

# Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
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Another eventful week has come and gone. The rain on Sunday was sweet. It kind of killed our jam at the *Ice House* but it sure was nice just watching that beautiful stuff fall from the sky for a couple of hours. There will always be time to make more music but rain is so seldom these days. It was music in itself... let's roll...

## Barefoot Sarah is laid to rest...

Well, we laid Barefoot Sarah Foote to rest last Friday. Sarah was a good friend and a Port A fixture for many years. I feel like we gave her a good send-off. It was a party she would have loved. About 50 local islanders emerged on her favorite haunt, the *Tarpon Ice House*, with their bicycles and barefoot in tribute. We followed Sarah's partner, Jack Gant, down in their cars but on our bicycles down Main Street Port A and on to a little cove by the *Marine Science Institute* where Sarah used to love to watch the turtles. This was the first bicycle funeral procession I'd ever been in, or ever seen for that matter. After the simple task of shaking her ashes into the drink, and then some hugging and crying, we all went back to the *Ice House* for a magnificent pot luck dinner and proceeded to make music until our fingers hurt. It was a send-off in true island style. RIP old girl, we're gonna miss you!



Jack Gant with Sarah's ashes



Dennis Sullivan and Ronnie Narmour performing at the Tarpon Ice House during Sarah Foote's wake

Desmond, Bud Freeman, Jack Teagarden and J.C. Higginbotham, and recorded with Slim Whitman. At this show they incorporated the efforts of drummers "Hollywood" Bob Hinkley and Rick Lehman. Also performing was Jack Trowbridge on clarinet and saxophone and Pancho Villaconte on trombone.

I kept thinking during the course of this show... there will be a time when we won't get to hear this music anymore. Who will keep it alive? I know it as the music my parents loved to listen to and dance to and fell in love to, and I'm nearly 60. These ballads are a throwback to the days when life was simpler and the hottest technological development of the day was radio and eventually television (the black and white kind). We didn't need an iPad 5... we had encyclopedias. Johnny was marching off to war and red meat and potatoes was the law of the land. It was "yes mam and no sir" and no one ever had to have their Halloween candy scanned for razor blades. Words like "gang banger" and "yo, what of homey" didn't exist. Just listen to *Satin Doll* and the whole world seems to slow down. I commend these noble gentleman, Mr. Arnold and Mr. Williams, for their touching tribute, and I applaud their wonderful effort. The show was magnificent and so is their CD. You can see them perform weekends at *Hemingway's* in Rockport.



Bob Livingston will play the Third Coast Theater on September 22nd



The bicycle funeral procession rolls down Allister Street in Port A

## Mike Williams and Rocky Arnold...

Mike Williams and Rocky Arnold had their CD Release Party at the *Tarpon Ice House* on September 12th. The event was a celebration of their latest recording, *Ballads*, an eleven song tribute to love songs of the 40's and 50's. The album features songs previously covered by Charlie Parker (*Everything Happens To Me*), Frank Sinatra (*Maybe You'll Be There, My Silent Love, This Love of Mine*), Nat King Cole (*I Understand, Somewhere Along the Way, Unforgettable*), Bing Crosby (*Ghost of a Chance, Ella Fitzgerald (Once In a While)*), Jack Teagarden (*A Hundred Years From Today*) and Bob Crosby (*Little Rock Getaway*). This CD was recorded locally by L. Leon Sands.

Mike Williams is a laid back crooner who also plays guitar and trombone. He has a smooth as silk delivery and a deep knowledge of the music he plays. Rocky Arnold is a career musician who has played with such luminaries as Paul



Rocky Arnold and Mike Williams played their CD Release Party at the Tarpon Ice House on September 12th

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They fit perfectly into the *Americana* scene that has embraced Texas. I thought they were an excellent bar band and kept the energy high all night. I was thoroughly entertained.

## Charlie Cruz & the Cool Cats...

Charlie Cruz and the Cool Cats (San Antonio, TX) played the *Back Porch* on Saturday, September 15th. I wasn't familiar with this band and had to call upon my friends in San Antonio to help me out. I asked Jim Beal, of the *San Antonio Express-News* and he told me, "Charlie and his band are a straight-up electric blues band with a repertoire that's pretty deep. Charlie is a really tasteful blues guitarist." That was good enough for me, being that Beal is an authority on that kind of stuff. So I went to the show, and knowing that it was a three piece band, I was kind of half expecting another Stevie Ray clone. Negative. Charlie Cruz is old school. He played a square, cigar box guitar with four strings and a slide (à la Bo Diddley) like he was a sharecropper from the Delta. I was treated to the stuff I love: Muddy Waters, Jimmy Reed, Hound Dog Taylor, Howlin' Wolf... man, I was in heaven. Cruz isn't flashy or over the top. His style let's the music do the talking. There's not a bunch of jive banter between songs or "this next song is off my third CD" kind of nonsense. This man simply hunched over his guitar and let it fly. I loved it.



