



Steel Guitar 'Rag'

Aug. "Official Publication of the Southwestern Steel Guitar Association" 2015

Greetings all.

I hope you are well and happy, and enjoying the summer of 2015.

It is a beautiful sunny day in Western New York where I am listening to some great steel guitar music on Pandora on line radio. John Hughey and the Time Jumpers make great listening! We are privileged to live in such a time where we can listen to the music that we love almost any place and time!

Scotty's International Steel Guitar Convention is the next big steel guitar event. It is held annually in St. Louis, Missouri on Labor Day weekend. You may want to attend if you are in the area. There are many other steel guitar shows across the country that provide great steel guitar music. I encourage you to help support these shows.

Our annual SWSGA fall jam is now scheduled for November 14th. at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 West Dunlap Ave, Phoenix, AZ. We wanted to wait for our winter visitors to return to the sunny southwest so that as many people can participate as possible. We look forward to seeing everyone. Please plan to attend.

Our big January show is also on the horizon. Your directors are planning on our biggest and best show to date. It will also be held at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix. The dates are January 14th, 15th & 16th, 2016. As a dues paying member, one of the benefits of membership is the chance to play on the show. If you would like a spot on the show, please be prepared for 20-30 minutes of material, charts are optional, FUN is mandatory! One of the biggest logistical hurdles in producing this show is the scheduling of players. So if you want to play on the show, please be as flexible in your availability as possible. Since we have a limited number of slots, I need to know who wants to play as soon as possible. Please email me at, beaston@cox.net or call me at, (702) 280-9557 to let me know of your interest. First come, first serve, so please don't delay!

While we are on this subject, I want to give a big thank you to all the SWSGA directors, members and contributors for all their hard work that goes on behind the scenes. There is so much more to it than meets the eye, but we love what we do!

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and keep promoting our favorite instrument, the Steel Guitar!!

We are shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the greatest steel guitar player and innovator the world has known. Rest in Peace, Mr. Buddy Gene Emmons.

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This newsletter is published monthly from P.O. Box 1128, Globe AZ. 85502 and presents information for the members of the SWSGA, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization.

Editor: Bill Tauson

Events:

**2015 SWSGA
Fall Jam at the
Sheraton Crescent
Hotel in Phoenix
November 14th.**

2016 SWSGA Steel Guitar Show

The 2016 show is scheduled for **January 14th, 15th & 16th**. Your Board of Directors are already hard at work to make this another great show.

Mark your calendar and watch for updates in the Steel Guitar 'Rag'.

Billy Easton, Chairman



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Professor Twang's E9 Grab Bag!

Hi fellow steelers, John McClung here (aka Mr. Twang / Professor Twang) coming to you from Olympia, WA. For questions about this lesson, or inquiries about private Skype lessons, write to me at: steelguitarlessons@earthlink.net, or phone me at 310-480-0717. I welcome suggestions for topics for this column! <http://steelguitarlessons.com>

Nifty pivot lick; new pedal steel podcast; free SWSGA memberships

HERE'S A NIFTY NEW "PIVOT LICK" I recently stumbled across and thought you might enjoy playing.

It's a 5⁷ chord with one of its 2 notes chromatically ascending from the D⁷'s major 3rd note to the 5 note, finally resolving to the 1 chord of G.

This would make a great ending lick for almost any song resolving from the 5 to the 1. Try it on "Today I Started Loving You Again," by Merle Haggard, for instance.

Notes: the italic numbers in the tab are the scale degrees of the chord. So you can see the *b7* note on string 6 staying put as the pivot point, while the top note on string 4 climbs from 3 to 5.

Pick strings 4 and 6 just once, and let them ring, even right through the final G chord. I've shown re-picking the strings, which is fine and by that point you may have run out of "gas" in your sustaining notes.

Start this lick by having your foot in position over pedals B and C, but just pressing on pedal B to start.

If your E lever (lowering E's) is on your right leg, this lick will be a piece of cake.

If your E lever is on LKR where most folks have it, you'll have to learn to rock your left foot to the left, but your left knee going right (B+E), then left (B+F), then to the middle position to add pedal C while releasing F, another reason why I prefer having E and F

levers both on the right side! (My E lever is RKL; F lever is RKR).

Also try playing this in reverse, that sounds great, too.

