

Rock and Roll Over

With Dino Raecker

UPCOMING SHOWS...

BOOZE BOMBS

HIGH ROLLERS

Saturday, February 7

Sundance's Place

The Black Forest in southern Germany favors us with their proud sons and daughters. The **Booze Bombs** are a classic rockabilly trio with added vocals from Annie Leopardo. The band is tight and clean, and Annie can really belt 'em out. Be sure to stick around for the boys' instrumentals between sets. As an added attraction, Prescott's own **High Rollers** will be working over the crowd.



LESLIE AND THE BADGERS

BAND OF ANNUALS

Tuesday, February 13

Raven Café

Six piece **Band Of Annuals** squeezes into the Raven playing true country that harkens back to Harvest era **Neil Young**. Blend harmonica, pedal steel, a bit of Wurlitzer organ, and some fancy finger picking, and you've got some mighty pleasing Americana stew. **Leslie Stevens** drifts over from LA with the musically diverse **Badgers** to complete the menu's gumbo. Weaving from singer-songwriter vocals to tear in my beer country rockers, fans of **Neko Case** to **Roy Orbison** should be having a high time tonight.



ROAMING AMBASSADORS OF GOODWILL

Wednesday, February 14

Coyote Joe's Bar

The **Ambassadors** are up from Tempe to make your Valentine's Day complete. The band ranges from free jazz improv, through indie rock blast to southern rock workouts. A loose version of the **Allman Brothers'** standard, "Whipping Post" should be their showstopper.



FIRE TO REASON

Friday, February 20

Sundance's Place

Arkansas spits forth some surprisingly sophisticated venom with **Fire To Reason**. They are clearly on the verge, listing among their sponsors Monster Energy Drink, of which you may need a few cans worth to keep up with these guys. **FTR** slams from melodic power chords to raw thrash and back again before you have a chance to breathe. Pump your fist, bang your head. This one will be sure to feed your metal fix.



ROCKETZ

FARAWAY BOYS

Saturday, February 28

Sundance's Place

The **Rocketz** roll in from So Cal to rave-up some psychobilly for all the dedicated greasers in town. We can't wait to hear their new ode to beer drinking (but not to excess), "Label on the Bottle" played live. The **Faraway Boys** add some pirates' sea chanteys (done properly rockabilly, of course) to the mix. The Boys appear to favor rum, most likely Sailor Jerry brand, for their part. Whether it's rockabilly, punk, or psychobilly, all cats (and kittens) will be rocking. Favorites **Grave Danger** will be joining the mix.



Day equivalent of "Jingle Bells All the Way." "Rocking" being used metaphorically for, well, you know rocking, instead of sleigh bells jingling. Although "they're jingling, baby" has been used metaphorically as well. Giving your main squeeze such a thoughtful surprise is sure to score some big points. After spinning *Black Ice*, dig up the Bon Scott masterpiece *Highway to Hell* and the original Brian Johnson comeback *Back in Black* and your evening is made. Clearly, the boys are feeling their oats, as the songs all focus on the twin subjects of being a tough guy and making sweet love with your lady. If you suffer from an occasional mid-life crisis in your 20s or in your 60s, look no further. Forget Cialis, forget Viagra. *Black Ice* is just the tonic you need.



THE CHEEK TONES

RAZOR BURN
cdbaby.com

The **Cheek Tones** lay down a crossover blues Americana without the overt country twang. A five piece from Prescott, they offer a warm update on the sound of old favorites such as **Gram Parsons**, **Neil Young**, and the **Allman Brothers**. Jane Cheek adds some beautiful backing vocals that may remind you of **Alison Krauss** and **Emmylou Harris**. Jimmy

Hayes employs a high, ringing guitar tone favored by many traditional blues players for an emotive, crying sustain. What really sets the band apart from more pedestrian blues bar bands is the interplay between Jimmy's guitar breaks and Ines Vitols' violin fills. They create a nice balance of country rock without the current cornball quotient. On "Sweet," drummer Gary Ukura takes over from Don Cheeks on lead vocals to good effect, echoing **Levon Helm's** heyday with **The Band**. The Cheek Tones veer into political territory on "Believe Anything," lamenting the average joe's gullibility in acceptance of the powers that be. With shades of 60s activism, they recommend you don't believe everything you read, or more importantly, everything you see on TV. "Weight of the Divide" sounds like it shook loose from the pages of a **Bob Dylan** songbook, complete with a bit of harmonica and a familiar distinctive vocal cadence. The bridge and chorus marry echoes of "All Along the Watchtower" to good effect. The album has a wistful, traveling jones running throughout, which embodies an easygoing, rambling vibe. Closing "Razor Burns" is possibly the first time this particular analogy has been used in a break-up tale. It's cautionary advice against opening yourself to emotional damage from another. Surely, the band would advise you to follow your heart in the end, razor burns be damned. Like a slow drive down a dusty road in an old pickup, The Cheek Tones will have you enjoying today's journey. Never mind tomorrow's destination.



AC/DC *BLACK ICE* Columbia

From the opening riff of "Rock and Roll Train" it's clear **AC/DC** have pulled off a return to greatness, improbable as that may be for a group of pub rockers in their mid-fifties. Angus Young threw out a great quote about staying in the game. "How old am I now? Then I remember, I enjoy this as much as anyone." Far more direct than anything Brett Favre came up with this year. Five Scottish boys out of Australia, **AC/DC** paradoxically have played definitively American music throughout their career. Angus cites **Chuck Berry's** duck-walking and **Jerry Lee Lewis' antics** as inspiration for his onstage schoolboy outfit and is still dropping his trousers during "Bad Boy Boogie." It's no coincidence that *Black Ice* is the band's second black album (after 1980s *Back in Black*) as the favored color scheme for comebacks from **Metallica** to **Spinal Tap**. "She Likes Rock and Roll" follows up vintage love anthems such as "Whole Lotta Rosie" and "Girls Got Rhythm" via Joan Jett's "I Love Rock and Roll." The band have always been romantics at heart, further evidenced by past lyrics such as "let me put my love into you." The album stumbles just a bit on "Anything Goes" with its **Pete Townsend** riff sounding a bit like recycled 80s **Who**. But it's not so bad that you bother hitting the skip button. *Black Ice* may be the perfect gift item for your wife or girlfriend, with "Rocking All the Way" a perfect Valentine's