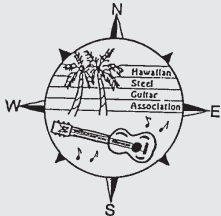


# HSGA QUARTERLY

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by the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association

Volume 18, Issue 67

Summer 2002



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New Board member, Kamaka Tom, gets off a good palm harmonic at this year's Ho'olaule'a at the Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse.

## Honolulu 2002 'Off-Year' Get-Together

By Lorene Ruymar

Did you ever wonder what happens on an "off-year" when there is no HSGA convention in Hawai'i? I always pray for the gift of brevity when I crack my knuckles to begin telling a tale, but you know how it always goes. *In the Beginning...*

We had a pretty good turnout. We all met for dinner and had to reserve for 29 guests, among them maybe 8 or 10 steel players. Lots of talent to have some fun with. **Isaac Akuna**, **Wayne Shishido**, and **Kamaka Tom** did the heavy work of organizing events and carting equipment around. We owe them huge thanks for what they do for

the club. For them, it means taking time off work, too.

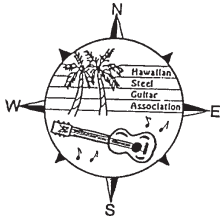
First of all, the Ho'olaule'a was as good as ever, commemorating 20 years ago when **Jerry Byrd** ran the first one. Next came the steel guitar show in Kapi'olani Park on May Day. Lots of excellent musicians playing there and a good audience. What more could you ask for except maybe some chairs! That was the only sour note. Maybe next year some smart businessman will rent folding chairs to everyone in the park, right?

Later in the week we did our performance at the Kapahulu Library

*Continued on Page 2*

# HSGA QUARTERLY

Volume 18, Issue 67



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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association is a private foundation whose primary purpose is to develop a global network of players and lovers of traditional Hawaiian music and to encourage the study, teaching, performance, and manufacture of the Steel Guitar. Its primary financial goal is to provide scholarship assistance through donations and bequests to steel guitar students who demonstrate the ability and intent to become accomplished performers.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all steel guitar players and non-players around the world who support the promotion and perpetuation of the Hawaiian steel guitar. Annual dues are US\$26. The membership year begins July 1. Members receive the *HSGA Quarterly* and other group benefits. The *Quarterly* is mailed four times a year by U.S. Bulk Permit to the USA and by "Printed Matter" Surface to foreign addresses. Add the following amount to the annual dues for faster delivery: \$2 for domestic First Class or \$6 for Air Mail outside of North America. Members can obtain an Associate Membership for a spouse or family member at a cost of \$10, added to the annual dues; the specified person is entitled to discounts at certain HSGA functions (convention registration fees, for example).

## SUBMIT LETTERS & EDITORIALS TO:

*HSGA Quarterly*, 45-600 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, HI 96744 USA. Tel: (808) 235-4742, Fax: (808) 235-9591, Email: <hsga@lava.net>, Website: "http://www.hsga.org"

HONOLULU '02 *Continued from Page 1*

in our usual inimitable fashion (ahem!). Jerry turned up to listen/grin/grimace and finally he couldn't stand being on the sideline any longer, so he took his turn on the big acoustic bass. These are the good times we'll remember long into our rocking chair days.

"So, what's going on at the Halekulani and the Sheraton Moana?" I can hear you asking me. Yes, those are the two hotels where we can count on hearing our instrument played every day during Happy Hours, 5:30 PM to 8:30.

During the past winter we heard that many of our favorites were, for some reason, no longer playing there. We were so sad to hear that Walter Mo'okini is no longer there and that Casey and Hiram Olsen were let go. And some of the steel players at the Moana were gone. Yes, all of that is true. But we had to forgive, because there's always the good mixed in with the bad. There are some new steel players that I want to tell you

about, and we heard that Casey and Hiram are quite happy to have a break in their routine and are doing all the casuals they want, and at much better pay.

The "old timers" still playing steel at the Halekulani are Alan Akaka and Harold Haku'ole. New faces are Greg Sardinha and Kaipo Kukahiko. At the Sheraton Moana, Peter Ah Sing is still playing steel. New faces are Greg Sardinha, Bobby Ingano, and Kaipo Kukahiko.

At the Regent, now called the Marriott, Aunty Genoa Keawe's show still draws huge crowds on Thursday nights when her steel players are either Alan Akaka or Paul Kim. And on the same stage at the Marriott on Sunday night we heard Bobby Ingano playing with Martin Pahinui, George Kuo, and Aaron Mahi. Bobby is sounding more like Gabby Pahinui all the time.

Just as astronomers celebrate the discovery of a new star, we watched in amazement at the Sheraton Moana when the group Pa'ahana came on

*Continued on Page 4*

(clockwise from lower left) Michiko & Naoto Nakamura, Hal Smith, Dick and Donna Lloyd, "Lion" Kobayashi, and Lion's guitar player "eating and drinking" steel guitar in Honolulu.



# Joliet 2002 Preview

October 3-5, 2002 at the Joliet Holiday Inn Express

It's almost convention time again! Mandatory fun will be the order of the day, including member playing sessions, the infamous "no sleep" jam sessions/talk story, Saturday Night Lu'au and Stage Show, and Hawaiian language workshops (back by popular demand), to name a few! This year's featured guest steel artist is **John Ely**, currently back on tour with old western swing cohorts Asleep at the Wheel.

As always, make your plans early. Fill out and send in the forms on page 19 of this issue as soon as possible. Remember, both forms must be received by September 1, 2002. After that date the hotel will begin to sell off the unreserved rooms.

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Registration fee is \$20.00 per person. **You must mail the Convention Registration Form by September 1 to:**

Alma Pfeifer  
1110 Sheila Drive  
Joliet, IL 60435

Use the convention form provided in the back of this issue... Do NOT mail to Hawai'i.