1				2					
	D ⁷	D ¹¹	D ^{7/b5}	D ⁷	G				
1						1			
2						2			
3	<i>[3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>b5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1]</i>	3			
4	3E	—	3	—	3F	—	3C	3	4
5									5
6	3B	—————●			3			3	6
7	<i>[b7</i>				<i>3]</i>				7
8									8
9									9
10									10

Italics show scale degrees of notes played. In measure 1, notes are from D scale. In measure 2, notes are from the G scale.

Portland pedal steeler/banjoist/vocalist Bryan Daste (also a former Skype student of mine) has undertaken a very ambitious project of creating a podcast all about pedal steel. A podcast is an audio show or interview available for listening or download from the internet. If you're an iTunes user, you can subscribe to Bryan's podcast (and many others) at iTunes.com, and it will come to you automatically whenever he publishes a new one.

His third episode is an in-depth interview with yours truly, we talk about steel playing, teaching, how I started, some gearhead stuff and what-not.

continued ►

Professor Twang's E9 Grab Bag!

Listen or download here:

<https://pedalsteelpodcast.wordpress.com>

The other two episodes are interviews with other Portland steelers and are worth a listen.

Big News! I've just recently worked out a special deal with the board of the Southwest Steel Guitar Association (SWSGA). In an effort to get more folks to join this wonderful organization, any new students commencing steel guitar lessons with me, either in-studio or over Skype, will get a free SWSGA membership. Your membership starts when you begin lessons, and goes through Dec. 31 of that calendar year.

Worth noting: you will still be eligible for SWSGA members' discounted admission price to the annual steel show, which happens

towards the end of January, a month after your membership expires. How's that for nice?!

Membership also includes a link to every monthly issue of their newsletter, the one you're reading now, *The Steel Guitar Rag*.

So if your membership is due for renewal, remember you can get a free membership as a student of mine!

If you're wondering whether my lessons are worthwhile, please click this link to read some nice comments from current and recent students. My specialty is "taking students from where you are, to where you want or need to be."

<http://bb.steelguitarforum.com/viewtopic.php?t=283937&highlight=>

Till next time...play perty!

Professor Twang

Treasurer's Message

SWSGA Members

The year is flying by so quickly. It was just yesterday for the Chula Vista California Jam. It was held May 9th & 10th at the Chula Vista RV Park. We had 16 steel guitar players and other guests. Frank Carter provided the Band in a Box for back up music. Everyone had a great time sharing music and stories. We are planning another Chula Vista Jam next year. The weather is always so nice and of course getting the chance to visit with other steel players. Watch the newsletter for next year's date.

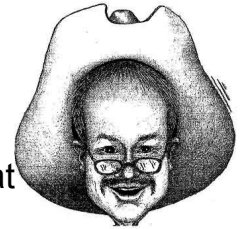
We are at the 1/2 year mark. If you have anyone that would like to join the Southwestern Steel Guitar Association, please let them know that the remainder of 2015 would be only \$12.50. The newsletter alone would be worth more than the cost of membership. There is so much shared information from teachers of steel guitar in each newsletter.

The fall jam has been scheduled for November 14th, 2015, at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix, AZ. If you're new to the SWSGA, we encourage you to attend. Any one can participate regardless of your level of playing. It's a great way to see old friends, meeting new ones, or just come by and enjoy the music. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

Peggy Porter
SWSGA Treasurer

Ax Ron ????????

By Ron Pruter



Welcome to my latest addition to this fine publication. Please Email me at ronprutermusic@outlook.com and I'll try to answer your questions, each month, as space allows. Questions like, what's a comp, what's a split, why gauged rollers? You name it. Sounds like fun. I'm looking forward to your questions.

*Things that go **CLUNK** in the night.* With all the levers, stops, and metal to metal connections screwed onto an acoustic chamber on our steel guitars, things can, and do, get a little noisy under there. Most of the noise will not carry through to the pick-up but is still annoying. I sometimes practice without the amp plugged in, then of course the signal to noise ratio is terrible. I like it as quiet as possible. The following is some of my solutions.

#1--Metal to metal noise... Some stops are accomplished by a bell crank or lever hitting another piece of metal, whether it be an adjustable cap screw head or a fixed metal plate. My simple way to reduce this noise is to see if you can replace the metal adjustable screw with a nylon/plastic screw. I find these at larger Ace and True Value hardware stores more often than at The Home Depot type stores.

#2--Metal to wood noise... I usually find this kind of problem on pedal returns and lever returns. I have, successfully, just removed the pedal lift springs, but my common repair for this is to install a small bumper pad where the two come into contact. These small felt or rubber stick on discs can also be found at hardware stores, (See pix below to see what I'm talking about). I'm also showing how I cut rubber pads from old inner tubes using empty 40 Cal. shell casings (bullets) as die cutters in a bench vise.



