8pm) see special events 01754 898029

Fri 28 Jul Jive Inn RnR Club Bridgewater Sport & Social Club, Bath Road, Bridgewater, Somerset Jive Street Tel'S-tar 01823 259193

Fri 28 Jul The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Rockin' The Joint 020 7622 4001

Saturday, 29th

Sat 29 Jul Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 Radio Ramblers Bill Guntrip 020 8961 1000

Sat 29 Jul Boogaloo RnR Extravaganza Warners Lakeside, Fishery Lane, Hayling Island, Hants PO11 9NR Mike Berry & the Outlaws plus tba 01252 793430

Sat 29 Jul Brighton Rumble The Engine Rooms, Preston Street, Brighton, E.Sussex Jack Rabbit Slim 07961 390084

Sat 29 Jul Dixon Arms 1 Glamis Centre, Glenrothes, Fife Buick 55s

Sat 29 Jul Hill Park Memorial WMC 78 Highlands Road, Fareham, Hants PO15 6JD Firebirds Billy 01329 280782

Sat 29 Jul Holiday Rock RnR Club Royal British Legion, Heath and Reach, near Leighton Buzzard, Beds Craze Jay & the Partytimers Tartan Ted 01525 372994

Sat 29 Jul Indian Queen 4 Dolphin Lane, Boston, Lincs PE21 6EU Curse 01205 360688

Sat 29 Jul Inn On The Park - Skegness Tower Gardens, Rutland Road, Skegness, Lincs PE25 2AX Boogie Children (3pm)/Cathouse Creepers (8pm) 01754 898029

Sat 29 Jul Junction 27 RnR Annesley Social Club, Derby Road, Annesley (A611), Notts tba Dancin' Dave 0115 953 4918

Sat 29 Jul Nifty Fifties RnR Club - LLC Lowton Labour Club, 214 Newtin Road, Lowton, Cheshire Hi Voltage/Union Avenue plus DJ 01942 724166

Sat 29 Jul North Staffs RnR Club Joiners Square Community Hall, Cornes Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs Cadillacs 01782 373310

Sat 29 Jul Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road, Brighouse,

W.Yorks Rock Back The Clock Bradford Dude 01274 392380

Sat 29 Jul Salle Village Hall Salle, near Reepham, Norwich, Norfolk Flying Saucers Big K/Rockin' Ritchie 01362 684213

Sat 29 Jul The Bandstand Grand Parade, Eastbourne, Sussex Firetones n/a 01323 641984

Sat 29 Jul The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX tba 020 7622 4001

Sat 29 Jul Welfare Social Club West End Lane, Rossington, Doncaster, S.Yorks tba Ol' Dell Boy 01302 863125

Sunday, 30th

Sun 30 Jul BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Flying Saucers Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

Sun 30 Jul Boogaloo RnR Extravaganza Warners Lakeside, Fishery Lane, Hayling Island, Hants PO11 9NR Big Boy Bloater & his Southside Stompers/Rat Pack 01252 793430

Sun 30 Jul Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey Good Rockin' Tonite n/a 020 8647 1951

Sun 30 Jul Inn On The Park - Skegness Tower Gardens, Rutland Road, Skegness, Lincs PE25 2AX Fat Cat Trio (3pm)/Muskrats (8pm) 01754 898029

Sun 30 Jul Stafford RnR Club White Eagle Polish Club, Riverway, Stafford, Staffs Glenn Darren & the Krew Katz Jukebox Johnny 01785 240140

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Deadline for gig submission - 15th of the month**

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TOP TEN



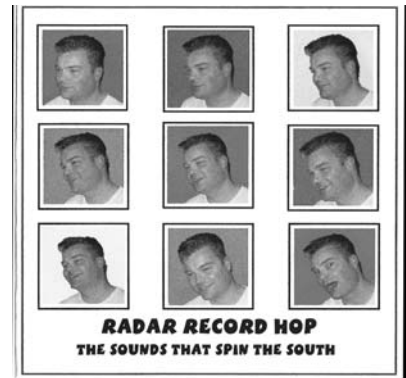
Radars top ten is taken from his 20 track demo CD entitles Sounds That Rock The South which is available to promoters.