## MEMBER PLAYING TIME SLOTS

Requests for playing time are honored on a "first come, first served" basis. When all playing slots are filled, you will be put on the standby list. Plan to perform 30 minutes on stage. Please bring 2 sets of chords for your back up players.

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

You can make reservations direct with Holiday Inn Express at (815) 729-2000. Or, you can use the Hotel Reservation Form on page 19 of this issue. Make sure you tell them you're with HSGA to get special room rate.

A free Breakfast Buffet is included in your room at Holiday Inn Express. All lunches and dinners are **on your own**. They are NOT included with your convention registration fee.

## LIMOUSINE SERVICE

Reserve your limo from the airport in advance: Cox Livery Service (815) 741-0583 or Plainfield Limousine



*John Ely "giving blood to the mosquitos" in Cook, Minnesota with Comet Theater proprietors, Carol Carlson and John Metsa.*

(815) 436-1713. Give them your airline, flight number, arrival time, and arrival airport (Midway or O'Hare). When you arrive, get your luggage FIRST, then call the toll-free number provided by the limo service for further instructions. ■

## Joliet Schedule

### Wednesday, October 2

Check in. Check your playing time. Talk story. Go to dinner.

### Thursday, October 3

9:00 AM – Opening Ceremonies  
9:00 AM to Noon – Music Sessions  
Noon to 1:30 PM – Lunch (NOT included in you registration. Dinner is also on your own)  
1:30 to 5:00 PM – Music Sessions  
8:00 PM to ??? – Jam session

### Friday, October 4

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM – Annual Meeting  
10:00 AM to Noon – Music Sessions  
1:30 to 5:00 PM – Music Sessions  
(Lunch, dinner, and evening jam same as Thursday)  
8:00 PM to ??? – Jam session

### Saturday, October 5

9:00 AM to Noon – Music sessions  
Noon to 1:30 PM – (Lunch is on your own.)  
1:30 to 3:00 PM – Music sessions  
5:30 to 7:00 PM – Cash bar. Merchants Row Room, Holiday Inn.  
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM – Saturday Lu'au  
8:00 PM to ??? – Stage Show



*Kaipo Kukahiko playing in Waikīkī with the group Pa'ahana*

*HONOLULU 2002 Continued from Page 2*

stage. The bass player is Pakala Fernandes, brother of our beloved Kalani Fernandes who played bass in the Jerry Byrd trio until his passing several years ago. The 'ukulele player with marvelous falsetto voice is Doug Tolentino, and the new star, a face we'd never seen before, our new steel player **Kaipo Kukahiko!**

There was no doubt he was trained by Jerry Byrd; the "touch and tone" was there. Young, handsome, he sings... he has it all. And he started his professional career at the top... at the Halekulani and the Moana! Sheesh! I was going to ask him whether he graduates from high school this year, but my mouth stopped when he spoke of his wife and two daughters. What? It's not that we're getting older, it's that they're getting

younger, right? Keep track of that name. Kaipo Kukahiko. He's of the Sam Koki family and plays the very 6-string Rickenbacker used by Sam.

Another new name to remember is **Gordon Freitas**. He's a seasoned player on many instruments and plays whatever's needed in Greg Sardinha's trio Po'okela. He's really keen on learning to play steel guitar. He bought a new blue Dobro and uses it to back Keith and Carmen Haugen. The man's bursting with talent. He has been begging Jerry Byrd to take him on as a student, and it might just happen soon. Keep track of that name, too. Gordon Freitas. He has many big names in his family tree, too. Do you remember the year the three kupuna came to Joliet? Amy Freitas was one of them. Sorry to say, she passed on several years later. ■

*Guitar whiz Gordon Freitas, now making steel players nervous!*



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# Steel Course Update

By Lorene Ruymar

I'm happy to report we have a new donation under way. Such things take time, you know. It started at the Steel Guitar Ho'olaule'a on May 5. Nancy Rittenband was there listening to Hale Seabury Akaka playing on stage. Hale is a student of Jerry Byrd, which tells you right there that he was playing beautifully with that magical "touch and tone" Jerry is famous for. If we could just clone Jerry so that we'd have enough teachers in Hawai'i to give private lessons to all comers, my course wouldn't be necessary. But Jerry hasn't said yes to the cloning idea. So, Nancy has given me a check and it's up to Hale to name the school that will receive the course. Vic and Nancy will then be the sponsors of that school. We'll let you know the results.

What I'm *really excited* about is that we have our first graduate of the course. He studied the course by himself. **Derrick Mau** brought his guitar to the Queen Kapi'olani Hotel and played his graduate recital for four of us: Vivian Bangs who discovered him, Vivian Edwards, Art, and myself. We were very proud to hear him play so beautifully. He is very dedicated and has already chosen C6th as his next tuning. He'll be bugging Bobby Ingano for help.

The only improvement I could suggest had to do with his right hand. He hadn't bent the picks over enough, so his fingers were rather stiff and uncomfortable as he played. That made me realize that the camera is always on the left hand in the video, and I assumed the student would know that the right fingers should be curled under. Now I have to make a few little corrections in the course to cover that.

Since September 11, the money doesn't flow so easily in Hawai'i due to a drop in tourism. In order to study the course, Derrick took his one and only Ovation guitar and converted it to a steel guitar. But whenever he had need to strum, he had to UN-convert the guitar back to its original form. You can imagine what a nuisance that was, to keep putting the converter nut under the strings, taking it out, and changing the tuning. Derrick has since acquired an electric steel (a vintage 1930s 7-string bakelite Rickenbacher, no less) and we can't wait to see what he does with it. ■



A nice shot of Michiko and Naoto Nakamura at the Ho'olaule'a.

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# Kaua'i Update

By Jess Montgomery

Aloha from the Garden Isle. We're getting well watered this spring! Locally, steel whiz **Ken Emerson** still performs several nights a week on the North Shore, mostly at Hanalei Bay Resort and the Princeville Hotel. Veteran player **Ernie Palmeira** can be caught occasionally steeling with Albert Genovia at Whaler's Brew Pub on the grounds of the Marriott in Lihue or at the Hyatt in Poipu.

