



NVDJS NEWS
Napa Valley
Dixieland Jazz Society
P.O. Box 5494,
Napa, CA 94581

FIRST CLASS MAIL

RENEWALS that are DUE

December

Ashley Radcliffe
Gil & Joyce Robinson
Edwina Walsh

January

John Bailey,
Doc Bernice Eggen
Jack & Mary Harford
Helen Fay Frank Matulovich
Loyce Besant Don Morrison
Eli Qvist Wayne Taylor

NAPA VALLEY DIXIELAND JAZZ SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Date: _____

Standard Membership Single \$30.00/year
(\$8.00 Session Admission) Couple \$50.00/year

Contributing Membership Single \$100.00/year
(Free Session Admission) Couple \$170.00/year

Enclosed is a check for the following: New Renew

Mail check made out to:
NVDJS, P.O. Box 5494, Napa, CA. 94581

NVDJS NEWS December-January 2017-18



Sunday, December 10,
2017

Sunday, January 14,
2018

**Grant Hall-
Veteran's Home**
Yountville, CA

We will be having our traditional
holiday party on Dec 10 and this
year we are asking that if folks
would like to contribute they
bring their favorite finger food
rather than sweets.

Snacks to share - yum! - thanks.

Monthly Admission Donations

NVDJS	\$8.00
Other Jazz Clubs	\$9.00
Other Guests	\$10.00
Youth (12-18 years)	\$3.00
Children (under 12 years)	No charge
Veterans' Home Residents	No charge

NVDJS on the Worldwide Web

Check out:
the Napa Valley site
napatradjazz.org

on December 10, 2017 1:00 - 4:00 **Gold Coast Jazz Band**

Since 1993 the Gold Coast Jazz Band has been entertaining appreciative audiences of dancers and listeners with classic hot jazz from ragtime to the dawn of swing. Our late founder, Phil Stiers, used to say our fans have "Gold Coast-itis", a condition thought to be incurable, whose symptoms are an uncontrollable urge to smile and dance a lot. Gold Coast plays the traditional jazz of New Orleans and Chicago, hot dance music from 1920's New York, novelty tunes, and popular songs of the period by America's greatest song writers. The band's book runs to more than three hundred tunes and new titles are being added all the time. Besides playing for jazz societies and the occasional casual gig, the band appears twice monthly in five- and six-piece form at the Redwood Cafe in Cotati, on the third Sunday and last Saturday on the month. All our regulars will be on hand to play for your annual Holiday Party on December 11: Don't forget to bring your dancing shoes!



Ev Farey, trumpet Candy Woodworth, tuba
Bill Badstuber, trombone Zane Woodworth, drums
Ray Walker, reeds Jeff Green, banjo & guitar
Tom Barnebey, piano (Guest Artist)

on January 14 1:00 - 4:00 **Devil Mountain Jazz Band**

DEVIL MOUNTAIN JAZZ BAND continues to develop their multi-style approach to preserving the popular music of the late 1800's through the early 1930's, and the west coast revival jazz of the 1940's. The eight piece band is best known for the two trumpet sounds of the Joe Oliver and Lu Watters bands and the orchestrated "hot dance" music of the late twenties. You'll also hear DMJB perform ragtime, blues, "Dixieland" standards, gospel and novelty tunes, and an occasional duck-call by Pete Main, or assorted strange-instrument solos by Pete, Noel, and Glenn. The band also recreates the New Orleans-derived hot jazz popularized by Armstrong, Hardin, Beiderbecke, Morton, etc., in Chicago in the late twenties. At many jazz festivals, they present special historical concerts celebrating the music of these jazz greats, and a new special show, "Bix & Bing", featuring our cornet player and vocalist, Tom Belmessieri.



Ken Keeler — Banjo, leader
Noel Weidkamp — Cornet
Tom Belmessieri — Cornet
Glenn Calkins — Trombone

Pete Main — Reeds
Gary Neuman — Piano
Keith Baltz — Tuba
Allan Grissette — Drums

NVDJS NEWS

published by the
Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz
Society
P.O. Box 5494, Napa, CA. 94581

The NVDJS is a non-profit organization founded to encourage an appreciation of and education in Traditional, Dixieland, Ragtime and Swing Jazz.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS and OFFICERS

President	Linda Stevens
Vice President	Marilee Jensen
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Don Robertson (acting)

Directors at Large

Don Robertson
Joy Waite

Directors Emeritus

Phil Eggers	Dorothy Hoffman
-------------	-----------------

NEWSLETTER

Editor - Don Robertson 707-258-9259
e-mail: jdrobertson@att.net
Assist. Editor - Dave Forus

