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CBA Father's Day Bluegrass Festival

CBA's 2016 Emerging Artist

Each year the CBA reaches out to the bluegrass world to find new talent. While attending the big convention held by the International Bluegrass Music Association in Raleigh, North Carolina, a team of CBA members choose an up-and-coming act to bring out to California to play the main stage at the Father's Day Bluegrass Festival.

The CBA team is led by IBMA Coordinator Lucy Smith. She spoke of the latest choice for our 2016 Emerging Artist. "Jeff Scroggins & Colorado was among 10 upcoming bluegrass bands that played in the CBA Suite Showcase at IBMA 2016, which included exciting new bands Blue Mafia, Bradford Lee Folk, Kevin Prater Band, and Lonely Heartstring Band. While it was a very difficult choice, Colorado's high



Jeff Scroggins & Colorado is the CBA's 2016 Emerging Artist at the Father's Day Bluegrass Festival.

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CBA Event Calendar

New CBA calendar manager is ready to help promote your events

Hello, I'm Mikki Larrick and I'm the new manager of the CBA's online calendar. Want some FREE publicity for your bluegrass band or bluegrass music event? You can do it!

Recipe for entering dates and info to the Calendar of Events:

1. Open the cbaweb.org page and see the Calendar of events box
2. Click on more Events, in the blue box at the bottom of the calendar of events listing. Right side of web page

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CBA Summer Music Camp

March Madness at Camp

By Geoff Sargent

Every year around this time we eyeball different matchups and start placing bets. We like to call it March Madness. Now, I'm talking about the internationally known CBA Music Camp, the darling of the media, highly sought after, and exceptionally popular event, not the unfamiliar NCAA playoff event that barely gets any attention! I sometimes feel sorry for all those basketball players languishing in the shadow of Music Camp. Why just last week I had to turn down an interview with a major sports chan-

Continued on A-13

Dogs at Grass Valley

Things dog lovers do

By Bruce Campbell

First and foremost, they love their dogs. And why not? They know their dogs love them fiercely, completely and unreservedly.

Dog lovers should also realize that dogs are not always good decision makers. Their decisions are governed by deep seated evolutionary impulses that helped to survive before they were domesticated and benefitted from sharing our warm safe, well fed homes. So, they pounce on anything they can eat, no matter how disgusting. They react impulsively to some stimuli in ways that surprise or dismay us, occasionally.

Dog lovers should also realize that dogs can't always understand what's best for them. Like young children, they know what they want, and responsible dog own-

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TURLOCK!

Please join us for the CBA Spring Campout! It's just not as much fun without you and your friends. It's all about the picking, but we will have a band for the Saturday Dinner. Pacific Drive, a talented band featuring some of California's most talented young artists: Helen Foley (bass, vocals), Jesse Fichman (guitar, vocals), Dana Frankel (Fiddle, vocals), Sam Reed (Banjo), David Thiessen (Mandolin).

It's that time of year again to meet with old and new friends to pick, and play, visit and catch up on what everyone has been doing. Yes, Spring Campout, that's the place to do all of these things.

It takes place at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N Broadway, Turlock, from April 11 - 17th 2016. RV's are \$30.00 per night and tents are \$10.00 per night. Saturday night dinner \$10.00

Volunteer 4 hrs at the gate and get 1 night free camping. You must be a CBA member. Ask Glenda for details. To volunteer or more info contact Glenda Lew at 209 606 5356 or welzsub@sbcglobal.net.

Father's Day Bluegrass Festival

Handicap Camping at Grass Valley

By Gene Kirkpatrick
Handicap Camping Coordinator

If you wish to reserve a camping spot in one of the Handicap areas at the Father's Day Festival it must be done by the first of MAY, 2016. A valid Handicap Placard or plate is required to make a reservation and it must be displayed while camping in these areas. Most of the handicap areas are designated just outside the fence of the inner grounds near the entrances. Only water and electric hook-ups are available and not guaranteed. You must share these with your neighbors. Dry camping is always an option.

There is also a row of spaces inside the inner grounds behind the audience area. These spaces are more restrictive as per our agreement with the fairgrounds. 1.) No extra vehicles are allowed inside the inner grounds. Once you set up, all tow and towed vehicles must be moved to the handicap parking area outside gate 5. 2.) No pets are allowed on the inner grounds. 3.) Your camping vehicle must be escorted in/out of the inner grounds, and only when there are no performances on the main stage, or when Music Camp is not in session. However these spaces behind the audience area do have electric hook-ups (but no water) available during the festival.

A handicap taxi is available during the festival through Mike Martin's crew.

To make your handicap reservation, send an e-mail to Gene Kirkpatrick at genekatt@myway.com or call him at 209-938-7528. These reservations are completely separate and not associated with purchasing your tickets to the festival.

Gene & Kathy Kirkpatrick, 10817 W. Sarabande Circle, Sun City, AZ 85351. Gene's cell: (209) 938-7528.

We need your help

By Mike McGar

We are in need of some wonderful CBA members! Looking for volunteers for the upcoming 2016 Father's Day Bluegrass Festival to help with Gate Ticket Sales. Requirements are that you are a CBA Member and feel comfortable working with computers. We ask volunteers to work three four hour shifts for a four day ticket to the festival.

Please contact **Debra Clover:**
debracllover@spmrentals.com or call (209) 656-0801
or:
Mike McGar: mcgarm@yosemite.edu
(209) 404-4560 if you have any questions. Thanks!!

More opportunities!

There are other volunteer spots at the CBA's Father's Day Bluegrass Festival. Contact Volunteer Coordinator **Deb Livermore** at (916) 601-7233 or debclivermore@gmail.com

Time to renew your membership? Check out the date on mailing label below.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Well... it's about time! Senior seating at Grass Valley

By Tim Edes

This year's "Land Rush" to place seats at the Father's Day Festival is going to take on a little different twist. It appears to a lot of us who work at the festival that the seniors seem to be getting left behind, especially when it comes to placing their chairs. I see it every year while overseeing the "Land Rush". There are not a lot of our long time members that can get in line at 2:00 am in the morning and wait for 5 hours. And, after all...why should they? They have paid their dues....they have been dedicated and faithful to the California Bluegrass Association, and they deserve to get a break.

So this year, paid-up current members, 70 years old and older are going to get a head start on all those "youngsters". All you have to do is check in at headquarters before Thursday, June 16, show proof of membership/age (we can look up your membership number if you forget your card), and get a special wristband. Then, on Thursday morning line up at the old Maintenance Building gate and we will let you in before the general population is allowed to place their chairs.....two chairs per member.

One more thing... no fighting! Please get along. Husbands... please listen to the Mrs. ... it works better that way!



2015/2016

Leadership Team**Board of Directors**

David Brace - Father's Day Festival Director
2608 Paradise Road
Modesto, CA 95358
DHB1221@me.com
Tim Edes - Chairman of the Board
17720 Telfer Drive
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
408-779-5456
t.edes@verizon.net
Montie Elston - Treasurer
5631 Tish Circle
Olivehurst, CA 95961
530-763-5056
fiddle3@comcast.net
Steve Goldfield - Old-Time Music Coordinator
4428 Tompkins Avenue
Oakland, CA 94619
510-482-8970
stevegoldfield@yahoo.com
Dave Gooding - TAG Chairman
P.O. Box 462
Elmira, CA 95625-0462
davegooding@sbcglobal.net
Mark Hogan - Sebastopol Festival Director
3980 Monika Court
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-829-8012
hogiemoon@comcast.net
Mikki Feeney
PO Box 2025
Willows, CA 95988
530-518-3093
mikfid@gmail.com
Jim Ingram - FDF Entertainment Coordinator, FDF Contracts
5270 Hecker Pass
Gilroy, CA 95020
408-847-6837
silvanis@wildblue.net
Maria Nadauld
marianadauld@pacbell.net
Carl Pagter - Chairman Emeritus
17 Julianne Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94595-2610
925-938-4221
carlpagter@astound.net
Larry Phegley - Membership Chair
cba.membership14@gmail.com
J.D. Rhynes - Director Emeritus
P.O. Box 1303
West Point, CA 95255-1303
209-293-1296
jdrhynes@volcano.net
Geoffrey Sargent - Assistant to the Chairman
1477 Via Manzanos
San Lorenzo, CA 94580
510-207-2046
geoffreysargent@gmail.com

Officers

Darby Brandli - President
2106 - 9th Avenue
Oakland, CA 94606-2612
510 735-6364
darbyandbruno@comcast.net
Montie Elston -- Treasurer
5631 Tish Circle
Olivehurst, CA 95961
fiddle3@comcast.net
Valerie Cornejo - Assistant Treasurer
916-712-7067
notableval@sbcglobal.net
Colleen Hogan - Secretary
colleen_hogan@comcast.net
Larry Phegley - Membership Management VP
P O Box 1143
Seaside, CA 93955
831 233 0448
cba.membership14@gmail.com
Steve and Kathy West- Membership Recruitment
stevewoodhogwest_1999@yahoo.com

Area Activities Vice Presidents

Mark Hogan - North Coast

phone 707-829-8012
hogiemoon@comcast.net
Bruno Brandli - East Bay
510 599-3108
darbyandbruno@comcast.net
Bill Schneiderman - Delta-Sierra
209-586-3815
billschneiderman@gmail.com
John Hettinger - Sacramento
113 Puffer Way
Folsom, CA 95630
916-990-0719
john@shaunv.com
Ted Kuster - San Francisco
ted@tedted.com
Amy Sullivan & Kali Nowakowski - Central Coast
PO Box 2992
Atascadero CA 93423
amy@siminoff.net or kali@siminoff.net (805) 305-3894 or (805) 365-7111
Stan Allen - Fresno/Kings County
rollingbonz3344@comcast.net
Jenny Williams - Solano and Yolo Counties
info@RealGoneDaddies.com
Larry Phegley - South Bay Area
47 Ralston Drive
Monterey, CA 93940
larry.phegley@gmail.com
Bruce Campbell - Contra Costa County
brewgrasser@gmail.com
Larry Carlin - Marin County
415-377-9671
l_carlin@hotmail.com
Marcos Alvira - Merced, Mariposa, Stanislaus
209-383-3432
valleybluegrass@gmail.com
Vicki Frankel - San Mateo County Area
vicki.frankel@gmail.com
Tony Pritchett - Riverside/San Bernardino area
banjovie@twc.com
661-305-7866
Jack Pierce - Bakersfield area
4111 Pinewood Lake Dr.
Bakersfield, CA., 93309
jpierce@bakersfieldcollege.edu
John Saiti - Amador/Eldorado County area
johnstaiti@gmail.com
Kim Brians Smith - Nevada County area
Grass Valley, CA
(530) 798-3595
bullelk@gmx.com

Year-Round Jobs

Rick Cornish - Director of Operations
rickcornish7777@hotmail.com
Kelly Senior - Investment Advisor
Mark Varner - Editor, Bluegrass Breakdown
PO Box 1245
Boulder Creek, CA 95006
831-338-0618
mrvarner@ix.netcom.com
Glenda and Vaughn Lew - Campout coordinators
welzzub@sbcglobal.net
Bruce Campbell - Publicity Director
brewgrasser@gmail.com
Bob Calkins - Photographer
530-644-1587
motherlode@innercite.com
Mike Melnyk - Photographer
mike@mikemelnyk.com

Randy January - Darrell Johnston Kids Lending Library
kidslendinglibrary@gmail.com
Alicia Meiners - E-Commerce Mgr.
ameiners@sbcglobal.net
408-683-0666
John Erwin - Mail Ticket Sales
707-330-9342
john.erwin@sbcglobal.net
Gary Mansperger - Online Ticket Coordinator
15825 Mt. Hamilton Rd.
Mt. Hamilton, CA 95140
gary@mansperger.ws
Lee Hardesty - Insurance Advisor
916-961-6316
hrdst@comcast.net
Dennis and Julie Lawson -

Mercantile CoCoordinators
julaw5@yahoo.com
Frank Solivan - Kids on Bluegrass Director/ Ambassador at large
408-656-8549
Whit Washburn - Contract Legal Advisor
916- 996-8400
wfwashburn@wfwashburn.com
Debra Livermore - Volunteer Coordinator
916-601-7233
deblivermore@gmail.com
Mark Hogan - Audio Archive Project co-coordinator
707-829-8012
hogiemoon@comcast.net
Dave Nielsen - Audio Archive Project co-coordinator
David Carlsen - Sebastopol Jam Master
davidacarlson62@hotmail.com
Steve Goldfield - Old Time Coordinator
stevegoldfield@yahoo.com
Geoff Sargent - Music Camp Liaison
510-207-2046
geoffreysargent@gmail.com
Josh Michaels - Elections Coordinator
cbaEcommerce@gmail.com
Bob Thomas - Member Giving VP
John Gooding - Teen Ambassador

Festival Coordinators

Mark Hogan - Sebastopol Festival Director
3980 Monika Ct.
Sebastopol, CA 95472-5741
707-829-8012
hogiemoon@comcast.net
David Brace - Father's Day Festival Director
1704 Banyan Court
Ceres, CA 95307
DHB1221@me.com
Ron Esparza - Vern's Stage
esparza1234@sbcglobal.net
Theresa Gooding - Backstage Manager
davegooding@sbcglobal.net
Debra Livermore - Vern's manager
916-601-7233
deblivermore@gmail.com
Kathleen Rushing - Music Camp Children's Program
9780 Mennet Way
San Ramon, Ca 94583
925 828 5825
Kafween@mac.com
Steve Hogle - Workshop Coordinator
ohana@sonic.net
Lisa Burns - Corporate Sponsorship Coordinator
lisa@lisaonbass.com
Larry Baker - Concessions
209-785-4693
rodedog52@gmail.com
Gene Kirkpatrick - Handicap Camping Cooridintor
genekatt@myway.com
Electrical Coordinator- Randy Morton
Alex Cameron- Transportation & Communication Coordinator
Chris Bockover - Safety and Hospitality Coordinator
Harry Kaufman - Stage Construction
Adam Brace - Stage Lighting
Craig Wilson - Full Hookup Lottery Coordinator
11119 Academy Avenue,
Bakersfield, CA 93312
661-589-8249
craigw1@sbcglobal.net
Dagmar Mansperger - T-Shirt Coordinator
Jim Ingram - Entertainment Coordinator
408-847-6837
silvanis@wildblue.net
Dan Martin - Slow Jam Coordinator
707 287 6953
powderdan@comcast.net
Debra Clover - Gate Ticket Sales

Jim Evans - Shuttle Coordinator
Bill Meiners - Comp. Tickets
408-683-0666
billmeiners@att.net
Janet Peterson and Peter Langston - Music Camp Directors
CBAcamp@psl.to
Charlene Sims - Raffle coordinator
casims@msn.com
Drew Davidson- Ice Booth/Ice Wagon Coordinator
rdewd127@gmail.com
Carol Canby - Water Booth coord.
530-832-0340
canbysonthego@msn.com
Dorothy McCoy - Headquarters Telephone coordinator
530-663-0025
rd53mccoy@gmail.com
Patty Thorpe - Utility coordinator
916-929-9185
John Lonczak - Dancing coordinator
408- 247-5706
Mike Martin - Handicap Taxi Coordinator
707-333-5784
Cameron Little - Signs Storage Transport Coordinator - Roy West

Web Team

Bands - Grant Johnston
livebluegrass@aol.com
Music Calendar - Mikki Feeny
mikfid@gmail.com
Kids on Bluegrass Page
Jill Cruey
jillc@netvista.net
Sharon Elliott
shickey6@yahoo.com
Bill Downs - Links , Music Instructors, and Luthiers

bilnfay@ix.netcom.com
Radio Grass - Darla Novak
Novakd42@apol.com
Recorded Music - George Ireton
george@shastawebdesign.com
Splash Page/MP3 Manager - Pat Garcia
patgarcia@direcway.com

Photo Gallery Managers - Ken Reynolds
cprhds2@caltel.com
Randy Shelton
randy.shelton@comcast.net
Kay Nichols
Pknichols2004@yahoo.com

Website Welcome**Columnists**

Monday-2nd-Randy Morton
Monday-3rd-Bert Daniel
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at 209-588-9214 or
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This paper would not be possible without the volunteer columnists who bring us their expertise and exerpences. Be sure and let them know you appreciate them.
Comments: mrvarner@ix.netcom.com.