The disc was recorded at Big Noise studio a few years back and was well received by rockit radio. Radars claim to fame is that this demo was the only DJ Demo to be played in its entirety on the internet, listeners loved it so much they wanted another one.... It has also been used by other DJ's to begin their events/ weekenders.

Unfortunately Radar plagued by theft has had to take some time out but he's now back and raring to go!!!! Radar plays a mix of old and new and generally has the dance floor filled at his regular gigs at the B52 and Rock- Ola.

Radar Record Hop Top Ten

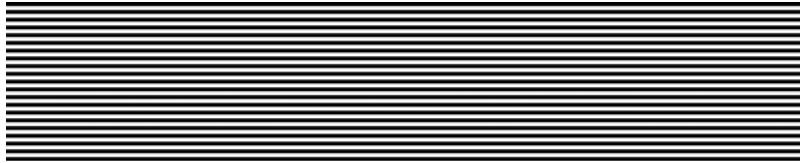
10. Bill Haley And His Comets The Dipsy Doodle
9. The Hicksville Bombers I'm Here If You Want Me There
8. Number Nine Hey Slim
7. Eddie Cochran Teenage Cutie
6. Chrissie Laine All Or Nothing Gal
5. The Hi Tensions The Clock
4. Ray Scott Boppin Wig Wam Willy
3. Shane Fenton And The Fentones It's Gonna Take Magic
2. Houndog Taylor Take Five
1. The Sentimentals I Know Why



Kwiff Kwipps (#8)

by the Sherriff





Johnny Grande, One Of Bill Haley's Original Comets Has Died.

Johnny Grande (born January 14, 1930 in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; died. June 2, 2006 in Clarksville, Tennessee) played piano and accordion with Bill Haley and the Saddlemen, later known as Bill Haley & His Comets, from 1949 to 1963. He was one of the musicians involved in the classic 1954 recording of "Rock Around the Clock". One of his jobs was to keep track of musical arrangements for the group as he was one of the only members who actually read music. Although primarily a piano player, Grande performed on accordion during most live shows as it was easier to transport than a piano, plus the hand-held instrument allowed him to participate more directly in the band's acrobatic instrumentals, such as "Rudy's Rock". In 1987, Grande reunited with several other members of the 1954-55 Comets and as of 2006 the group continued to tour the world and record. Grande died in his sleep the evening of June 2, 2006 after a short illness.

Researching Crondalls History

Hello everybody,

As you might know, I am looking into the history of Crondall r'n'r club.; There is a lady that used to work in the Castle pub next door to the village hall where we have our gigs. I have just been informed that she actually goes to r'n'r clubs nowadays and I would very much like to talk to her re: history of Crondall r'n'r club. I know it's a long shot, but maybe one of you out there might know of her whereabouts. Please let me know if you have any info...It would be much appreciated. Thanks a lot Janie. X email jane.warner2@ntlworld.com

Paris Rock Club THURSDAY moves venue

Thursday class is no longer at the Richmond Pub but at the Zulus Bar, 4 High Road, Fulham SW6 3LQ near Putney Bridge Tube Station
Parisrockclub@aol.com for more info or check out this [link](http://www.parisrockclub.com/CLASSES/Thursday.htm)

The famous Owen Bradley Studio in Nashville is to be restored to its former 1950's glory. Known as "The Quonset Hut" BRADLEY FILM & RECORDING STUDIO, 804, 16th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee. Bradley sold to CBS/Columbia, in the early 1960's. After years of expansion "The Quonset Hut" was engulfed by the redevelopment, which included Studio A. The sprawling site was later to be known as music row. Owen Bradley, went on to build "Bradley's Barn" in Mt. Joliet, TN.

The studio complex was put up for sale last year. Mike Curb, Nashville music mogul, the man responsible for restoring RCA STUDIO B, purchased it.

Rockabilly legends,
 BUDDY HOLLY, ROCK AROUND WITH OLLIE VEE, BABY WON'T YOU COME OUT TONIGHT, MIDNIGHT SHIFT.

