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Michael Barnes is Entertainment Editor for the Austin American-Statesman. He lives in South Austin with his partner, Kip, two dogs and two cats. [More on Out & About.](#)

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Alpha Rev: Social Connectors

By **Michael Barnes** | Thursday, September 4, 2008, 12:18 PM

Social connection is one of the least understood qualities about live music.

Any follower of an Austin band is linked to other followers of the same band, though they be strangers, through invisible threads of sensibility and experience. Put those followers in the same physical space, viscerally plugged into that musical act's visual and aural wavelengths, and no dialog is necessary to weave those social threads together.

I've noticed that certain Austin acts — **Alpha Rev, Jets Under Fire, Ghost of the Russian Empire, Ghostland Observatory, Pompeii, Explosions in the Sky** — share some of the same connectors, as well as certain instrumental webbing. Alpha Rev is clearly the next band with a chance to break to a wider national audience, having just signed with Hollywood Records. A new CD is in the offing.

They play Saturday at Antone's — once the preserver of Old Austin music, now the promoter of New Austin genres — with Jets Under Fire and **Beaux Loy**. Doors at 8 p.m.; show at 9 p.m.



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