California Bluegrass Association Membership Application

Name: _____ Spouse or 2nd member: _____

Address _____

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Email: _____

Single membership (\$25/yr) ___# of years With Spouse/other added (\$30/yr) ___# of years Teens 16-18, voting (\$5/yr) ___# of years

Life-long membership (\$750) _____ Life-long membership, couple (\$1000) _____

Birthdate (if senior citizen): _____

Credit card info (if paying by check, attach to form) **Visa M/C Discover** _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

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Membership includes the Bluegrass Breakdown, and discount prices for all CBA sponsored festivals and concerts. **Prices subject to change without notice. Out of United States? Postal rates may be higher, please inquire.**

For information, call 831-233-0448 or email cba.membership14@gmail.com

Yes, it's true, honey. If we become CBA members we'll be part of the largest bluegrass/old-time music association in the world. So many young people choose to become musicians because of their programs. They might try and talk you into playing the banjo, so look out.



California Bluegrass Association Bluegrass Breakdown

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Band memberships are only available for the out of state bands; cost is \$40. Subscription to the *Bluegrass Breakdown* without membership is available only to foreign locations. Third class postage is paid at Stockton, California. *Bluegrass Breakdown* (USPS 315-350). Postmaster please send address changes to: *Bluegrass Breakdown*, P.O. Box 152 San Ramon, CA 94583. Copy and advertising deadline is the 1st of the month, one month prior to publication (i.e. February deadline is January 1st, etc).

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Please send all contributions and advertisements to:
Mark Varner, editor - P.O. Box 1245, Boulder Creek, CA 95006
831-338-0618 -- email mrvarner@ix.netcom.com
Visit our Web Site at: www.cbaweb.org

- Editor..... Mark Varner
- Publicity Director..... Bruce Campbell
- Columnist..... Roger Siminoff
- Columnist..... Allan French
- Columnist..... Eileen Kleinschmidt
- Columnist..... Darby Brandli
- Columnist..... Cliff Compton
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- Photography..... Randy Shelton, Bob Calkins, Mike Melnyk
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- Recording Reviews & Interviews..... Brenda Hough

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Display Advertising	Black & White ads	Four color ads
Full Page- 10" wide X 12.75" high.....	\$255.00	\$320.00
Half Page - horizontal -- 10" wide X 6.5" tall	\$144.00	\$180.00
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Business Card - 2 columns wide (3 7/8") X 2" tall ..	\$35.00	\$45.00

Flyer insertion is available. Inquire for cost. Other sizes of advertising are available. Discount pricing is applied to pre-paid ads running 3 months, 6 months or 12 months. Please call 831-338-0618 or email: mrvarner@ix.netcom.com for further information.

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Advertising proofs can be FAXed or e-mailed upon request if typesetting and/or layout is required. Please allow at least 5 extra days for production.

Special rates are in place for festival issues, due to the greater amount of issues printed and copies distributed. This is usually 200% of the regular rate, but the Board of Directors of the CBA reserves the right to change the policy at their discretion. Please contact the Editor for more details.

Classified Advertising

The current rates for classified ads are based on 3 1/2 inches of typed copy and are as follows: \$8.00 for the first three lines and 50¢ for each additional line.

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P.O. Box 1245, Boulder Creek, CA 95006
Phone 831-338-0618 or email mrvarner@ix.netcom.com

California youth in music

The Rambling Minors: hot young band opens for Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper

By Deanna Kerr

No one expected me, a mom, to be a bass star in a kid's bluegrass band. It turns out, I am still not a star. But, I did play bass on the outskirts of the limelight when the Rambling Minors, a group of child prodigies, opened for Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper on February 26 at the Elks Lodge Theater in Alameda.

Cleveland's fiddle playing blew everybody away, as usual. He is the best in the business and is the winner of the International Bluegrass Music Association's Fiddle Performer of the Year award for the 10th time. But what surprised bluegrass fans was the opening show; four kids (plus one mom) stood on stage with as much poise and professionalism as adults and played a song and a tune.

The audience loved it. Mark Haskett, CBA member, was sitting on the front row. He stood after the kids finished and held up his index finger. "How about one more?" he said to the audience. Applause erupted and the Rambling Minors returned to the microphones.

The story of how the prodigies merged into a band began way before they met. Each of the kids won the hearts of bluegrass fans when they performed as lead musicians in their respective family bands. They then went on to accumulate a list of personal credits.

Fiddle player and vocalist, Miles Quale, is 12 years old. He has been collecting medals from fiddle contests for years. Currently, he is the 2015 3rd place winner of the California

State Fiddle contest in the junior-junior division.

Multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, D'Jango Ruckrich is 12 years old and is no stranger to the stage. He was the youngest performer on the Youth Stage at MerleFest in North Carolina when he was five and six years old. He has also been featured ten times on KVMR 89.5 FM in Nevada City.

Nine-year-old mandolin player and vocalist, Teo Quale, is also an accomplished fiddler. He placed 2nd in both the California State Fiddle contest and the National Old-time Fiddle contest in Weiser, ID. He also won 2nd place in the 2015 junior division of the Western Open picking contest.

Daisy Kerr is an 11-year-old singer and guitar player. She is the

2015 1st place winner in the junior picking division at the California State Old-time Fiddler's Association contest in Oroville. She was the youngest participant in the Kids on Bluegrass program at the International Bluegrass Music Association World of Bluegrass showcase in 2015.

The kids' personal accomplishments are due in large part to the support they receive not only from their families, but also from the mentors they met through the California Bluegrass Association. CBA's Youth Program provided the kids opportunities to develop into accomplished musicians and then go on to form a band.

D'Jango Ruckrich, Miles Quale, Teo Quale, and Daisy Kerr met in the Kids on Bluegrass program at CBA's Father's Day Bluegrass Festival last year. The kids spent the week jamming together. When the festival was over, nobody wanted the fun to end. The three families decided to meet at the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass festival and let the kids make their debut as a band on the Tweener stage.

The kids' debut was the first step toward merging the four individual prodigies into a team. Since then, they have been meeting once a month to perform and develop their music into a collective sound.

The Rambling Minors went on to perform at farmers markets throughout the Bay Area and in Grass Valley. They played on KVMR 89.5 FM in Nevada City and appeared at events such

as Izzy Tooinski's Kids Cabaret in Nevada City.

The more the Rambling Minors played together, the more apparent it became that the kids needed a bass player. This was a moment some bluegrass parents wait for all their lives: a chance to stand on the outskirts of their child's limelight. Fortunately for me, I happened to be the most qualified for the job. In addition to being Daisy Kerr's mom, I was also the only one who owned a bass. Boy oh boy! Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would turn into a bass-playing star. (At least Daisy thinks I am a star.)

I played with the Rambling Minors on KPFA 94.1 FM in Berkeley and at the Northern California Bluegrass Awards in Redwood City. The greatest highlight of my bass career culminated at the show in Alameda with Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper.

My career as bass player with the Rambling Minors was destined to be short-lived. Technically, I am not a minor. (Please take note of my deep, dramatic sigh.) Andrew Osborn, however, is a bona fide minor and an incredible bass player. D'Jango Ruckrich, Miles Quale, Teo Quale, Daisy Kerr and I are pleased to welcome him. He will, in fact, complete the Rambling Minors' overall sound and bring the band to a whole new level.

The individual band members of the Rambling Minors have been winning the hearts of bluegrass fans for years. Now that D'Jango Ruckrich, Miles Quale, Teo Quale, Daisy Kerr and Andrew Osborne have merged into a band . . . well . . . let's just say there is going to be a lot more fun in the future.



The Rambling Minors on stage in Alameda. Miles Quale - fiddle; D'Jango Ruckrich - guitar; Daisy Kerr - guitar; Teo Quale - mandolin; and "band mom" Deanna Kerr on bass. - Photo: Chris Quale

Berkeley to Berklee, Bluegrass to New Jazz: Summer Student Prepares for a Life of Music

By Bryan Parys
Berklee School of Music

This past summer, bassist Max Schwartz came from his home in Berkeley, California, to study as a student in the Five-Week Summer Performance Program with a plan as well as an open mind. A 17-year-old about to enter his senior year of high school, Schwartz knew that the program would help him carve a path toward being a career musician.

And yet, Schwartz is far from a typical high school senior. When he arrived at the Five-Week program, he had just flown in from a two-week tour of Europe as part of the the California Jazz Conservatory's Jazzschool Studio Band, playing top-notch jazz festivals in France, Switzerland, and Italy. And on the heels of the program, Schwartz was invited to play with Laurie Lewis and the Right Hands at the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival in San Francisco.

So, when he said of his plans to attend a Berklee summer program, "I want to make sure I'm in the best

musical situation for the various things I want to do," you know he's not messing around. In that sense, he wasn't surprised how much he strengthened his craft through working closely with Berklee faculty such as Bruno Raberg, Lauck Benson, and Daryl Lowery.

A World of Music in One Zip Code

What he didn't expect was how much of the world would open up to him just walking down the sidewalk. "One of the best things about being here—and it was a little bit shocking—is that you walk past 10 languages on the way to class," he said. "There's so much culture here. I've been jamming with some people from the Dominican Republic, made friends from Israel, Mexico, Puerto Rico. I just keep learning about people's musical backgrounds."

(Blue)Grass Roots

For Schwartz, enthusiasm for cross-genre expression comes naturally. He first picked up a stringed

instrument (a guitar, in this case) at the Father's Day Bluegrass Festival in Grass Valley, California, when he was in first grade, and he knew right away he wanted in. At the time, his father and brother were learning instruments, and before long, a family bluegrass band had emerged and Schwartz was gigging and recording.

It may seem an odd genesis story when you look at where the bluegrass-pluckin' Schwartz has traveled since, as he's landed top gigs as a bassist for the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Orchestra and Combo, the CBDA California All-State Jazz Band, and the Grammy Jazz Combo.

An Open-Ended Process

"It's two separate vibes," he says of his jazz and bluegrass predilections. In his own compositions, however, those vibes come together in innovative ways, as a brief scan of his Soundcloud page will prove. For example, he might combine the simplicity of a bluegrass melody with the complexity of a jazz harmony, and end up with something that sounds more like funk. "I try not to get in

my own way, and let the song be what it is," he says of his process, and it's that attitude that allowed him to take so much from his summer experience at Berklee.

"There's so much value in the

progression of writing music," he said, and being at Berklee gave him the chance to see "just how much music is out there that I'm not aware of. There's so much to be discovered and so much to learn."



Bassist Max Schwartz came to the Five-Week Summer Performance Program to further his skills and discovered a world of new influences.

- Photo by Kelly Davidson

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK - Darby Brandli, CBA President



Darby Brandli

I am late again getting my April President's Message to editor Mark Varner and am going to insert instead a review I wrote about our first ever CBA Youth Program fundraising concert held February 26th in Alameda CA. We made a couple hundred dollars for the Youth Program and probably will put together another similar event in the future and maybe make more money. We met our goals: we produced a wonderful concert with great sound for a large number of attendees at a new venue.

I am pretty proud of the event in Alameda and think it might be useful to describe the process we went through to produce an event just in case there are other members who would like to do the same thing in their own part of our great State. We start fundraising for the CBA Youth Program scholarship fund in October each year. I was looking for schemes other than begging individual members for checks and in September I had contacted Jim Roe (the agent for Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper) to float an idea for a fundraising concert in February by adding another date to the tour already in the works by Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper. I knew that they were starting their tour with the Morgan Hill concert on Saturday, February 27th. I asked Jim if we could meet at IBMA in Raleigh to work out some details and that I had nothing but an idea: no space, no budget and definitely no expertise in producing a concert. Jim assured me that we were both smart and could probably figure something out.

Board member Geoff Sargent and I had been talking about possible concert spaces in the East Bay for a number of months. For the

last few years it has been almost impossible to find space for touring bluegrass bands to perform and we had been talking about starting a CBA concert series in the East Bay. Neither of us had the time nor the expertise to produce concerts but we did have access to the Board of Directors of the CBA and we knew agents and lots of bands were always contacting us. The CBA has insurance and pays annual BMI and ASCAP fees. We also knew others who might be interested in helping us make this pipedream a reality.

Geoff called me to tell me his friend and CBA member Mark Haskett was a member of the Alameda Elks Lodge and was inviting us to take a look at their venue. I called CBA Lifetime member Butch Waller and asked him to join us for a tour and to give his opinion about the space. I also asked CBA member Jacob Groopman to come along for the ride. I wanted band members to give an opinion about the space. Jacob has been working with us on Youth Program events (he has managed all the Youth Academies thus far as well) and as a younger CBA member he could let us know if the space would appeal to a younger audience demographic than the demographic Geoff, Butch and I represented. We toured, were wowed, spoke to the manager of the Lodge and found that the venue was available on the date (February 26th) I was thinking about, the price to rent was reasonable and they were willing to rent to us. I then called Paul Knight to ask him to check the space out for sound possibilities and asked about his availability. I knew Paul was probably in town because he was doing the sound for Morgan Hill. I also wanted

the best sound possible for a first concert. Paul drove to Alameda the next week, gave the venue his thumbs up and agreed to work "on spec" for this first ever concert.

I went to Raleigh with a possible space, a definite date and great sound production and spoke to Jim Roe who agreed to let us give the concert a shot and we booked the band with a promise of a percentage of the gate (after a guess at expenses to pay for the venue and sound and advertising). To be fair, the CBA has a great track record with Jim and we are known for being hardworking and honorable. Jim Roe also appreciates what the CBA Youth Program does.

The Board of Directors agreed to let the CBA Youth Program "gamble" on this event and approved a budget and we signed a contract with the Elks Lodge and Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper. CBA members Ted Kuster and Jess Poteralski jumped in and created artwork for advertising and a flyer and Ted ordered posters and flyers on his own credit card. I had been working with the Freight & Salvage since early autumn (see article in this issue) and they volunteered to and advertised our event on their website and in a emailer to their mailing list.

I knew I wanted a youth band to open the concert and I knew I wanted to market to all the East Bay kids who were taking fiddle lessons and who I believed needed an opportunity to see Michael Cleveland live in concert. CBA members Catherine and Chad Manning readily agreed to advertise to their population at Manning Music. CBA member and Alameda resident Mariaelena Quale volunteered to be on our team and asked if we would

be interested in the Rambling Minors opening for the concert. We jumped on that offer immediately. The Rambling Minors are Teo and Miles Quale (Alameda), D'jango Ruchrich (Grass Valley) and Daisy Kerr (Placerville) and all are participants of our Kids on Bluegrass or attendees of the CBA Youth Academy and Daisy was invited by Kim Fox to appear with the Kids on Bluegrass in Raleigh last year. We immediately called CBA member Ray Edlund to book the Rambling Minors on his KPFA Sunday radio show, Pig in a Pen, the Sunday before the event and he said "yes." We asked CBA member Peter Barnato of Alameda (McGrath's and the Frog and Fiddle) to join us to help us with advertising in Alameda.