GENE VINCENT, the entire 1956 catalogue.

JOHNNY BURNETTE ROCK & ROLL TRIO, SWEET LOVE ON MY MIND, HONEY HUSH, THE TRAIN KEPT-A-ROLLIN'.

JOHNNY CARROLL, CRAZY, CRAZY, LOVIN', HOT ROCK, WILD, WILD WOMEN. All recorded there. News Feature by Volker Houghton

HEMSBY PRESS RELEASE

Added to the fantastic October lineup at the all new Hemsby venue is RESTLESS. With the threat of retiring close at hand this may well be the last festival in which RESTLESS appear. Booking details from +44(0)1522 752453

From Tony and Karen Harrison ZODIAC CLUB Houghton Regis Due to a major fire at our venue we are having to cancel all gigs at this time. We have found a possible new venue but it is proving difficult to tie up bands with the available dates. This came as a big blow as our first and only gig was a success and the feed back we got from the people who came was great. Hopefully the hall can be rebuilt and we can start up again.

The Zoltans are auditioning frontmen.....

Southends seven piece jump jive band are knocked for six as their frontman leaves. Are you

NEWS

the frontman they are looking for go to their website for details www.zoltans.co.uk or e-mail thezoltans@btinternet.com

I have just relocated to the UK and I'm a bit lost as to how to "put myself on the market" as I would like to join a gigging band (preferably covers, tributes or functions, but will consider anything), and/or doing replacements. I would very much appreciate it if you could send me addresses or contacts that would help me in my quest. Alternatively, even though you may not have anything for me in the short-term, please keep my contact details for "tomorrow never knows" (as someone once said). I have been pro in my early years (lots of studio work and countless tours with many different artists), then dropped the music for a long while before starting again 4 years ago in France. I'd love to find a permanent band which gigs a lot, but I am also willing to help with replacements for "bands in need".

With lots of experience, I am a quick learner, versatile both in style and sound and I have often made replacements without even rehearsing.

I can be bassist, singer (lead and/or harmonies) or guitarist (rhythm and a little lead). On the bass I can play almost anything, while on guitar I have my limitations. I have a versatile, quite powerful voice that can sing many different things. On instruments, I have a very dynamic style and a very steady tempo. My "preferred version" would be bassist/singer (either lead or backing vocals). I live in Poole, Dorset, but will travel if necessary! I am 51 and probably look more, but play, sing with the enthusiasm and energy of a 20 year old. Warning: I am a bit of a maniac for perfection!

Best regards, Tony.... Well as Tony requests if you need him then contact us and we will pass on your details.

The new www.countrycattin.com web-site is up and running, you can listen to some downloads, purchase cd's and get up to date information on gigs etc, leave a message, if you like authentic Country Rockabilly, R'n'R, Hillbilly, Honky tonk, check it out,

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Cat & The Hot Tin Trio can be seen at:

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 JULY 15th SUNBURY EX-SERVICEMAN'S CLUB, Crossways
 JULY 21st THE PAVILION, Battersea

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National Eddie Cochran Bucket Day

Well here we go its fundraising time again!!! Only this time it's a chance to do something for us! No not us but you the rock n roll fraternity of Great Britain. As we have publicised many times since Christmas Showtime Enterprises and

The Eddie Cochran Connection and thousands of Cochran fans across the UK are trying to raise money for a fitting tribute to Eddie in the guise of a memorial stone not just any old stone but a huge piece of Marble with Eddies picture enhanced on it by way of new artistic technology.

This piece will be made in Italy and shipped to its resting place in Chippenham. BUT the race is on to raise the rest of the money needed to order the stone by September. So this is where you come in. We are asking clubs all over the country to contribute to this memorial and all it will take is a bucket and your change.

Take a bucket, take a large photocopy of the picture and writing below, take a pot of glue, take the photocopy and the glue and stick the photocopy to the bucket and when all your guys and gals at your club night have had a fabulous time make the last record an Eddie Cochran track and collect change from very satisfied rock-'n'rollers on the way out!!!!

