

SECOND LINE

Newsletter of the Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society

A Quarterly Newsletter

October 15, 2019

Officers of the NCTJS

President: Peg Isakson
Vice Pres, interim: Fred W Smith
Treasurer: Becky Echeverria
Membership: Barbara Weimar
Band Leader: Lenny Kellogg
Director: Myrne Watrous
Director: Carol Lingenfelter
Director: Merritt Pitcher
Secretary, Newsletter Editor
and Webmaster:
Fred W Smith: fsmithpe@msn.com



The PRIJB, L to R: Ray, Clarke, Charlie, Larry, Alan, Rory, Oscar, Lenny

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings from your new chairperson for Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society! And just to save syllables, you may hear me say NoCo Jazz Society! This decade seems to be one of shortened language, sound bites and instant messages; agreed?

I hope I can set an example for any of you jazz enthusiasts who read this message. Why did I volunteer to join the Board? Well, I've done quite a bit of volunteering in my life, but I hope to spend more time with music, to keep music variety strong in Northern Colorado, and to meet friends with similar interest.

The decade of the 50's was the high point for stimulating my interest in music, particularly jazz. I recall shopping at the music store owned by Louie Bellson's family in Moline, Illinois, where I took jazz improvisation lessons across the street. And how lucky I was to attend a Dave Brubeck concert on campus in Illinois when he was making his North American college tour in the early 50's!

Now, decades later, how could I resist when dear family friend, Ray Leake, asked me to play a duet with him in our Lutheran church, no less?

So now you know how thrilled I am to learn all about the wisdom and background of Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society, to think seriously about the future of Jazz for all ages in our area, and to get acquainted with you! Stop at our ticket table at Avogadro's, introduce yourself, share a little about your interest in music, and become active in our NoCo Jazz Society!

Cheers for Jazz,
Peg

"Life is a lot like Jazz...It's best when you improvise."
George Gershwin

FROM THE SECRETARY-WEBMASTER:

BOARD ELECTIONS:

Board elections are coming up soon. Please be reminded that we are still seeking a nominee to become the Treasurer to take over for Becky who has done an excellent job for several years.

In November of odd numbered years, the NCTJS holds an election for the board members to serve for the coming two years. The current slate of nominees appears at the top of this newsletter.

We would like very much to have a candidate to become the new Treasurer so please let me know if you are willing to consider the job or wish to nominate someone. Contact me at fwsmithpe@msn.com or leave a voice message at: 970-227-8640.

We will be in contact in November in order to conduct the election.

BIG NEWS –new website for the band:

Our long-standing website at <https://www.prijb.com/>, was originally written by Ann Harbour and maintained by her for many years. As time went by, she was increasingly unable to continue maintaining it, and Lenny's wife kept it up. It became clear that the time was rapidly approaching at which a new website arrangement was needed. The primary reason for this was that the programming of the old website had been done in a time long ago when one had to be a trained and experienced web programmer in a special language in order to maintain the website and doing that was very difficult. The advent of modern website authoring tools makes this job a LOT easier. So, the board decided it was time to make the jump and arrange to have a new website built.

The approach taken by the board was to form a committee charged with specifying what was needed in a new website. The members were Peg Isakson, Ted Turner and Len Kellogg, who met and established a set of requirements to be used by someone who would undertake the actual job.

As an engineer and retired CSU professor, I could not resist the opportunity to build the website with the guidance and input from the Website Committee, so I volunteered to do it. The new website authoring tools now available made it relatively easy to learn how to write a website and get it up and running. Beside the advice and input from the committee, I also had help from a buddy who has considerable experience with the website authoring tool I used.

The net result can be seen on line at <https://www.prijb.com/>. You will note that, like the old website, the new one primarily advertises the band, but it also has a page for the Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society.

We hope you will take a look and let us know what you think of the new website. It still has a glitch or two that will be fixed before too long.

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE:

Peg Isakson provided the following info about the Facebook Page and the Google business site she has set up recently that point to the PRIJB and to our Jazz Society. We are getting quite a lot of action on these sites so we hope you will take a look and follow Pegs suggestions below if you are interested. Doing so will help get the word out about our operation.