I have been lucky enough to hook up with **Ilima Rivera**, one of Larry's daughters, for some convention shows at the Hyatt and Poipu Sheraton. In addition, we've had the chance to play at Lihue Airport welcoming visitors in a program sponsored by the County and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. One interesting facet of these gigs is that I have to be out the door, steel guitar in hand, by 8 AM to be ready to start by 9 AM – not typical musician hours.

I've also just finished recording a CD with my other group, the **Lost Pelican Band**. We are an all-acoustic sextet and I play my old "Hilo" Koa wood steel. We managed to fit 15 original tunes on the CD, which should be available by July. The Lost Pelican Band performs a mix of *hapa-haole*, Hawaiian, country, and blues, and can be found most Saturday nights at the Café Coco in Wailua, not far from the old Coco Palms Resort, which I'm sorry to report is still boarded up. ■ Apparently the latest deal fell through. ■

## COCO WIRE

We just got word from Alan Akaka that the Halekulani Hotel will be hosting Steel Guitar Week from September 14-21, 2002. Tentative list of artists to perform includes **Mariko Seki, Casey Olsen, Greg Sardinha, Alan Akaka**, and others yet to be named (read "roped in!").

There was a nice television spot on KITV Honolulu Thursday morning, May 23, 2002. It was on the blessing of the home of **Joanne and Herbert Hanawahine**. The story angle was a 'touch of aloha' in Las Vegas. Featured entertainers included **Aunty Genoa Keawe** and **Gary Haleamau**. There was a brief shot of Herbert playing steel – much too short. The requisite shots of overflowing plates of lu'au food and smiles and kisses of aloha rounded out the piece.

The song "Walking Through the Memories" (a Requiem to the Fallen), written by **Keith Haugen**, was performed as part of this year's Memorial Day Weekend ceremonies at Punchbowl, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Keith was honored last year by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i as recipient



*Nancy (seated) and Vic Rittenband (standing) share a table at the Marriott with Rotterdam's Els (left) and Rinus van dam Berge for a Thursday night show featuring Genoa Keawe.*

of the Aloha Spirit Award for his songs that help bring the military and civilian communities together.

Rumors of another Steel Guitar series from Greg Sardinha's Sma' Kine studios. Volume 4? ... 5? We're losing count. Way to go Greg! ■



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## New or Changed\* Email Addresses

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William Cheorvas (US-CA)	tangito@pacbell.net*
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*Just got email? Contact us at [hsga@lava.net](mailto:hsga@lava.net) so we can add you to our member email directory. Mahalo!*

## HSGA Donations

*Mahalo Nui Loa* to all HSGAers who contributed to the scholarship fund this past quarter!

**Capt. Ivan and Doris Reddington** of Lakeland, FL made a very generous donation of \$200.

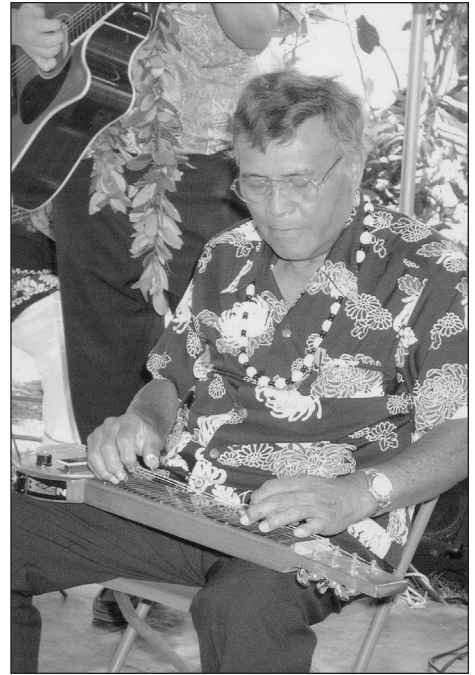
**Don and Lynn Keene, Donald and Donna Weber, and Charles and Barbara Zumba** all made \$100 donations to our club.

The following members donated at least \$10:

Bill Brummett, Houston, TX  
Jerry & Arlene Cotterell, Idaho Falls, ID  
Leo J. Duffy, Studio City, CA  
Roger Fletcher, Sandy, BEDS.U. K.  
Ivan R. Ginter, Bristol, WI  
Doug & Bev Hazelberg, Kenosha, WI  
Walt Jones, Brooksville, FL  
A. Hinano Kaumeheiwā, Kahului, HI  
Chris Kennison, Ft. Collins, CO  
Moana Kupau, Kaneohe, HI  
Bernie Magness, Grass Valley, CA  
Taylor Mayes, Piedmont, CA  
Larry and Pat Myers, Honolulu, HI  
Ryoji & Setsuko Oguri, Toyohashi, Japan  
Joanne Parker, Lansing, MI  
Russell and Beth Parks, Tulsa, OK  
Wade Pence, Eules, TX  
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Zanesville, OH  
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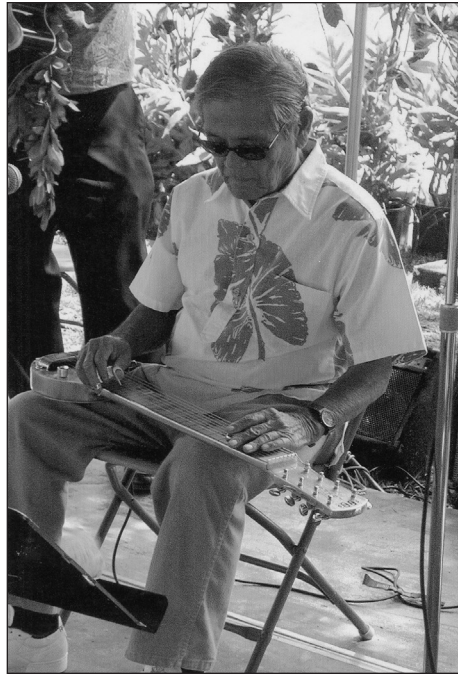
## Did You Pay Your 2002-2003 Dues?