We were off. Gary Mansperger agreed to come to the concert and help us with our gate (he is our tix.com expert), Jacob Groopman volunteered to handle all our Facebook advertising while touring with his band Front Country all over the US. Maria Quale was our secret weapon because a mother of three boys who travels via minivan everywhere everyday and always has flyers or posters and can call or text to contact local newspapers while waiting for kids to finish soccer or music lessons or playdates is exactly what we needed to spread the word.

There was definitely some nail biting and anxious moments. We all contacted all our friends. The Bluegrass Breakdown and CBAWeb.org helped immensely. We knew that bluegrass events in the Bay Area were risky business and getting people out to a new venue in a new city was risky. We knew that our gate price was inexpensive and that we were marketing free tickets as well so there wasn't much margin. The

week before the concert we knew we were going to be able to pay the band, pay the sound guy and pay the opening band (we had already paid for the venue). The night of the concert we checked 302 people in through the door. The entire volunteer team bought tickets. CBA member Chuck Poling volunteered to emcee as did new Teen Ambassador John Gooding. The room at night was gorgeous and it was full! The sound was great. There were children everywhere. Chuck Poling said the dancers at the front of the stage "looked like a mosh pit of Disney Princesses." Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper were HOT and gave the crowd a fabulous show.

We are pretty proud of what we accomplished. The East Bay can bring bluegrass fans out for an exciting evening of music to a venue no one has ever heard of. It was an enormous amount of work but with all our hardworking Bay Area CBA members we can accomplish a lot. A large number of children and families were able to experience the amazing Michael Cleveland. We didn't make much money but we didn't lose any either. My sleeping four year old "Dancing Disney Princess" granddaughter was carried out to our car by lead singer and guitar player Josh Richards at the end of the evening. I think we will try another concert when she is five.

Minutes of the February 13, 2016 - California Bluegrass Association Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tim Edes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 13, 2016, at the Nadauld home, 1853 Highland Blvd., Hayward, CA 94542.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

David Brace, Tim Edes, Mikki Feeney, Mark Hogan, Maria Nadauld, Larry Phegley, Geoffrey Sargent, Jim Ingram, Steve Goldfield

Board Members Absent:

Montie Elson, Dave Gooding
Officers Present: Valerie Cornejo, Colleen Hogan, Carl Pagter

Members Present:

Steve Slagle, Bill Meiners & Megan Lynch (beginning of meeting)

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved with six additions.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2016 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the January

9, 2016 minutes were approved as written.

PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON UNAGENDIZED ITEMS

The board approved donations to the Bluegrass Museum and the Bluegrass Foundation as requested by Carl Pagter.

OLD BUSINESS

FDI Program Quotes

The board approved a bid submitted by Gary Sugiyama to produce the 2016 Fathers' Day Program. Bluegrass Breakdown editor Mark Varner will gather the program specifics and provide Gary with the information.

Great 48 Final Report

Larry Phegley presented the financials for the Great 48. The CBA lost a small amount of money on the event. This is the first year the CBA produced t-shirts. Enough were sold to more than cover the cost.

GV Streaming Update

The lack of adequate bandwidth at the festival site continues to be a problem. Unless we can find a higher speed service at the fairgrounds, the project will be put on hold for now.

Alameda Concert Update

Everything is on track for the Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper concert in Alameda on February 26th. It's likely we'll hit the goal of 200 tickets. A kid's band is opening. This is a fundraiser for the CBA Youth Program.

Bill & Faye Downs Super-Volunteer Awards

The board agreed to limit the super volunteer awards to no more than two per year to keep it as a special honor, including the benefit of sitting in the designated seating area in front of the stage. One nomination was made and approved at the meeting.

Spring Campout Budget

Campout Coordinators Vaughn and Glenda Lew are work-

ing on the details of the Spring Campout. The board approved a small budget to purchase signs and supplies.

Strategic Planning

A copy of the strategic plan follow-up items from 2006 and a proposed growth plan from 2007 was handed out for board members to review before the next meeting on March 13 meeting in Petaluma.

Shingle Springs Concert

Tim Edes reported that the Edgar Loudermilk concert in Shingle Springs went well. Although it lost a small amount of money, it was not a significant loss for a first-time concert. A question came up about including ASCAP & BMI fees in the budgets for smaller concerts and festivals. Assistant Treasurer Valerie Cornejo will look into it.

Sponsorship Levels

The board approved a new sponsorship matrix for the Father's Day Festival with levels ranging from \$100 to \$1200.

NEW BUSINESS

Entertainment Budget

The entertainment budget for Father's Day Festival 2017 was approved.

Honoring Cuzin Al

The board approved the expense to create a plaque to be awarded to Cuzin Al in acknowledgement of his contributions to the bluegrass community. The plaque will be presented at an event honoring him at KPIG Studios in Watsonville.

2016 Old Time Gathering

The budget for the Old Time Gathering at Grass Valley was approved. There is no direct revenue attributed to the event but expenses are minimal.

Jan & Harold Crawford Donation

Jan & Harold Crawford will be given two passes to the FDI 2016 for their in-kind gift of two cases of mixed bluegrass CDs, to be used at the board's discretion.

Continued on A-7

Mountain Redbird Music Announces New CD from James Reams & The Barnstormers

The long awaited and much anticipated new release from James Reams & The Barnstormers is finally here! Rhyme & Season is now available online at CDBaby and Amazon. Music reviewer Donald Teplyske of Fervor Coulee, had this to say about the pre-release single "Songbird" from the album: "If you don't know James [Reams], you don't know bluegrass!" The songs range from high-energy, mind-blowing licks and lyrics to tender waltzes and ballads. There's truly something for everyone on this album.

Celebrated author and IBMA Media Person of the Year, Gary Reid, provided the liner notes for Rhyme & Season. He commented, "That James so eloquently journaled his pilgrim's journey in music and song is a testament to his resilience and staying power... We can be thankful that James Reams' life storms converged to give birth, rebirth, to the collection of songs called Rhyme & Season. The journey has been his, but we are the lucky recipients."

According to James, "Sometimes it seems that there's no rhyme or reason to the seasons of our lives. It's so easy to lose our way. This album reflects several aspects of my own personal journey while connecting with the journeys of so many across the US. My intention is to embrace a wide range of human emotion from

happiness and love to loss and sorrow, and over it all to express the hope I feel about the future."

James chose to include up-tempo songs like "Long Gone Out West Blues" to remind us that we have the option to start over when life falls apart and ballads like "\$100 Funeral" that increase awareness about those who got lost in the shuffle. Most of the songs on the album celebrate the free and independent spirit that lives within everyone and especially flourishes in folks like truck drivers, train hoppers, and wanderers. Overall, Rhyme & Season is an upbeat album that speaks of hope and encourages tolerance and understanding.

As an added benefit, a portion of the sales proceeds from Rhyme & Season will be donated to Circle the City. This Arizona charity provides medical respite care for homeless veterans and other folks that have nowhere to go after they are released from the hospital. Organizations like this are located throughout the US and James hopes others will be encouraged to become involved in supporting the work of these inspiring charitable operations.

Get your copy of Rhyme & Season today and be a part of the buzz surrounding this heart-warming (and heart racing!) new album from James Reams & The Barnstormers!

AJ Lee to headline opening weekend segment of the 2016 Modesto Unplugged Music Festival

By Aaron Rowan

A 6-time Best Female Vocalist at the Northern California Bluegrass Awards, AJ is one of the brightest young bluegrass stars of the San Joaquin Valley. AJ and

her band will headline a MUMFest showcase on Sunday April 3 at 3 PM, at the Center Stage Conservatory, a basement theater space at 948 11th St. in downtown Modesto.

Jason Winfree, lead guitar & vocalist for Red Dog Ash, will open the concert in a special duo act featuring his daughter Ida.

Admission is \$15. For more info on the festival, visit www.modestounplugged.com

Also, Faux Renwah will be headlining our opening night on Saturday 4/2.

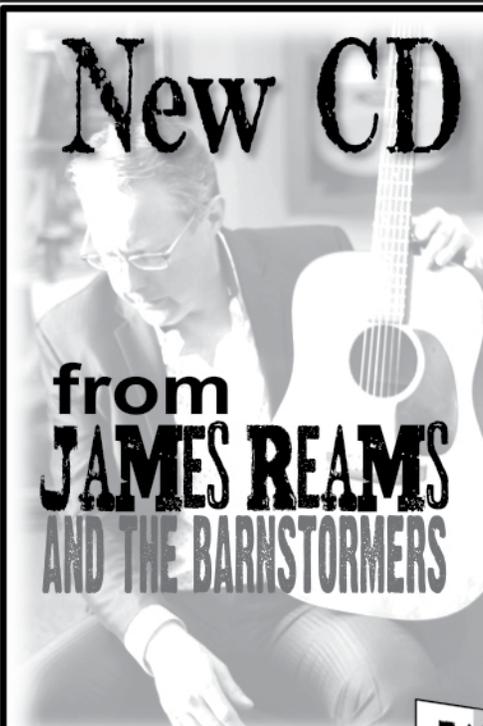
Hailing from California's gold country, this popular family band boasts an impressive repertoire of Old Time and original tunes, ranging from authentic Gold Rush songs of the 1850's to favorites from the 1960's and beyond, which they mix with a sprinkling of Irish and American fiddle tunes.

Americana/folk artists Hannah Jane Kile, and The Jespersens, will also perform. 7 PM at 1324 Coldwell Ave. in Modesto. \$10.



AJ Lee and her band perform at Modesto festival.

New CD



from
JAMES REAMS
AND THE BARNSTORMERS

We can all be thankful that James Reams' life storms converged to give birth, and rebirth, to the collection of songs called Rhyme & Season. The journey has been his but we are the lucky recipients.

- Gary Reid
IBMA Media Person of the Year 2015

www.jamesreams.com

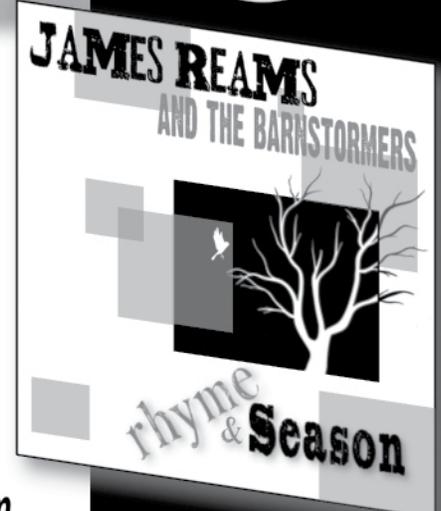
"If you don't know James [Reams], you don't know bluegrass"

- Donald Teplyske, Fervor Coulee

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Do you have a child who would like to participate in the Kids on Bluegrass Program?



The Kids on Bluegrass program, under the direction of Frank Solivan, Sr., takes place at the CBA Fathers Day Bluegrass Festival in Grass Valley, California and under the title of Kids on Bluegrass.

Frank Solivan, Sr. has been directing this program for approximately 19 years and he and his kids consistently delight audiences with high quality and highly talented young people.

This program is open to children ages 3 to 17. The children must be able to sing and/or play their instrument WITHOUT parents or guardians help. Songs MUST be completely memorized (again without help). Children must have good enough understanding of their instrument to have good timing, know their chords and be able to change chords quickly, easily play 2 or three songs and the ability to play in a group.

Rehearsal takes place many hours during the day for several days at each festival and culminates in a stage production on the main stage at each festival. Parents and children must be ready to commit to all of the rehearsals.

To find out if your child is ready to participate in this wonderful program, visit Frank Solivan, Sr. at his campsite at any one of these festivals.

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Minutes of the February 13, 2016 - California Bluegrass Association Board Meeting

From Page A-5

REPORTS

Executive Committee Report – Edes, Hogan, Elston, Sargent

Geoff Sargent reported that the Executive Committee did not take any significant actions between meetings.

Membership Report – Larry Phegley

Larry Phegley reported that membership is starting to climb as we ramp up to the FDF. He has processed 80 memberships so far in February. The current membership number is 2,738.

Treasurer's Report – Montie Elston

Assistant Treasurer Valerie Cornejo handed out the current Balance Sheet and P&L in Montie Elston's absence. There is a lot of income lately due to FDF and Music Camp sales coming in, but there is significant commitment against that income. The board approved changing the reports to a month-end closing period. There are some procedural issues that need to be clarified regarding financial practices for concerts and events. Valerie agreed to put together a bullet point list of guidelines for everyone to follow.

Music Camp Report – Geoff Sargent

Registration for music camp opened on Feb 7th and is doing very well so far. The expense for an additional easy-up was approved.

Youth Program Report – Darby Brandli

Darby Brandli was not present but emailed her report:

--Registration opens 2/15 for the Youth Academy. New kids are continuing to come in as others "age out".

--Members of Steep Ravine will be part of the faculty this year.

--Kathleen Rushing is on board for FunGrass and KidFest.

--We are looking at adding a Youth Jamming area in addition to the Teen Jamming area. Both these areas will be in tent camping. There will be designated hours for the Youth Jams that will be spelled out in the publications as soon as the logistics are worked out.

--Whit Washburn in looking into how often security checks need to be re-run on volunteers who work with the Youth Program.

Area Activities VP Reports

Mark Hogan (North Bay) –

Plans for the SCB&FF are coming along well. He has booked Lagunitas Brewing Co. for the board meeting the next day starting at 11 AM. The Cloverdale Fiddle Festival scheduled for April 2nd has been cancelled due to a scheduling problem with the Citrus Fairgrounds. More people from out of area are attending the weekly jam in Sebastopol. Mark recently fixed

up and sold one of the "throwaway" banjos from the CBA Lending Library. Proceeds go back to the library.

Larry Phegley (South Bay/Monterey Bay) –

Larry has a lot going on in his area: Claire Lynch in Santa Cruz, 2/27 Night at the Grange; 3/19 High Country. The jam in his area is going well.

Mikki Feeney reported that changes were made to the web calendar to make it easier for Area Activities VPs and others to post events and jams. Mikki manages the CBA's web calendar.

President's Report

--The CBA is participating at the Berkeley Bluegrass Festival May 20-22 at the Freight & Salvage. We will have an informational table all three days. At least two "teen bands" will perform.

--Whit Washburn in helping Randy January rewrite the Lending Library contract.

--Darby is attending Leadership Bluegrass in March in Nashville.

Chairman's Report – Tim Edes

--Tim reported that he has closed advance ticket sales for the Grange concert but there will be a limited number sold at the door. There's been a lot of interest this year and

lots of sponsors.

--He proposed the idea of letting seniors (70+) into the inner fairgrounds early to put their chairs down at the FDF. He and David Brace will work on defining the procedure.

