

Formed in the summer of 1996 by singer and guitarist Sam Woods and double bass player Bob Corner. Sharing the same interests in Rockabilly and Psychobilly music they formed the first incarnation of the band with drummer Martin Cox, who was replaced by Fido Banks in 1997.



(1996 The Hyperjax Mark 1 (L to R Bob Corner, Sam Woods, Martin Cox))

The band began gigging the traditional pub/club circuit as well as the so-called 'Rockin' Scene' mixing traditional 50's covers with original compositions. This era 1998- 2000 the boys really learned the hard way of what it meant bring in a band. They followed nearly every cliché, starting off being best mates and becoming bitter enemies. They all bought a van between them and trailed up and down everywhere reeking of drunken havoc in an unprofessional manner and threatening each other with violence. Sam and Fido we're constantly at each others throats. Sam wanted him to play full kit, while Fido wanted to to use half of it and stand on the rest and set his symbols on fire while wearing a phantom mask. He seemed more concerned being a circus act than a drummer. Worse still he became increasingly unreliable and thought he was indispensable. He had to go!



(Preston 1998 L to R: Bob Corner, Capt Fido and Sam Woods)

The line up was secured in January 2000, when Fido's departure saw powerhouse tub-thumper Wally P. Parkinson join the fold. Wally only knew one beat and one speed, but at the time it was just what they needed to beef up their sound. He would often throughout his time in the band whinge and moan and threaten to quit, but despite that he added great humorous quality which made this the classic line up of quite a unique but dysfunctional band. By now bored of playing pubs and the Rockin' scene that to them had become too conservative towards the streetwise Punk/Rockabilly sound of their own material, the band started to walk in their own shoes. This new millennium was when the fun really began. The usual offstage shenanigans continued as always. Sam and Bob had one thing more in common than anything else and that was a sense of mischief wherever they went and lapped up every opportunity. They came gigging out of the northwest, playing regular at The Charlotte in Leicester and even some venues like The Red House in Islington London. More gigs led to more bookings near and far.

The new direction built them a following in venues in their own right amongst the re-emergent Psychobilly scene and that year in October the band landed a slot in New Jersey, USA, at the now legendary BIG RUMBLE WEEKENDER, performing alongside such luminaries as Nekromantix, Batmobile and The Quakes. Together they appeared on film performing their then mp3 only single 'Happy Pillz'. Not bad for a band who had not yet even released a full album!



(The classic line up in 2000, L to R Bob Corner, Wally P. Parkinson and Sam Woods)

2001 saw the band hit mainland Europe, not to mention consistent touring up and down the UK. That year the band also recorded their first full album with legendary producer, and Sharks mainman Alan Wilson. In early 2002, following years of anticipation from both fans and the band alike, the ten-track debut, 'Generation X-Rated' was released on Raucous Records. It had been a long time coming, but rave reviews followed, earning comparisons to landmark Psychobilly debuts, and the quest for glory gained momentum!

2003 saw The Hyperjax embark on the appropriately titled 'Seven Year Itch Tour', taking in the length and breadth of the UK in a week, something the band had never achieved in their sometimes difficult 7 years of playing. In August the band played two consecutive nights at 'The Carling Reading Festival', playing in front of an all-new buzzing crowd. In December of that year, UNCUT magazine included The Hyperjax cover of 'Capital Radio' on their cover-CD, entitled 'White Riot (a tribute to the Clash)'. The band appeared alongside the likes of Billy Bragg, Stiff Little Fingers and the late great Joe Strummer himself.

In early 2004, following a US release of *Generation X-Rated*, the band was booked for the now infamous Macabre Festival in San Bernardino USA, following some major US radio airplay. With more West Coast dates added, and a tour in place, the boys headed across the Atlantic in June. Unfortunately, the promoter had pulled the festival, booking the bands, taking people's ticket money and quickly disappeared. Unfazed as usual and a hunger and thirst for some wild memories, the band carried on with the salvage shows in San Francisco, Long Beach and Los Angeles. Bob and Sam ended up taking a crazy ride from Long Beach after the gig there to LA Sunset Strip for strip bars but only could find a sex shop open at 4am. They passed off on the offer to their hosts go to a donkey show in Tijuana Mexico, by the time they sobered up. (Memories to tell our grandkids)



