

MAD RAT MAGAZINE

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

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issue #5 January 06

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THE GUV'NA

2006 and all is well?

Happy New Year!!!! Hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and are busy getting ready for the new rockin' year, I know I am and can't wait. Bring it on!!!!

Last year saw poor attendances, sell out shows, backstabbing, politics, agent bashing, band trashing, band worshipping, club closing, club opening, club reopening, band members leaving, band members joining, band members rejoining, club refurbishing, general moaning lip smacking rockin'.....Don't you just love this scene ?!

Well, I just can't wait to see what this year will bring, I'm sure it will be entertaining and I am not talking about the performances!



I personally would like to thank everyone who continues to help make Mad

Rat Magazine a success. Without you the Mag just wouldn't happen every month, we are only as good as your support, equally you bands are only as good as your audience, you clubs are only as good as your attendance and the rockin' scene is only as good as you all, so should you feel like causing a rockin rebellion this year please stay home.....

Current trends, brings back the reason we all got into it in the first place, Rock'n'Roll yeah I know I'm kidding but just remember that Rock'n'Roll is an umbrella that protects all of us from pop music and gives us all the variety and choice of several genres of music that formed the musical eras that we love.

Again this year, I would like to remind you before you shoot the DJ's from the New Years events that The Twist was written in 1959 although wasn't released until 1960.... Ha Ha Ha!!!!

Well I'm off, (my trolley?, on holiday?) no just off to start the New Year the way I mean to go on, Rockin' My life away, day by day.

See ya out there

Rockin' regards
SPIKE

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LINK WRAY - (1929-2005)

The guitarist Link Wray, considered as one of the pioneers of the American rock scene, cult figure and a man who many said was way ahead of his time, passed away at the age of 76 in Copenhagen, where he lived for two decades.

Rock guitarist Link Wray was born on May 2nd 1929 in North Carolina. In his 1958 instrumental hit "Rumble," Wray invented the power chord, the basis of modern rock guitar-playing from thrash to heavy metal. He is the missing link in the history of rock guitar in that he is not often given credit for being the connection between early blues guitarists and the late '60s gods (Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, Pete Townsend, etc.). Wray began his career in the early '50s as a member of Lucky Wray and the Palomino Ranch Hands, a band that he formed with his brothers Vernon and Doug. They moved from North Carolina to Washington, D.C., where they recorded an EP. Soon after, Wray began concentrating on guitar, since an earlier bout with tuberculosis began to make singing increasingly difficult. He then developed his guitar style: a slow drag across distorted strings in a simple chord progression. This led to his recording of "Rumble," which cracked the U.S. top 20, despite being banned by some radio stations because its title connotated gang violence. The Wrays then signed to Epic Records after disagreeing with their original label, Cadence, which wanted to tone down the tough image they began to have from "Rumble." The Wrays' next single, the pounding "Rawhide," went to No.23 and was a hit among leather-jacketed, motorcycle-loving male youths. Link Wray was becoming the hero of juvenile delinquents and this scared record companies, who forced him to record non-rock songs such as "Danny Boy" with orchestras.

The Wrays tried forming their own record company, Rumble Records, which produced

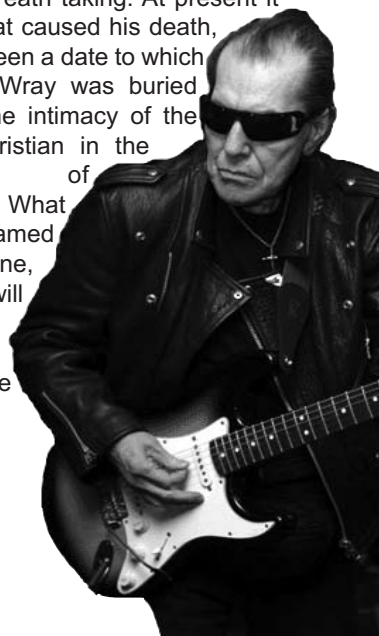
their next big hit, "Jack The Ripper." The song was later used in the '80s remake of the film "Breathless," starring Richard Gere. The company was short-lived and the Wrays found themselves at U.K.-based Swan Records, where they were given free rein to create what they wanted. What followed was a decade of improvised, guitar-heavy records issued under strange names such as the Moon Men and the Spiders.

The '70s were filled with ups and downs for Link Wray. In 1971, his self-titled solo album was critically lauded but didn't sell, and none of his other releases made a splash. He spent some time backing Robert Gordon -- the singer for New York punkers the Tuff Darts -- on a rockabilly project and also recorded several albums in the '80s that relied heavily on drum machines. He attracted attention with rare live appearances in which he proved that he could still wow 'em with the guitar style he pioneered. Above write up courtesy of The Rockabilly Hall Of Fame

Of late, Link Wray enjoyed the revival of his music to today's audiences. His appearance at venue's such as Hemsby has been denoted as simply breath taking. At present it isn't known what caused his death, nor has there been a date to which he died. Link Wray was buried this week in the intimacy of the Church Of Christian in the neighbourhood of Christianshavn. What can only be named as his theme tune, "Rumble" will live on.

Rest In Peace
Link Wray

Mike Cookson



ROCKERS REUNION

This year's Rockers Reunion Winter Party is the 23rd event of this name. Again, a great line up is provided. Below is a brief profile of some of the acts appearing for your rockin' pleasure;

Marvin Rainwater is a country and rockabilly music legend and back in the UK again to headline this year's Rockers Reunion. Now in his seventies, Marvin has had a long and successful career. His early days were spent singing and playing hillbilly tunes in the then depressed area of Oklahoma. A minor mishap at the age of fifteen led to him chopping off part of his thumb which, although painful did not thwart his passion for performing. In the early fifties Marvin was fortunate enough to get a showcase on the Arthur Godfrey programme called Talent Scouts, which he won. In 1953 his MGM recording "I Gotta Go Get My Baby" was performed with Mr. Godfrey. Arthur Godfrey was definitely the man to impress during this time and Marvin did that by promoting himself in his Cherokee Indian persona. He wrote about his so called Cherokee brothers and wore the costumes and insignia headband that we have seen on some early publicity shots. By the mid-fifties, Rainwater had started mixing straight-ahead country and western with the emergent, big-beat rockabilly sound. It cost him some fans, but in 1957 he recorded the song he's best known for - the song he refers to simply as "the Bluebird" . "Gonna Find Me a Bluebird" went to number three on the country charts and 18 on the pop charts at the same time - one of the earliest crossover hits. It made Rainwater an attraction overseas as well - another hit, "Whole Lotta Woman," pushed Elvis Presley out of number one for six weeks in England in 1958 and was performed at the London Palladium. But success was slippery. After he began hitting



the charts, a small studio where Rainwater had recorded early demo tapes sold the tapes to a number of disreputable record labels; the companies dubbed new tracks over the demos and released them. A common story from times past



The seventies rock 'n' roll icons from Newport, South Wales add UK celebrity and solid rocking to the line-up. **Crazy Cavan** with his band The Rhythm Rockers has been described as "a dynamic, mean-looking and rubber-legged singer with the longest pair of drainpipes in the business". In 1964 his career or hobby back then, started with a band called "Count Dracula and the Vampires" which later progressed to "The Sundogs". In 1970 this band was joined by Don Kinsella and Mike Coffey it was the start of "Crazy Cavan and the Rhythm Rockers". For four years they built up fame as a semi- professional unit, playing their own music, which was influenced by rockabilly, rock 'n' roll and country music. The demand for a recording was satisfied by the release of a single and EP on their own label. In 1973 the Band landed a headline spot at the Lyceum Ballroom. Their popularity grew and grew, which no doubt had baring on the signing of a recording contract with Charly Records. Their style is simple and direct, influenced by Rockabilly, Country and Rock 'n' Roll, but interpreted by the individual musicians to create a unique musical form which they describe as Crazy Rhythm. We look forward to seeing them do it all again at this year's Reunion.



Johnny Red also performs at the 23rd RR. His band, Johnny & The Jailbirds, were formed at the end of 1973, when Johnny Red moved from London to Northamptonshire. An advert was placed in a

local newspaper to recruit musicians interested in forming a rock'n'roll band. The response was immediate and after a few rehearsals and the first gig in a village club, Johnny & The Jailbirds were born. It wasn't long before the band had gained a huge following on the rock'n'roll circuit in the UK and abroad. Record companies were becoming very interested in this new band and Charly Records was to eventually sign them in 1979. One of the main turning points in the bands' career was the arrival of lead guitarist and songwriter Ritchie Ball. Johnny had now found a new partner to write the many songs they produced in those early years including the eight that appeared on their first album 'Out on bail' - the best-known of which appeared in the French rock'n'roll charts ('Eileen' and 'Too much wine').

The album was a great success worldwide, and it seemed that every European Teddy Boy had it in his collection! Johnny & The Jailbirds were rockin' around the world for just over seven years but in that time they attracted a huge following who still remember what a great time they had at a Jailbirds gig. Over those seven years, Johnny & The Jailbirds had established themselves as one of the Great British rock'n'roll bands.

Other acts on the bill include, **Dave Savage and his Savages** with their tasteful and politically correct tribute to the late Screamin' Lord Sutch. Expect the full works, Jack the Ripper, the coffin etc. and **The Top Cats** who are a well established band from Burton-on-Trent. DJ's for the event are the world famous, **Pete Bruce & Wildcat Pete**. You can catch all this talent at The Rivermead Complex in Reading on Saturday 21st January 2006. See www.shuttleworths.co.uk/rockers/home.html for further details

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MY FIRST GIG

by Brian Hill

Do you remember the first gig you ever went to ??