Count money and send it by cheque with the name of your club and a picture of the happy fundraisers to Showtime Enterprises 4 Thorneycroft Close Lockleaze, Bristol BS7 9YJ England



RECORDINGS



The Cosh Boys (Finland) Demo CD

The Cosh Boys recent appearance in the UK (which I missed) landed me a demo on my desk. Now I'm not sure if this is

saleable or if it is just purely a demo although I believe they were on sale for a fiver (but don't quote me). Anyhow the bands look is very seventies rock n roll, four young men in leather waistcoats with unpronounceable names and thankfully very pronounceable nick names.

The first track on the demo is titled Bring Back..... Rockabilly back and is an in your face traditional rock'n'roll bopper in the seventies style some of the lyrics are lost in the accent but apart from that the opening number is a real corker and I can imagine it goes down a storm live.

Track 2 is a spooky atmospheric slow stroller quite bluesy in its feel but still traditional ted! Draculas Daughter features a Pirates guitar feel fab! It also features all the V's being W's as is the accent and as this song is about a Vampire you cant help but smile, the song translates beautifully and is one of my favourite tracks but the W thing is hilarious.....

Track 3 Valerian A good solid instrumental jiver with a strong back beat takes us to the late fifties early sixties again a kicking arrangement which I can imagine them doing their best shadow walk on stage.

Track 4 A-Long Way A bit of a country twist to the music of this track again in the ted style but with a Proclaimers style lyric (these boys do the seventies rock'n'roll thing like they just stepped out of a time machine) there is so not enough of this about these days..... so far this is really enjoyable.

Track 5 Crest Of The Hill My least favourite of this little album again it's a good track but it just doesn't do it for me like the first four, it could be that it reminds me of something else but I am not sure.

Track 6 Taboo Twist Ok so the last ditty of the album and we are back to doing it right another instrumental seering guitars and the drummer

knocking himself out. A nothing song cos I don't suppose anyone in the UK could bop this fast although that really isn't a challenge.

A nice one to end with and a good solid mini album from the Cosh Boys. The message in all these songs I guess is long live rock n roll. I hope to catch the boys soon in the UK because now I am intrigued. Until they appear back on our shore check out their website at <http://koti.welho.com/mkopone6/coshboys.html> Great stuff!!!!!!

The Cosh Boys are: Hara Lead Guitar - Timppa Rhythm Guitar and Vocals - Hande Bass and Vocals - Pilsu Drums.



The Tonemasters Demo CD

I have to say that I was never a big fan of the recently split Toppkatz recording's, (personal opinion) however I do

enjoy their style of music and they were brilliant on stage BUT!!! Hold on to your hats because out of the embers of the Toppkatz comes something quite extraordinary and I would never have believed it possible. The Tonemasters demo is exciting, its different, it's everything a good rockin' band should be and yet this demo was produced by the same people who brought us the Toppkatz, mmmmmmmmm! I cant wait to see what the (other side) produces? Enough of that inner/outer band politics its boring unlike this demo! The demo itself is a mini gig in five tracks an across the board choice of fabulous rockin' with an incredible sound that I have to say gets your feet tappin' from the very first track. I have spent most of this week playing this demo trying to find fault I am pleased to say I have been unsuccessful so if the live performance is as good as the demo then the guys have cracked it.

Craig Dunn (Drums/Vocals), Julian Bailey

(Double Bass/Vocals) and Wayne Conn (Piano/Guitar/Harmonica/Vocals) have joined together to produce one of the most exciting Rock n Roll trio's to come on to the scene for a long while.

All being original members of the five piece 'ToppKatz', Craig, Julian and Wayne realised that a Rock n Roll trio made much more sense for the UK's scene. The fact that they are anything but an ordinary three piece dance band makes even greater sense.

As yet I am unable to comment on the live show but Craig says

'Make no mistake, the musical quality and stage show of this great trio has not been compromised in any way.' Their set includes various Rock n Roll styles including, Jiver's, Strollers, Blues, Boppers, Swing, Boogie Woogie, Rockabilly, Instrumentals, classic Rock n Roll and some self penned arrangements, 'The ToneMasters' have something for every Rock n' Roll fan in their repertoire.