#3---Return springs in the changer... You might hear quite a clank when you release your lowering levers or Franklin pedal. This could indicate your return springs are too tight. If they're adjustable, loosen it up by turning the screw c/c/w/ until it just starts to not return all the way. At that point, tighten the screw one and a half to two turns. This may be an adjustment left to the professional. When done right, the levers will move with less effort and less clank.

So,.... 'till next time, 'Keep on Steelin' AX Ron

Kevin's Kromatics



Well lets get started. I follow and love many steel guitarists, past and present, but my real, serious steel guitar heroes I can count on one hand. These are the guys that I have studied and still study! Through the bagillion years of my playing, these guys set the bar really high for me. JayDee, Buddy, Lloyd, Tommy and Paul, and Your very own Arizonian, Mike Smith. I know that's six guys, but Mike and Paul are both cut out of the same cloth for me. So today, I am going to show you a super cool thing Mike wrote and plays. A bad to the bone Irish thing called, "Creek Walk". Here is my take on the basic theme to this wonderful piece. Good luck as it is tuff to play. If you haven't heard it, you MUST look it up. So fantastic and different. Once again I know this is called Kevin's Kromatics and this is a little off topic, but I'm sure you will dig it. We use this with Mike's gracious permission. Thanks Mike!

Check it out and remember to keep those fingers in the strings! Also, Please "like" the Goodrich Sound on Facebook! Till next month!



1		10	10		10	10		1
2								2
3				10—10B—10				3
4			10	10		10		4
5		10		10—10A			10A—10	5
6		10B—10		10—10B				6
7		10		10				7
8								8
9								9
10	10—10A							10

1								1
2								2
3								3
4								4
5					10A—10			5
6	10B—10	10	8	10	10B		10B—10	6
7		10	8	10	10			7
8								8
9							10	9
10		10—8	8—10	10—10A				10

1								1
2								2
3								3
4								4
5			5A—6A—5A—5					5
6		5B		5B				6
7		5		5				7
8				5				8
9				5—4				9
10	8—5				5			10

Hear Kevin play the lick @..... <http://steelguitarcafe.com/sgr>

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- *Just love to listen to pedal steel guitar?*

Come and enjoy a tradition of great music!

January 14th, 15th & 16th, 2016

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Troy Porter in Globe Az. is available for E-9th instruction at any level. Call Troy at (928) 425-5520.

Daun Suarez is available for beginning and intermediate instruction in the north Tucson/Marana area. Call Daun at (520) 682-6609.

Rich Brennion is available at all levels for E-9th instruction in the Tucson area. Call Rich at (520) 661-5682

Blackie Taylor, at "Blackie Taylor Music", in Riverside, Ca, is available to teach all tunings, pedal and non-pedal guitar, dobro, reading music, etc. Blackie is located at 5950 Mission Blvd., Riverside, Ca. from noon to 6:30 P.M. (951) 686-4010.

John McClung teaches E9 lessons in his Olympia, Wa. home studio, or online via "Skype". Call John at (310) 480-0717 or email him at, "steelguitarlessons@earthlink.net".

Margie Mays is available for teaching non pedal, all tunings, E9th pedal steel and learning to read sheet music. Call Margie in Mesa at (480) 807-5443, or email her at, "margiendon@aol.com".

Rick Schmidt is available to teach bass, non-pedal steel, and pedal steel guitar, both E9th and C6th tunings in the North San Diego County area, Prescott Arizona, or online via, "Skype", specializing in improvisation and harmony. Call Rick at (951) 442-9621 or email him at, "questforgigs@gmail.com".

Fred Justice teaches steel guitar in the Phoenix/Mesa area. Call Fred at (480) 986-2599 or (480) 235-8797, or email him at, "fredsmusic@q.com".

Chuck Lettes teaches pedal steel guitar, (E9th and C6th), and lap steel lessons in the Denver, Co. area. Contact Chuck at (720) 545-4803, "clettes@comcast.net", or his website, "chucklettes.com".

Contact Billy Easton (702) 280-9557 and your listing will appear here!



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***Regarding this newsletter,
or material for future issues, contributing articles, photos, etc,
contact: Bill Tauson, Editor, (562) 652-9977 or email at,
"swsgaeditor@icloud.com".***

******Invite a friend or fellow musician to join the SWSGA!******



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