Well I went to mine on 28th August 1962 !! Now how do I know it was on that particular date, barely two weeks after Marilyn Monroe was found dead in her apartment, and only 5 days after John Lennon got married. Was it because it was the 77th anniversary of Gottlieb Daimler's patent for the first ever motorcycle, or because it was 1532 years to the day that Saint Augustine died ??

Could I have known that precisely one year on, Martin Luther King would make his famous 'I have a dream' speech, or that Shania Twain was due to be born in three years time -strangely, a birthday she shares with LeeAnn Rimes (although she is 17 years younger !!).

No, it was none of these things. It's because I STILL HAVE THE TICKET !! So off I went to see ROCK 'N' ROLL at The Acacia Hall in Dartford, admission three shillings - that's 15p to you youngsters out there.

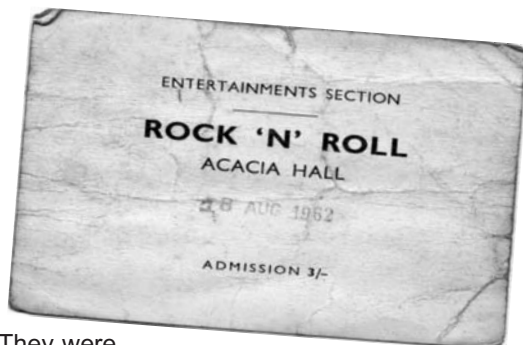
I was in the Air Training Corps No. 74 Crayford & Erith Squadron in 1962, so I think I went to the gig with my friends and fellow cadets Dave Chilvers, Bob Unthank and Phil Rivett.. See attached pic of me at 15 !!

I was learning to play the guitar at that time, and had already made some home recordings on my dad's Brenell reel-to-reel tape recorder. I couldn't afford an electric guitar, so I made my own !!

I still have some of those tapes (and my dad's Brenell tape recorder !!).

We used to go and

see as many live bands as we could in those days, including Nero and the Gladiators at Crayford town hall, The Beatles at Woolwich Odean and Joe Brown and his Bruvvers. My friend at school Tony Dobson played in a band with two other school friends Geoff Selley and Ian Manson, with a slightly older Colin King on vocals. I can't remember who the drummer was.



They were called 'Colin King and the Royals' and used to play regularly at The Royal Oak in Northumberland Heath.

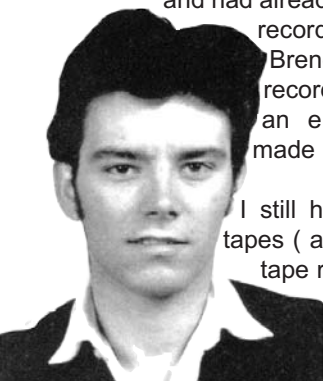
I really wanted to play guitar in a band, and in 1968 I bought myself a lovely orange Gretsch guitar and joined a country rock band called 'Memphis Forge'. Later I played in another country band called 'John Brown's Body'.

Now at the age of mere 58 I'm playing rock-ably up to 10 times a month with 'Cat & the Hot Tin Trio' - and about 6 times a year with my 60's band 'Somethin' Else !!' - and would you believe it occasionally in 'Sunny '56' !! Well, it keeps me off the streets.

But I would love to know the name of the band who played at Acacia Hall on August 28th 1962. See if you can find out for me.

Brian Hill

Let us know your first gig experiences. Email to mail@madratmag.co.uk. Ed.





THE RAT PACK

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Days In Rock'n'Roll History January 1955

By Mick Lyons

78 Rpm Discs On Way Out?

Hoping to persuade record buyers to invest in 45 rpm singles, three major American companies, RCA-Victor, Columbia and MGM have announced startling retail price changes. In future ten inch 78 rpm records will cost ten cents more than their seven inch counterparts – indicating that old style breakable discs may soon be phased out of production.

EMI Buys Capitol

The British recording company EMI has entered into a contract to purchase a majority shareholding in the Hollywood-based Capitol label – started in 1942 by songwriters Johnny Mercer and Buddy De Sylva. Capitols illustrious roster includes Peggy Lee -Nat King Cole – Dean Martin and Tennessee Ernie Ford.

Bill Haley Champions Rock'n'Roll Craze

Generating excitement on both sides of the Atlantic is the frantic new pop style known as Rock'n'Roll . It's most successful practitioner 29 year old Bill Haley, a

former hillbilly singer from Chester Pennsylvania, who has been cutting discs in the teenage idiom since 'Rock The Joint' in 1952. He and his group, The Comets have drawn inspiration from Country and Western star Hank Williams and and Blues band-leader Louis Jordan to create the unique driving sound which has put both 'Rock Around The Clock' and 'Shake Rattle And Roll' into the best sellers list.

The latter originally recorded by coloured blues singer Joe Turner is also in the American charts together with another Haley side 'Dim Dim The Lights' as yet unreleased here in the UK.

Grapevine

Tributes have flooded in for R & B balladeer Johnny Ace who died on Christmas Day reportedly was fatally wounded playing Russian Roulette.

Johnny Ray although expected to earn half a million dollars this year, feels that his work is futile and that his contribution to the world is insignificant compared with that of the wonderful evangelist 'Billy Graham.

Mick Lyons (aka DJ The Pirate - 07979 980185)

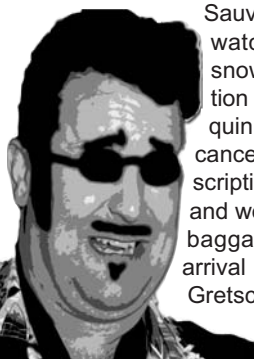
KEV'S KAPERS

A nice quiet Christmas had been interrupted by a call from a panicking booking agent. He had somehow overlooked the fact that he was meant to be sending a band for a New Year's Eve event in Bulgaria and turned to me to try and sort it out.

Rockin' Reg (Super Agent) had excelled himself this time, although his previous conviction for trying to get us to go to Minehead on a Sunday evening 79 minutes before the performance was a cracker. Especially as we live 200 miles away. A Leer jet maybe or even a Star Trek transporter, but Frank the Transit.....non!

With nothing else planned, I said yes and the following day me and the lads were on the plane heading for Sofia with a contract in our hands. The air company had done their usual trick of disallowing the sax and guitar into the cabin so Joe and I sat nervously wondering if the instruments would turn up in smithereens or at all. The other instruments were to be provided by the promoter. Always a little worrying as on one previous occasion the drum kit supplied appeared to be manufactured by Peak Freans tin supplies and the double bass was half the size and electric. As for the piano, well that sounded more like an early Atari tennis game rather than a Joanna!

After five hours on the silver bird, we had eaten enough Worcester sauce snackets, drank the Sauvignon Blanc reserve dry and watched enough video about snowboarding, dolphin protection and the plight of the Harlequin Beetle to make me want to cancel my Discoverychannel subscription. The plane landed safely and we all watched the carousel in baggage claim anticipating the arrival of five pieces of sax and Gretsch. Happily, all turned up OK.



We were met at arrivals by a large chap sporting a seventies quiff, bushy tash and winkle pickers

that would put Wildcat Pete's to shame. "Hello, I am Boppin' Ivan. I have been sent by Ivan to collect you". This seemed like one of those typical Bond movie moments, however, even with the prospect of being chased by the KGB or being ejected from the passenger seat, we followed to the waiting Opel people carrier outside.

"Are we there yet" asked Joe. Boppin' Ivan had none of it and just stared in the rear view. Joe kept quiet. "You will sound check at 4pm. Then eat, then play" said Ivan. With all the details sorted (?) we were dropped off at the Hotel Dilapidated and told to be ready by half three. As usual the lads wanted to hit the Bar in preparation for the gig, but were told by the Bar tender that "you English are not to get drunk". The word had obviously gone round by the Euro Rockin' police.

Three thirty came and we were whisked off to the town square where a large stage had been erected with lights, huge PA and some decent backline for a change. The sun was starting to disappear behind the town hall and the temperature was lowering rapidly.....currently 1 degree Celsius. This was gonna be a cold one and I advised the guys to wear their bombers under their stage gear. We were billed as the main event for the turn of Midnight and were slightly surprised that the town folk wanted a Rockabilly outfit to play them through to the new year. "You know Hi Ho Silver Lining or how about any Cliff Richards?" shouted the sound man in pigeon English. I felt my head fall from my shoulders towards my hands. "I have list of all tunes for you" he added. A list was thrust into my hands. "Right lads, who knows Brown Girl In the Ring and Shangalang and who's got Rockin' Reg's number, I'm gonna kill him!!!"

To be continued.....

Rockabilly Boogie



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SHA NA NA

Shanana may not be regarded as being at the cutting edge of rockabilly, rock n'roll or indeed much at all these days. But there was a time in the late 1960's, when would be rock n'rollers really had very little else to listen to except their 45 singles collections.

Rock n'Roll was under siege from years of neglect, the Beatles effectively wiped it out and music had progressed to such a state that kids actually thought the performances of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Emerson, Lake & Palmer and other equally static acts were the height of showmanship!

In 1969, however, the final nail was about to be driven into the coffin of Rock n'Roll, with the emergence of a festival at Woodstock. The Likes of Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Carlos Santana were booked to appear and although their music was technically perfect.....God it was boring! Then all of a sudden, a group appeared wearing gold lurex and lamè suits.....one of them strode up to the microphone...and addressing the thousands of half stoned hippies, shouted; "I got just one thing to say to all you f****n' hippies out there.....Rock n' Roll is here to stay!"