*This is your FINAL issue if your mailing label still shows "X 6/02" under your address. (Dues are \$26. For U.S. First Class, add \$2 for the year; Overseas Air Mail, add \$6.) Renew today! Don't miss out on the latest info on Hawaiian Steel Guitar, including news, instruction, and lots of photos.*



# Kapi'olani Park Pix

Great member participation at the HSGA May Day performances in the park! (Clockwise from upper left) Dick Lloyd from Glendora, CA playing his Sierra steel guitar; Hal Smith from Shawnigan, BC; Big Island favorite 'Prince' John Auna; Art and Lorene Ruymar from Vancouver, BC; Ho'olaule'a emcee, Wayne Shishido with Bernie Endaya on bass; Honolulu member Tets Ushijima on frypan; and Pete Kahele from Cerritos, CA with "Doc" providing backup.





## DOC'S GIG BAG

Aloha Friends. It seems the right time to extend a heartfelt *Mahalo Nui Loa* to the four outgoing members of your Board of Directors. These gentlemen have served the cause of The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association with enthusiasm and distinction. The effort put forth by these individuals is both exemplary and typical of the nature of our membership – team aloha.

**Doug Smith** – Have you ever seen Doug play steel with his ironing board? I wonder if he irons with his surfboard? Seriously, for many years now Doug and his Ohio gang have been hauling tons of sound equipment hundreds of miles to the convention in Joliet, ensuring that artists and attendees alike are afforded the best musical experience possible. All

of this provided free of charge to the organization. Doug leaves the board as your vice-president and chairman of the Internet Committee.

**Mike Scott** – “Malihini” hails from north of the border where winters are cold but hearts are warm. Such a fine player, Mike has also served as chairman of our Membership Committee for years and has given tirelessly to spread the spirit of HSGA.

**Bernie Endaya** – “Emperor” Bernie has always been there for the club. Talented on all the instruments, including steel, no convention or club activity would be complete without him. Bernie has also served as chairman of our Scholarship Committee.

**Don Weber** – Your outgoing president has been an absolute

blessing to this club. Don stepped forward at a time when his leadership was critical to the continuation of HSGA as a cultural legacy. His steady hand and common sense at the helm has navigated us through many challenges, large and small. We shall miss him at the board meetings. The good news is that Don has agreed to continue on as our Joliet convention chairperson. He has also promised everyone that he will be dusting off the cobwebs on his steel guitar. Let's all expect and encourage Don to grace an HSGA stage real soon.

Doug, Don, Bernie, and Mike have all pledged to maintain an active presence in HSGA. We shall continue to seek their counsel in the years to come. ■



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# Keawaiki

(Helen Desha Beamer)

Tablature by Wayne S. Shishido

Key of F

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F G7 C7

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8va

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8va

G7 C7 F

7	12	10	12	10	10	12	10	12	10	4	5	5	10	11
						12	10	12	10			5	12	10
7	12	10	12	10	10	12	10	12	10	3	5	5	12	10
						12	10	12	10			5	12	10
						12	10	12	10			5	12	10

8va

C7 F Db7 C7 F

12	10	12	11	10	4	5	1	0	0	4	5			
12	10	12	11	10	5	5	1	1	1	5	5			
12	10	12	11	10	5	5	1	1	1	5	5			
		12	11	10		5	1	0	0			5		
		12	11	10		5	1	0	0			5		

8va

G7 C7 F

	5	5	4	5	3	4	5	5
	5	5	4	5	3	4	5	5
4	5	5	4	5	3	4	5	5

## MEMBERS' CORNER

### Johnny Farina of Santo & Johnny

"Aloha to all at HSGA. I totally enjoyed Jerry Byrd's article and agree with him."

*From Johnny's wife:* "Aloha HSGA. Along with Johnny's new membership card you sent a note saying drop a line to let you know what he's doing. I attached photos taken at a recent benefit Johnny did for the September 11 tragedy. We are happy to say the show raised a great deal of money for the families of the firefighters."

### Gerald Ross, Ann Arbor, MI

"Hello all. Well we're doing it again... performing live in public, in the flesh, and in concert. The Lost World Stringband is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in concert at the Ark in Ann Arbor, Michigan on Saturday, June 15, 2002 at 8 PM. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster, Border's Books Ann Arbor, and at the door. This will be our first concert in close to ten years!

"The band members have remained true to form over the past decade. You can be guaranteed the same "pretty good" musicianship and cheap theatrics that you've come to love and expect.

"Will we rehearse for this momentous event? Or will we just soak our hands in warm water for 30 seconds before we take the stage? Show up and find out! The band is fired up about this concert, and you will be too! See you there!

"We'll also be performing live on WDET-FM 101.9 (Detroit) on the "Folks Like Us" radio show the afternoon of the concert at 1 PM. Listen in. Call the radio station and demand that they pay us (this really shakes 'em up at NPR)."

*[ED: Sorry to say that by press time this event will be history – congratulations, Gerald. I don't know about the rest of us, but I'm taking that 30 seconds of warm water trick to the bank first chance I get!]*

### Yozo Endo, Kurtistown, HI

"Aloha and Mahalo to all the officers of the HSGA. Thank you for keeping the *Quarterly* going. I think there is no other instrument in the musical world that can produce the magic sound of the steel guitar... that can penetrate thru all the problems of this world and give us peace."



*Member Johnny Farina of Santo and Johnny fame, performs at a fundraiser for September 11th firefighter victims' families.*

### Lindon O. Stoddart, Miami, FL

"I thought Jerry Byrd's article on 'Jawaiian' music in the Winter *Quarterly* deserved comment. I am originally Jamaican and now a U.S. citizen. I must say I hate to see my favorite living steel guitarist bemoan the one-sided onslaught of the Jamaican reggae influence on Hawaiian music.