OTHER POSITIONS

Membership	Don Robertson 707-258-9259
Publicity	Open
Historian	Open
Band Liaison	Linda Stevens 707-939-9018

Advertising

(ONLY if space permits)
Ads must be submitted by the **15th** of the month preceding publication.
Full Page..(half legal size).... \$70.00
Full Page insert--you provide....\$30.00
Half Page.....\$50.00
Third Page.....\$30.00
Quarter Page.....\$20.00
Business Card (6-7 square in.).....\$10.00
(Yearly rate = 10 times the monthly rate)
Ads must be paid in advance.

President's Message

We had a great time with the Flying Eagles at our last meeting. We were fortunate that although the Vets Home did have to evacuate during the fires, there was no damage and we were able to continue as usual. Although the drive to Yountville was easy, viewing the results of the fires was difficult. It was good to have such a hot band to cheer folks up.

FYI - John Tanko no longer wants to be leader of the Flying Eagles, so Jim Broadstreet has taken over the job. It's great to know that the Eagles will continue as they are certainly a favorite band and have been scheduled for 2018. Thanks, John, for your leadership and enjoy your new job, Jim.

December's band will be the Gold Coast Jazz Band with the added talent of Tom Barneby on the piano. They always add to the festivity of our December meeting.

As we have delicious sweets offered each month by Pat the very talented baker at the Vet's Home, this year will be ask that folks bring finger food instead of sweets for our usual holiday offerings. So, anyone who would like to contribute to the snacks offered, please make them savory, not sweet.

Here's hoping lots of folks will show up for our December 10 gig to enjoy food and fun with the Gold Coast Jazz Band.

See you then,

Linda



Jazz Around The Bay Area

Jazz Clubs

1st Sunday

TRAD JASS of Santa Rosa meets, at the **Moose Lodge, 3559 Airway Drive, Santa Rosa** **January 7, Natural Gas** **February 4, TBD** 1:00-5:00PM. (707) 526-1772 Jammers call (707) 528 0815, members \$12, other clubs \$12, public \$15.

3rd Sunday

NOJCNC Meets at the **Elk's Lodge, 3931 San Pablo Dam Rd El Sobrante**, **December 17, Mission Gold** **January 21 Bob Schulz Frisco Band** 1:00-5:00 PM info call Tom Belmessieri (925) 432-6532, or Paul Hilton (415) 431-3390 , Jammers call Rod Roberts (415) 499-1190 . members \$8, other clubs \$10, public \$12.

4th Sunday

SOUTH BAY TRAD JAZZ SOCIETY, **Sunnyvale Elks, 375 N Pastoria Ave, Sunnyvale CA**, **December 17 Bob Schulz Frisco Band** **January 28, Clint Baker's New Orleans Jazz Band**, 1:00 - 5:00 PM info— Barbara Kinney at (510) 792-5484 , members \$8, other clubs \$8, public \$10.

3rd or 4th Wednesday

.THE ROSSMOOR DIXIELAND SOCIETY **December 27, Devil Mountain, January 24, unknown** 7:00 PM At the Rossmoor Event Center, 1021 Stanley Dollar Drive, Walnut Creek, CA members \$10, guests \$15 Bob Burch 925-934-1337 or <http://www.dixielandjazzrossmoor.com/> for info..

Jazz in other places

Sundays

Every SundaySwing Band –from 7:00—10:PM at the **Hydro Bar and Grill, 1403 Lincoln Ave, Calistoga, No Cover.**
** 3rd Sunday **Gold Coast Jazz Band** at the **Redwood Café. 8240 Old Redwood Highway, Cotati** 5-8 PM, No cover
Info: Bill Badstubner 707-526-1772 or Jeff Green, 650-892-0448

Tuesdays

** 2nd Tuesdays **Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band** }play from 7:30 to 9:30 PM **Castle Rock Restaurant** 1848 Portola Avenue, Livermore 925) 456-7100
** Every Tuesday —**Phil Smith and the Gentlemen of Jazz** play from 6 to 9 PM **Napkin's Bar and Grill** 2001 2nd St, Napa, CA

Thursdays

Every Thursday **Earl Scheelar's Zenith Jazz Band . **Hornbill Burmese Restaurant**, 3550H San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante, 7-9 PM LARGE dance floor, for info call (510) 964-4293

Fridays

Most Fridays-Clint Baker's Cafe Borrone All Stars** play in Menlo Park at **Cafe Borrone**, 1010 El Camino Real, 8-11PM.