If the original 1969 Woodstock Festival was a defining moment in rock history, that was

also a defining moment in the history of Sha Na Na. The group's appearance - only the seventh in Sha Na Na's career, followed by the Woodstock album and movie cemented their reputation and style."We went on second to last, at sunrise on the final day, but, importantly, just before Jimi Hendrix," recalls co-founder, drummer Jocko Marcellino. "We did 40 minutes and were paid \$300...and the check bounced!"

More importantly, their performance was a breath of fresh air at the festival and served as a timely reminder that whilst original rock n roll may have been dead, it was certainly not buried!

Sha Na Na's story is an all-encompassing one: Apart from being in the original Woodstock Festival line-up, they starred in the film "Grease", hosted their own "Sha Na Na" TV series for four years, and STILL play more than 100 concerts a year, from state fairs to performing arts centres, casino showrooms to mega corporate functions world wide. And through it all, flower power, hard rock, metal music, disco, hip hop, rap, and more - Sha Na Na remain true to the original concept: rock 'n' roll is here to stay!

The Sha Na Na story begins oddly for a group that, in appearance, runs the gamut from greaser to gold lame. Attired in turtle-necks and blue blazers, the nucleus of Sha Na Na were undergraduate members of The

Kingsmen, a glee club ensemble at New York's Columbia University that used to perform a cappella versions of 50s rock songs as part of their performances. These proved hugely popular and eventually rock 'n' roll took over. Instruments were added and Sha Na Na - the name comes from the 50s Silhouettes' hit "Get A Job" was born.



Sha Na Na was the only group at Woodstock without a record deal. Immediately afterward, they had one and today the group has released more than 25 albums in total, with worldwide sales of more than 20 million.

"Grease: The Movie" became another significant building block in the Sha Na Na story. The group appeared in the 1979 musical, as Johnny Casino and the Gamblers, & contributed to the original music score one original song, "Sandy," co-written by Screamin' Scott Simon for John Travolta to sing. Recalls Marcellino:

"Whole new generations got swept up in the nostalgia craze, effectively becoming our potential audience."

They have just released a new CD, "One More Saturday Night", the proceeds of which are to be donated to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. And, whilst Sha Na Na may well simply be an American version of ShowaddyWaddy, albeit with more credibility, and perform on what we might consider the cabaret circuit, at a time when rock music was in danger of boring itself to death, they stepped up and injected a much needed breath of fresh air and humour and still do!

Working for the past three decades throughout the world - from Carnegie Hall to the Grand Ole Opry, in Asia and in Africa, Paris to London to Tokyo - Live performances remain at the heart of Sha Na Na.

The official Sha Na Na website can be found at: <http://www.shanana.com/index.html>

Singles

Sha Na Na - "At The Hop" Bowser

Sha Na Na - "Blue Moon" (from Grease) rso 1978

Sha Na Na - "Born To Hand-Jive" (from Grease) rso 1978

Sha Na Na - "Chantilly Lace" Bowser

Sha Na Na - "Get A Job"

Sha Na Na - "Hound Dog" (Grease) 1978

Sha Na Na - "Rock Around The Clock"

Albums

Rock n'Roll is here to stay - 1969
SHA NA NA

Live in Concert
25th Anniversary Collection

Greatest Hits - 1977

Live in Japan with Conny

Grease for Peace - 1978

The Best of - 1988

Whole Lotta Shakin'Going On - 1997

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Rockin'Christmas - 2005

One More Saturday Night - 2005

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RADIO ROUNDUP

Hello all Rockin' Cats,

Before I launch into what's available to hear on the net, let me tell you first of the success of local Community Radio Station that was on air at 87.7FM from 19th November till 16th December 2005 this was such a success that a 5 year licence has been applied for. I will keep you posted. The name of the Station is Radio Barnsley and it broadcasts to surrounding areas of the Town into much of South and West Yorkshire. There will, of course, be a Rock n Roll show for two hours on Sundays from 8pm till 10pm which is good news for the area. Radio Barnsley will not be available via the internet but people who are able to receive the FM signal can receive it, they may make contact for requests or dedications by phone - 01126 213121 , Fax - 01226 213122 or via their website at www.ymcaradiobarnsley.co.uk The rest of the stations music output will be mainly weighted towards the 50's & 60's period, remainder being 70's to present day.

So, back to Internet Radio. There are probably many that I would recommend listening to, not that others are less enjoyable, but the following are perhaps of a more "Rockin" nature.

"Rockabilly Radio" stream their content on a rolling playlist format, non stop daily. This is best accessible for quality audio via iTunes player available to download from their website. If you prefer you can use other media players such as winamp, Real player or Windows Media Player. Alternatively, if you're not fussy about audio quality you can listen via live 365 anytime at the lower bitrate. Log into www.dbrighton.rockabillyradio.net for more

details. The other station Xradio.biz, although only listenable in the UK in the early sleep time hours of the morning, can be found at <http://xradio.biz/country/> where a couple of rockin' presenters play some great selections of rockin' sounds. Take a look at their website for more details. Also, a station that has been around probably longer than all those above is Rock-It-Radio, available via www.palmsradio.com/main.html

There are various presenters who put out rockin' related shows which change or are archived for a period of time. Lastly, another Rockabilly station, this one's based in Scandinavia I believe, is another playlisted Station available via Windows media player at <http://82.32.67.174:8000> or you can use winamp by entering 82.32.67.174:8000 in the "Play URL" option for those living in that area of the USA....The Colonel Says: "Listen to the 'WDVR Heartlands Hayride' every Saturday night on WDVR 89.7FM (in the Delaware Valley); 91.9FM (in the Trenton and Princeton areas) and on the worldwide web at www.wdvrfm.org

You may recall I started this column by reflecting on terrestrial radio and some of the reasons that our music isn't heard in a more specialised format than the more generic mainstream output by radio stations. You may also recall that I mused over the recent "Community Radio Licence". More on this next month.

'Til then.....tune in, turn it up and keep rockin' !

Dave B



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thanks for reading - c u next month



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The Queen of Rockabilly has a new CD on the way! Wanda Jackson's **I REMEMBER ELVIS** (Goldenlane Records 1568) will hit the streets on January 31, 2006. This is the Elvis "tribute" CD Wanda's been promising for years, featuring her interpretations of a few songs associated with her close friend and inspiration. Tracks include "Heartbreak Hotel," "Love Me Tender," "Good Rockin' Tonight," "Blue Moon of Kentucky," "Baby, Let's Play House," and more. Produced by Danny B. Harvey. Liner notes by another Elvis: Costello. More info: musicpr@earthlink.net

Valda deVere Perkins, 74, beloved wife of the late Carl Perkins, died peacefully at home in Jackson, Tennessee, on Tuesday, November 15. Born in Bemis, Tennessee, Mrs. Perkins is survived by four children, Carl Stanley (Connie) Perkins, Deborah Joyce (Bart) Swift, Steven Allen (Donna) Perkins, and Gregory Jay (Dawn) Perkins; nine grandchildren, Shannon Langley, Carla (Scott) Simmons, Lesleigh Woodward, Suzanne Swift, Chase Perkins, Matthew Watkins, Jonathan Watkins, Cody Watkins, and Jay Perkins; and four great-grandchildren, Hayden Hurbis, Peyton Hurbis, Carlee Langley, and Kate Langley

Capitol/EMI Music Catalog Marketing and the Rick Nelson Company proudly announce the December 27th release of Ricky Nelson: Greatest Hits on CD and Ricky Nelson Sings on DVD. The new CD collects 25 Top 25 hits from one of America's greatest icons, from his first, 1957's "I'm Walkin'" to his last, 1972's "Garden Party."

Hell Fire Club - a fast new talented showstopping rockabilly trio based in the Midlands, with a visually spectacular double bass performance that's never been seen before. For bookings and information phone 07786 603744

Ilford's FPC club has closed..... Due to work commitments Mike Pittman has called it a day on the long running FPC, the club played host to Flying Saucers, Jive Street and The Rat Pack over its five year run, club promoter Mike says' He will Miss You All'!

The Essential Johnny Cash [LIMITED EDITION] [ORIGINAL RECORDING REMASTERED]
available now www.amazon.co.uk

Radio Caroline's Good Rockin' Tonight will move itself and Dell Richardson to Tuesday nights at 6pm early in the new year for details contact Dell via the Good Rockin Tonight website....www.caroline.rockers.co.uk

Geoff Barker hosts a weekly Rock'n'Roll show every Saturday evening from 6:05-8:00pm (UK time) on BBC Local Radio in the South-West UK. It's now available for the whole planet to hear. Geoff plays the best classic and modern Rock'n'Roll music and, apart from Good Rockin' Tonight, is one of the few stations where current bands can be heard. You may also get to this programme via the link on www.caroline.rockers.co.uk

Check out this great new website, loads to look at loads to chat about www.rockabilly-review.co.uk

The Foggy Mountain Rockers are looking to fill some dates in the UK next October interested parties should call us at the mag and we will pass on your details.....01268 454494

Radar Record Hop is looking for vehicles for his banger racing team if your scrapping it then let them look at it first 07714 100986 for details

Wildcats Dance floor prediction for 2006

Wildcat Pete's dance floor number one for 2006 is oddly a modern remix of a 70's Elvis Presley number which is filling hardcore dance floors wherever Pete has played it. Including the Rhythm Riot downstairs bar where it

news

became the most requested number throughout the weekend. Elvis Presley alternate take Born To Rock AKA C'mon Everybody at present this recording is not on general release so you will have to follow Wildcat Pete around the country to hear it.