(Bob, Sam and Wally in San Francisco, California ,USA, live at The Pound. June 2004)

In 2005 the band joined Tiger Army for their extensive Jan UK tour, winning over more new crowds. Around this time with some of the new songs Sam was writing, he felt he wanted to “progress” the bands sound even more. Some said “If it isn't broke, don't fix it” but was determined to see for himself. He was listening at the time to more two guitar based punk rock. So March that year saw the addition of ex-Short Cuts guitarist Matt Cooley on rhythm guitar, bringing a new dimension to the band's already established sound. In August, Wally decided that after five years behind the drum stool and the mounting pressure to record a follow up to *Generation X-Rated*, that enough was enough, and duly quit the band, to be replaced by Cooley's former Short Cuts ally, and future *The Business* sticks-man

Chris 'Bundie' Mundie. A rejuvenated Hyperjax were soon gigging again, hitting the road hard, culminating in a spot at the 1st Astru Psycho festival in mainland Spain. The band also went into the studio after being asked to contribute to the official Stray Cats tribute album, recording their take on the classic "Gina" (Japanese release only). 2005 ended on a high with the band playing a short Scandinavian tour, ending on New Year's Eve in Gothenburg, Sweden.



(L t R Matt Cooley, Bob Corner, Sam Woods and Bundie, late 2005)

Into 2006. The new line up had found its feet, and between continuous touring, the band went into the studio to record the second album, 'The Bottom Line', in March. The album getting a release in march the following year to further critical acclaim, and airplay on BBC Radio 1.

In 2007, the band was contacted by Alan Wilson. Alan was now acting as Psychobilly A&R man for the biggest independent record label in Europe, Cherry Red Records, and he and the label wanted The Hyperjax release their third album through Cherry Red. Unfortunately, that year Bundie left the band to full fill his commitments with The Business to be briefly replaced with young prodigy Manning. Also, commitments outside of the band were putting pressure on the existing line up, the long wait for "The Bottom Line" to get released with certain expectations of being able to go higher up the ladder, Cooley became bored of having to toe the line under Sam's reign and craved more control over the new music. Basically he wanted Sam's job as the boss so classic inner band squabbles came about) Bob grew bored with practicing and learning new material, believing that the band had had its day. So would often drag his feet along with Cooley and began to constantly cancel practice last minute. (Really they should have both grown a set of balls between them and quit!) A frustrated Sam made the decision to bring down the curtain on the band in a huff (Or throw his toys out of pram, if you

prefer) Really he should have had the backbone and asked them to quit, or just simply fire the buggers! Sam penned "Talkin' New York City" for the next album about the hard times running the band with a dream that died of going places.

But anyway. Bob, Cooley (now taking up lead vocals) and Manning (switching to guitar from drums) along with Wally P. Parkinson back on drums formed A Sailors Grave. They played the fringes of the Psychobilly and local venue scene for few short years and eventually released an album on Crazy Love Records called "Set a fire in your heart" (Really they should have called it "Set a fire in our belly's) before fizzling out for good.....It wasn't a bad album though....honest!

Sam, meanwhile, took a two month break from music to travel, but on his return, decided he was going to maintain the Hyperjax name and record the album for Cherry Red. Recruiting Liam Revenge of Manchester punk rock 'n' rollers Revenge of the Psychotronic Man on guitar, ex Frantic Flintstones double bass player Keith Green, and Neil Holden, drummer for seminal Preston hardcore legends Dying for Toto. A rebooted The Hyperjax announced they were back, with the same head but new limbs, making their debut in

August at The Solway Festival, directly before folk-crusties The Levellers. The gig proved to be a turning point for the band, and the new line-up began gigging, writing and rehearsing in earnest. 2008 saw two European tours and the release of 'The Wildest Card' to critical acclaim from the alternative press and the psychobilly scene, but also sadly saw the departure of bass man Keith Green, a man that had played an integral part in the rejuvenation of the Hyperjax. Rhythm guitarist Liam switched to bass, and the band reverted to a 3 piece for the first time in 5 years. A heavy gigging schedule saw the album promoted up and down the country supporting one of their most influential favourite band "The Quakes" and 2009 saw the band pulling no punches with new material being written and no let up with the touring with festival and European dates as well as an extensive set of shows throughout the UK.