The solid Rhythm section of Craig & Julian provide the perfect back beat for Wayne who alternates during the show between his beloved Gretsch guitar and his pounding 'Jerry Lee' piano. Wayne even doubles on harmonica whilst playing piano to show how versatile this great band can be. The lead Vocals are shared between Wayne and Julian, with all three members supplying backing vocals.

A lot of the big promoters and agents have picked up on this demo which as yet has no artwork and comes straight from the press. Myself I have played it down the phone to anyone who will listen.

5 Track Demo available to promoters

Track 1. Pretty Girl - Cochran sung on demo by Wayne Conn
Track 2 Sleepwalk - Santo & Johnny (instrumental)
Track 3 Down The Road A Peace - A Milburn sung by W.Conn
Track 4 Long Black Shiny Car sung by W.conn
Track 5 Lindi Lou - R Sharpe sung by W.Conn

Contact details are: Tel: 0117 969 0342 (Office), 07869 123345 (Mobile).

Email: cpdunn@blueyonder.co.uk and say the mag sent you!!!!



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The DUKE's Rockabilly Raves

The 10th Rockabilly Rave (part 4)

Ah Sunday, day of rest, pipe and slippers, and watching an old movie on T.C.M. Yeah, like hell. I got to the Flea Market on this final day of this years' 'Rockabilly Rave' just after nine am, and it was in full swing, even though it was advertised from ten am until noon. My job was to see that the D.J. was ready for to begin at ten o'clock, and to see that all the stallholders were packing up by midday. By ten the D.J. was still was not anywhere to be seen. I 'phoned Mick and he told me to improvise (hell, I'm not singing!). Dell Richardson came to the rescue by letting me borrow the 30 track C.D. 'Bob Luman Rocks; his '50's recordings'. With the music problem sorted I went in search of some bargains. As noon approached I reported over the microphone that it was time for people to leave, and after a few jeers and boos, lead by Dell, and aimed at me, they packed away and the hall was ready for the turnaround that the Pontin's staff did rather swiftly.

The afternoon sessions started at one with another good D.J. set from 'Lee's Cat Talk', leading up to the next band, the excellent 'Mars Attacks'. They did a great job backing Sonny Burgess on the Friday night and I really love their use of the trumpet on Sonny's songs and on their own. The set consisted of some great original material, the best being 'Leavin' It All Behind' (which were well received by the afternoon crowd), and cover versions such as Charlie Rich's 'Rebound', Joe Clay's 'You Look That Good To Me', and Johnny Carroll's 'Crazy, Crazy Lovin'. Barb from the Honeybees was invited onto the stage for a duet with lead singer Roland Riedberger on 'Lush' a nice little jiver written by lead guitarist Martin Telfser. Mops Luscher on drums and Oliver Pfanner on stand-up bass completed the line-up, and it was a very good set, just as I had expected.

The next voice I heard was Kav Kavanagh's; "Where's the D.J., Duke?"
"Bugger".

The set was almost finished and we were D.J.-less! I was enjoying the band so much that I forgot my stage duties! But then it was panic over as the D.J. turned up, and a smiling Kav left to get a

pint.

The last time I saw 'The Two Timin' Three' was 18 months ago in the Rodeo Bar in New York. The bar was packed and the temperature outside was hovering at around

-5°C. I had thought at the time that they were a three-piece band in need of the services of a drummer. I revised that thought. However, as their first tune at the rave kicked in, and judging by some of the latter day rockabillys in the audience (Big Sandy and Kim Lenz, to name but two), this band is very well respected. The standout song for me was 'Black & White Baby' an original tune that has some fine guitar playing from Jeff Herring. Eric Laufer on vocals and rhythm guitar, and Shane Kiel on percussive string bass make up the rest of this band

Boppin' Vic from New York finished the afternoon session and at six in the evening I was off for a shower, some food and a well-earned pint of beer.

The first band on, on the last night, was 'Ike and the Capers'. I like this band but only managed to catch two songs at the end of their set. There is just so much going on at the Rave that unfortunately you just cannot be everywhere at once.