November 28, 2005 - Tony Meehan, one of the founder members of the Shadows died at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London in the early hour of the morning after suffering an accident at home. Tony leaves behind his wife Sue five sons and two daughters. Tony played drums on all the early Cliff Richard and the Shadows hits and also played on the early hits the Shadows had as an instrumental group.

The Eddie Cochran Cherished Memories Weekender is confirmed and will be held from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th April 2006 (the Easter Holiday weekend), and will be held at The Olympiad, Monkton Park, Chippenham. On the bill are

Thursday 13 April (Warm Up Gig) The Four Seasons Chippenham (courtesy of Manager Chris Mills) Marco Di Maggio Trio plus a guest appearance and support/DJ.

Friday 14 April The Olympiad from 12 noon Ervin Travis (France) Terry Dene & The Aces (UK)

Kid Kane & The Pirates (UK) Marco Di Maggio Trio (Italy) with guest Sue Moreno (Holland)

Jack Rabbit Slim (UK) DJ - Richard Marsh

Saturday 15 April The Olympiad from 12 noon Robert Gordon (USA) with Marco Di Maggio Trio (Italy) Albert Lee & Hogans Heroes (UK) Matchbox (UK) Rudy Chalard & The Motel Men (France) Support to be announced DJ Wildcat Pete

Sunday 16 April The Olympiad from 12 noon Jet Harris & The Rapiers (UK) Chas Hodges Rock-n-Roll Trio (UK) Rockin' The Joint (UK) Somethin' Else (UK) Zig Zag Band (UK)

DJ Richard Marsh eddiecochranweekender@hotmail.co.uk

February 11th sees the welcome return of Swindon Rock 'n'Roll Club after a year long holiday for Zoe and John Purchase. Gene Gambler and The Shufflers kick off the first night of this long running much missed club. Good Luck guys..... MOONRAKERS, (CROSSWAY SUITE), CRICKLADE ROAD, SWINDON, SN2 5AA swindon@rocknrollclub.freemove.co.uk

The last date in the Nick Willet mini tour of Elvis Birthday Celebrations has been confirmed as 8th January 2006 Pink'n'Black Promotions and The Jukebox have joined forces at The Chelmsford Social Club for the Sunday event.

Kwiff Kwipps (#3)

by the Sherriff



SIDEMEN OF ROCK 'N' ROLL

PART 1 - GRADY MARTIN

Even though he grew up in the small town of Lewisburg, Tennessee in the midst of the Great Depression, Grady Martin overcame adversity and followed his dream of being a successful musician. The youngest of four, Grady was spoiled as the baby in the family even though they were poor. Leaving home at an early age and cutting his education short started off his career and taught him to be independent. Grady gained a national reputation as a Nashville studio genius and played sessions on many number one hits. After his studio career, he joined Willie Nelson on the road and played for sixteen years touring all over the world. Of course, he wouldn't say any of this because he is a very modest man and is now retired. Grady Martin has been very successful despite many obstacles in his life and still lives to tell about them.

Grady Martin was born on Jan -

uary 17, 1929 in Marshall County, Tennessee. He grew up on a farm with his oldest

sister, Lois, his older brothers, June and Bill, and his parents, Claude and Bessey. One of his fondest childhood memories is of a horse which he named Trigger. Grady remembers his dad as being a stern and harsh man and his mother being able to read music very well. She influenced his music training significantly and showed him the basics that set the pace for him to become a phenomenal musician. His most memorable teacher was his eighth grade teacher, Mr. Higgins. Mr. Higgins was a Baptist minister and always took a little time out of each day to teach something from the Bible. Grady's worst subject was Algebra and he especially remembers a field trip made to Nashville to see a movie in fifth grade. Grady's reputation as a musician might seem ironic to some because he didn't receive much education. In fact, he left school when he was only fifteen years old to go play on a radio show in Nashville. After much persuasion, his mother reluctantly let him go. This began his long career as a musician but one of his biggest regrets is dropping out of high school.

After a short time of working at the radio station, Grady made countless appearances on the Grand Old Opry and the Ozark Jubilee, a popular TV show in the 50's. This was an amazing accomplishment for a young guitarist who went pro at the tender age of fifteen. He began playing sessions

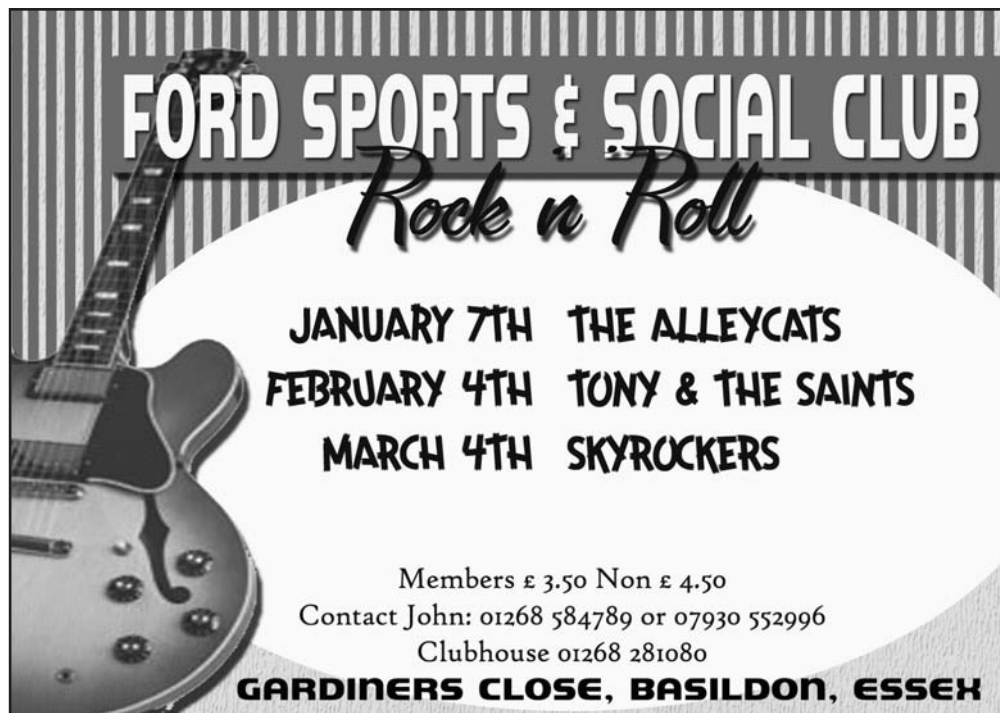


and became very popular for his improvisation and his flexibility with diverse types of music. It was for this reason that he played on countless hits in the 50's 60's, and 70's. By the late 50's, he was an in-demand studio genius backing artists like Little Jimmy Dickens, Red Foley, Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, and many others. He led the session group The Slewfoot Five for Decca in the 50's and sessioned most of the 60's with artists like Joan Baez, J. J. Cale, and others. After trying his hand at publishing and producing, he began touring with Willie Nelson. After sixteen years of life on the road, Grady was tired of traveling so he retired and moved to his home town in Mar-

shall County, Tennessee.

Throughout his life, Grady has experienced many things. He's been married three times, has ten children, and has spent nearly twenty years traveling. When asked about getting along with people, his advice is "tolerance." "What goes around comes around, so you say." He does not think very highly of the school systems today and thinks that the biggest problem facing our society today is crime. Regarding the most important and interesting person he has ever met. Grady replies, "Jesus."

From a biography written by Josh Garland



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Rhythm & Blues Reviewed

Diary of a Rhythm Riot Sax Man - 2005

There ain't nothing like the real thing. There's also nothing like standing on stage, a yard from the real thing, while they sing. So thank you Shirley Gunter, L'il Rachel, Warren Storm, Roy Gaines and the incredible Five Keys, because I was the lucky so-and-so playing tenor sax for them in the Kings of Rhythm house band at the Rhythm Riot 2005, Man, what a voice Maryland Pierce (Five Keys) has. It was a privilege to be there, on stage with the real thing. With two parts to follow, here's the story of the preparation and the first night, Friday...

Mid November 2005

I'd played baritone sax for Big Boy Bloater just days previously on a couple of jobs and, despite that, he rang to see if I was available for a few more dates. You could catch 'snowblindness' from my diary but trying to sound casual I said "let me check and I'll call you back". "By the way" Bloater added "the weekend gigs at the end of the month are on tenor sax at the Rhythm Riot." Hooooold the bus! Put me down for all the dates and I'll see you there. There, that wasn't desperate at all, was it?

The Rhythm Riot gig in the house band has the potential for being one of the top sax blows of the year. (Thank You, God). But it's not for the faint-hearted or the lazy. You've GOT to know your stuff, so it can't be taken lightly. Basic tricks are to learn riffs, melodies and harmonies by ear; read /write music on demand; write charts for acts that are going to change keys without notice; transcribe and play solos from classic recordings and deliver them with all the conviction of the greats that played them in the first place; play improvised solos on demand, in any key while at the same time fighting a serious and ongoing alcohol challenge (the hands down winners again this year Bloater and Lisa). And believe me, it's not just the notes in the right place in the right time in the right order. You've got to 'sound' right as well. Without the 'sound' and 'tone' of r'n'b sax it's never going to work emotionally. So there. If anyone knows how Lee Allen did it so well and so often, let me know.