"My father, Cyril George Stoddart, was almost a one-man onslaught in bombarding Jamaica with steel guitar and Hawaiian music. He would strap his lighter wooden acoustic steel guitar to his back and ride his bicycle or motorcycle all over that island, playing and enchanting Jamaicans with the rich sound of Hawai'i. Playing a style similar to that of Sol Ho'opi'i, he was known from one end of the island to the other.

He was a bandleader in the '20s and early '30s. He often visited the huge public hospital to play for the sick. His other public appearances included churches, radio, weddings, funerals, and parties. The movie industry in Jamaica engaged his band to play background music for the silent films.

"He made the instrument so popular that they started manufacturing acoustic steels in Jamaica in the late 1940s and electric steels (including double and triple necks) from the early 1950s. Guitars were produced from indigenous woods of mahoe, mahogany, and oak, and the pickup units were locally wound and often produced sound superior to marketed units.

"There were other bands with steel guitar, especially in the late '50s through the '70s. The Gilbert Tappin band had two steels, with Keith Stoddart, my younger brother, as the featured steel guitarist. They

played everything, not just Hawaiian music, for nightclubs and dances. Another I recall was Horace Abrahams with Keith as the featured steel guitarist. His playing was like a cross between Herb Remington and Jules Ah See.

"I was more known in business circles, had no secular band playing gig, but played at churches, weddings, a few concerts and funerals, including my father's. Keith was the more popular one after my father died in 1956, and more so because of his great skill on the jazz guitar.

"In addition to the foregoing, Hawaiian music was popular on Jamaican radio. In the late '40s and early '50s, Bernie Kaai was burning the airwaves every Friday between 8:30 and 9 PM. Every Sunday morn-

ing, Hawai'i Calls was on, featuring Jules Ah See. The sales of Hawaiian recordings were good.

Once I purchased a Jerry Byrd album (the one with "The One Rose") for a pen pal living in Switzerland. In order to assure myself that the record had no defects, the store manager played the entire record. The main door of this downtown Kingston electronic store was open. Within five minutes, the sidewalk was impassable.

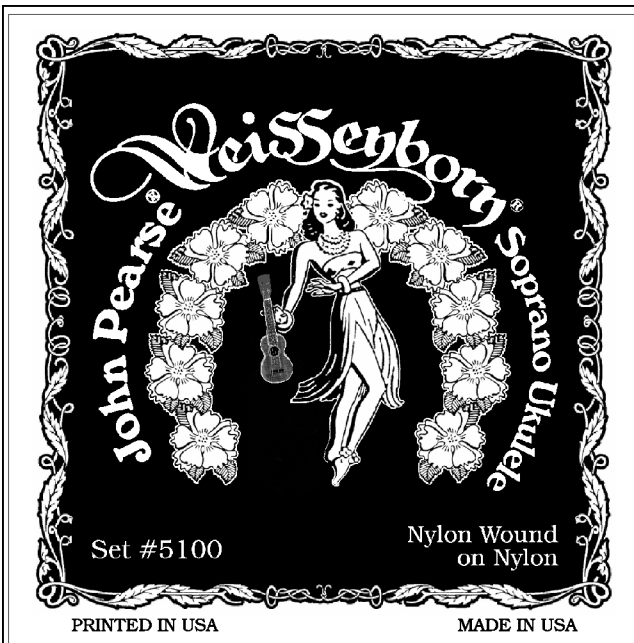
"Most of the Stoddarts left Jamaica between 1978 and the early 1980s. I don't know the level of popularity of Hawaiian music now, but Jamaicans love the steel. When I play at churches in Miami or Fort Lauderdale, Jamaicans express unabashed love for the steel.

"Jamaicans normally compose their own reggae music, which is usually filled with humor, laughter and some risqué. And guess what, the reggae sounds good on the steel guitar. Try it with genuine Jamaican compositions like "Ram Goat Liver," "Baby Hold Me Tight" (Johnny Nash), "Laziest Man," and feel the joy. And get a hula, no Jula dancer (from Jamaica) to swing with the rhythm. What a thrill!" ■

## Buy & Sell

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## SOME THOUGHTS FROM JB

I recently read an excellent article in the International Musician – the monthly issue of the American Federation of Musicians. It was an interview with Les Paul and I was struck by the almost identical backgrounds that all of us of that era grew up in – those “Great Depression” years. Les grew up in Waukesha, Wisconsin; “Chet” Atkins in Luttrell, Tennessee; and me in Lima, Ohio. If you wanted something you either made it yourself or you figured out a way to earn it!

Les Paul revolutionized the recording industry single-handedly! He introduced multi-track recording, overdubbing, and reverb (echo) to say nothing of his musical genius. He had no financing and he did it all in his garage, not a fancy laboratory. He had that insatiable hunger to learn *why* and *how* things worked (or didn’t work). He’s still playing at age 86 in New York.

Although from different areas of the country, Chet and I were also searching, creating, and continually hunting new sounds, new playing techniques – even strings. For example, Chet even tried a wire taken out of a *screen door*!! And me... realizing that I needed strings of different gauges, would spend hours pulling the wrapping off of a string, hoping that the “core” wire inside would work... It did!! Have you ever tried taking the wrapping off a string?? Try it some day when you have absolutely nothing else to do!! A wrapped guitar 3rd string (G) would be a good one to work on...

The point is this: I could count in the hundreds the people who have said to me, “You have a great *talent*!” or “Who did you inherit your talent from?” and then, “You are lucky to be so talented,” etc., etc. Sure!!! Sixty years of dedicated work, and all of that “talent” made me a player.