Saturdays

3rd Saturday **Devil Mountain - Friends of Jazz **December 16, January 20** 1:30 - 4:30 PM at the **Danville Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd., Danville, CA.** Admission **\$15** , BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS. Check www.jazznut.com Call Ken at 925 2707.

Last Saturday **Gold Coast "Beer Garden" (5 Piece) Jazz Band at the **Redwood Café. Beer Garden** 8240 Old Redwood Highway, Cotati 3-6 PM, No cover Info: Bill Badstubner 707-526-1772 or Jeff Green, 650-892-0448



CD REVIEW

by Bert Thompson

EARL SCHEELAR'S NEW ZENITH JAZZ BAND (OWN LABEL, NO NUMBER). Playing time: 78m. 48s.

Messin' Around; Tell Me^o; Hindustan^t; Ain't Nobody Got the Blues like Me^{*}; It Had to Be You^o; My Honey's Lovin' Arms^t; Mecca Flat Blues; Bugle Boy March; Blues My Naughty Sweetie Gives to Me^t^o; Forever More^t; Dreaming the Hours Away^t^o; Wildman Blues; Oh Baby; Linger Awhile; Oriental Man; I've Been Floatin' Down That Old Green River^{*}.

Recording details – none given.

Personnel: Earl Scheelar, leader, 2nd cornet, clarinet, vocals^{*}; Tom Barnebey, music director, lead cornet, trombone, vocals^t; Pete Main, clarinet, alto sax; Glen Calkins, trombone, bass clarinet; Virginia Tichenor, piano; Jeff Green, banjo, plectrum guitar, vocals^t; Jim O'Briant, tuba; Lisa Gosnick, ukulele, vocals^o

The leader of this group, Earl Scheelar, has been living and playing clarinet and cornet in the San Francisco Bay Area for many decades now. A dyed-in-the-wool New Orleans stylist, at one time he opened a jazz club in Berkeley, California, the "New Orleans House," serving New Orleans cuisine and featuring his own band for the entertainment—a venture which lasted for only about a year, unfortunately. For some 16 years he also owned an apartment building in the French Quarter of New Orleans, visiting there each year and relinquishing ownership of it prior to Hurricane Katrina, and during that decade and a half he organized an instrument-give-away foundation for needy New Orleans kids. Since the 1960s he has led several bands in the San Francisco area. Given all of that, it would be fair to say that he has paid his dues.

Scheelar's musical organizations during the last half century, most of which recorded once or twice, include the New Orleans House Jazz Band, the Funky New Orleans Jazz Band, and the Zenith Jazz Band, as well as the Zenith New Orleans Parade Band. This current band, the New Zenith Jazz Band, is a slight departure from the old, having no drums, two cornets, and, of all things, a ukulele, along with the more usual instrumentation.

Almost all of the musicians in the band are well-known in the San Francisco Bay Area traditional jazz scene, most playing with other local bands—several with more than one—as well as this one. A brief CV is given for each in the liner notes. The band currently has a weekly residency at The Hornbill Restaurant, which features Burmese

cuisine, in El Sobrante, an East Bay suburb of San Francisco. It has a pleasant ambience and boasts a commodious dance floor. Unsurprisingly, therefore, most of the tunes on this CD are appropriately taken at dance tempos, but then again, such tempos were also the norm for New Orleans bands as they played for dancing, not just listening, at such venues as Luthjens Dance Hall, Artesian Hall, San Jacinto Hall, et al.

Other than *New to Me* (which has lyrics composed by Tom Barnebey), the tunes on this CD will probably be familiar to most fans. As well as being danceable, they are all eminently listenable as well. In true New Orleans fashion, emphasis is given to collective improvisation—no written scores for this band—but attention is also paid to some of the finer points, such as dynamics—witness *Messin' Around*, *Hindustan*, or *Linger Awhile*—and varying textures. The latter can be seen and heard in an interesting trading of fours between the two cornets on *Hindustan* and in engaging duets of the two clarinets in *Mecca Flat Blues* and *Oriental Man*, as well as that on *Ain't Nobody Got the Blues like Me* between the cornet and banjo, all the others dropping out.,

Some half of the tracks contain vocals, but fortunately the quality of these is quite good, which is not always the case when musicians lay down their horns and reach for the microphone. A particularly enjoyable moment comes with the harmonized duet on the infrequently heard lyrics of *Dreaming the Hours Away*. The band's featured vocalist, Lisa Gosnick, has a pleasant voice, not heavily laden with vibrato but with just a touch at the end of phrases, as can be heard on her three tracks. (Since I was unable to discern her uke playing, I cannot comment on it.)