Randy McAllister will play the Back Porch on September 22nd

## DO NOT MISS LIST

It's finally here! The big John Prine/Alejandro Escovedo show at Selena Auditorium is this Saturday night. And, as of this writing, I still don't have tickets. I absolutely adore both of these guys. Even though they seem like polar opposites to me, I still think it is a brilliant pairing. John Prine is one of the greatest living folk artists of our time. Alejandro Escovedo is a songwriting genius. Yikes. Don't worry, I'll do my best to somehow get into this show so I can tell you all about it next week.



Charlie Cruz and the Cool Cats played the Back Porch on September 15th

Also this weekend, Grammy nominee Randy McAllister brings his East Texas brand of foot stomping rhythm and blues to the *Back Porch* on the 22nd and ex Lost Gonzo standout, Bob Livingston (originally from Lubbock) will be at the *Third Coast Theater*. At least I know I'll see a good show somewhere if I don't get Prine tickets. On the horizon, keep in mind that *Ziegfest 2012* at *Whataburger Field* is coming up on the weekend of October 5-6 and will feature Pat Green, Jesse Dayton, Black Joe Lewis, Shooter Jennings, Bob Schneider and Resz. That's a good show. Be safe out there.

And, that's the truth!

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

**Thursday, September 20**

Free Beer Band @ Tarpon Ice House  
On Blast Standup Showdown @ House of Rock  
John Cortez @ Dr. Rockits  
Antone & the All Stars @ Scuttlebutt's  
John Eric @ Island Italian

**Friday, September 21**

Cruise Control @ Back Porch  
Ray T & the City Crew @ The Flats Lounge  
Rise Against @ Concrete Street  
Amplified Heat @ House of Rock  
Matt Hole @ Dr. Rockits  
Blake Sparx @ Scuttlebutt's  
David & Barbara Brown @ Coffee Waves  
Mike Williams & Rocky Arnold @ Hemingway's Rockport  
Rankin Twins @ South Texas Ice House  
Brian Winfrey @ Island Italian

**Saturday, September 22**

John Prine/ Alejandro Escovedo @ Selena Auditorium  
Randy McAllister @ Back Porch  
Bob Livingston @ Third Coast Theater  
Tiki Tease Burlesque/ Black Irish Texas @ House of Rock  
Reno & the Groovegetters @ Dr. Rockits  
The Originalites @ Executive Surf Club  
Emily @ Scuttlebutt's

**Sunday, September 23**

Open Electric Jam w/ Rockin' Ricke @ Tarpon Ice House  
Acoustic Open Mic @ Neptune's Retreat  
Peace & Quiet/ Corpus Gold @ Dr. Rockits  
Brian Permenter @ Scuttlebutt's  
Jon Eric acoustic @ South Texas Ice House

**BACK PORCH**

FRI. 9/21    SAT. 9/22    FRI. 9/28    FRI. 9/29

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**Buster Jiggs...**

Buster Jiggs played the *Back Porch* last Friday, September 14th. Though originally from Taft, I'd never caught this act before. I remember when I used to live outside of Austin in Driftwood, they played frequently at the *Nutty Brown Café* on 290 near Dripping Springs but I never made it to one of their gigs. I'm glad I made it to this one.

The band is fronted by Kristin Muennink who also plays rhythm guitar. Her husband Scott is the drummer. They also feature Daniel Rhodes on bass/harmony vocals and Schley Barrack on lead guitar. They have five recordings out since 2006. According to their bio, "The band name comes from a character in an old cowboy poem, "The Sierr Petes (or Tying Knots in the Devil's Tail)" written in 1917 by Gail Gardner. Hence the group's logo of a boot wearing, guitar brandishing devil, with a few knots in his tail. Their sound is a raucous country blend with a front lady that wails. This one has some pipes. She is not shy and her vocals are powerful.

Kristin Muennink of the Buster Jiggs Band rips it up at the Back Porch on September 14th

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