For Facebook:

When you're logged in to Facebook, search for "Poudre River Irregulars Jazz". Please "like" our page and "share" the page to your contacts. Your "like" and "share" are very important to spread the word of our Northern Colorado exuberant jazz! At this time, we do not plan to advertise by boosting any posts, so your help is appreciated!

Our Google page:

On your device (cell phone or pad) you can google the band by using "Poudre river irregulars jazz band" in the search box. You'll see that you can click to the new website home page, to Facebook posts by us and to Facebook posts by Avogadro's, KRFC, Denver Jazz Club, and more.

Have fun searching!

Let us know if you have tips for our Social Media. We welcome ideas or questions. Send your suggestions to the address below, email Fred Smith at fwsmithpe@msn.com, or contact Len Kellogg, our band leader, by leaving a message through the Contact tab on our website.

Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society
P.O. Box 1304
Fort Collins, Colorado 80522

FROM THE BAND

The band is beginning the work involved in producing a new CD in preparation for our 25th Anniversary coming up soon. More about this later.

First Friday at Avo's – 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Avo's is located at 605 S. Mason, Fort Collins, (970) 493-5555.

Hot Jazz with the Regular Irregulars

General admission \$12/\$4 for students

\$8 for members of the [Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society](#)

Become a member today

Nov 1

Avo's w/Larry on trumpet

Nov 3

All-Saints Episcopal in Loveland 9am service

Dec 6

Avo's Larry & Charlie - two trumpets

Si tu vois ma mere & Quincy Street Stomp

The PRIJB played both of these tunes during the September First Friday at Avo's. Lenny described the inspiration for picking these tunes that evening including reference to the musician Bob Wilber. Years ago, I had the opportunity to hear Wilber play his soprano sax with the Dick Gibson Ten Greats of Jazz, as described by Lenny, at the Trocadero Ballroom at the old Elitches. So I thought it would be fun to provide a bit of info about him. As usual, I have relied heavily on that all-knowing and always accurate source, the inter-web.



Robert Sage Wilber (March 15, 1928 – August 4, 2019) was an American jazz clarinetist, saxophonist, and band leader. Although his scope covers a wide range of jazz, Wilber was a dedicated advocate of classic styles, working throughout his career to present traditional jazz pieces in a contemporary manner. He played with many distinguished jazz leaders in the 1950s and 1960s, including Bobby Hackett, Benny Goodman, Sidney Bechet, Jack Teagarden and Eddie Condon. In the late 1960s, he was an original member of the World's Greatest Jazz Band, and in the early 70s of Soprano Summit, a band which gained wide attention. In the late 1970s, he formed the Bechet Legacy Band.

Wilber was active in jazz education, including working as director of the Smithsonian Jazz Repertory Ensemble. He wrote for films, including *The Cotton Club*. In his autobiography, *Music Was Not Enough*, he recounts his childhood, meeting his mentor Sidney Bechet, in 1946, and his struggles as a musician in the 1950s and 1960s. He died at the age of 91 in 2019.

Sidney Bechet was one of the most accomplished and influential musicians of the post-World War I period and was viewed by many as the best clarinetist of his time. Nevertheless, Bechet's primary instrument eventually became the soprano saxophone. In 1944, Wilber had become fascinated with Bechet's sound, and later that year, when Wilber was sixteen, he was introduced to Bechet through Mezz Mezzrow. He found out there was an opening for a pupil out at Bechet's house in Brooklyn, and so he became a Bechet pupil.^[6] In the spring of 1945, he began studying both clarinet and soprano saxophone under Bechet and eventually lived with him for several months. He often sat in with Bechet at Jimmy Ryan's and they often performed duets. In 1948, Bechet sent Wilber to Nice, France, in his absence to perform at the first jazz festival.^{[3]:48-49} At the festival, Wilber's group shared the bill with Louis Armstrong and his Allstars. Wilber recorded for Columbia Records, Commodore, and Circle with Bechet and with his own group in the late 1940s.^[7]

In Other News:

The Pikes Peak Jazz and Swing Society <http://www.ppjass.org/>

The Queen City Jazz Band <https://www.queencityjazzband.com/>

The Denver Jazz Club <http://denverjazzclub.com/>.