CONFIRM TIME AND PLACE FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is set for Sunday March 13th at 11:00 AM, Lagunitas Brewery, 1280 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Minutes by Colleen Hogan, CBA Secretary

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paper and
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from www.
cbaweb.org*

CBA thanks its supporters

List compiled by Larry Phegley,
CBA Membership Coordinator

New Members

Nathan Bryant and Katia Senff
Larry Burch
Bill and Konnie Collins
Josh Cronemeyer and Emily Hippert
Nichole and Jubal England
Mark Fenichel
Rosane Fields
Gloria Gould-Wessen
John Hall
Kim Hastings
Kimberly Hines
Sharon and Nicholas Khadder
Sherrel and Penny Kirk
Clinton and Judy Kneeland
Carmela Kouretas
Monty and Kevin Kurek
Kenneth Martin
Greg Matson and Sandy Wright
Dan and Jean McCorquodale
Jim Murphy
Thomas Nelson and Sarah Paine
Alex Porte
Ken Powers
Dave Reynolds
Paul Rosentiel
Marilyn Simpson
Gaylene Smith
Denise Weyl and Daniel Albert
Zach and Megan Zeller

Renewing Members

Leslie Abbott
Gary Anwyl
William Armstrong
Tom Baker
Brian Baker
Dona Baker
Fritz Bech
Robert Beene
Ed and Marilyn Bell
Phil and Karen Boerner
Robert and Diane Breuer
Richard Brislin
Steven Brooks and Barbara Haushalter
Erik and Eva Brotemarkle
Della Susie Brown and Stanley Brown
Kit and Janet Burton
Barbara Byrne
Paul Carignan and Sue Newberry
Harry and Sarah Chalmers
Matthew Coleman
Robert Cornelius and Suzanne Suwanda

Cynthia Crandall
Nick Creed
Cindy Crockett
Scott Crone
Rick Crowder
Nancy and Joe Cruz
Richard Custer and Pam Powell
William Dakin
Marilyn and Grace Ditmanson
Matt Dudman and Jenny Lynn Williams
Brendan and Ruth Duterte
Lyndall Ellingson
Rainy Escobar
Jim and Michelle Fissori
Joyce and Dave Furlong
Bob Galvin
Gail Garabedian
Ian Gilmore
Mark and Annemarie Giuseponi
Ralph Goff
Mark and Heidi Golden
Dee Gregory
Jane Gridley
Boyd Hasik
Topher Heath and Claudette Earl
Walter (Toby) Hickman and Melissa Holton
Rex Higginbotham and Ann Gavey
Robert and Monica Holler
Curtis and Linda Holley
Richard Hough
Robert and Kathryn Huff
Dan Hurlbutt and Joan Sommer
Paul Indman and Fran Saunders
Randy January and Jennifer Flores
Randy and Sally Johnsen
Roger Jones
John Karsemeyer
Rex Kinney
Jill Kirk
Willy Langeveld and Alyssa Prinz
Peter Langston and Tina Webster
Jim Lappin
Russell and Susan Lee
Scott Lesovsky
Loran and April Lester
Leni Liakos
Dorothy and Rich Lierly
John Lytle
Frank and Linda Maire
David and Connie Manning
George and Barbara Martin

Jo Mason
William F and Betty J McCarthy
Liam and Pamela McCloskey
Ashley McKnight and Gina White
Gary Mellinger
Margo and Jonathan Meredith
Anne Merrifield
Leo Michon and Margriet Robinson
Kathy Muno
Ralph and Kay Nelson
Dave Nelson
Jacob Ofman
Manda Olmstead and Jon Taylor
Kelly and Anastasia O'Neill
Maggie and Greg Osborn
Steve Pottier and Susan Cunningham
Barbara Pratt
William Purcell
Lloyd and Mary Raeg
Jeanie and Terry Ramos
Greg and Genie Ramstetter
Duane Retzloff
Bill and Shari Rinehart
James Ronan
Phil Ruckrich and Brenda Shawley
John and Bonnie Ruskauff
Adam Santner
Mamie and Patrick Sauber
Ric and Sue Shafer
Marty and Sandra Shellhammer
Dave Shinn
Rob and Cecelia Shotwell
John W Skaar
Steve Slagle and Debra Clover
Roger Smith
Steve and Gladys Sorensen
John and Cathy Staiti
David Stern
Dennis and Martha Strand
Chuck and Betty Thornton
Suzanne Van Enger
Robert Vasquez
Mary Ann Vincent
Mark Wardenburg and Alana Hunter
Ken and Judie Whitham
Kristen Willis
Jason Winfree and Meg Good
Alice Wiseman
Vicki Wittman
Jim Wren
David Zeff

BERKELEY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL MAY 20-22

FRIDAY MAY 20

**Laurie Lewis
& the Right Hands**

**Vern Williams
Band Alumni**

**Dix Bruce & Jim Nunally
The Blue J's**

SATURDAY MAY 21

Steep Ravine

High Country

Manning Students

Blue Summit

SUNDAY MAY 22

John Jorgenson

Bluegrass Band

w/ Herb Pedersen

Max Schwartz & Pals

The Rita Hosking Trio

Go To Hell Man Clan

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An evening of music with two bluegrass legends: Alan Munde and Bill Evans



Join us for an evening of bluegrass music with Alan Munde and Bill Evans. Performing together for the first time on the Central Coast, this barn concert combines the talents of the two most important and influential bluegrass banjo players of the last several decades.

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Atascadero, CA

“Understanding Bluegrass Technique” 3:30pm (workshop)

“World Class Banjo Artistry - Bluegrass & More” 6:00pm (concert)

Ticketing: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2504731>

Questions: Roger Siminoff, siminoff@siminoff.net, 805.801.8750

Sponsored by Roger and Rosemary Siminoff • All proceeds go to the artists.

(Address and directions will be sent when we confirm your reservations.)

*Workshop attendees who stay for concert will be provided with complimentary pizza dinner.

Promotional flyer with more info? Please email Roger Siminoff - siminoff@siminoff.net

Alan Munde & Bill Evans on tour in CA, April 1-7

Folsom Opry and El Cerrito highlight norCal performances

Banjo legend Alan Munde and that-other-guy-from-California, Bill Evans, are joining forces once again on the West Coast for a special duo tour. The good news for California banjo fans is that this time, they'll be touring up and down the state, playing and teaching from San Diego and Los Angeles up through the Central Coast and the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento areas before arriving to teach at the Walker Creek Music Camp in Petaluma on April 8. This very special, one-of-a-kind concert and teaching tour brings together two of the most important and influential bluegrass banjo players of the last several decades, performing bluegrass, original compositions, fiddle tunes on banjo, beautiful slow songs and much, much more – including their entertainment-defying polka medley. And they're also funny!

Alan Munde began his long career in bluegrass music with the 1968 recording of Poor Richard's Almanac featuring Sam Bush and Wayne Stewart, followed by a traditional grounding in bluegrass music as a member of IBMA Hall of Fame member Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys. In 1972 Alan joined his college picking friend Byron Berline in the forward-leaning bluegrass group Country Gazette. Alan continued as the anchor of the group for 21 years. Along the way, he recorded many highly regarded albums including Banjo Sandwich, and the Festival Favorites series. Alan participated in the 2001 IBMA Instrumental Album of the Year, Knee Deep in Bluegrass. His most recent recording is a

duo CD with mandolin player Billy Bright titled Bright Munde. He taught in the Bluegrass Music Program at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas for 20 years. Alan has also published many instructional books for Mel Bay, instructional DVDs for Texas Music and Video, and participated in music workshops and camps both in America and Europe. To learn more, visit www.almundesbanjocollege.com and www.alanmundegette.com.

Bill Evans is an internationally known five-string banjo life force. As a performer, teacher, writer, scholar and composer, he brings a deep knowledge, intense virtuosity and contagious passion to all things banjo, with thousands of music fans and students from all over the world in a career that spans over thirty-five years. In the last several years, Bill has performed all across North America, Canada, England, Russia and Germany and has appeared with the San Francisco Symphony and on A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor. His books Bluegrass Banjo For Dummies & Banjo For Dummies, are two of the world's most widely read books on the instrument and his 2012 CD In Good Company charted #1 on the Roots Music Report Folk and Bluegrass Charts and the Folk DJ-List charts. Over a forty year performing career, Bill has played with David Grisman, Peter Rowan, David Bromberg, Dry Branch Fire Squad, Hazel Dickens & Alice Gerrard, Tony Trischka, and Jody Stecher, among many others. He has produced numerous instructional DVDs and books for Mel Bay, AcuTab, Homespun Tapes

Continued on A-9

Things dog lovers do

From A-1

ers must be responsible for which of those things they actually get. What dog wouldn't love a chocolatey brownie? The fact that it's poisonous doesn't enter into their decision making. So, when there are brownies in the house, a dog lover will keep that brownie out of the dog's reach - and this may confuse the dog.

"Don't you love me?", the dog will think. "Don't I love YOU unconditionally?"

Just as with little kids, love means sometimes NOT giving the dog what he wants, acting in the dog's best interest. Sometimes you have to hurt your little buddy's feelings.

This logic should come into play when deciding whether or not to bring your dog to the Father's Day Festival. You KNOW the dog wants to come - he wants to go everywhere you go (even the bathroom). You know you enjoy his company almost as much as he enjoys yours, so if dogs are allowed, doesn't this sound like a no-brainer?

It's NOT a no-brainer, because the Father's Day Festival is not like the regular life you and your dog lead. Instead of a familiar stable home environment with familiar amounts of people, places and food with familiar smells, you'll be in an environment where none of these things are normal and familiar. This is stressful for a dog. He will be constantly nervous about food, unfamiliar surroundings, your protection, and your change in behavior - whether he shows it outwardly or not.

Humans can handle this - it's part of the fun. But Fido is nervous and on alert when his companionship/food/sleep/wake cycle is turned upside down. Even a well-trained, docile dog feels these stresses. Even if you're confident your dog will not act inappropriately in this environment, he is stressed. He'd still rather be there than not, but he's not having NEARLY as much fun as you are.

So, think long and hard before bringing your dog to the Father's Day Festival. You (and your beloved dog) may be better served by enduring a few days apart. Your dog will still love you when you come home. If you DO bring your dog, make sure you devote time and attention to mitigating the stresses he's feeling. A dog may be comfortable at your shared home when you're not around, but he won't feel so relaxed when he's not by your side in an unfamiliar place. Think about what's really best for your dog, and act accordingly - and don't let the dog have a vote.

CBA's 2016 Emerging Artist

From A-1

energy instrumentals, powerful vocals, fantastic harmonies, and exciting stage presence won them the spot as CBA Emerging Artist Band at CBA's Father's Day Festival."

Jeff Scroggins and Colorado is a high energy, high mountain "bluegrass explosion," that features the amazing banjo playing of Jeff Scroggins. Jeff's fiery style and lightning fast licks have earned him many fans worldwide, and have left many a first time listener in stunned disbelief! It also features the award winning mandolin playing of Jeff's son Tristan Scroggins. Tristan is also an accomplished songwriter, and his and Jeff's original instrumentals play a large role in the band's unique and energetic sound. The band also features incredible bluegrass vocals, led by the powerful voice of front man Greg Blake. Greg has twice been nominated for SPBGMA's "Traditional Male Vocalist of the Year" award and his phenomenal bluegrass guitar playing has earned him 9 nominations and an amazing 5 consecutive wins as SPBGMA's Guitarist of the Year! Rounding out the band with harmony vocals on fiddle is Portland, OR native, Ellie Hakanson and award winning musician on multiple instruments, Isaac Callender, playing the bass.

Darby Brandli, CBA President said "In 2014 we were introduced to Colorado mandolinist Tristan Scroggins. By 2015 his dad's band had also added the young, talented Ellie Hakanson and the CBA team were really impressed with the band which also featured dad, a national banjo champ and the great award winning singer and guitar player."

Please make this fine band welcome to California at our 2016 Father's Day Bluegrass Festival.

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LESSONS

BANJO LESSONS WITH ALLEN HENDRICKS of Hendricks Banjos, the California Quickstep and formerly of the South Loomis Quickstep. I teach all styles of five-string banjo playing that can be done with finger picks. All levels from rank beginner to accomplished player who may need additional direction to take his or her playing to a higher level. Private individual lessons as well as teaching your group to compliment each other's styles and abilities. I teach at my own private studio in the Sacramento Area. I also teach in my home just north of Placerville. I play banjo, I make banjos, and I sometimes buy and sell banjos and other stringed instruments. For further information or to schedule lesson times, please call 916-614-9145 or 530-622-1953.

Website features many videos

By Carl Carlson, SEBA Member

I am a member of the South East Bluegrass Association, located in Atlanta, GA. Several years ago, just for fun, I put together a free website that is designed to promote bluegrass music among bluegrass fans and "friends" of bluegrass fans.

Since its inception the website library has grown to nearly 3400 videos by over 350 artists and groups representing a wide variety of styles, from traditional to contemporary. New videos are added weekly.

In addition to direct access to the entire library, I have incorporated a Subscription Service, also free, which delivers a new video each day. (There's no spam, and easy opt-in, easy opt-out).

Clearly there are a lot of scheduled activities going on throughout California. Hopefully 'Bluegrass on the Tube' can provide an additional source of entertainment in between live events: www.bluegrassonthetube.com

If you are not already a regular visitor to the site please take a look to see what's new. I would appreciate your feedback.

Alan Munde & Bill Evans on tour in CA, April 1-7

From page A-8

and the Murphy Method. Bill's latest CD release is Songs That Are Mostly Older Than Us recorded with the 84-year old Chattanooga, Tennessee fiddler Fletcher Bright and Norman & Nancy Blake. To learn more, visit www.billevansbanjo.com.

Alan Munde & Bill Evans April 2016 California Tour

Friday, April 1: La Jolla, CA (San Diego area): San Diego Bluegrass Society Concert & Workshops, La Jolla Christian Church, 627 Genter Street. 7 p.m. show, doors at 6:45 p.m. with afternoon workshops from 3:30 to 5 p.m.. Concert admission is free with donations solicited, workshop admission is \$40. Workshop topics TBA. Info at <http://www.sandiegobluegrass.org>.

Saturday, April 2: Culver City, CA (Los Angeles area): Concert & workshop at Boulevard Music, 4316 Sepulveda Blvd. Concert at 8 p.m., doors at 7:30. \$20 admission. Workshop for all levels from 3 to 5 p.m. Phone 310-398-2583 for info and reservations or visit <http://www.boulevardmusic.com/livemusic>.

Sunday, April 3: Atascadero, CA, Roger Siminoff House Concert & Banjo Workshop, address & directions given after making a reservation. Concert at 6 p.m., \$20 admission. Banjo workshop at 3:30 p.m., \$35 admission

includes pizza dinner. Phone 805-801-8750 or email siminoff@siminoff.net or visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2504731> for info and reservations.

Monday, April 4: El Cerrito, CA: Ifshin Violins, 6420 Fairmount Avenue, 7:30 p.m. \$25 admission, reservations recommended by contacting Bill Evans at bill@billevansbanjo.com or phone 510-528-1924. This concert has sold out in previous years!

Wednesday, April 6: Los Gatos, CA: House Concert in the Great Room at the home of Robert Cornelius & Suzanne Suwanda, 24500 Miller Hill Road, 95033. 7:30 p.m. concert, with optional dinner with the musicians at 6 p.m. by reservation only (limited to 40), or bring your own food and picnic on the grounds. Pre-concert jamming starts at 4 p.m. Concert admission \$20, dinner \$20. Phone or text to 408-655-3333 or email suwanda@surfnetc.com for reservations.