For me there were several high points on this disc. One was hearing one of my favorite tunes, *Ain't Nobody Got the Blues like Me*, composed by the late San Francisco Bay Area cornetist and banjoist. Dick Oxtot, which sadly is not often given an outing by trad bands. *Mecca Flat Blues* is another, for the clarinet duet mentioned above and also the guitar-plus-stop-time solo. The following track, *Bugle Boy March*, taken at a sprightly tempo, is a solid rendering of this march and, even without drums, comes off well. To mention just one other, hearing the seldom offered lyrics for *Dreaming the Hours Away*, and their being given such an interesting harmonization in the duet, was a delight.

Editor's Notes:



Here we are in the last month of 2017. Your editor is kind of glad to see the end of 2017, it has not been a good year on several fronts. There are some of our musician friends and other friends who have left us, and others are facing serious health issues. Audrey and I have had some health setbacks of our own as we grow older.

Then there was the devastating wind storm and fires that destroyed much of Napa and Sonoma County and affected several of our jazz fans and musician friends.

But I am an optimist and we have our happy jazz music and a new year to look forward to. Our bay area is blessed with many excellent bands and younger musicians to keep them going. We must, however, keep working at introducing our music to younger fans and recruit new members to our societies.

Don Robertson editor

This disc provides a very entertaining 78-odd minutes of music and song and gives a good glimpse of what is currently available in trad jazz circles in the San Francisco area. The contact information for Earl Scheelar is

aescheelar@lmi.net or 510-843-9862.



The Eagles



Jim Laveroni on Drums

Editor's note: The Traditional Jazz Foundation Frisco Cricket has recently featured an article on the career of Earl Scheelar written by Dave Radlauer. As many of us know Earl as the leader of the Zenith Jazz Band who plays at many of our local venues, I have excerpted a few snippets of the long article. The article includes audio clips of many of Earl's performances. They can be heard on the new format Frisco Cricket at: <http://sftradjazz.org/wordpress/frisco-cricket-current-issue/>.

Coincidentally, Bert Thompson's CD review is of one of Earl's bands.

Earl Scheelar Will Surprise You

By Dave Radlauer

Excerpts reprinted by permission from the San Francisco Traditional Jazz Foundation Cricket.

Cornet and clarinet player Earl Scheelar is a bandleader, distinctive cornet player and master clarinetist playing in or leading revival jazz ensembles since the 1950s. In recent years I've come to know Earl and been granted generous access to his personal tapes, memories and photos. Scheelar was at or next to the center of Bay Area revival jazz since the mid-1960s, running jazz bands that fit no pre-existing mold: Earl's New Orleans House, Funky New Orleans and Zenith Jazz Bands.

I've been continually surprised by his many remarkable skills, stylistic range, and ability to play several instruments very well, his broad talent, steady dedication over six decades and quiet independence. All modestly concealed by his taciturn demeanor.

In case you are unaware Scheelar plays or has played: cornet, clarinet, soprano and alto saxophones, baritone horn, tuba and country fiddle. In addition he sings, plays banjo and formerly played guitar. Scheelar's little-known, largely unexamined remarkable sessions from the 1960s with some of the Bay Area's finest jazz musicians are surprising.

Scheelar is an eloquent classic jazz horn player. Forthright and full-voiced, his heartbreak tone is steeped in the Classic Blues. Playing with expression and fire, he imitates no one and has the rare ability to deliver the full impact of the blues on cornet.

These talents were already manifest in 1956 when he briefly led Earl's Hot Five during the regular band's absence at The Honeybucket in San Francisco. Notably, the strong clarinet part was supplied by Pete Allen, soon better known as one of the Bay Area's best string bass players, with Le Sharpton



Page 4

(trombone), Dick Oxtot (banjo) and Art Nortier (piano).

Though never a full-time music professional, Scheelar has maintained an unbroken series of ensembles since 1966. Aside from leading his own groups he's been a key player in the Bay Area bands of: Frank Goulette (Original Inferior, Monterey Bay Classic JB), Ted Shafer (Jelly Roll JB), P.T. Stanton (Stone Age JB), George Knoblauch (Black Diamond JB), Jerry Kaehele (Good Time Levee Stompers) and Dick Oxtot among others.