Bloater sends me the set lists and cd's. They duly arrive with a couple of weeks to go. Head down and get to writing out some charts. Each act is going to perform an average of 14 songs, all being well. In fact not all of them were well but that's jumping ahead a bit. L'il Rachel is straight forward (oh yes she is) and they go to paper ok, including a great song 'Please Mr Jailer' that Pete (baritone sax) plays superbly. Shirley Gunter has asked that all the songs on the cd supplied be dropped "one key" lower. Hmmm. That could mean several things and none of them good. A call to/from Bloater and I drop the charts by a semitone to cover in lieu of 'hard' keys from Shirley. Warren Storm's material went to paper ok despite some dodgy quality on the CD. Roy Gaines has supplied some charts already - phew - so there's less pressure there, at least at this stage. Come Saturday night though it's all change. But in his case so much for the better. The Five Keys supply parts for most of their songs although some still need to be transcribed from CD. Pete writes out the majority the material, but some songs are 'keyless' right now so they'll have to wait. In all so far about three days work.

So with as much preparation done as possible, it's now for me to practice the essentials of each song, noting keys, solos where needed and any other details that give the song its 'personality'. For example on Shirley Gunter's It's You, Oop Shoop and You're Mine there are very distinctive sax solos. I didn't need to be a genius to realise that to do the job properly I'd need to copy the solos note for note because it's virtually part of the lyric. It is integral to the song. And I believe this holds true for other songs over the weekend. Where a solo is clearly part of the feel or identity of the number then I feel that the Real Thing and the Audience has the expectation to hear it played!

So on the morning of the gig it's a quick check to make sure that all the music, plus spare manuscript pencils, tippex, keyboard, cd player and the essential sax are loaded in and it's on the road to Camber Sands. The band set-up is for 3.00pm, and rehearsal with Shirley Gunter and L'il Rachel scheduled for 4.00pm and 6.00pm. Showtime starts at 9.00pm. Once checked into our chalet and

linked up with Pete and Matt (kbds) it's over to the main stage. As one of the new boys in the house band it's a pleasure to meet Bomber (drums) and Al (bass) properly. I automatically felt at home. Not only do they play great, they are also super friendly blokes.

Now the pressure starts...

Shirley comes on stage for her sound check/rehearsal and it's immediately apparent that her nervousness and uncertainty about what keys she feels comfortable in were going to have an effect. Coming back on a high profile show after many years in retirement and absence from live performance, things were always going to be difficult for her. Shirley asked for more key changes, so we made our notes and continued the rehearsal with L'il Rachel. She was strong and confident so it was easy from there. Rehearsals over, now it was down time to write out the charts with changes incorporated (25 songs) and wait for the show to start.

9.00pm Sure enough L'il Rachel was fine so Pete and I on saxes 'dug in' on a couple and her show felt good from we were playing. Tough Lover went especially well, but I always did love that song. She was confident and Pete and I would happily handle her (sax) parts anytime. I took the opportunity to thank her afterwards for making our life easy. I even got a kiss and a hug... She's that well made my arms couldn't reach all the way round the back.

But to get it together on stage for Shirley? Yeah well it's not that simple is it? With an hour left before her performance, Shirley Gunter wanted her songs changed key again, so it was out with the manuscript once more to write out the new keys, solos and all. Anyone need a spare headache?... I've got enough for three...

Midnight. It wasn't plain sailing for ourselves or Shirley that night and I feel that she needed a couple more gigs to get settled. Emotionally, I felt that the show was a little flat but that may have been as a result of dropping the keys a little too much. She was uncertain about pitch and couldn't throw herself into the performance with any confidence. And some songs work best in certain keys, usually the original. There were a lot of expectant faces out there in the audience (along with some very drunk ones, some very beautiful ones and even one that was all three) and I felt for them. Well I didn't feel for the faces as such, more for all that wanted a full-

filing show. As musicians onstage we all strive to make the show 'lift off'. (It certainly did with the Five Keys but that's in the third installment of this diary). Coming offstage at about 00.45 am I felt relief at having met the musical challenge without serious mishap, but a sense of anti-climax over what 'could have been'. Just a personal view, folks.

I didn't get an opportunity to speak to Shirley afterwards so I stashed my gear back at the chalet and headed back to the ballroom to unwind. All that remained was to grab a couple of beers (the first of the night) and a couple of dances (as many as my busted achilles will allow at the moment) to 'come down'. Roll on Saturday with Warren Storm and Roy Gaines and some real s.o.b sax blowing Rhythm Riot magic to come... (Pete to Bloater "Hey! We're having a great time ... how are you doin'?"

Tim Chimes



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 Rob 01869 327348 or 07950 384234

RATS GIG GUIDE

PLEASE CONTACT VENUE FOR CONFIRMATION.

Sat 31 Dec Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 Paul Ansell's No 9/Blue Flames Bill Guntrip/Little Carl 020 8961 1000

Sat 31 Dec Basingstoke RnR Club Westside Community Association, Paddock Road, South Ham, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 6QB Alleycats Jimmy Slick 01256 462305

Sat 31 Dec Beaconsfield Football Club, Slough Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2SQ Something Else/Sundowners Wildcat Pete + guests 01494 672605

Sat 31 Dec Blue Boar Longworth, Oxon Sugar Creek Trio

Sat 31 Dec Clitheroe RnR Club Swan & Royal Hotel, Clitheroe, Lancs Rock Back The Clock Revive 45 01200 443480

Sat 31 Dec Cuxton RnR Club Village Hall, Norman Road, West Malling, Kent Persuaders (ticket only) Two Hounddogs 01732 780076

Sat 31 Dec De Havilland S & S Club Hatfield Business Park, St Albans Rd, West Hatfield, Herts AL10 0TA Flames 01707 262665

Sat 31 Dec D'n'R Live Snig Hill, Sheffield, S.Yorks Tritons/Unchained plus tba Big Daddy/ Go-Go-Gorilla 0114 257 6953

Sat 31 Dec Guildford Hot 50's RnR Club Fairlands Hall, Fairlands Avenue, Guildford, Surrey Kingcats Steve's Stack of Wax 01483 772567

Sat 31 Dec Hardy Spicers RnR Club Hardy Spicers Club, Edgerton Road, Erdington, Bham Jive Street plus DJ 01827 250303

Sat 31 Dec Junction 27 RnR Annesley Social Club, Derby Road, Annesley (A611), Notts Glenn Darren & the Krew Katz Dave B 0115 953 4918

Sat 31 Dec Let's Party Village Hall, Gate Helmsley, York, Yorks Rip It Up plus DJ 07752 333094

Sat 31 Dec Northampton RnR Club - SWMC Semilong WMC, St Andrews Road,

Northampton, Northants Ramshackle Dad-dies AJ The Rockin' DJ 01604 713851

Sat 31 Dec Rock-Ola RnR Club The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex Good Rockin' Tonite (advance tickets only) plus DJ 01268 515696

Sat 31 Dec Stage One Cobden Oxford Street, Long Eaton, Derbys Skyrockers plus DJ 0115 973 4928

Sat 31 Dec Starfighter RnR Club Village Hall, Wreningham, near Norwich, Norfolk Small Town Giants/Fat Cat Trio Rockin Roland 01508 494735

Sat 31 Dec The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW11 Flying Saucers 020 7622 4001

Sat 31 Dec The Rocket Holloway Road, London record hop only CosmicKeith/Mouse/Dave C

Sun 1 Jan AFS Club Victoria Place, Carlisle, Cumbria record hop only (rock-'n'roll/swing/rockabilly) Fat Mossy & guests 01228 537523

Sun 1 Jan The Queens Arms Kings Lynn, Norfolk Danny Reno The Professor 01760 722803

Wed 4 Jan Meanwood WMC Stonegate Road, Meanwood, Leeds, Yorks record hop only C'mon Everybody Record Hop 07949 102292

Thur 5th Cat & The Hot Tin Trio The Phoenix Lower Hythe Street Dartford

Fri 6 Jan Dale Tavern West Street, Worsborough Dale, Barnsley, Yorks S70 5PG Top Cats Dave B 01226 205611

Fri 6th Jan Slim Slip & The Sliders Rosecroft Chelsfield Road Orpington Kent 01322 407110

6 Jan 8 Jan 3 Rock'n'Roll Weekend Grand Metropole Hotel Princess Parade, Blackpool, Lancs Mark Keeleys Good Rockin' Tonight/Crazee Jay & the Partytimers/Rip It

Up Bradford Dude 0870 787 0222

Fri 6 Jan Heanor RnR Club Shipley Colliery WMC, Mill Bank, Heanor, Notts Gregg G & his Crazy Gang 01773 570692

Fri 6 Jan Taunton RnR Club North Petherton RFC, Beggars Brook, North Petherton, Somerset record hop only Paul Stamps 01823 332180

Fri 6 Jan Northampton Trades Club Balmoral Road, Kingsthorpe Hollow, Northampton, Northants NN2 6IA Nick Willett (USA)/Gene Gambler & the Shufflers Bill Guntrip 01908 227540

Sat 7th Cat & The Hot Tin Trio Prince Of Wales High Street Strood Kent

Sat 7 Jan Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 Nick Willett (USA)/Gene Gambler & the Shufflers Bill Guntrip 020 8961 1000

Sat 7 Jan Enterprise Sports & Social Club Station Road, Ilkeston, Derbys DE7 5LL Jump & Jive 0115 932 9975

Sat 7 Jan Folkestone RnR Club - DHB Dover Harbour Board SC, White Cliffs Business Pk, Whitfield, Kent Good Rockin' Tonite plus DJ 01303 257786

