

Band donates funds to cancer research

By Leona Reber

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Country boys don't rock ... or so said the lyrics of one of the tunes played by the Dave Russell Band, but rock they did Saturday night in Beermann Plaza. From their first number to their last, they had Lincoln residents moving with the music they played. Some danced beneath fluttering flags, and others just remained in their chairs, smiling and tapping their feet and clapping their hands. Few were able to sit still. It was a memorable performance — one of the best Lincoln has seen in a long time, according to many who attended.

"It was really great," said a long-haired teenage girl in jeans and boots who danced nearly every dance. "I wish they did this here every weekend."

The five-member band, which includes Dave Russell, Marc Friedland, Maury Rosas, George Pfeifer and Rick Noring, played an eclectic mix of original tunes, oldies and current country favorites with a few "Parrot Head" and beach party numbers thrown in to keep the momentum rolling along.

Russell charmed the crowd when the concert began by announcing that his 4-year-old son, Jake, would be joining the band for the first time. The tot swaggered up to the stage, plastic guitar in hand, and stood beside his father, singing loudly while he strummed. He "helped" for two or three songs and then returned to his seat with his mother.

Russell, in a battered western straw hat, jeans, boots and a t-shirt, looked like a member of the audience, but when he stepped up to the microphone and opened his mouth, it was



COURTESY

The Dave Russell Band had Lincoln rockin' Saturday at Beermann Plaza. The band donates the proceeds from sales of CDs and T-shirts for cancer research.

apparent that this was no man off the street singing along with a karaoke machine.

A consummate performer, Russell had the audience in the palm of his hand throughout the evening with bright and funny chatter and solid musical numbers.

"A buddy of mine and I were talking about women and how evil some can be when we wrote this one," he said before launching into an original, "She ain't no good, but she's good enough for me." The boogie-woogie back beat had an impressive number of dancers on their feet.

Several requests, including, "It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere," were played. A request, for an electric slide number, brought even more dancers to their feet with "Mustang Sally." For the Johnny Cash fans in the audience, Russell sang his signature number, "Folsom Prison Blues."

The band is popular locally and plays regularly at the bowling alley in Rocklin and several other places. After the Lincoln performance, they were bound

for Reno for a gig at the fair. They have made many stops on the fair circuit since coming together.

"If you want to see us up close and personal, we do play for money — and sometimes even a good meal," Russell laughed. The band is available for private parties and corporate events. Russell can be reached online for bookings at dave@daverussell.com.

Both T-shirts and CDs were available during the performance and can be purchased from local music stores and his Web site.

According to Russell's Web site, all profits from the sale of T-shirts and CDs will be donated to the American Cancer Society in memory of his mother who died of the disease; his father, who is a cancer survivor; and several friends who are battling cancer.

"I really want to do something and I feel that this might be a good way to help," he said. "Let's see if we can't spread some good music and help some people at the same time."