Mechanical Mr. Scheelar

Earl is quite talented as a craftsman, carpenter, house builder and skilled mechanic. Anyone acquainted with Scheelar knows he's willing and eager to lend a helpful hand in myriad ways: home or auto repairs, metal work and carpentry, you name it. Even today this working-class polymath maintains both a working woodshop and fully equipped metal-working shop.



Automobiles have long attracted Earl's mechanical attentions. For many years he's restored, maintained and owned vintage English cars, mainly 1920s British Austins. VW camper vans appear frequently in his personal photos of travels to mountains, deserts and isolated Western coasts.

During the 1960s Scheelar's VW garage, a partnership with his close long-time buddy Sam Blood, did a "quite successful" business repairing and selling used Volkswagens in Berkeley. Long-time friend and admirer Dave Greer recalls once seeing Earl stripped to the waist, cutting torch in hand dividing up a junked beetle, oblivious to the shower of sparks he stood in.

As a bandleader Earl gradually imposed a defined format on his formally organized ensembles beginning with New Orleans House Jazz Band and continuing in Funky New Orleans, "*I've always preferred the New Orleans style. That's what real jazz is as far as I'm concerned.*"

His trend Southward was even more pronounced in Zenith Jazz Band, and its sister Zenith New Orleans Parade Band, an eleven-piece New Orleans-styled marching band. Zenith Jazz Band made a studio recording with Scheelar (clarinet), Bob Helm (reeds),

Robert Young (cornet, reeds), Frank Tateosian (banjo), Peter Allen (string bass), Henk Wagner (drums), Jenny Haley (vocals) and Tom Barnebey (guest pianist).

Violin and Fiddle Music 1960s



Growing up in Oregon Earl's father played country fiddle and he learned too. From time to time Scheelar returned to his rural musical roots and picked up a violin. On special occasions or just feeling experimental he'd play hillbilly fiddle or semi-jazz violin in an unadorned straightforward manner. In one recovered tape Earl was rehearsing for a gathering of the New Orleans Jazz Club of Northern California, accompanied by Dick Oxtot (piano or banjo) and Dick Bowman (trombone).

Zenith Jazz Band 1980s & '90s

As a bandleader Earl gradually imposed a defined format on his formally organized ensembles beginning with New Orleans House Jazz Band and continuing in Funky New Orleans, "*I've always preferred the New Orleans style. That's what real jazz is as far as I'm concerned.*"

Plainly a man of many parts, aside from making all this music Earl has been a resourceful craftsman, businessman, homebuilder and licensed real estate agent. Surprisingly, despite his broad proficiency and polymathic musical skills Earl was never a "reading musician." Additionally, Earl plays banjo, sings and formerly played guitar. Almost all the fine recordings restored for this article were originally made, produced, dubbed or edited by Earl, either with his own reel-to-reel or by Marshall Kent who had access to an Ampex deck and fine European microphones. Though now retired Scheelar still plays music and has elaborate enthusiasms. For many years he's collected, restored and maintained vintage English automobiles; likewise for player pianos.

Visiting Earl recently I heard his three player pianos, each a different system. Watching the keyboard responding to the ghostly gestures of Jelly Roll, Joplin, Johnson and Waller, I asked how many piano rolls he owned. "*About four thousand,*" he guessed

14-Jan Devil Mountain Jazz Band

11-Feb Fourth Street Jazz Band

11-Mar Cell Block 7

8-Apr Mission Gold Jazz Band

13-May S.F. Feetwarmers

10-Jun Dixie Giants

8-Jul Beyond Salvation

12-Aug Neely's Rhythm Aces

9-Sep Golden Gate Rhythm Machine 5+1

14-Oct Fog City Stompers

11-Nov Flying Eagles

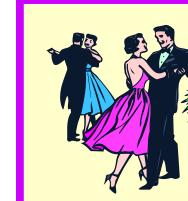
9-Dec Gold Coast Holiday Party

BAND SCHEDULE-2018

Directions to Grant Hall

From the South and West, proceed to Napa via Highway 29 or 121. Continue on Highway 29 North, approximately 8 miles to Yountville. Take the California Drive off ramp in Yountville and turn left on California Drive. Follow California Drive past the Welcome center until it ends in front of the large white Member Services Building at Presidents' Circle. Go left on President's Circle and turn left into the first parking lot.

Cross Presidents' Circle (on foot) and enter the end of the Member Services Building. Take elevator to the 2nd floor. Go right down the corridor and find Grant Hall on the left side.



Page 5