Reminds me of the story about a guy at a baseball game. He happened to be seated next to a priest and during the course of the game, one of the players would make the sign of the cross each time he came to the plate. Finally, he leaned over and asked the priest,

### Did You Pay Your 2002-2003 Dues?

This is your FINAL issue if your mailing label still shows “X 6/02” under your address. (Dues are \$26. For U.S. First Class, add \$2 for the year; Overseas Air Mail, add \$6.) Renew today! Don’t miss out on the latest info on Hawaiian Steel Guitar, including news, instruction, and lots of photos.



Isaac Akuna presents Jerry Byrd with the Ho’olaule’a 2002 Mahalo Nui Award. Jerry, in his classic “treed cat” pose!

“Father, do you really believe that will help him?” The priest replied, “Yeah, if he can hit!!!”

Years of practice, rigid training, and dedication makes hitters – and pitchers and golfers and musicians!! Talent??? Do you know what talent really is? It is spelled D-E-S-I-R-E.

“Too late,” you say? Too old already? I heard a great adage recently that says: The best time to plant an oak tree was 50 years ago. The next best time is today. Chew around on that awhile... Aloha-ly, JB ■

## Closing Notes

Member Hank Mann played at the funeral of well-known steel guitarist **Ralph Kolsiana** last February. Ralph was born on August 25, 1912 on O’ahu and died February 6, 2002 in Glendale California. Ralph had many friends and made some recordings of note, including some RCA/Bluebird sessions in 1937-38 under the name Ralph Kolsiana and his Islanders and the Waikīkī Swingsters. His professional career also included playing on motion picture soundtracks and gigging at hundred of clubs all over America.

We are saddened at the news of the passing of **Joan Stotler**, wife of Cincinnati member Al Stotler, on May 7, 2002.

---

Getting to Know You...

## New Member, Derrick Mau

*Derrick is the first graduate of Lorene's steel guitar course. Here's his story along with his take on steel guitar in Hawai'i and the hurdles facing those who want to take it up.*

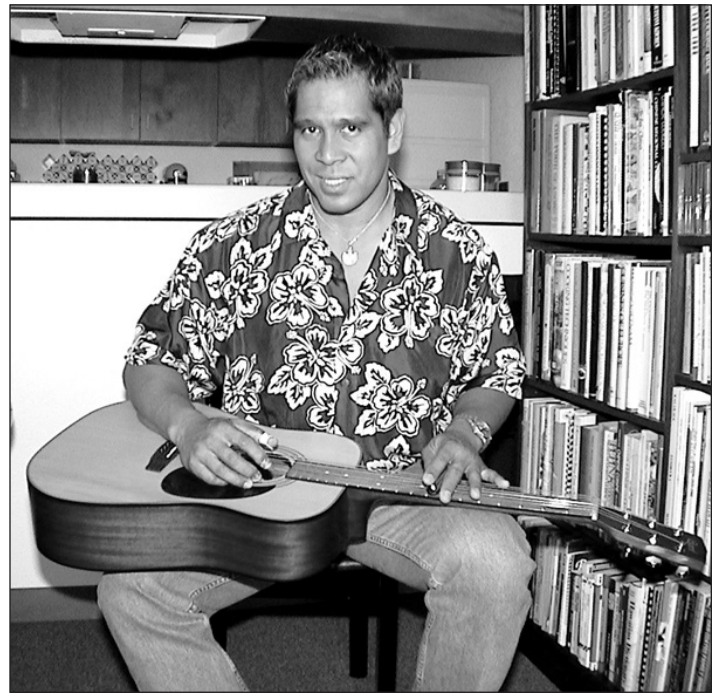
I started music at an early age of 7. Living on the Big Island I was exposed to a lot of Hawaiian backyard music. My first instrument was a 'ukulele from Kamaka. I had no former music instruction so everything was learned in the old Hawaiian way... by watching. I played trombone during my intermediate years and learned to play guitar during high school and became the lead guitarist for a group.

In the mid '70s I joined a group that played mostly for weddings and parties. In 1997, I conducted the historic tours for the Moana Hotel and met HSGA member Vivian Bangs. I told her that I had always wanted to learn how to play the steel guitar. She introduced me to Lorene Ruymar who had just completed her new Hawaiian Steel Guitar Instruction book. Lorene was kind enough to send me her book and I became her first graduating student. I am proud to be a new member of HSGA.

The steel guitar in the '70s as I remember was virtually an instrument used in groups only to play *hapa haole* or "tourist" music. The steel was non-existent in music shops and you'd have to get one from the mainland if you wanted one. I have never seen an ad in the music section of someone wanting to sell a steel guitar! Strange, but true.

Although I knew what a steel guitar was, my first encounter seeing one performed was by **Lem Aweau**. He taught the high school choir at Farrington High. My music class was next door to his where we were taught to play the 'ukulele or guitar. Mr. Aweau never taught steel to anyone there but he sometimes played it to back up his choir.

**Ken Emerson** did make a big hit on acoustic steel during this time recording his first album with his brother. I can remember that everyone was simply amazed with this long forgotten sound but the problem was no instruction books, no teachers, no knowledge of even what tuning he was playing in, and the converter nuts and bars were never sold in music shops. I even bought the Emersons' first album but somehow it

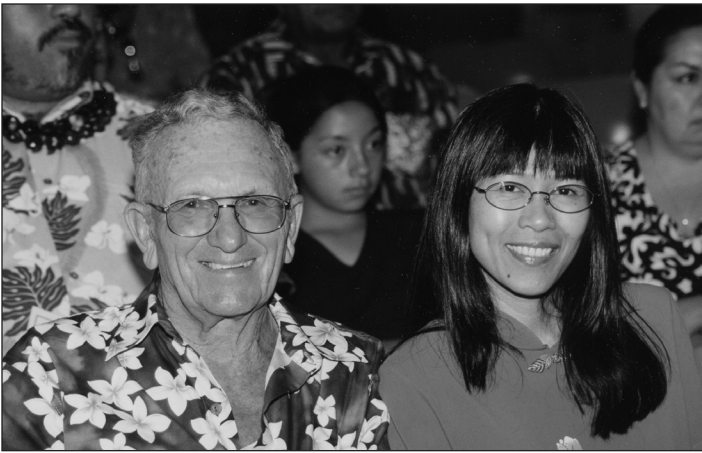


got lost as the years passed. I'm now going crazy trying to find a copy.