Sat 7 Jan Ford Sports & Social Club Gardiners Close, Basildon, Essex Alleycats plus DJ 01268 584789

Sat 7 Jan Halifax RnR Club Siddal Ex-Servicemen's Club, Halifax, W.Yorks HX3 9JS Emperors Of Rhythm (ticket only event) D. J. the DJ 01422 354876

Sat 7 Jan Nifty Fifties RnR Club - LLC Lowton Labour Club, 214 Newtin Road, Lowton, Cheshire Colin Paul & the Persuaders (Elvis tribute night) plus DJ 01942 724166

Sat 7 Jan Stage One Cobden Oxford Street, Long Eaton, Derbys Intruders plus DJ 0115 973 4928

Sat 7 Jan Stockcross Rock'n'Roll Village Hall, Stockcross, near Newbury, Berks record hop only (jive/stroll) 01488 658186

Sat 7 Jan The Moonshiners The Roman Way Pub Tomlinson Avenue Luton Beds 01582 518211

Sat 7th Jan The Rat Pack Pavilion Battersea Park Road Battersea No Details

Sat, 7th, 8:00pm - The Jive Aces UK, London - Rhythm Lounge, Metropolis, 2 Old Change

Court, Peters Hill, London EC4 M8EN (nearest tube St. Pauls) (info from www.swingdanceuk.com)

Sat 7 Jan Marsham Arms Waterhouse Lane Chelmsford Tel: 01245 350345 Maurices Rockin' Machine

Sun 8 Jan The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR Night Shakers plus DJ 01702 460133

Sun 8 Jan Jukebox RnR Club Spring Lodge Centre, Powers Hall End, Witham, Essex Nick Willett (USA) + Gene Gambler & the Shufflers Skinny Jim 01245 260506

Sun, 8th The Jive Aces - UK, Berkhamstead - Ceroc Chilterns (Details TBC)

Wed 11 Jan Meanwood WMC Stonegate Road, Meanwood, Leeds, Yorks record hop only C'mon Everybody Record Hop 07949 102292

Fri 13 Jan Athletic Club - Kettering Rockingham Road, Kettering, Northants Strollers Dynamite Dave 01536 510779

Fri 13 Jan Kirk Hallam Social Club Dalimore Road, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston, Derbys Rudy la Crioux & the All Stars plus DJ 0115 932 9909

Fri 13 Jan Melksham RnR Club Assembly Hall, Market Place, Melksham, Wilts Heartbeats Cockney Rebel 01225 706463

Fri 13 Jan Rose & Crown - Brockenhurst Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, Hants record hop only (rockabilly/r'n'r/hillbilly/blues) Terry's Backstreet Boogie 07854 621522

Fri 13 Jan The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW11 Alleycats 020 7622 4001

Fri, 13th, 8:00pm The Jive Aces - UK, Tamworth - Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Corporation Street, Staffs (Tickets and info from 01827 709 618)

Fri 13th Jan Jack Rabbit Slim - Houndogs Pink'n'Black Chelmsford Social Club 55 Springfield Road Chelmsford Essex 01279 654205

Sat 14th Jan The Rat Pack Cardinal Wolsey Hampton Court no details

Sat, 14th The Jive Aces - UK, Durham - The Gala Theatre, Millennium Place, Co. Durham,

DH1 1WA (Tickets and info from 0191 332 4041)

Sat 14 Jan Miners Welfare Club - Staveley Market Street, Staveley, Chesterfield, Derbys Jack Rabbit Slim Dino's Good Rockin' Tonite 01246 281522

Sat 14 Jan Nursling & Rownham Social Club Nursling Street, Southampton, Hants Alleycats

Sat 14 Jan Paris Rock Club - WAC Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1 record hop only Mad French Wolf 07944 775556

Sat 14 Jan Plinston Live Plinston Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts Paul Ansell's No 9/Cordwood Dragers Strollin Steve 01763 241301

Sat 14 Jan Preston RnR Club Deafway Centre, Brockholes Brow, Preston, Lancs Infernos Gaz 01253 852594

Sat 14 Jan Rockin' At The Legion British Legion, 399 High Road, Tottenham, London N17 5QX The Avengers Dixie Sounds 07759 874167

Sat 14th Cat & The Hot Tin Trio The Greyhound Redhill Surrey

Sun 15 Jan The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR Roadhouse Rockers plus DJ 01702 460133

Sun 15th Jan Mark Keeleys Good Rockin Tonight Beauwaters Nelson Road Northfleet Kent 01322 407110

Tue 17 Jan Parklands Ballroom (ex ICI/Dupont SC), Wheatley Hall Road, Doncaster, S.Yorks Jump & Jive Dave B 01302 884707

Wed 18 Jan Meanwood WMC Stonegate Road, Meanwood, Leeds, Yorks record hop only C'mon Everybody Record Hop 07949 102292

Thur 19th Thu, The Jive Aces 19th, time TBC - UK, Dartford - Dance Riviera, Acacia Hall Ballroom, 67a High Street, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DJ (info from www.dancerviviera.com)

Thur 19th Jan The Rat Pack & CJ The DJ The Cedar Inn Bickington Road Barnstaple Devon EX31 2HP Call Bill 07899 701498

Fri 20 Jan The Skyrockers Rosecroft Club Chelsfield Road Orpington Kent 01322

407110

Fri 20 Jan 3R's RnR Club Reading Civil Service Club, James Lane, Burghfield, near Reading, Berks Fever plus DJ

Fri 20 Jan Badderley Green WMC 922-924 Leek New Road, Badderley Green, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs Alleycats Dancin' Dave 01782 537292

Fri 20 Jan Leabrooks Club Greenhill Lane, Leabrooks, Nr Alfreton, Derbys Rip It Up Mr Jive 01773 833035

Fri 20 Jan South Wales RnR Club British Legion Club, Penlline Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, S.Wales Rockin' The Joint Craze Dave 029 2061 9271

Fri 20 Jan St Marys SC - Batley Melton Street, Batley, W.Yorks record hop only Johnny Whiteshoes C'mon Everybody 01924 503758

Fri 20 Jan Taunton RnR Club North Petherton RFC, Beggars Brook, North Petherton, Somerset record hop only Peter Bryant 01823 332180

Sat 21 Jan Holiday Rock RnR Club Royal British Legion, Heath and Reach, near Leighton Buzzard, Beds Spitfires Tartan Ted 01525 372994

Sat 21 Jan Rock'n Red Hot Club - PH Page Hall, Staple Hill, Fishponds, Bristol Kingcats Mr Rusty's Roadshow 07879 228451

Sat 21 Jan Sounds That Swing RnR Club Shrublands Community Centre, Hawthorn Road, Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk Porky's Original Hot Rockin' The Professor/Rockin' Shades 01760 722803

Sat 21 Jan Sounds That Swing RnR Club Shrublands Community Centre, Hawthorn Road, Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk tba The Professor/Rockin' Shades 01760 722803

Sat 21 Jan Stage One Cobden Oxford Street, Long Eaton, Derbys Revolutionaires plus DJ 0115 973 4928

Sun 22 Jan The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR Cat & the Hot Tin Trio plus DJ 01702 460133

Wed 25 Jan Meanwood WMC Stonegate Road, Meanwood, Leeds, Yorks record hop only C'mon Everybody Record Hop 07949 102292

Wed 25th The Jive Aces Wed, 25th, 9:00pm
- UK, Eastleigh - Concorde Club, Stoneham Lane, Hampshire SO50 9HQ (Tickets and info from www.theconcordeclub.com)

Fri 27th Jan St Annes Castle Main Rd Great Leighs Essex Tel: 01245 361253 Maurices Rockin' Machine

Fri 27 Jan British Railway RnR Club Broad Green, Wellingborough, Northants Juke Box Eddies Strollin Steve 07748 306989

Fri 27 Jan High Royds RnR Club Menston, Otley, W.Yorks Hicksville Bombers Flash-back Billy 07818 246823

Fri 27 Jan Junction 27 RnR Annesley Social Club, Derby Road, Annesley (A611), Notts Jump & Jive Dynamite Dave 0115 953 4918

Fri 27 Jan Phoenix Hotel East Dereham, Norfolk Small Town Giants

Fri 27 Jan Rose & Crown - Brockenhurst Lyn-dhurst Road, Brockenhurst, Hants record hop only (rockabilly/r'n'r/hillbilly/blues) Terry's Backstreet Boogie 07854 621522

Fri 27 Jan Village Hotel - Newcastle Cobalt Business Park, West Allotment, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne & Wear NE27 OBY Mark Keeley (solo Elvis show) 0191 2701414

Fri 27 Jan Ye Olde St Annes Castle Main Road, Great Leighs, Essex record hop only (rock'n'roll/jive/rockabilly) Maurice's Rocking Machine 01245 361253

Sat 28 Jan B52 Club Diner Eastern Perimeter Road, Southend Airport, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6YF Hicksville Bombers Radar Record Hop 01268 457767

Sat 28 Jan Crondall RnR Club The Village Hall, Crondall, near Farnham, Surrey GU10 5QG Wildkatz Oh Boy Record Hop 07903 145018

Sat 28 Jan Cuxton RnR Club Village Hall, Norman Road, West Malling, Kent Skyrockers The Raven 01732 780076

Sat 28 Jan Ex-Servicemens Club - Northampton Sheep Street, Northampton, Northants Intruders (afternoon 4pm - 7pm)

AJ The Rockin' DJ/JukeBoxQueen 01604 493713

Sat 28 Jan Festival Inn Ilkeston Road, Trowell, Notts NG9 3PX Billy Fury Show plus DJ 0115 932 2897