Next on the line-up was a hillbilly set from Charlie Thompson and Miss Mary Ann. Judging from some of the comments I had heard around the Rave, some of the punters were going to give this set a miss. I was not one of them. Charlie and Mary Ann are excellent singers and I do like hillbilly music, but you could hear the 'this isn't rockabilly' comment from several people. Everybody has an opinion on what rockabilly is, and most peoples' differ, however I personally loved this hillbilly set, 'In The Jailhouse Now', 'Don't Laugh' and 'Love Me' being among my favourites.

Chris Dawson, Ronnie's widow, introduced the 'Ronnie Dawson Tribute'. In a heartfelt introduction she told of Ronnie's love of playing gigs in Europe and his appreciation of how well his music was received here. An emotional Chris left the stage to the 'Ronnie Dawson Tribute Band',

the main band consisting of Shaun Young on vocals and rhythm guitar, Sean Mencher on vocals and lead guitar, Jimmy Sutton on vocals and bass, and Lisa Pankratz on drums.

Their set kicked off with 'Red Hot Mama', with Jimmy taking the vocal duties, and doing a creditable job of it, proving he is not just an excellent bass player and lead guitarist. Shaun took over the vocals on 'Monkey's Uncle', 'Veronica' and

It gave me a chance to have a word or two with the tribute band, which was a cool move. As I walked through the door Peter Sandberg thrust a bottle of Jack Daniel's into my hand. Did these guys really want water? I was just about to indulge in another nip of J.D. when I was informed I was needed to make sure the last band of the tenth rave got on and off stage okay. Having a few brews and socialising were going to have to wait.



It was Scotland's 'High Voltage' that rounded up the weekends jollifications. The main hall was still packed with rockabillies not wanting the weekend to end.

'High Voltage' was the pick of the modern bands at the last 'Rhythm Riot' I attended, in 2004. They kept the audience more than interested. The buzz around the hall was amazing. Sitting at the back of the stage watching the crowd's reaction made me wish that I had my video camera, I could have filmed some great footage. Old favourites such as 'Honky Tonk Mind', 'Hot Rod Man' and 'Shadow My Baby' kept me more than happy. The shouts for encores were so loud I had to ask Jerry if I should let them continue.

"It's the last night Duke, give them some space".

'Action Packed', the song that first got me and most people I know into Ronnie's music. Jimmy was back on vocals for 'Rockinits', and Sean did a good job on 'Wam Bam Jam'.

When Ronnie Dawson toured Europe his chosen band was always Sweden's 'The Go Getters'. Peter Sandberg strolled on stage to great applause and gave an energetic performance on 'Shim Sham Shimmy'. I wondered what thoughts were going through Peter's mind as he sang this song, as Ronnie and Peter were friends as well as fellow musicians. Towards the end of the set, Big Sandy came on stage to take vocals on 'I Make The Love', followed by Marti Brom and Dave and Deke helping out on 'Knock Down Drag Out'.

It was a great tribute by great musicians and I totally enjoyed the performance but it got me thinking that one of my biggest rockabilly regrets is not having seen Ronnie Dawson play live.

After the tribute performance, Mick, the stage manager asked me to take some water into the back stage dressing room.

"No problem" I said.

Okay, the encores continued. Mr. Jack Baymore appeared from backstage to perform an Elvis number with the band, a great song, great performance and, from my point of view sitting on the stage soaking in the entire atmosphere, a nice choice of band to finish off an excellent weekender.

Some people moan, I have even moaned on occasions, the appearance of Joe Bennett and the Sparkletones springs to mind. But saying that, I bought their 45's and albums (C.D.'s were science fiction in the 1970's) and as far as I was concerned, what I heard was way far better than what I was hearing chart wise at the time. Okay, maybe not top notch rockabilly, but brilliant rock 'n' roll for sure.

I listen to every comment from people I meet at sock hops, gigs, and weekenders. Everyone has an opinion, and everyone should. But in my own opinion, Jerry Chatabox and 'The Rockabilly Rave' have it SPOT ON!

Duke

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