Thursday, April 7: Folsom, CA: John Hettinger's Folsom Opry, 113 Puffer Way. Reservations recommended by emailing John at bluegrass@shanuv.com or by phone at 916-990-0719.

Friday to Monday, April 8 to 11: Petaluma, CA, Walker Creek Music Camp. Alan teaches a Bluegrass Banjo Class and Bill teaches a Level 1 & 2 Bluegrass Jam Class. Info at <http://www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org>.

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Parkfield update

By Julio Boysenberry

A very pleasant surprise awaits Parkfield attendees, this year. Some dear friends of mine from North Carolina are bringing their band to perform: Mark and Sherri Criminger and their band, JUG TUCKER. I met the Crimingers a couple of

years ago when they were out west; Sherri is a traveling nurse, and they stopped by a BMSCC meeting one Monday evening and later came to a monthly jam that Len Jalbert and I host. While not a big-name in bluegrass, they have appeared on the cover of North Carolina's OUR

STATE magazine, and are quite well-known back there. Here's a tidbit of a correspondence from Mark: "Hey Man...Really glad to get those monthly updates. We are so looking forward to pickin' with you and all of our friends at Parkfield. We have been lucky enough to be

included with and considered to be pickin' with our old friend Joe Craven and his daughter, Hattie, at The Little Lake Grange New Years Eve. in Wil-lits CA. and opening for IBMA artists Edgar Loudermilk and Jeff Autry on Feb. 30th up in Mendocino. We can't wait to see

you and jam." Their approachability and friendliness are boundless. They will be joined by a local fiddler from Arroyo Grande, Ryan McKinley. Jug Tucker is known for kicking off in a frenzy and not letting up until everyone is on their feet dancing. The band's set lists often include upbeat covers of Bill Monroe and Benny Goodman, songs that showcase their accomplished picking, instrumentation, and three-part vocal harmonies. You will enjoy their original and traditional renditions and do talk with them and get to know them, as I have.

Yet another very pleasant surprise this year will be another group of youngsters. AJ Lee is a well known bluegrass artist, a 6-time award winner for Best Female Vocalist by the Northern California Bluegrass Society. She performs music as a singer/songwriter and mandolinist with several working bands from all around California. Since the age of 5, AJ has been performing in the Bay Area as well as nationally and internationally. Some of her accomplishments include singing the national anthem at the O'Reilly Raceway in Indiana, featuring in the Mother Jones' article, "Could this kid be the next Alison Krauss?", co-hosting a segment of the informational DVD, "Discover Bluegrass," performing as a guest artist for KTVU's Bay Area People, and the release of her first solo album "A Song For Noah."

Jesse Fichman began playing guitar in fifth grade with Sonoma County band, "The Mighty Chiplings," and soon thereafter was hopping around California bluegrass festivals with his friends, becoming immersed in the music and community. Outside of music, Fichman enjoys birding, basketball, eating, and hanging out with friends. He is currently attending UC Santa Cruz as a junior and is majoring in Ecology and Evolution while taking music theory classes on the side. Isacc Cornelius lives in Santa Cruz and plays bass in numerous bands in the area. Jess Persone-ni is a personal friend of mine whom I met last year while working with Amaya Rose's group, Goldrush. Literally, he mentioned that, "you can make stuff up about me! Haha, thanks a lot." Jesse is a strong banjo player who has mastered most banjo styles; I personally regard his Reno-style picking as particularly outstanding and he is a joy to behold and with whom to converse. Together, their sets promise to shine every bit as brightly as our headliners'.

Be sure to check out the latest news on the new Parkfield website: www.parkfieldbluegrass.com



REDWOOD BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATES

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Jayme Stone's
Lomax Project

"A musical evangelist, Stone loves using fresh approaches to get people hooked on wider musical traditions." - Roger Levesque, *Edmonton Journal*

Jayme Stone has twice won a Juno (Canada's Grammy), and his award-winning albums both defy and honor the banjo's long role in the world's music, turning historical connections into compelling music. His Lomax Project focuses on songs collected by folklorist and field recording pioneer Alan Lomax, and brings together some of North America's most distinctive and creative roots musicians to revive, recycle, and re-imagine a wide variety of traditional music.

"A truly inventive spin on some very old tunes." - Alexander Varty, *Georgia Straight*



Future Winter/Spring 2016 Show

May 7, 2016: The Tuttles with A.J. Lee

Shows take place at the Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View.

All shows take place on Saturday evenings

5:00 pm: open jam (with a facilitator and bass player)

7:00 pm: doors open

7:30 pm: showtime!

Advance ticket prices are as follows:

\$22 - adults

\$20 - seniors

\$12.50 - teens, students

Door ticket prices are as follows:

\$25 - adults and seniors

\$15 - teens, students

Free - under 13, all music students

To purchase tickets in advance:

- By Mail: RBA, PO Box 390515, Mountain View, CA 94039. Please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope with your check or money order and be sure to tell us how many tickets you want to order and for which shows. Any mail orders received less than 10 days prior to the show will be held at the door
- We have a new online ticket vendor this year. There are no customer charges for online ticket orders - the price you see is the price you pay.
- Tickets will also be available at Gryphon Stringed Instruments at least one month before each show.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.rba.org or 650-691-9982



BLUEGRASS

PAR AVION



Bluegrass news and notes from Europe by Lilly Pavlak

Monogram - outstanding band from the Czech Republic celebrates 25 years of bluegrass

By Lilly Pavlak

Monogram is one of the most talented bluegrass bands in the Czech Republic. It was formed in 1991 by gifted teenage musicians, the Jahoda brothers, Jarda –banjo and Zdenek –mandolin and the guitar player Jakub Racek. There have been several bass players in the band through the years. The latest is Pavel Lzicar.

I saw Monogram for the first time at the festival Holansky Kapr in the Czech Republic in 1992. Of course I was thrilled by their young, predatory talents. And they have had my support since.

They were introduced to European audiences for the first time at the Bluegrass Family Festival in Switzerland in 1994 and for American audiences they played the IBMA Fan Fest in 2005.

In 2011 they went to the USA again, this time for an IBMA showcase. They received a warm welcome everywhere they went; audiences loved these pleasant young men.

Monogram is now one of the leading bluegrass groups in Europe today. They performed at the most prestigious festivals and won the La Roche Bluegrass festival band contest in 2008. Their members have been honoured with an Instrumentalist of the Year Awards from Czech Bluegrass Association many times along with the top award for guitar and mandolin at the SPBGMA competition held in Vienna in 1998. Known as one of the most powerful vocal groups on the European bluegrass scene, the band members write the majority of their songs. They have released five albums so far, the current one is called Take it Easy.

In 2012 Jakub Racek left the band and for a while they went silent. Early in 2014 the band rose again with two new young members - great songwriter, singer and guitar player Jindra Vinkler and violin player Pepa Malina, the youngest of the three gifted Malina brothers.

Band history

Their first recording "MONOGRAM Bluegrass Music" (Ji-Ho-Music 010) came out in 97. By that time Zbynek Bures played the bass and was responsible for the most songs on it. He left Monogram shortly after the album was finished to concentrate fully on his own band RELIEF, where he plays banjo. He also is one of the best Czech bluegrass songwriters.

They were selected as one of the 4 alternate bands for the IBMA showcases in Louisville 98. Unfortunately no band cancelled.

In the same year they toured Great Britain and were there celebrated as a Bluegrass Band of The Year 1998. They attended the European World of Bluegrass (EWOB) in Holland in 99 and you may find them on the compilation EWOB 99 with their song "Restless".

Monogram's second recording SIESTA came out in 2000. It contains eleven pieces written by J.Rodrigues, James Taylor, Liz Meyer, and 6 of their original tunes written by Jakub, Jarda and Zdenek. I like the most the Jarda's instrumental Guthrie in the Rain inspired by the last Oklahoma trip with Nugget.

Their third recording, named Cestou Odyssea came out in 2004. The fourth, Hit the Road followed in 2010. The latest release Take it Easy came out recently-

The band

Zdenek Jahoda was voted the "mandolin player of the year" for the first time at the age of 17 and since then awarded several times as a Mandolin Player of the Year in a survey of the Czech Bluegrass Association. In 1998 he got an award by SPBGMA as the Best European Mandolin Player. He has worked with many music bands like Bill Keith, Chris Jones, Blanket, Druha Trava, Fragment, whom with he even played in the famous Nashville Grand Ole Opry in 2000 on their U.S. Tour. He is often invited as a studio player with Petr Spálený, Daniel Landa, Daniel Hůlka, Jitka Molavcová and others. At the present time is he member of bands Nugget, Groovy Lix, Jimmy Bozeman and The Lazy Pigs. He plays a Krishot mandolin.

In late summer 2000 he also started to play with Fragment, with whom he went to the U.S. tour. They performed at the Friday Fan Fest in Louisville and, the next Saturday night at the famous Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. He was awarded by SPBGMA as the Best Mandolin Player in 1998. He works with many music bands like Bill Keith, Chris Jones, Blanket and Fragment and others

Jarda Jahoda was many times nominated as the Banjo Player of the Year in Czech Republic. Besides Monogram, he plays with the Austrian band Nugget, with whom he toured the U.S. for the first time in 98. He also has supported Chris Jones and Slavek Hanzlik on their European tour and many others. He played with Chris Jones and The Night Drivers, Liz Mayer, Fešáci, Modrotisk. As a studio player he worked on albums by Bratři Nedvědi, Nugget, The Cell, Pepa Malina.

Besides Monogram he plays in an Austrian band Nugget whom he also toured USA. Together with his brother Zdeněk he plays with the Groovy Lix band of guitarist Slávek Hanzlík.

He was featured with a 'tabs of the month' appreciation in September 2000 in the Banjo Newsletter.

The Jahoda brothers first started to play music with their father. Jarda was about fourteen and Zdenek, then eleven years old. They both played the guitar and their dad taught them some songs and gave them big support and encouragement.

Later when Jarda was about 18, he got to hear Earl Scruggs and decided to take up the banjo and practise seriously. That was when they met Jakub Racek and formed the bluegrass band Monogram. Jarda's first big influence was Earl Scruggs, but now there are lots of other players he likes. For example Bela Fleck, Scott Vestal, Ron Block, and others. You may find him with Monogram playing "In The Nettles" also at the Jean - Marie Redon's World's Banjo Tour - Banjo Influences (XIII Bis RECORDS; 34, rue E.Flachat, F-75017 Paris France, (<http://www.ind-cat.com>)

Pavel Lzicar, the bass player studied at the Prague Conservatory Bass. He joined the band in 2001. Besides Monogram he also plays at various jazz and swing formations, including The Prague Swing Orchestra, in Tiro Mafia Swing and sometimes also Moravian Folklore with Cimbalova (dulcimer) muzika., or quartet The Rhythm Strings.

Pepa Malina, the multi-genre violinist is the youngest of three gifted Malina brothers. His collaboration with other musicians and bands is countless: Druha Trava, Cop, Peter Rowan, Charlie McCoy, Pavel Bobek, P.R.S.T., Vera Martynova, to name just name a few.

Besides Monogram he plays with Jimmy Bozeman and The Lazy Pigs and Malina Brothers. He studied on the Conservatory of Jaroslav Ježek in Prague, subject violin.

Jindra Vinkler, the new lead singer and guitar player started playing bluegrass in 2008 with the band Blue Gate. From the very beginning he chose a harder path; his own path. Now he is responsible for the most Monogram new materials, including the great songs from their newest album Take it Easy (2015).

All of them are virtuosos on their instruments.

In 2016 is Monogram celebrates 25 years of its existence on the Czech music scene!



Czech band Monogram plays a showcase in the CBA suite at IBMA. Photo: Lilly Pavlak

11th annual Winter Music Camp Kosodrevina, Low Tatras, Slovak Republic - January 8th -10th, 2016

By Lilly Pavlak

After two years I was finally able to go to this unique event in the Slovak mountains again. Kosodrevina is a mountain chalet in the Low Tatras, on the southern slope of Chopok, about 1500 meters high, in the skiing area. The cottages can accommodate about 270 people. The first weekend of January is always full of musicians playing on acoustic instruments, mostly bluegrass and their families and friends. It is the highest bluegrass festival in Central Europe. It is usually sold out several months ahead. The whole event was invented eleven years ago by Roman Ac, banjo player from Trnava and cottagers Jozko Cerny, a great bluegrass lover. Unfortunately, our spiritual father of this great festival, Jozko, passed away in 2012 after a serious illness. The festival is now held in his honor. His two sons, Pavol and Peter carry on the tradition.

Twenty-one great Czech and Slovak bands attended the festival this year seven played Friday night and other each seven Saturday afternoon and evening.

Monogram had a CD release party for their last CD Take it Easy there. Musicians are playing there at their own expenses.

I hope to be able to go there next year again...I love it!



The Slovakian band Heartbeats plays at the 2016 Winter Music Camp Kosodrevina

BRENDA and the Reviews

Evie Ladin Band: Jump the Fire

Evie Ladin/Evil Diane Music
PO Box 3408
Oakland, CA 94609
www.evieladin.com
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Song List: Jump the Fire, Cozy, Ease On Down, Honey Lou, Heat of the Day, Two=3, Coo Coo, Have It All, Walking in a Straight Line, Drinking About You, Only You, Under the Waterline, Jump Up and Go.

Evie Ladin is East Coast born and bred, but she began clogging at age 5 and playing banjo at 8 and grew up with Appalachian music and dance in a household that hosted artists in the 70s Folk Revival. Her education included dance, choreography and anthropology at Brown University and music and dance in Nigeria. These diverse influences gives her music a total body experience with vocals, clawhammer banjo, and dance rhythms tapped out on a stage platform. To experience a performance is to be drawn into a twirling vortex of energy and passion and listeners are enveloped in a unique experience.

The songs on the CD are most-

ly Evie Ladin originals, and her partners Erik Pearson and Keith Terry add harmony vocals, guitar and bass accompaniment, and percussive "body music." The opening song, "Jump the Fire," has a bouncy rhythm with percussion and a rollicking banjo pulse that will get your feet tapping along with the band. The mood shifts in the enchanting "Cozy" with its interplay of banjo and bass and a sensuous vocal that hints of more to come. The sultry overtones continue in "Heat of the Day" and the banjo provides an enticing backdrop to the vocals. "Have It All" is an album highlight with a swing rhythm underscoring an engaging lyric that offers "you can't always get what you want" but "you better hurry because it's going fast." A contemporary commentary on life is offered in "Walking in a Straight Line," with its body music counterpoint to the vocals that proclaim "nothing's going to change."

The band shifts to a more traditional sound performing the Carter Family's "Honey Lou," with Evie's lead vocal and harmonies from Erik and Keith. "Ease on Down" is a combination of "Down the Road" and "Ease On Down the Road" and the banjo and harmonies blend the songs together into a delightful new song. "Coo Coo" is presented

with spoon accompaniment and a straight ahead clawhammer banjo. Evie also has produced instructional DVDs for Buckdancing, Flatfoot clogging and is an experienced banjo instructor and square dance caller. She also performs with the Stairwell Sisters and Crosspulse and is one of the Banjo Babes featured on a compilation CD and calendar. Information on these products and future performances can be found on the group's website: www.evieladin.com

Frank Solivan: Family, Friends & Heroes

Compass Records
916 19th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212
www.FrankSolivanAndDirtyKitchen.com
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Song List: Pretty Woman, Mask Snorkel and Fins, The Fishin' Song, I Am a Rambler, Casanova, Mexico, Dark Hollow, You Don't Write, Put Me in Your Pocket, I Still Miss Someone, When the Leaves Turn Brown, Leaving on a Jet Plane, Wayfaring Stranger, Are You Missing Me?