Sat 28 Jan Jeanette & Michelle's RnR Club

Weston-Super-Mare FC, Winterstoke Road, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset BS24 9AA Heartbreakers Rock n Don 07881 912798

Sat 28 Jan Shoreham RnR Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex Fever plus DJ 01903 243392

Sat 28 Jan The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW11 Flames n/a 020 7622 4001

Sat 28 Jan Welfare Social Club West End Lane, Rossington, Doncaster, S.Yorks Tritons Ol' Dell Boy 01302 863125

Sat, 28th, The Jive Aces 7:30pm - UK, Aber-gavenny - Borough Theatre, Cross Street, NP7 5HD (Tickets and info from £12/£10 conc. from 01873 850 805)

Sat 28 Jan Hicksville Bombers + Radar Record Hop B52 Club Diner Eastern Perimeter Road Rochford Essex 01268 457767

Sat 28 Jan Winding Wheel Hollywell Street, Chesterfield, Derbys Jets Moggie 01246 230576

Sun 29 Jan Link Club Parsloe Road, Harlow, Essex CM19 4RT Sundowners Strollin Steve 01763 241301

Sun 29 Jan The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR The Rat Pack plus DJ 01702 460133

Weekender Update

6-8 Jan The Elvis Birthday Party 2006 The Inn On The Lake Kent - Shayne Driscall - Rockin' Rocket 88 - DJ's Karaoke, Banquet and Ball 01634 401 042

6 Jan 8 Jan 3 Rock'n'Roll Weekend Grand Metropole Hotel Princess Parade, Blackpool, Lancs Mark Keeleys Good Rockin' Tonight/Crazee Jay & the Party-timers/Rip It Up Bradford Dude 0870 787 0222

17 Feb 19 Feb 3 Valentine Rockin' Week-end Spa Complex Sea Front, Scarborough, N.Yorks Stargazers/Heartbeats/Jive Romeros/Heartbreakers/Blast Off/John Lewis Rock'n'Roll Trio/Some Like It Hot/Fly-

ing Saucers/Hi Voltage/Hicksville Bombers/Ramshackle Daddies no details 01723 350419 -07734 407030

9 mar - 13 mar Rockabilly Rave 10 - Janis Martin, Sonny Burgess, Dave and Deke Combo Mad Men Go Getters and Many More 01737 370533

Mar 17 - 20 Country Meets Rock'n'Roll - The Kingcats, Marietta Station, Good Rockin' Tonite, Mac Bailey & The Desperados. Bournemouth Sands Hotel 01763 241301 - 07808 340776

17 Mar 19 Mar 3 Shake Rattle & Roll Weekender Vauxhall Holiday Park Acle New Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk Linda Gail Lewis/Crazy Cavan & the Rhythm Rockers/Stan Perkins (USA) /Lennerockers/Darrell Higham & the Enforcers/Johnny & the Roccas/Kingcats/Blast Off/Johnny & the Jailbirds/Ruby & the Rockers Wildcat Pete/Big Bounce/Moonshine Mama 01493 857231

20 Mar 24 Mar 5 Rock'n'Roll Week Butlins - Skegness Ingoldmells, Skegness, Lincs Matchbox/Alleycats - others announced soon various 0870 242 2002

24 Mar 27 Mar 4 Party Weekender Warmwell Holiday Park Warmell Holiday Camp, near Weymouth, Dorset tba various 020 8593 1947

31 Mar 1 Apr 2 Weekender No 5 Ready Teddy Go Golden Sands Holiday Camp, Quebec Road, Mablethorpe, Lincs Lennerockers (GER), Linda Gail Lewis (USA)/Rebels Revenge (NOR)/Riot Rockers/Flying Saucers/Skyrockers/Teddy Guitar & CIA/Cosh Boys/Cast Iron Arms various no details

7 Apr 9 Apr 3 Richmond Weekender Skegness RnR Society Richmond Park Holiday Camp, Richmond Drive, Skegness, Lincs Firebirds/Jive Aces/Colin Paul & the Persuaders/Jets/Skyrockers/Rockin' The Joint/Paul Neon & the Saints various 0115 932 2897

5 May - 8 may Hemsby 36 - Carl mann, Barrence Whitfield, Roddy Jackson, Roddy Crown, Lil Esther, Wild Fire Willie and many more 01522 752453

26 May 28 May 3 3Rs RnR Club Weekender Jive Jive Jive Rivermead Leisure Complex, Richfield Ave, Reading, Berks Jets/Rockin' The Joint/Doomsday Rockers/Kingcats/Sundowners/Rip It Up/Fever Mr Rusty/Galaxie Bob 0118 986 0624

9 Jun 11 Jun 3 Rockabilly Weekend Shades Skegness, Lincs Skiprats/Infernos/Sureshots/Hicksville Bombers Flashback Record Hop 01754 765232

30 Jun 3 Jul 4 Ultimate Weekender Wildest Cats In Town Pontins Seaside Village, Pakefield, near Lowestoft, Suffolk -Jack Scott/Johnny Burnette/Rocky Burnette/Randy Burnette/Matchbox/Lennerockers/Crazy Cavan & the Rhythm Rockers/Rudy la Crioux & his All Stars/Skyrockers plus 10 bands tba Wildcat Pete/Steve's Stack O' Wax/Ol' Del Boy/Cockney Rebel/Tartan Ted/2 Hound Dogs/Bradford Dude ++ 020 8372 1958

6 - 9 July Americana International - Hayseed Dixie, Narvel Felts, Jay Chevalier, Travis Ledoyt, Chris Scruggs, Rip Masters, Swing Commanders, Phil Haley and Many More 01159 390595

28 Jul 30 Jul 3 Rock'n'Roll Weekend Boogaloo RnR Extravaganza Warners Lakeside, Fishery Lane, Hayling Island, Hants Mike Berry & the Outlaws/Big Boy Bloater & his Southside Stompers/Rat Pack/Alleycats/Jean Vincent Compere: Paul Richardson tel: 01252 793430

28 Jul 30 Jul 3 Rockabilly Weekend Shades Skegness, Lincs Unknowns/Boogie Children/Cathouse Creepers/Fat Cat Trio/Muskrats Flashback Record Hop 01754 765232

15 Sep 17 Sep 3 Eddie Cochran Weekend Showtime Enterprises Olympiad Leisure Centre, Monkton Park, Chippenham, Wilts Charlie Gracie/John Leyton/Chas McDevitt/Wee Willie Harris/Crazy Cavan & the Rhythm Rockers/Rapiers/Flying Saucers/ /Stargazers/Strollers/Spitfires/Houserockers/Blackcat/Red Hot/Rockin' Gerry & the Sundown Boys/Blueflames/Ichty Feet Trio Wildcat Pete/Leon Oddsocks/Pete's Wax Show 0117 904 2658

22 Sep 24 Sep 3 Rockabilly Weekend Shades Skegness, Lincs Sugar Creek Trio/Rhythm Aces/Infernos/Hicksville Bombers Flashback Record Hop 01754 765232

22 Sep 24 Sep 3 Richmond Weekender Skegness RnR Society Richmond Park Holiday Camp, Richmond Drive, Skegness, Lincs tba various 0115 932 2897

25 Sep 29 Sep 5 Annual Elvis Convention Elvis Party Event - Arena Holidays Galleon Club, Golden Sands Holiday Camp, Quebec Road, Mablethorpe, Lincs Alleycats/Greggi G & his Crazy Gang/Miss Rock'n' Roll (Lisa-Marie)/Rat Pack is Back/Lulu by Maxine Mazumder/Fake Bee Gees/Splash/Sweet Sensation/Nightfly no details 01394 691203

13 - 16th Oct Hemsby 37 - Details to be announced 01522 752453

3 Nov 6 Nov 4 Party Weekender Warmwell Holiday Park Warmell Holiday Camp, near Weymouth, Dorset tba various 020 8593 1947

17 Nov 19 Nov 3 Rock'n Red Hot Weekender Rock'n Red Hot Club - GH Grand Hotel, Exmouth, Devon Jets/Kingcats/Fever Mr Rusty/Cockney Rebel 07879 228451

More to be added next month.



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Feb 26th Woodgrange, Southend-on-Sea

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Band: Jive Aces
Venue: Rock-Ola, Canvey
Date: 28th November 2005

At Last! A Swing/Jump Jive band at Rock-Ola, a big thank you to Della despite a lot of opposition from the committee she pulled it off and we got The Jive Aces.



What a band!!!! What applause!!! Every number was met with great gusto, cheering, and shouts for more. Members that had never seen The Jive Aces loved every minute of this act, every song from Mack The Knife (a huge hit in the FIFTIES for Bobby Darin) to In The Mood had the dance floor filled and the crowd wanting more. For those that don't dance the band was just as entertaining to watch, they entertained everyone except one and we all know who that was!

The applause was deafening at the finale with a couple of encores and then these really nice guys left the stage and spent time having photos done with the kids, autographing cd's and just chit chatting, nothing was too much trouble. Even though this was the weekend of The Rhythm Riot Rock-Ola and the Jive Aces still managed a great attendance the atmosphere was dynamic with a variety of music all night, provided with help from the DJ The Pirate who played Rock'n'Roll and Rockabilly as a nice contrast to the band. You can't please all the people all of the time but Rock'n'Roll is music we all love however it is played so one Jive band this year is not too much for members to ask for after all if it weren't for us all that were there on day one there wouldn't be a Rock-Ola, which is a well attended fantastic club.