(The Wildest Card line up 2008 L t R: Neil "The Wolf" Holden, Sam, Liam Revenge and Keith Green)



(Strummer-camp Manchester 2009 L to R Liam, Sam and Neil)

Into 2010 The band were now pushing the physical boundaries within their music than ever before, new songs we're sounding stronger and more energetic than ever before and we're as well received if not better than the older songs. Particularly the new classic "Whatever Happened to the Krewmen" which they recorded in March. Unfortunately health issues with Neil took their toll and was forced to give up the band. Neil finished off what gigs they had and made his departure finally in July. Sam in the meantime managed to track down former punk/thrash titans Gunpowder Plot drummer Kev Prescott who he had always admired back when both bands used to gig together on the Wigan scene back in the early noughties and was keen to pick it back up again after 3 years adding a superb new vibe for the Autumn. The band after a 2 month break hit back with a bang.

The line up continued into April 2011 playing their last gig for a while in Manchester. Sam then foresaw a hiatus Liam then followed his then sweetheart to Cape Town, South Africa. He was only supposed to go for three months but ended up staying for three years did the little sod. Sam decided to put the band to bed and pick it up when the time was right. A week later he met with Bob Corner after kissing and making up (not in a gay way) and went into the studio along with Bundie on drums, Valle from Mad Sin, while Bob took vocals and recorded some some unreleased Hyperjax songs. This project became The Loveless Bastards. The following year they recorded again and even managed a couple of live gigs and got up to their old mischievous ways again. Bob suggested that himself, Wally and Sam should do a one off gig for old times sake. It was the tenth anniversary of their debut album

“Generation X-Rated” and they needed to mark it. So October 2012, they reunited for a Halloween gig in their old local stomping ground and played it in its entirety.



(October 2012: L to R Bob, Wal and Sam)

Sam got the bug to keep playing with his old krewmen and it'll be easier as we've all grown up ect, but he couldn't have been anymore wrong. They played a Preston reunion gig early in 2013 and their friends birthday party in London and it was all over again. More gigs got offered which Sam wanted to do, Wally didn't want to use his holidays he had for scooter raleigh's and sitting on his backside and Bob didn't want to it without Wally, (being grumpy or not) but in his typical old fashioned way, continued to waste time by saying that he did with another drummer and agreed to gigs before pulling out last minute (ffs Bob!) They say history repeats itself and you just can't get the staff. More fool Sam for thinking he could whip donkey's into racehorses.

Mustn't grumble and always remember the best times. So anyway with Liam back in Manchester and Neil up for making a noise again, the 2008 lineup reunited and hit the road to Newcastle in Feb 2014 and played a blinding set, the power and the passion was back on and new songs we're on the boil. The band played little but often throughout the year and went in the studio in November to record the begining of what was to become their fourth album “March to your own beat”. Things had been going swinmingly so it seemed, but that was never the case in the history of this band as you've read.



(Bolton 2014 L to R Liam Revenge, Sam Woods and Neil “The Wolf” Holden)

Liam unfortunately hit burnout and couldn't manage the practicality of traveling to Wigan to practice. A dark cloud over him of “anger, disappointment, fear and misery” over him. So he announced his departure early 2015. What do we do now? Call it quits for a few years again? No sir! Enter Dan Clark, Sam got home and immediately called Dan Clark who for ages offered his services to part of the band should a soldier fall. The inspiration to play rock n roll remained stronger than ever and the album was wrapped up by June 2015. Gigs were done in the usual balls out manner and the album was released as a download late 2015 with CD's and vinyl to follow

Almost two decades the band have gone through thick and thin, good times and bad times, they've never followed any particular herd or jumped on any band wagon. They make music for themselves first and foremost. They continue to play the wildest card without compromise or pity and will always March to their own beat as should you!



(The Hyperjax 2015 L to R Dan Clark, Neil "The Wolf" Holden and Sam Woods)

MTYOB