

Divots/Roanoke, Virginia

Band Directories Copyright 2006

Brief Description	Started as the Roulettes in 1958 but changed to the Divots because of potential conflict with the record label. Divots name resulted from a golf outing when Odgie Fitzgerald hit a shot that left a big Divot (No. 9 at Salem Municipal golf course.) Band went on to be a premier backing band never recording their own music. In October of 1963, at the homecoming of the University of Georgia in Athens, the band was the soul backup band for top R&B performers that included Jerry Butler, Major Lance, Don Covay and the Goodtimers, Irma Thomas, Darlene Love, Mary Well, King Curtis, Gene Chandler, Don Gardner and Dee Dee Ford. It was a sold out crowd of 40,000 in the now 90,000 person capacity Sanford Stadium. Read more about the Divots in <i>The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music</i> .			
Year Established	1958-1979			
Favorite Venues	Thunderbird, Candlelite Club, Colonial Hills Club, Brook Club, Sportsman Club, Greenbrier Club, Papa Joe's, Lakeside Bar			
Music Genre/Recordings	R&B			
Performer	Now Resides	Instrument	Years In The Band	Notes
Newman, Bob			1958	Original Roulette
Gwaltney, Russ			1859	Original Roulette
East, Don			1958-	Original Roulette to Divot to Royal Kings
Christiansen, Andy			1958-	Original Roulette to Divot
Caligan, Perry			1959-1964	formed Royal Kings in 1965
Hess, Bobby			1959-1964	
Johnson, Ed			1959-1964	
Fitzgerald, Odgie			1959-1964	
Geary, Richard			1958-	Original Roulette to Divot
Tyler, Earl "Little"		vocalist	1961	Band's first black singer
Johnson, Wayne		vocalist		
Womack, Sonny		vocalist		
Dixon, Roger		Drums	1959	Royal Kings
Newman, Bob				
Gwaltney, Russ			1958-	Original Roulette to Divot
Hodges, Dick	Roanoke, Virginia		1959-1979	Manager
Hughes, "Bugs"			1965	
Lowe, Jim		Saxophone	1965	
Byrd, Geoff		Trumpet	1965	
Cecil, Richard		Trumpet	1959-1966	
Caligan, Larry			1965	

Webber, Mike		Bass	1965	bass player for the Judds
Guilliams, Jimmy		Drums	1965	
Webber, Bobby		Keyboards	1965	
Biermeilre, Ray			1970	
Ribble, Steve			1970	
Casey, Mike			1970	
Draper, Joe			1970	
Matthews, Jimmy			1970	
Wehle			1970	
Slusher, Greg			1970	Read Greg's story about the Divots' visit to Atlanta in 1072