Because of the cost of an electric steel, I think we really have to push the acoustic steel guitar. Here is an instrument that could easily be taken around like the 'ukulele and one would only need picks, a bar, and converter nut. I believe the serious student will eventually purchase an electric version somewhere down the road.

The Hawaiian radio station (KINE, 105.1 FM) is a major factor for steel and slack key guitar being so unpopular. They have had an enormous impact on the younger Hawaiian generation by playing this new type of music called *Jawaiian*, which is local music with a reggae beat. We somehow need a connection with one of the DJs to play more steel guitar in the daily rotation. Right now, songs such as these are only used as the DJ's background introduction when coming on the air! I listen to this station a lot and do you know that I have never heard them play anything from Bobby Ingano's new CD?!

I think that for the steel to make a positive comeback it needs to gain recognition as a "solo" instrument" and not something that is used merely for backup. Somehow, the kids here prefer an instrument that plays the lead and when performed, will impress others. Well, these are just some of the stuff that I have taken notice in the past 25 years. I hope more people can get involved in teaching. ■

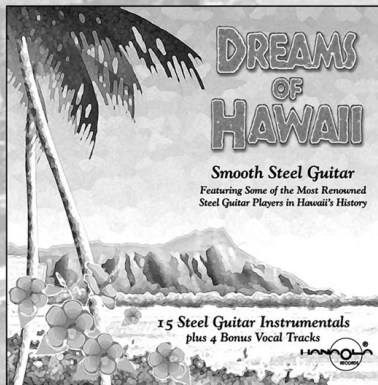


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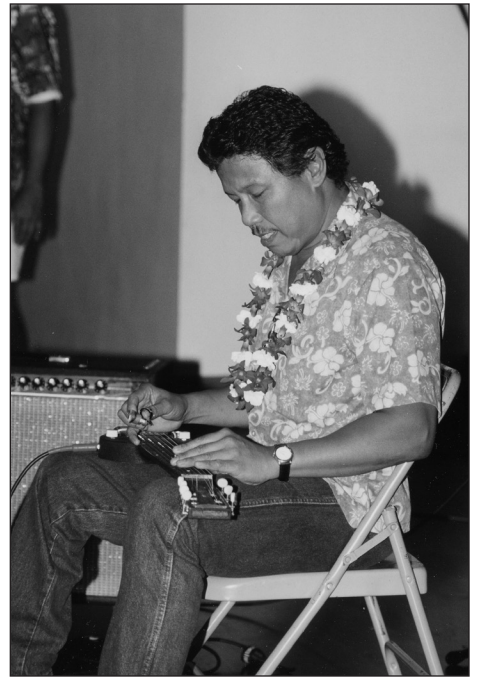


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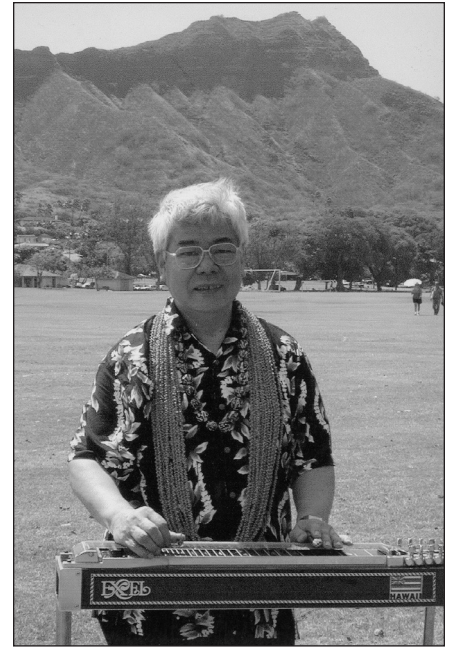




## Ho'olaule'a 2002 Pix

*(Clockwise from upper left) Alan Akaka, Steve Cheney, Bobby Ingano, Kiyoshi "Lion" Kobayashi, Paul Kim, Isaac "Doc" Akuna, and Hale Seabury Akaka provide expert steel guitar music at the 21st Annual Steel Guitar Ho'olaule'a. (Opposite, clockwise from upper left) Hal and Aina Smith enjoy the proceedings; warm-up group extraordinaire: Ha'alilio Heyer (left), Danny Kiaha, and Van Diamond; Ho'olaule'a backup "ringers" Hiram Olsen (left), Gary Aiko, and Dennis "Bla" Keohokalole; receptionists Alma Pfeifer, Karen Sakuma, and Donna Miller (AND Kaleo Wood, not pictured).*





Vivian Edwards and Kiyoshi "Lion" Kobayashi cash in on "picture perfect" scenery during the Honolulu 2002 'off-year' get-together.

<b>Membership List Release Form</b> I hereby give HSGA permission to include my name and address on Membership Lists that are circulated to the general membership on request.	If you want to be on membership lists, print and sign your name below and send this form in to our office.	
	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGNATURE

<b>Membership Application/Renewal 2002-2003</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL
HSGA • 45-600 Kamehameha Highway • Kaneohe, HI 96744					
NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ASSOCIATE MEMBER	REFERRED BY: (FOR NEW MEMBERS )			
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE/COUNTRY	ZIP/POSTAL CODE		
PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS				
<b>MEMBERSHIP FEES</b>			<b>ABOUT MEMBERSHIP FEES</b>		
Annual Membership (Jul 1, 2002-Jun 30, 2003)		\$26.00	A \$10 <b>Associate Membership</b> allows a regular member to get discounts for a spouse or other family member at certain HSGA functions. (See the page 2 sidebar for more.) The Newsletter is mailed Surface unless you include postage for First Class or Air Mail. <b>Please send a check or money order in US Dollars to our Kaneohe address shown above.</b>		
Associate Membership (\$10)		_____			
First Class Mail – US only (\$2)		_____			
Air Mail – Overseas (\$6)		_____			
Donation to Scholarship Assistance Fund		_____			
Quarterly Back Issues, if available (\$3 each)		_____			
<b>Total Enclosed</b>					
<b>MEMBER PROFILE (TO BETTER SERVE YOU – PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)</b>					
<b>I am a:</b>		<b>I play:</b>		<b>I travel to Hawaii:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Musician	<input type="checkbox"/> Amateur	<input type="checkbox"/> non-pedal steel	<input type="checkbox"/> pedal steel	<input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 20
<input type="checkbox"/> Novice	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't play but love to listen	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't play steel	<input type="checkbox"/> Seldom	<input type="checkbox"/> Never been there!	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-39
				<input type="checkbox"/> 40-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 60-over

<b>Holiday Inn Express Hotel Reservation Form</b>		<i>CHECK IN: 3 PM</i>	<i>CHECK OUT: NOON</i>
411 S. Larkin Avenue • Joliet, Illinois 60436 Reservations: (815) 729-2000 (suggested) • Toll-Free (800) HOLIDAY		ARRIVAL DATE/TIME	DEPARTURE DATE/TIME
NAME (PLEASE PRINT)		NUMBER IN PARTY	HOME PHONE
HOME ADDRESS	CITY	STATE/PROV/COUNTRY	ZIP/POSTAL CODE
<b>HSGA Room Rate</b>		<b>Price per day</b>	<i>(Circle Your Choices)</i>
<i>Special Room Rate available from 9/29 thru 10/8 only. Includes deluxe continental breakfast each day.</i>	\$62 + 13% tax (standard double room)	Smoking OR Non-Smoking Two Single Beds OR One Double Bed	
CREDIT CARD TYPE: (CIRCLE ONE) Visa MC AmEx Diners	CREDIT CARD NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE	AMOUNT ENCLOSED <i>(if not using credit card)</i>
NAME AS IT APPEARS ON THE CARD	SIGNATURE OF CARDHOLDER		\$ _____
<b>Reservations must be received by September 1, 2002.</b> When reserving your room, please use the convention code 'HSGA' on outside of envelope or in phone call. Mail this form to the above address or call the area 815 phone number listed above. <b>Reservations will be held until 6 PM only, unless accompanied by a deposit or credit card guarantee for your first night's lodging.</b>			

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<b>Joliet 2002 Convention Registration Form</b>			
October 3 – October 5, 2002 at the Joliet Holiday Inn Express Hotel			
FIRST & LAST NAMES OF ATTENDEES (PLEASE PRINT)			
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE/COUNTRY	ZIP/POSTAL CODE
HOME PHONE NUMBER:	PAYMENT OF CONVENTION FEE (CIRCLE ONE)		
	<i>I am enclosing the convention fee of:</i> \$ _____ (\$20 per person)		
NUMBER ATTENDING	<i>I will pay the fee upon arrival.</i>		
DO YOU PLAN TO PERFORM? Yes / No	WILL YOU PLAY BACK-UP FOR OTHERS?		
IF THERE IS A SPECIFIC DAY/TIME YOU NEED TO PERFORM, PLEASE SPECIFY:	Guitar Yes / No	Bass Yes / No	
	'Ukulele Yes / No	Other _____	<i>(specify type of instrument)</i>
<b>Registration fee is \$20.00 per person. You must mail this form by September 1 to Alma Pfeifer, 1110 Sheila Drive, Joliet, IL 60435.</b> (Do NOT mail to Honolulu.) Plan to perform 30 minutes on stage. Please bring 2 sets of chords for your back up players.			

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## *E komo mai!* Welcome, New Members

*Is your address and email correct? Please notify us!*

### **UNITED STATES**

JACK AND FLO BRAS, 300 Del Sol Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566  
RONALD CARROLL, 1005 Woodrush Lane, Darien, IL 60561  
KRIS A. DORLAND, 6945 Hundred Acre Dr., Cocoa, FL 32927  
GRETCHEN FISHER, P.O. Box 306, Kula, HI 96790  
JOANNE LEINANI HANAWAHINE, 4671E Philadelphia Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104  
DERRICK MAU, 155 N. Beretania St. #407, Honolulu, HI 96817  
TITUS NAPOLEON, 205 S. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804  
GIL SALYER, 202 Fairfax Avenue, Louisville, KY 40207-3831  
GARY SULLIVAN, 1119 Hilton Dr., Mansfield, TX 76063  
TED S. YANAGIHARA, 99-595 Aliipoe Drive, Aiea, HI 96701-3303

### **CANADA**

KENNETH L. JOHNSON, 10011-116 Street #1007, Edmonton, AB  
T5K 1V4 Canada

### **Please Contact Us!**

*Send news or comments to our new address: 45-600 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, HI 96744; You can phone us at (808) 235-4742. Remember, we now have a new Fax number: (808) 235-9591. This is a dedicated Fax line, so it's always "on."*

### **Coming! Honolulu Convention 2003**

For those who want to plan ahead, mark your calendars for the 2003 Honolulu Convention. This is our official member convention, held on odd years. The dates are April 28-30, 2003. Don't miss this chance to sightsee, talk story, and hear great Hawaiian music and Hawaiian steel guitar. Details to follow in the Fall issue. Stay tuned!

### **Dues & Membership List Reminder**

Remember, HSGA's current membership year ended on June 30, 2002. Use the form on page 18 to renew and please let us know of changes in your mailing address or email address. Don't forget to fill out, sign, and send in the **Membership List Release** on page 18 along with your membership renewal. We need the release in order to include your name on membership lists that are circulated to members on request. *Mahalo nui!*

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Summer 2002 Issue

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