



cow punks **The Rubberneckers** would lead a quiet life at their infamous Farmhouse. Instead, they raise hell at the Logger Bar, taunt the police and raise annoying alarm-clock roosters. Not to mention the rock and roll thing.

On their first album, *This Is the Whiskey Rebellion*, they snidely peppered the CD with answering-machine clips between their raucous thresher-inspired riffs. One was from an angry neighbor woman who issues a disturbing yet uncertain threat, and another from the mayor of Blue Lake complaining about the Farmhouse rooster. Local papers caught wind of the story. The mayor became a laughingstock and, as mentioned on the band's second album, *Live From the Farmhouse*, the rooster became soup stock.

'Neckers' front man Clay Smith shrugs it off. "We all know each other," he says. "They love us as long as we're not keeping them up at night. No one really likes getting rocked out of bed by a band or a rooster. We try to

make friends, not enemies. We also try to be a little quieter at night."

Maybe that's the difference between cow punks and citybillies? Real cow punks tip their hats when they pee on your fence.

Fortunately, The Rubberneckers are far more than pedantic podunk pluckers. The band's careening Peterbuilt sound and witty lyrics-forward songs are more mechanized mayhem than porch swing. The latest release, *Political Songs About Drinking*, is the strongest offering yet.

"The new album is the culmination of years of work, in songwriting and craft, and our ability to record. The new songs are better, hookier, catchier, better harmonies. There isn't a single song that I don't like, which is new because there is always something I'm not happy with. You're gonna flip," Smith says.

The Rubberneckers, Sid and Fancy, My Life in Black and White and Attractive and Popular play at 9 pm Wednesday, July 25, at the Indigo District. 21+ show. \$5. — John Dooley

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