



Traditional Jazz at Modesto Moose Lodge  
821 5th St. • Modesto  
Vol. 28 No. 5

**This month's guest band is**  
**Dave Johnson's**  
**Elite Swing**



**Dave Johnson's Elite Swing** is a five piece group designed to get your feet moving and keep your ears listening to an interesting combination of the Traditional Jazz and swing tunes with a touch of the other Jazz genres mixed in. Dave has assembled a group of very versatile and highly experienced musicians to bring you an afternoon of fun and merriment. Let's meet these fine gentlemen from Sacramento.

**Dave Johnson** (leader, trumpet, trombone, vocals): Facilitator of the various forms of glorified plumbing, Dave has been in the music business most of his professional life. This includes over thirty years on the Traditional Jazz scene with tours across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and England. He is currently holding down the trumpet chair for High Class

*(Elite Swing Continued on page 3)*

Next Meeting  
**AUGUST 16, 2009**



# Musically Speaking

## President's Message



"...without a problem to solve, how much interest do you take in anything."  
— Duke Ellington

### Looking Forward:



Well, we certainly can't sit back and say all of our goals have been met, or all our problems have been solved. When you belong to an organization you, of course, encounter exciting and interesting problems. We don't live in a utopia. Everyone does not live in perfect harmony and everything is not always for the best. As music would not be interesting without an occasional unresolved chord, life in the Jazz Society might get boring without a few dissonant moments. The past few months, our club has encountered more than enough discontent and financial problems, but in some ways this makes life interesting.

How do we solve our problems? The last few months, I felt the raffle has become an exciting and creative part of the afternoon...guests battling for a tomato plant, a hand made scarf, a "rollex" wall clock, original paintings, and premier wines. With **Drew Mercer** missing in July, I thank **Darrell Staats** for making announcements and **Skeets Bowden** for hustling raffle tickets to fill the void.

Securing jammers for jam sets has been a challenge, but the past two months have been terrific! Our regular jammers, **Deck**, **Spike**, and **Rozetta** continue to provide their services. **Lynn Russell** and **Art Arnett** are back adding their talents. **Heather Williams** was on hand. I'm not sure if she got to play, but I am sure we can count on her later in the year when her Sunday schedule is not so full. It was also fun to have multi-talented **Bill Sharp** show up. **Mike** and **Andrew Rosenblum** appeared to add their talents to the jam sets. Andy played guitar, and was even asked to play with the guest band. He also played drums, and handled a high-hat disaster for us.

This month we will be testing a few new ideas in the area of communication. **David** is introducing a different format for the *Jazzette*. Please let him know what you think, and contribute any ideas you might have. Drawing from a column in the *Delta Rag*, we want to try a new feature next month that will include tidbits and gossip from the monthly meeting. **Sue Eastman** has volunteered to be our columnist, so be sure to give her lots of encouragement. **Norma Brewster** and I are creating a calendar to include in the *Jazzette* once or twice a year to keep you informed and up to date on club dates and events.

As with most organizations, we certainly are not without our problems. Many are

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( *Elite Swing* Continued from page 1)

Brass Big Band, Sister Swing, Rhythm Vandals, The Nibblers, and Creole Jazz Kings. He also works as a music instructor, clinician, composer, arranger, studio musician, and freelance musician.

**Otis Mourning** (clarinet and saxophone): Otis is the multi-instrumentalist of musical matriculation. His woodwind wizardry and affable personality makes him one of the busiest musicians in the region. He is has also been on the Traditional Jazz circuit for many years. This high in-demand musician has traveled the world employed as a musician. This includes many performances at the North Sea Festival and the Guinness Jazz Festival. Otis is most proud of his fairly new jazz duo Colorblind Greens Band. This pet project has generated new interest and work for him.

**Jimmy Spero** (guitar): The resident scholar of jazz guitar, Jimmy hails from the “chord-melody” school of jazz guitar. His musical lexicon is influenced by classic artists such as Eddie Lang, Django Reinhardt, Joe Pass, Charlie Byrd, Wes Montgomery, and Chet Atkins. Mr. Spero enjoys working as a band leader (his own trio), studio musician, pit orchestra musician, and solo act. Jimmy has recorded his own renditions of jazz and pop standards, including some vocal work and requisite atmospheric Christmas music.

**David Rees** (bass and vocals): This popular bass player enjoys many opportunities to perform orchestral, jazz, electric blues, R&B, and Zydeco styles. David has performed with many notable musicians such as Richie Cole, Randy Brecker, Dave Liebman, and Ernie Watts. He even attended the North Sea Jazz Festival and performed with Joe Gilman and Steve Homan.