Frank Solivan's Dirty Kitch-

en Band has been honored with a Grammy nomination and awards as the Washington Area Best Bluegrass Band for four years. Now with this second CD release on Compass Records, the band steps back and features favorite songs with a talented collection of family and friends. The band members are Frank on vocals and mandolin, Danny Booth on bass and vocals, Mike Munford on banjo, and Chris Luquette on guitar.

Frank comes from large musical families, and his mother and father and numerous cousins are featured. Frank also has befriended many of the most talented bluegrass musicians and they also guest on favorite songs. The opening song, "Pretty Woman" written by Roy Orbison, has Mike's banjo taking the lead instrumental and Del McCoury singing high harmony to Frank's lead vocal. It's a powerful presentation, and one to play over and over to focus on the innovative banjo solo. Another classic song is Johnny Cash's "I Still Miss Someone" with Frank's cousin Teresa Michel singing a heartfelt lead, Frank Solivan Sr. playing banjo, and Rob Ickes adding dobro. Anyone growing up in the 70s remembers the Peter, Paul and Mary hit song, "Leaving on a Jet Plane," and Frank and John Cowan give the song a new bluegrass version. Perhaps the most



Brenda Hough

To be reviewed
Send your materials to:
Brenda Hough
PO Box 20370
San Jose CA 95160
or contact Brenda at:
hufstuff2003@gmail.com

emotional song is Lorene Solivan's version of "Wayfaring Stranger." It was her last recorded song and the added banjo and mandolin solos to the vocal solo just sparkle.

Frank had been the mandolin player in the US Navy Country Current band, and his mandolin solos have a crisp, taut delivery that show that less notes played with authority are better than high speed

Continued on A-21

for balanced tone and feel...



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Freight & Salvage and CBA Make Music Together

By Darby Brandli

The Freight & Salvage and the California Bluegrass Association were both conceptualized and actualized in the Bay Area at about the same time and have both continued to thrive and meet their respective missions for over 40 years. Many of the Freight's patrons and performers and the CBA's members are one and the same and the two organizations' missions definitely overlap but they had never formally worked together.

The Freight's mission is to promote public awareness and understanding of traditional music—music that is rooted in and expressive of the great variety of regional, ethnic and social cultures and peoples throughout the world. The CBA'S MISSION is to preserve and promote bluegrass, old time and gospel music. Both organizations have met their respective missions and both remain dedicated to keeping traditional music alive—including the bluegrass that is close to our hearts.

CBA President Darby Brandli and then new Freight & Salvage Executive Director Sharon Dolan sat down in 2015 to meet and discuss how the CBA and the Freight might work together in the future. Darby was specifically interested in developing the CBA Youth Program into a year round (not strictly festival based) program and Sharon was definitely in-

terested in education and youth events. The Freight has infrastructure the CBA doesn't have (permanent space and paid staff) and the CBA has the freedom to develop projects as volunteer ideas and energy dictate.

CBA is fortunate to be collaborating with the Freight in a variety of new ways as the result of the meetings with Sharon and Darby, including co-sponsoring the new Berkeley Bluegrass Festival (co-curated by CBA Lifetime Member Laurie Lewis and Freight Program Director Renee Gaumond) to be held at the Freight on May 20-22. CBA is helping to promote the festival, and has organized youth bluegrass bands to provide music in the lobby throughout the weekend. Look for the CBA table and volunteers during this wonderful weekend showcasing some of the best in local bluegrass music!

The Freight has already helped to promote CBA activities including the recent benefit concert supporting the CBA Youth Program held in Alameda. The CBA will also hold a fundraising event at the Freight in 2017 to help benefit CBA's Youth Program.

This is only the beginning. In our conversations together we have generated more ideas than we could implement in our lifetimes, but we are looking forward to many years of friendship and collaboration.

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COFFEEHOUSE

The Darrell Johnston Kids Instrument Lending Library



In the March issue of the Bluegrass Breakdown we told you about some youngsters who attend the Cabrillo Elementary School in Pacifica. They had put together a stringband. Here's a group of the children in a living room jam. Each of these young people is playing an instrument borrowed from the CBA's Darrell Johnston Kids Instrument Lending Library. If you have a child who could benefit from this program you can find out more at www.cbaontheweb.org/lendingLibrary.aspx or contact the coordinator, Randy January, at 916-872-5447 or email kidslendinglibrary@gmail.com. Donations of playable instruments are also very welcome.

NCBS announces main stage bands for August 11-14 Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival

By Michael Hall

The main stage bands for the 23rd Annual Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival have been announced by the Northern California Bluegrass Society. The August 11-14, 2016 event is a showcase of top California-based bluegrass bands.

The Line-Up: Amazing Dr. Zaron's Breathing Machine, Bar-

wick & Siegfried, Blue Summit, Brookdale Bluegrass Band, Cliff Compton and Mountaintop, Courthouse Ramblers, Damdave & the Left-Hand Band, Extended Roots, Glad to Be Here, Grass-Kickers, Kids on Stage, Kitchen Help, Mountain Fire Band, One Button Suit, Pacific Drive, Rambling Minors, Shepherd Canyon Band, Sidesaddle & Co, Side-

track, Slide Road, Stray Hollow, Susie Glaze & The Hilonesome Band, The Vivants, Vintage Grass, and the Wildcat Mountain Ramblers.

The festival will be held next to Bolado Park at the beautiful San Benito County Historical Park, 7 miles south of Hollister in Tres Pinos. Information: <www.ncbs.us>.

Peter Feldmann Bluegrass Show - Santa Ynez Valley Grange Hall

Peter Feldmann, long-time Santa Barbara impresario for bluegrass, folk, and old time music, is bringing another concert to the Santa Ynez Valley Grange Hall in downtown Los Olivos California on Saturday, April 16th. The show, starting at 8:00 PM, will feature an appearance by the Very Lonesome Boys Trio and a special appearance by singer/songwriter Rebecca Troon.

Rebecca Troon is one of the most distinctive songwriters in Southern California. She accompanies her passionate vocals with strong arrangements on guitar, banjo and percussion. Her award-winning songs run the gamut from heart-felt ballads, to rocking rave-ups, to quirky, humorous commentaries on our contemporary existence. She won first place in Songwriting at the Gig Harbor Folk Festival in Washington in 2007. Her song "Animal Skin" was a finalist in the 2011 International Acoustic Music Awards, Best Folk/Americana/Roots category. She's

also a member of the Honeysuckle Possums, a harmony-based old-time, originals & bluegrass band.

The Very Lonesome Boys Trio includes: Peter Feldmann, a long-time teacher, promoter, and performer, and nationally-known musician in old time and bluegrass circles, will be joined by David West, a consummate banjo and guitar picker extraordinaire, and Tom Lee, a multi-styled bassist and founder of the former Song Tree Concert series. The three will feature hot instrumentals, lonesome songs, murder ballads and songs of the West on banjos, guitars, mandolins, and string bass.

Advance tickets, priced at \$15.00, are available on-line at BlueGrassWest.com and at The Book Loft, on Mission Drive in Solvang. If available, tickets will be sold at the door for \$15.00 beginning at 7:30 PM. Information phone line: 805 688-9894.

Refreshments from the Grange's kitchen will be on sale during the intermission.



The Very Lonesome Boys Trio includes: Peter Feldmann, a long-time teacher, promoter, and performer, and nationally-known musician in old time and bluegrass circles, will be joined by David West, a consummate banjo and guitar picker extraordinaire, and Tom Lee, a multi-styled bassist



Susie Glaze & The Hilonesome Band is one of the fine bands that will be presented at the Northern California Bluegrass Society's 23rd annual GOF.

Two free Northern California Bluegrass Society festivals coming up in May

By Michael Hall

There will be two great Northern California Bluegrass Society festivals coming up this May -- and both of them are FREE!

On Saturday, May 14, the 30th Annual Santa Cruz Bluegrass Fair will be held at the Duck Pond Stage in San Lorenzo Park, next to the courthouse in Santa Cruz. The FREE afternoon of bluegrass music will run Noon-6:00pm. The NCBS will have information about all the season's outdoor bluegrass events and will give away festival tickets in the annual raffle. Food will be available (or bring your own picnic) and all of your friends will be there! Presented by the Northern California Bluegrass Society/Santa Cruz Bluegrass Society.

On Saturday, May 21, the second Foggy Mountain Bluegrass Festival will take place at The Surf Spot in Pacifica. The FREE outdoor show will run 11:00am-6:00pm. At the inaugural festival last September, the place was packed with bluegrass fans out to have fun with their friends. Good food and drink will be served. Presented by The Surf Spot and welcomed by the Northern California Bluegrass Society.

Please join us! The band line-up and additional details will be announced soon. For more information, visit the NCBS website <www.ncbs.us> or call (650) 596-9332.

NCBS info booth set for 2016 season

By Michael Hall

The Northern California Bluegrass Society Information Booth will be out during the 2016 Live Music Season all around Northern California.

The booth will have flyers and sage advice about ALL area festivals, concerts, and workshops (including those events presented by the NCBS itself).

The booth will appear at approximately 25 events this year (about every two weeks or so). The service is FREE to both music presenters and music fans. Now is the time for promoters and bands to send flyers for distribution. Send flyers at any time to:

Michael Hall
610 Island Place
Redwood City, CA 94065

There is plenty of great bluegrass music coming to our area this year and NCBS will help find the perfect events for you and your friends.

CALIFORNIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

41st ANNUAL

Father's Day

BLUEGRASS
FESTIVAL

Grass Valley

JUNE 16 - 19
2016

Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley, CA

Rhonda Vincent and the Rage
The New Reeltime Travelers
The Gibson Brothers
Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass
The Tennessee Mafia Jug Band
Crary, Evans & Spurgin
Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen
Blue & Lonesome
Flatt Lonesome
Kids On Bluegrass
CBA Emerging Artist
Jeff Scroggins & Colorado

California Showcase acts:
The Bow Ties
Barwick and Siegfried
One Button Suit
Rocky Neck Bluegrass Band
The Roustabouts
Vern's Stage Artists
Many to be announced!



The Father's Day Bluegrass Festival is produced by our volunteer members and promises four days of fabulous music on three stages, jamming, workshops, youth programs, the Kids on Bluegrass, Luthiers' Pavilion, Vern's Beer and Wine Garden and a large concession area with food, drink and crafts.

Info at www.cbaweb.org - orders at cbaweb.tix.com

Come and join us in our 41st Annual Fathers' Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, California!

Four days of family fun, jamming, workshops, Children's Programs, Luthier's Pavilion, Kids on Bluegrass, camping on site and the best in Bluegrass and Old Time Music on stage under the beautiful pine trees.

Things You Should Know

- "Dogs and cats are allowed only in designated camping areas during the festival, none are allowed in the main venue area. No pets in tent-camping-only area. Owners must comply with CBA's policies. Please see our website or inquire at 209-588-9214.
- Camping is in the rough on the festival site beginning Sunday, June 12 through Wednesday, June 15 for a fee of \$20 per unit per night (lots of grass and big pine trees), on a first-come, first-served basis. Designated tent only camping area available. Guaranteed electric only sites available - see below for fee information.
- Limited number of campsites for handicapped persons. **Advance reservations required by May 1, 2016.**
- Camping during the festival is included in 3 and 4 day tickets.
- Food and soft drink concessions on site. Picnic baskets and coolers permitted - no glass, please.
- Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Audience area is a grassy lawn with trees.
- Festival is held rain or shine -- ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS.

Where is the Festival Site?

The Nevada County Fairgrounds is located at 11228 McCourtney Road in the town of Grass Valley, California. From Sacramento, take Interstate 80 east to the town of Auburn. Take the Hwy. 49 - Grass Valley exit and go north about 28 miles. There are signs on the highway directing you to the fairgrounds -- about 2 miles.

SM

~ ADVANCE TICKET ORDER FORM ~

Advance Discount Tickets (3/1/16 - 5/31/16)

CBA Member Tickets

4-Day Adult.....	\$130
4-Day Senior (65 & over).....	\$120
4-Day Teen (16-18).....	\$65
3-Day Adult	\$110
3-Day Teen	\$55

Non-Member Ticket Prices

4-Day Adult.....	\$155
4-Day Senior (65 & over).....	\$145
4-Day Teen (16-18).....	\$70
3-Day Adult.....	\$135
3-Day Teen (16-18).....	\$60

Single Day Tickets

No discounts available

Thursday.....	Adult \$35/Teen \$15
Friday.....	Adult \$55/Teen \$20
Saturday.....	Adult \$60/Teen \$25
Sunday.....	Adult \$35/Teen \$15

GATE TICKET PRICES

4-Day Adult	\$170
4-Day Teen (16-18)	\$70
3-Day Adult	\$135
3-Day Teen (16-18)	\$60

Children 15 & Under FREE with a paid adult admission.

NO DISCOUNTS
AT THE GATE.

Camping is included in all 3 and 4 day tickets. Early camping opens Sunday, June 12. Camping fees are \$20 per night per unit (RVs), \$15 per night per unit (tents) on a first come, first-served basis from Sunday, June 12 through Wednesday, June 15.

Designated tent camping area available.

Special campsites with guaranteed electricity spaces @\$110 each with advance reservations (Monday thru Sunday, includes camping fees). Reservations available online only at cbaweb.tix.com

Handicapped campers who need special accommodations must make advance reservations by May 1, 2016. Contact Gene Kirkpatrick for information and reservations at genekatt@myway.com or 209-938-7528

Please send me the following advance tickets to the CBA's 41st Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival:

CBA Member Tickets

- 4-Day Adult @ \$130
- 4-Day Senior @\$120
- 4-Day Teen (16-18) @\$65
- 3-Day Adult (Th/Fri/Sat) @\$110*
- 3-Day Teen (16-18) (Th/Fri/Sat) @\$55*
- 3-Day Adult (Fri/Sat/Sun) @\$95*
- 3-Day Teen (16-18) (Fri/Sat/Sun) @\$55*

Non-Member Tickets

- 4-Day Adult @\$155
- 4-Day Senior @\$145
- 4-Day Teen @\$70
- 3-Day Adult (Th/Fri/Sat) @\$135*
- 3-Day Teen (16-18) (Th/Fri/Sat) @\$60*
- 3-Day Adult (Fri/Sat/Sun) @\$135*
- 3-Day Teen (16-18) (Fri/Sat/Sun) @\$60*

*Please specify which 3 days

Single Day Tickets

- Thursday Only @ \$35 Teen @ \$15
- Friday Only @ \$55 Teen @ \$20
- Saturday Only @ \$60 Teen @ \$25
- Sunday Only @ \$35 Teen @ \$15

Camping Reservations:

- nights Pre-festival tent camping @\$15 per night (first-come, first-served) for a total of \$_____
- nights Pre-festival RV camping @\$20 per night (first-come, first-served) for a total of \$_____

Note new policy:
Reserved space with guaranteed electricity @\$110 per space (6/12/16 - 6/19/16): sales online only at cbaweb.tix.com

CBA Member No. _____

Date of Order _____

Total for Tickets _____

Total for Camping _____

Total Enclosed _____

Mail ticket order form, a SELF ADDRESSED, STAMPED BUSINESS-SIZED ENVELOPE, and check or money order payable to the California Bluegrass Association (CBA) to:

CBA Festival Tickets
John Erwin
375 Las Vegas Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442-1548

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Advance Ticket Order Form -- Deadline 5/31/16

For Credit Card orders: cbaweb.tix.com. Info: visit www.cbaweb.org or 209-588-9214. NO REFUNDS.

