

# hangoverchronicles

by Mick Michaels

As promised in last week's column, I made the trip to **Whiskey Tango** in Homewood on Saturday night to see **Naked Rodeo**. My outing had a duplicitous intent: the first - to see the band and fulfill the aforementioned promise; the second - well, I just like saying, "Naked Rodeo."

Fronted by guitarist/vocalist Matt Hill and co-founder Shep Maners, Naked Rodeo plays almost exclusively acoustic, with the occasional electric guitar and mandolin added by Chad McWhirter. The backline consists of bassist Duane Cockrel and drummer John Behrens.

As you may have surmised, these guys play a whole bunch of country tunes - Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson, Dwight Yoakum, and the like, but they also delve into modern stuff like Kid Rock and lots of 1980s standards such as Steve Miller. You'll also hear the occasional original tossed in the set now and then, including "One More Drink," co-written by Matt Hill and Shep Maners. "We don't expect to make a million dollars or be country stars," Hill says of the original CD the band is working on. "We're just making it because we want to."

Even though Naked Rodeo plays mostly country, they don't dress up like rhinestone cowboys, or wear big 10-gallon hats, or strut around in boots that make them eight inches taller or even say "Y'all" a whole bunch. What you will find them wearing is T-shirts, baggy jeans, ball caps turned backwards, luau shirts, etc., and just being themselves.

"We don't really consider ourselves good musicians," Matt Hill says. "We just really love that people come out to see us, and that they have such a good time. That's what it's all about to us." And apparently that's what it's all about for the crowds as well, turning out in impressive numbers for each of the band's performances.

Besides playing club dates, Naked Rodeo has opened for Marshall Tucker and Confederate Railroad, done pre-concert parties for Kenny Chesney and George Strait, and played at numerous frat parties to add experience to their musical pedigree. To find out the time and place of the next Naked Rodeo gig, go to [www.nakedrodeo.com](http://www.nakedrodeo.com).



Reprint from  
"The Birmingham Weekly"  
Vol. 8, Issue 29 March 24 – March 31, 2005 Page 41