**Philip DeTore** (drums) Mr. DeTore is an excellent striker and instructor of the idiophones (scientific/fancy name for percussion instruments). For over a decade he has been teaching drums at two music educational facilities and also maintains a busy private teaching drum studio. Philip easily performs with all types of groups. From a small subtle combo to a kickin’ big band situation, he plays exactly what is needed to make the music come alive. He also claims to even be nicer than Otis, if that’s possible.

**Want the club to host your favorite band?  
Make the suggestion to our Music Director!**  
Some bands charge more than the MTJS can afford so if your  
favorite band falls into that category, a gift to offset the  
difference in their fee might be needed.

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 in the Jazzette.



**Editor's Note:** All articles, columns, photos, etc. need to be submitted no later than 10 days before the date of the current month's club meeting. Example: If the meeting day falls on the 16th of the month, all materials must be submitted by the 7th of that same month.



**6-9 pm, Wednesdays**

at the **Barkin' Dog Grill**

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*(Musically speaking Continued from page 2)*

issues that need to be addressed by the Board, however, there are always ways members can be of assistance. This month we are requesting that you make suggestions for future guest bands. There are groups that we are unable to host simply because we can't afford them. This is where you can help. If

you and your friends have a favorite band you would love to dance to, or if you know about a new band you would like to hear, let us know and maybe contribute something to help us book the band. Look for more info in this *Jazzette*.

One last thought...this past month we lost a fellow musician and close friend to many of us. He so often sent out emails with quotes, humor, and words of wisdom that had crossed his path. As I perused some of these saved emails last week, I noted an exchange we were having about clubs and organizations we belonged to where he concluded: *"Like any endeavor, the chemistry has to be in direct proportion to the sweat to have a idea take shape and move forward."* How true, Frank, music in Modesto will miss you.

So...if you missed the meeting last month, put on your dancing shoes, bring a friend or two, and take an interest in the Modesto Traditional Jazz Society. We will be listening and dancing to another relatively "new" group that showcases some of our favorite musicians—Dave Johnson's Elite Swing. Let's keep our music alive!

# The American Rag

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**Modesto Dixieland Jazz Society**



**You really mean it...that harp thing was just a myth!!**

## MODESTO TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY CALENDAR

- August — Dave Johnson's Elite Swing
- September — The Fog City Stompers
- October — TBA
- November — Knight Sounds Big Band

### Monthly Trad Jazz Schedule

- 1st Sunday:** Stockton Jazz Society — Elk's Lodge  
**2nd Sunday:** Sacramento Jazz Society, Dante Club; [www.sacjazz.org](http://www.sacjazz.org)  
 Fresno Jazz Society — Venues vary; Call (559) 292-3999  
**3rd Sunday:** Modesto Jazz Society, Modesto Moose Lodge  
**4th Sunday:** South Bay Jazz Society, Elk's Lodge, Sunnyvale



#### SACRAMENTO TRAD. JAZZ SOCIETY

THE DANTE CLUB  
2330 FAIR OAKS BLVD.  
Between Howe & Fulton  
Members: \$5.00 Non-Members \$10.00

### Thanks Helping Keep Jazz Alive

Many thanks to all the members who donated additional money, either by mail or at the door.

## ATTENTION FRIENDS

If you know of someone who is ill, celebrated a birthday or could use some cheering up, contact Jeannie Wemken at 524-3517.



133 Burney Street, Modesto 523-5326



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#### SAN JOAQUIN DIXIELAND JAZZ SOCIETY

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Send news items to the  
JAZZETTE the last week of the  
month to appear in the coming  
issue.

Mail to...  
**MODESTO TRADITIONAL  
JAZZ SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 4442  
Modesto, CA 95352-4442

Or e-mail to  
[jazzette@modestodixieland.com](mailto:jazzette@modestodixieland.com)

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of the

**MODESTO TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY**

To preserve & promote our unique American National music treasure for future generations,

To give jazz musicians opportunities to share their talent with appreciative audiences,

To encourage youth to learn & to continue the original American art form of playing jazz.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION****Modesto Traditional Jazz Society**

Annual Membership includes subscription and postage to the monthly newsletter, *Jazzette*.

FAMILY \$30     SINGLE \$20

NEW     RENEWAL     CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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I am enclosing an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the MDJS General Fund.

I am enclosing an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Youth Band Scholarship Fund.

I am interested in volunteering for Club functions.

PLEASE MAIL TO:

**MDJS c/o Rozetta McNulty**  
**4330 Highway 108**  
**Riverbank, CA 95367**

*Thank you for your help in keeping Traditional Jazz alive!*

**2009**  
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985-2223

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Next Board Meeting

**September 29th**

**Jan Leer's house**

1049 Dakota Ave,

Modesto