Bluegrass Confidential By Chuck Poling

The Driftwood brings bluegrass to SOMA

It's Tuesday night in San Francisco's oh-so-hip South of Market district, where tech companies, transmission shops, and posh restaurants exist side by side. The area is also a center of nightlife with a significant concentration of bars, nightclubs, and other entertainment venues.

This particular Tuesday night I was at Driftwood, a tavern that opened a couple of years ago under the direction of former Amnesia owner Shawn Magee. Instead of the throbbing beat of dance club music that predominates in local clubs, I was drawn to the acoustic sounds of bluegrass at what has become the city's latest hot spot for the high lonesome sound.

Since February of 2015, Lucas French has hosted Bluegrass Tuesdays at Driftwood, and judging by the size and enthusiasm of the crowd, it looks like bluegrass music has found a home South of Market. The bimonthly event attracts a young, hip crowd that appreciates the music and keeps the bartenders busy.

Tapping into the continued popularity of bluegrass music in San Francisco, Lucas hasn't had to look far to find acts to fill his schedule. His series focuses on up and coming bands and smaller ensembles that have fewer performance options in the city.

"San Francisco is blessed with many good bluegrass jams as well as big concert venues for established bands to strut their stuff," explained Lucas, "but I saw a void in the small



Lucas French hosts at the Driftwood.

venue space where upstart bands can work on their chops and folks who play in bigger bands can perform the duo-trio versions of their stuff.

"I wanted to create a scene around that 'living room' acoustic performance experience. I dig the magic that can happen when capable artists perform in close confines with an appreciative small crowd. We've succeeded in turning it into a scene

because it's consistently fun for both musicians and audience," he continued.

"San Francisco is blessed with many good bluegrass jams, as well as big concert venues for established bands to strut their stuff," Lucas continued, "but sometimes it seems like there's nothing in between."

After identifying a niche to fill, Lucas was faced with the daunting task of starting something from scratch. Anyone who has ever been involved with initiating a performance series or even a jam is familiar with the feeling of heading into uncharted waters. Are musicians interested in playing here? Is there sufficient

sound equipment? Will people come? Will they listen? Will the owners be satisfied with the turnout?

Fortunately, Bluegrass Tuesdays got off to a great start because a) there's a big market for bluegrass among young people in the city, b) it's got support by the Driftwood ownership and staff, and, most importantly, c) it's got a dedicated and hardworking host who puts in the

time and considerable effort to make it happen.

"Initially I had to beg bands to come play but that's gotten much easier as the series has taken off," Lucas said. "We do three acts most nights, which means a lot of emails organizing things like set times and sound gear."

He's also worked to upgrade the sound equipment and recruited an experienced audio tech to run the board while imparting his wisdom on Lucas.

"As a marketing and recruitment tool I do soundboard recordings of the shows," said Lucas. "Smaller bands especially love that I can send them a good-sounding recording of their set. Our new board has better live-recording capability so we are able to do professional-quality recordings."

"I'm starting to produce more video mixed with the soundboard audio. The whole series is a labor of love but the fruits are the community of pickers and musical cross-pollinations that are happening."

In addition to the Driftwood shows, Lucas plays mandolin with the Beauty Operators. All this activity adds up to somewhere around 20-30 hours a week spent practicing, rehearsing, performing, promoting, and mixing.

The origins of his bluegrass addiction began in Smithville, Missouri. "Growing up in Missouri there was always AM country radio or maybe some bluegrass in the background," Lucas recalled. "I started taking guitar lessons from [local bluegrass] and founder of the Smithville Music Studio] Tim Sublette when I was 11."

Though familiar with bluegrass music at a young age, he was not instantly hooked. He learned his way around a guitar and was handy on drums as well. Originally inspired by a classic rock – Stones, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, etc. – he later was drawn to funk and soul.

At the University of Missouri, he played in the school's jazz band and also picked up bar gigs with a rock band. He started going to jam band festivals and was impressed by Yonder Mountain String Band. Following up on this newfound interest in acoustic music, he started searching around for further inspiration.

Lucas explained, "I went back and listened to the Old and In The Way album and it was all over."

Since then he's become increasingly involved in the bluegrass scene and has moved from casual picker to rabid fan to local impresario. As the old saying goes, "there's tens of dollars in bluegrass." Devoting the amount of time and energy that Lucas does to book, promote, and oversee a twice-a-month performance series is a testament to his enthusiasm, his organizational skills, and ultimately, his passion for bluegrass music.

Of course, he does get the personal satisfaction of enjoying the scene he created while watching the interplay between the musicians and the audience. He's also learned that it



Chuck Poling

takes a mix of different elements to create the essential dynamic between the performers and the crowd.

"Everyone wants to get an emotional rise from the audience," said Lucas. "I notice the bands that do well at Driftwood are delivering something authentic and doing a better job connecting to the bar's eclectic crowd. We draw a mix of bluegrass fans and random bar patrons; the performance needs to be accessible and establish rapport with the crowd."

My experience at a Bluegrass Tuesdays show demonstrated how challenging yet rewarding it can be to make that connection with the audience.

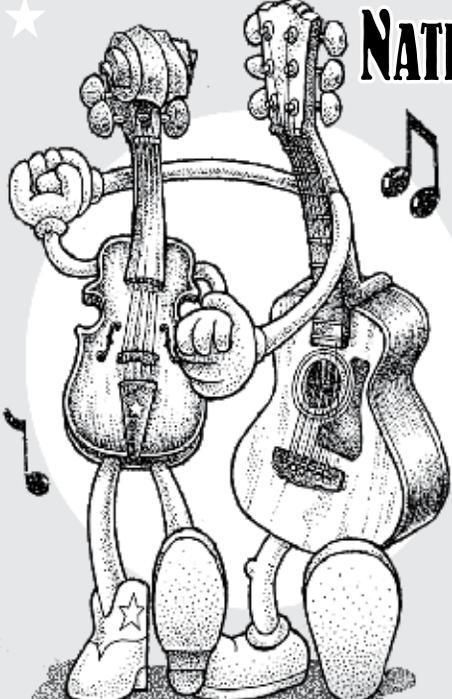
A crowd of mostly twenty- and thirty-somethings filled the Driftwood in the early evening. Folks were talking and having a good time and the chatter level was pretty high as the Redwood Ramblers prepared to take the stage. Actually there is no stage, just an area near the bar where microphones are set up. Lighting is less than ideal, so it's not like all eyes are upon the performers.

Wife-and-husband duo Michelle Haft (banjo) and Joseph Shipp (fiddle) play old-time music as the Redwood Ramblers. Their passion and respect for the traditional mountain genre and their joy at being young, in love, and making music together comes through in their performances.

Many of their friends had turned out to encourage them but most of the crowd was there to hang with friends and engage in increasingly louder conversation. As the Ramblers made their way through their first couple songs they seemed to be consigned to providing background music to a raucous bar crowd. The interplay of the banjo and fiddle cut through the noise, and as more people began to watch and listen and you could hear the duo more clearly.

As the Ramblers continued playing Carter family songs, fiddle tunes, and other old-time favorites, the crowd grew more attentive and their response more enthusiastic when each song ended. There's no way of knowing if their performance caused anyone in the crowd to have a "hooked on bluegrass" moment, but I wouldn't be surprised if it did.

Bluegrass Tuesdays celebrated its first anniversary in February and Lucas French is looking forward to another year bringing bluegrass music to the San Francisco scene.



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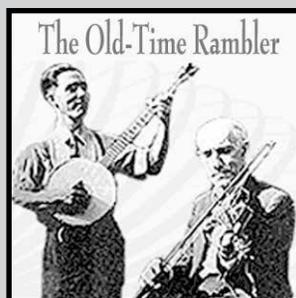
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The Old Time Rambler By Geff Crawford

Geff Crawford has retired as columnist for the Bluegrass Breakdown. His old-time music insights, his fine writing and his wit will certainly be missed by your editor and Geff's fans. Thanks, Geff, for many years of service to our bluegrass and old-time community!



LOG CABIN MUSIC

BY WAYNE ERBSEN



“Wabash Cannonball” on the Ukulele

© 2013 by Wayne Erbsen

After over two years of hard work, we just released my newest book, Ukelele for the Complete Ignoramus. I c0-wr0te it with my friend Ted Parrish.

In looking over many other ukelele instruction books, we discovered that most of them show a million chords and strums, but rarely teach students to play the melody. Our book not only teaches 9 basic strums and 27 simple chords, but we have also developed our own simple tab system to teach the melody to 41 familiar songs. The book also features many playing tips and song histories as well as the complete lyrics, over 100 vintage photos and an instructional audio CD.

How to Read the Tab. Looking at the tab of “Wabash Cannonball,” you’ll see that the four horizontal lines represent the four strings on the uke. As you hold your uke, the A string is closest to the floor. The numbers on the string are the frets that you play. There are four beats per measure. A little vertical line underneath the G string means you don’t play any note on that beat. The chords are shown above the lines. You can either strum the chords or play the melody. If you play with a friend, one person can play the lead and the other the chords.

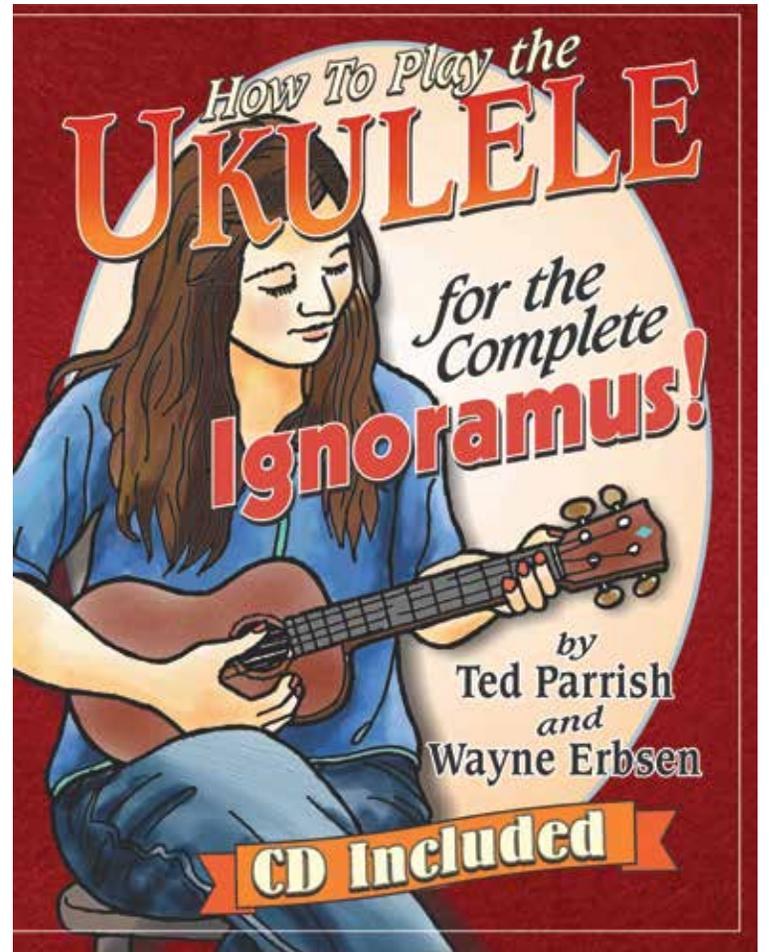
Wabash Cannonball

For lovers of railroad songs, it doesn’t get any better than Wabash Cannonball. It was apparently based on an earlier song first published in 1882 by the name of Rock Island Route by J.A. Roff. Although the Carter Family recorded it in 1929, it was Roy Acuff and his Crazy Tennesseans’ recording in 1936 that helped turn it into the classic it is today. It didn’t hurt that it was one of Acuff’s signature songs that he frequently performed on Saturday night on the Grand Ole Opry.

For a great train song we need a great train rhythm, and the cowboy strum fits this song like a glove. The dramatic strum also works well. For the melody, use your first finger at the 2nd fret so your pinky can reach the 5th fret without moving your hand. Notice that most of the notes are played at the 2nd fret anyway.

Have fun!

Wayne Erbsen’s first instrument was the ukulele which he started strumming when he was four years old. He has written over 30 instruction books for banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, dulcimer and ukulele. For information and a free catalog, please visit www.nativeground.com.



Wabash Cannonball

Chord diagrams: G (1-2-3), G7 (1-2-3), C (3)

A: 0 2 5 5 2 2 0

E: 2 2 0

C: 2 2 0

G: Listen to the jingle, the rumble and the roar, as she

Chord diagrams: D7 (2-3), G (1-2-3)

A: 0 2 0 0 2 2 2 0

E: 2 2 2 0

C: 2 2 0

G: glides a - long the woodland, through hills and by the shore. Hear the

Chord diagrams: G (1-2-3), G7 (1-2-3), C (3)

A: 0 2 5 5 2 2 0

E: 2 2 0

C: 2 2 0

G: mighty rush of the engine, hear that lonesome hobo squall,

Chord diagrams: D7 (2-3), G (1-2-3)

A: 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2

E: 2 2 2 0

C: 2 2 0

G: traveling thru the jungle on the Wabash Cannon - ball.

From the great Atlantic ocean to the wide Pacific shore,
From the queen of flowing mountains to the south bells by the shore,
She’s mighty tall and handsome and quite well known by all,
She’s the combination of the Wabash Cannonball.

Listen to the jingle, the rumble and the roar
As she glides along the woodland, through hills and by the shore,
Hear the mighty rush of the engine, hear that lonesome hobo squall,
You’re traveling through the jungle on the Wabash Cannonball.

She come down from Birmingham one cold December day,
And she rolled into the station you could hear the people say,
There’s a girl from Birmingham, she’s long and she is tall,
She come down to Birmingham on the Wabash Cannonball.

Here’s to Daddy Claxton, may his name forever stand,
And always be remembered in the courts of Alabam,
His earth race is over and the curtains round him fall,
We’ll carry him home to victory on the Wabash Cannonball.

Cowboy Strum

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

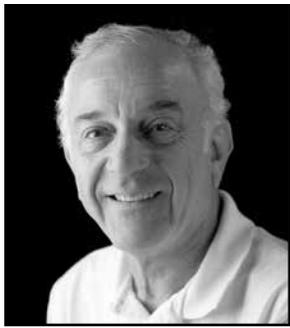
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Dramatic Strum

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑

The Luthier's Corner - Roger Siminoff



Roger Siminoff

*Dear Readers.,
I'm just readying to send off this column to Mark Varner, our excellent editor of The Breakdown, and I noticed that this is my 136th consecutive monthly column. I want to give special thanks to those of you who have sent in your questions and queries over the years. Sorry if I don't get a chance to answer all of them in The Breakdown, but there's just so much time and space. And, as I think some of you may know, I do answer each of the questions separately via email. To the readers, I hope you get the same enjoyment out of reading my columns as I do preparing them. Thanks... RS*

Q: In a question about banjos in a recent issue of the Breakdown you said "Master Tone" in two words. I thought it was "Mastertone" (one word). Was that a typographical error?