Julie Bering

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Well if you've ever been to my house or phoned my house or seen my brood and me out and about, you may have noticed that we sing an awful lot, and although my eldest has recently banned me from dancing in the street the singing continues, here is the Richardson family top ten sing a long tracks.....

1. **Sh'boom - The Chords**, we all have parts in this number and our version is ruddy awful but lots of fun!
2. **Little Biddy Pretty One - Billy Gilman**, again we have our own parts it's terrible and always ends in hysteria
3. **White Christmas (alt take) - Bing Crosby** we sing this all year round, the kids love it and it has our own lyrics hee hee
4. **Kiss The Baby Goodnight**, haven't a clue who its by originally but its one of our favourites,
5. **Oh Marie**, our version is a stargazer take off and gets louder and louder as we walk the town
6. **In dreams Orbison**, the song I sung to all my children to drone them off to sleep makes a very beautiful lullaby unless I'm singing it
7. **Blue Moon Of Kentucky Presley**, Yee ha we love this the girls harmonise and our youngest boy sings the lyrics it was the first rockin' song he learnt by heart
8. **That's Alright Mama**, we have often been joined by passers by on this one! Happy Music.....
9. **Cradle of Love** this started as a lullaby for the children now it would wake the devil
10. **Lonesome Train** only sung in the car generally at petrol stations extremely loud and gets a lot of smiles from onlookers

Yes it's true secretly we wished we could sing, the realisation that there will never be an album hit me when suddenly the dog howling sounded better than we did, but hey! All of those mundane jobs are made so much better with a song in your heart. Total puke! Apart from that it's the only way I can get the little monkeys to behave. **Happy New Year from the Richardson Dire Choir.x**



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Band: The Revolutionaires

Venue: Rhythm Riot, Pontins, Camber Sands

Date: 27th November 2005

One of the highlights of the year for me is the Rhythm Riot, and one of the many highlights at the Rhythm Riot this year was the very visual Revolutionaires.

The Revolutionaires are a red hot rockin' rhythm and blues band from the North East of England. They consist of Ed Stephenson (guitar, sax, harmonica and lead vocals), Rich Stephenson (double bass, electric bass guitar and backing vocals), Alex Bozic (piano and backing vocals), and John Lambert (drums and backing vocals).

Right from the start you knew this was going to be a high energy charged, extremely visual show. They burst onto stage with 'When I Get Drunk', followed by 'Route 66'. They power blasted their way through songs such as : 'The House Is Rockin'', 'Mistery Train', the rather risqué 'The Walking Blues', 'Shake Your Hips', 'The Hucklebuck'; and encored with the Trenier's 'Rockin' Is Our Bizness'.

Throughout the set Ed pulled a thousand faces and bounced around the stage as if he were made of rubber, as well as singing, playing lead guitar, saxophone and harmonica; what a talented bloke. That's not to take anything away from the other band members, who are equally talented on their own instruments.

During the encore Ed performed an amazing dance routine, literally taking off several feet and landing doing the splits, fantastic!! I can't remember seeing such a high energy band.

By the way, I tried to bribe Ed out of £50 to do a good review, but all he could come up with was his plectrum. However when they are rich and famous (and they deserve that), I'll sell the plectrum for a small fortune on Ebay. They are an extremely talented and professional band, and deserve to go a long way.

Their CD (The Revolutionaires, Route 66) is excellent, but to fully appreciate this band you need to go and see them.

Graham Urquhart



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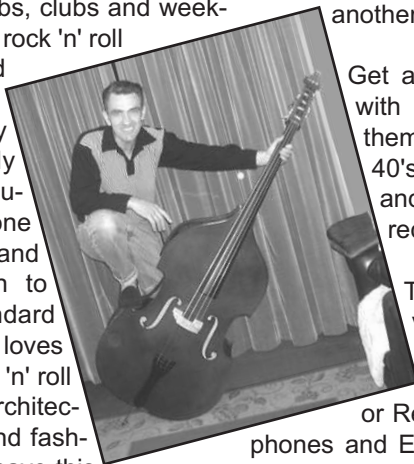
I think it's amazing how many different opinions there are on the current crop of bands that play the pubs, clubs and week-enders today. I have a rock 'n' roll buddy called Phil, and he will not buy any music recorded by modern rockabilly bands. His main argument is that "it was done right first time round and why should we listen to second-rate, sub-standard rockabilly?" Now Phil loves the 50's rockabilly/rock 'n' roll life-style, cars, bikes, architecture, interior design, and fashion. So why does he have this anti modern rockabilly stand? We speak on the subject most times we meet, but the outcome is always the same, we disagree.

I'll quote Jerry Chatabox;

"I collect good songs. It doesn't matter whether it's old or new. It just has to be good. I especially like new bands that record in an old style. It keeps rockabilly alive".

I agree with Jerry completely. We need younger bands with fresh songs, and there are a good few of them around today too.

I too have a passion for rockin' music played and recorded by bands in the 50's style. I'm not a fan of the rock 'n' roll musical progression. That's why I use the word



rockabilly instead of rock 'n' roll. People know what kind of music I like, I don't have to explain further by saying "vintage rock 'n' roll, you know Elvis, Carl Perkins, etc". Once I say 'rockabilly', people generally get the idea. I don't like my eggs any style. Well that's not really true, I love eggs fried, poached, scrambled and boiled, but rockin' music is another thing completely.

Get a good band (modern r-a-b) with original songs, and record them in a studio full of vintage 40's/50's recording equipment and in my opinion you have a recipe for success.

The Lightning Recording Service in Berlin records bands in this way. They use vintage RCA, Western Electric or Reslo ribbon broadcast microphones and Electro-Voice dynamic microphones on most of their recording sessions*. They also use 'MAGNASYNC' tube mixing console and a 'ALTEC 1567-A' mixer coupled with 'BERLANT' concert-tone tube pre-amps. For recording and mastering the sessions they use a 'TELEFUNKEN M10'. That's the technical bit over with. The sound they create is amazing, which is probably the reason why original artists, such as Huelyn Duvall, Glenn Honeycutt, Charlie Gracie, and Rayburn Anthony as well as many of today's best rock 'n' roll, and rockabilly bands choose to record there. So if you have a band or are just plain interested, check out their website at www.lrs-berlin.com

The best current rockabilly band in my opinion is 'The Mean Devils'. They hail from Portugal and France. Lead singer

and rhythm guitarist Pedro Serra writes great songs (just check out the lyrics on 'Wizard Of Wax') and his voice has a nice range to it. From the Ronnie Self styled 'Toochie Coo' to the Johnny Horton inspired 'Rockin' It Country Style', their sound is spot on. Oscar Gomez is the laid back lead guitarist who plays the notes effortlessly, on stage and on record. Frank Abed on double bass is excellent musically and as a showman he never disappoints. Nuno Gomez (no relation to Oscar) is the smiling drummer; who never seems to miss a beat. Couple all that with a great visual stage show and look (the girls just love them, ask Suzy Q and Dizzy what they think) and you have the reason why this band is so popular wherever they play!

Everyone one who has seen 'The Mad Men' will know what I mean when I mention their set at the 9th Rockabilly Rave. It was totally amazing! On the downstairs stage in the afternoon, when everyone was recovering from the previous nights entertainment (including me), they just blow the roof off! Goran Margeta went absolutely crazy on that borrowed, beat up, seen better days, old double bass. The sound from it was awful, but the performance was breath taking, as were Branko's vocals & rhythm guitar, Darko's lead guitar and Marko on drums. On the strength of that wild afternoon's performance they were booked again, for the 10th Rave, in March 2006.

As we all know, rockabilly music originated in the southern states of the US. 'The Blue Moon Boys' from Memphis, Tennessee paved the way for a whole crop of rockin' cats and kittens with a beat. But not a drum beat. Thanks to Bill Black's double bass slap back, the trio of lead guitar, rhythm guitar and bass became popular. Emulating this original style, we have some great drum-less trios around today, 'The Two

Timin' Three', 'The Roy Kay Trio' and, in my opinion the best, 'High Noon'. The band features Sean Mencher on vocals and guitar, Shaun Young on lead guitar and Kevin Smith on the upright bass. I've nearly seen this band live on several occasions, but all my trips to Austin, Texas coincided with the band or one or two of its members being out of town at the time. That's what makes their appearance at the next Rave a must-see. They grew up digging the sounds of neo-rockabilly in 80's but felt that the sounds lacked something! To quote Shaun;

"It didn't have the subtlety and the swingin' groove of the records I liked. It didn't quite have that same effect. So, it was kind of a process for guys our age back then to figure out how to play it right."

As far as I'm concerned they figured it out. Check out an article on High Noon at www.countrystandardtime.com/highnoon-feature.html.

It's not just the guys who rock! Josie Kruezer (writes, sings, plays, and owns her own label), Miss Mary Ann, Marti Brom, Kim Lenz, Cari Lee, Lil' Bit and the Customatics, Lil Esther and her Tin Stars, The Ranch Girls, Sue and the Flaming Stars, Cat and the Hot Tin Trio and Ruby Ann are all expertly carrying on the work started by Wanda Jackson et al. There is a wealth of talent out there today, who all perform and record rockabilly music 50's style. Catch them live and if you like what you hear, buy a record or CD. You never know they might make another one and keep the music going.

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FEATURING:

Mike Berry & The Outlaws
Big Boy Bloater & His Southside
Stompers
Jean Vincent Band
The Alleycats
The Rat Pack
The Swamp Things

plus

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