A: It was not a typo. Here's some background: Although the name "Lloyd Loar" is associated with the development of Gibson's heralded F5 mandolin, H5 mandola, and L5 guitar models, Lloyd was also the brains behind the development of Gibson's Master Tone banjo line.

Back in the days when Loar was working as a consultant to Gibson (1913-1924) he was known as "Master Loar" to the factory folk. When the F5 mandolin, H5 mandola, and L5 guitar models were introduced in March of 1923, they were known as "Master Model" instruments in honor of Loar (or it is possible that he asked that they be named "Master Model" – the history of exactly how this occurred will probably never be known). In either case, the "Master" name stuck.

The first banjo models (non-Mastertone) were introduced in Gibson's October 15, 1918 price list. These were rather plain banjos and did not carry the "Master Tone" or "Mastertone" name. When the first ball-bearing banjo models were introduced in 1923 they were referred to in Gibson documents as "Master Tone" banjos, but the first official announcement of the "Mastertone" (one word) models appeared in Gibson's July 1, 1925 price list. Gibson's earliest Mastertone models had the word "Mastertone" in individual pearl letters on the peghead. It was later engraved in a square pearl plate and inset between the last two frets.

Q: In the March issue of the Breakdown, you said that the ball bearing banjo was difficult to assemble. What was the problem? Seems pretty easy to me. Also, can you see the balls from the outside?

A: The Gibson ball-bearing banjo's tone chamber system is comprised of 24 ball bearings, 24 springs, 24 upper washers (with small dimples in them), 24 lower washers, a tone tube with a round-rod brazed to its upper edge (this gives the head the appearance of an arched head – later referred to as "archtop"), a stretcher band, and an outer ring. So, there are 99 parts just to make up the tone chamber system. Here's the photo of the parts I showed last month:



Fig 1: The last version of the ball-bearing tone chamber consisted of 99 parts which took a great deal of time to assemble in the factory.

You're correct that assembling these parts is not really rocket science, but I assume that you are considering doing the assembly with a contemporary Mylar (plastic) head. Back in the day, these banjos had skin heads and this required assembling the instrument with a wet banjo head (to make it flexible), and jockeying the entire assembly to stay on the balls while the wetted head was being manipulated and tightened in place.

To perfectly align the tone chamber and get it to contact each of the springs with equal pressure, the folks assembling the banjos put paper shims (actually paper punch-outs from the office hole punch) under the lower washer to set all of the balls to an identical height. So, that step was time consuming.

Then there is the simple time-consuming issue of having 99 parts to assemble, line up, and stay in place until the head is properly tensioned. All in all, a nightmare!

Consider the contrast to the later one-piece flange model banjos with one flange, one

tone chamber, one stretcher band, 24 hooks, and 24 nuts. And, a Mylar head that is already attached to the "flesh hoop" and doesn't squirm around as you get it in place. Easy to see why the ball-bearing models – wonderful as they were – were short lived in the Gibson product line.

Regarding seeing the balls from the outside, if the banjo is held at an angle (with the resonator removed), you can see the balls above the rim. Here's a photo of one of my ball-bearing banjos. The balls are rather obvious, and you can also see the reflection of them on the tone tube. (The balls are between the tone tube and the rim – the black circles you see are holes in the tone tube.)



Fig 2. With the banjo resonator removed, the tops of the balls can be seen peeking over the banjo's rim. This banjo is a 1924 version.

Q: You said that the flathead banjo offered a larger active banjo head than the ball bearing. I thought all of these banjos had 11" heads. Did the ball bearing banjo have a smaller diameter head?

A: (Wow – a lot of interest in ball bearing banjos this month!)

In my March column, I mentioned that during the heyday of the ball bearing banjo there were four variations of the ball bearing tone chamber design, that were followed by a cast tone chamber developed in 1925. The first of these cast tone chambers was the 40-hole archtop that from the outside of the banjo had the same general appearance of a ball bearing, with a raised 9-1/2" diameter center portion of the head. It was later followed by a "flathead" design (no arch) that offered a larger active banjo head.

You are correct that the ball-bearing and solid tone chamber banjo models all have 11" diameter heads. However, on an archtop banjo, the active head area is 9-1/2" diameter; since the center portion of the head is raised, it is only this portion that is functional (active) as far as the head is concerned. So, the archtop models have an active head area of 29.83 square inches compared to the 34.54 square inches of the flattop banjos because of their 11" diameter head. This difference in active head size is one of the main contributing factors that typically gives flattop banjos a more robust, deeper, "fuller" sound, compared to archtop banjos that have a brighter, more "cutting" sound.

See you next month

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If you have questions you would like answered, please email: siminoff@siminoff.net, or write to Roger Siminoff, PO Box 2992, Atascadero, CA 93423.

Roger Siminoff was the founder of Pickin' and Frets magazines and has written more than 10 books on instrument set-up and construction. For more on Roger Siminoff, Siminoff Banjo and Mandolin Parts, Orville Gibson, Lloyd Loar, or Straight Up Strings, visit his web site at: www.siminoff.net.

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Porch Talk Interviews by Dave Berry

Larry Cohea

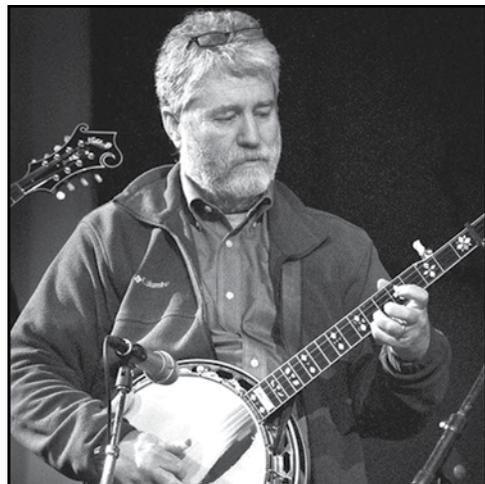
This month's subject Larry Cohea really needs no introduction, Larry is a CBA and NCBS Lifetime Achievement Honoree and member of many seminal Bay Area Bluegrass Bands such as High Country, Blue and Lonesome and Dark Hollow.

Q: Hi Larry; I didn't find much on your background, can you fill us in?

A: I was born Nashville and lived in Springfield, 28 miles away, but my mom had to go to Nashville to have me because there was no hospital in Springfield. I moved to Bakersfield California when I was little, then back to Tennessee and then back to Bakersfield in my teens. My dad was a farmer.

Q: When did you first hear bluegrass?

A: I got interested in bluegrass when I was thirteen watching Flatt and Scruggs on the local TV shows around 1960. I saw them live in Springfield and was amazed at how much music came out of those five guys.



Larry Cohea.

Q: What was your first instrument?

A: It was banjo. Listening to Earl got my attention and then later I got a guitar. When I moved up to the Bay Area in '73, I started playing bass with High Country even though I'd never played it before. I played banjo with them at pickin'

parties. I told Butch I'd like to play bass but I don't know how to and he said no problem, we'll teach you.

Q: Did you buy your banjo?

A: My mom helped and was very supportive. My father passed away when I was a freshman in high school. My first banjo I rented, I think for \$7 a month. It was a little open back Bacon. About the time I was a senior in high school, my mom helped me buy a new Gibson Mastertone, which new cost \$440. Of course, they're more like \$4,000 now.

Q: Was it all Earl style for you then?

A: Yea, I just always wanted to play the bluegrass style. The only book available at that time was a Pete Seeger book; so I learned a little bit of his style, which was kind of like clawhammer style but had more of an upstroke. I learned one song and then just skipped to the bluegrass section, which was written by his brother Mike Seeger. It some tab for maybe three or four songs.

Q: What was it like in Bakersfield then?

A: There was more country music down there and not so much bluegrass. I started playing seriously in Bakersfield with my friend Craig Wilson on mandolin and guitar, who I still play with from time to time. I came to visit my friend Robbie McDonald, who was in school at Stanford and knew the bluegrass scene well. There was a lot more bluegrass up here so I just moved up.

Q: What was the Bay Area scene like when you arrived?

A: A lot of people had live reel-to-reel tapes from the '50s on of the first generation players like Bill Monroe, Jimmy Martin and Flatt and Scruggs. We listened to that stuff a lot which I really liked cause I could just tune up and play along a whole set. They'd be in the same

tuning but on LP's they'd tune up the pitch, so I had to retune the banjo a lot.

Q: Have you always been a singer?

A: Pretty much. Most of the time Craig would sing lead and I'd sing tenor on duets. After I came to the Bay Area, I learned to sing some lead. I still sing lead on a couple of songs in a set.

Q: Do banjo players tend to sing in the higher range?

A: No, Earl sang baritone and J.D. Crowe did too. J.D. is also a good lead singer, though not much more than a song or two. A good tenor singer who is one of my favorites is Dave Evans. He just knocks me out; he is one of the best at playing while he sings. He keeps the banjo going real great even while he is singing.

Q: I love that song "Highway 52", have you ever seen him?

A: Chris Smith and I who play together in the Mighty Crows were ready to hop on a plane and go see him play, but my friend John Arms from Ohio who knows him said he's not in good health and doesn't play much except maybe one or two songs with his sons.

Q: I have recordings from the Golden Gate Bluegrass Festival from back in 75 or so. Were you there?

A: Oh yea, High Country played that festival. My friend Jeff Hawkins from Santa Cruz who played in the Bear Creek Boys recently put a picture of us up on Facebook back stage with Jimmy Martin who was probably preaching his bluegrass sermon.

Q: Do you have a day job?

A: I fix instruments out back at the house in a two-car garage that's my shop. I work on guitar, mandolin, and banjo but no electric instruments.

Q: Are you a self-taught luthier?

A: Yea, a lot of luthiers have helped me out, answering questions, but I never went to school for it, although they have a lot of schools for it nowadays. I've always been kind of naturally handy so I started fixing my own instruments. The most in-depth stuff I do is on banjo, the necks and things to convert tenors to five strings. For guitars and mandolins I just do the maintenance kind of repairs like neck resets, fret jobs and crack repairs.

Q: I'm guessing you stick to the classic era.

A: I pretty much just play to the old chestnuts, although High Country plays originals by Jim Minton and Glen Dauphin that are in the traditional vein. Glenn wrote a song that Del McCoury recorded called Highway of Pain. Butch Waller of course writes a lot and has a new CD out called Waltz Collection that I played on with a bunch of friends. Sally Van Meter played one of Butch's vocal tunes, Blues for Your Own, that was

played during some bar scenes on the TV show Northern Exposure.

Q: Do you have any CD releases coming up?

A: Blue and Lonesome was just in the studio to put together something for the CBA Fathers Day Festival, which we're playing in June. I'm not sure it will be a full-fledged recording but we'll see when we get there.

Q: Do you like the progressive bluegrass styles at all?

A: I never disliked it but just always preferred the traditional sound. I'd hear them on stage at festivals and I'd enjoy them somewhat. I remember one time I was riding in my car to a gig or something and I turned on the radio listening to what was then called a country radio station. There was this country rock kind of song with a banjo playing back up rolls, nothing crazy but it was just so good, great tone and rhythm. I was thinking, wow that's really a great banjo player. Then when the song was over they said "and that's the Earl Scruggs Revue" from when his sons had the country rock band in the '70's. High Country opened for them once at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. I think John Hartford was on that bill too.

Q: Where all have you toured?

A: High Country has toured all over; Ireland, England, Europe half a dozen times, Finland, and way up in British Columbia. We've also travel to the Far East and to Guam, Samoa and various other places. We used to rent an RV and travel to all the festivals back east. We went to several put on by Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America (SPBGMA) in Missouri and Gettysburg and Bean Blossom a couple of times. Blue and Lonesome plays Potomac and did an Australia tour which was a lot of fun.

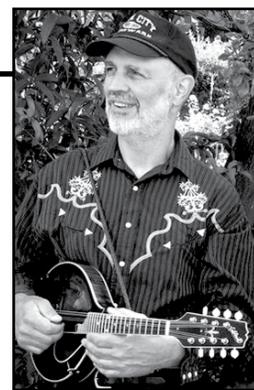
Q: Is High Country still pretty active?

A: We play a monthly gig over at the Taproom in Albany on the fourth Wednesday of the month. We play Potomac several times a year, which is Franklin Roosevelt's yacht tied up in Jack London Square in Oakland. The guy there who does fundraisers loves bluegrass, so a lot of the local acts have played there like Kathy Kellick and Laurie Lewis. That's fun and you always get an appreciative audience there.

We play once or twice a year at Pacifica Performances, which is a community theatre that has pretty eclectic stuff. We also have one coming up in the little town of Newman, California, where they took an old movie theatre and put in a flat floor with tables and chairs and a stage set up for plays or music. They serve dinner and feed you real well.

Q: Tell us about when you became a CBA lifetime achievement honoree.

A: They usually try and surprise the



Dave Berry

person when they're going to give them the award, so I didn't know about it. A few years back at the CBA Fathers Day Festival, Laurie Lewis came up to me and asked if I would play on a little feature she was going to play between sets. I said why sure, so she got Kathy and Butch and told me to just kick off Little Cabin Home on the Hill and the song would go like that. So I kicked it off and was playing backup and she starts singing, then I hear my name in the song. It was a song that she and Butch wrote which kind of told my story in a humorous way. It was quite good; I think it's on Youtube.

Q: You must be the busiest player in all of California.

A: I play with Dark Hollow, High Country and Dim Lights out of Pacifica. The Mighty Crows get back together every once in a while and play every fifth Tuesday at Sam's BBQ in San Jose. Blue and Lonesome plays every Thursday at the Willowbrook Ale House in Petaluma plus every odd month at a French restaurant in Berkeley on Telegraph Avenue called Bateau Ivre. Dim Lights plays the fourth Friday at the Pacifica Moose Club.

Q: We see you at the festivals and jams too.

A: I enjoy the jams; the Stork Club in Oakland is a fun jam. I used to run the jam with Butch Waller at Paul's Saloon in San Francisco for many years and it's not easy to do

Q: You ever play or listen to other styles?

A: When I was a teenager I liked all the music of the day, the Stones and Beatles and stuff, but I never wanted to learn to play it. When I would be at a high school dance and saw those bands with all of the equipment they had to haul in, set up and tear down, I didn't want any part of that. With bluegrass, you just put your banjo in the case and you're off.

Q: What big shows do you have coming up?

A: Blue and Lonesome is playing the CBA Fathers Day Festival main stage in June and we'll also be at the Sonoma County Bluegrass and Festival, which is a real fun one-day in door festival in Sebastopol. High Country is playing the three-day Freight Bluegrass Festival May 20-22 at the Freight and Salvage in Berkeley.

Q: Thanks for your time Larry

A: Thank you Dave, it was an honor.

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from 6-11pm on the 4th Saturday of the month at 1450 Ellis St., Kingsport, TN. For information, contact 615-582-9155 or email Bud-@cbaweb.org, or email Bud-@cbaweb.org.

Low Jam Thursday at 7pm beginning at 7pm at Del Paso Blvd. For information contact Matthew Coleman at matthew999@hotmail.com

Redwood City -- Bluegrass jam session on the 1st of every month at the House Cafe. For information call 650-743-0413 or email info@housecafe.com

Joe Weed's Studio Insider

Recording in Nashville

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Getting There

This column begins at 35,000 feet, as our pilot tries to find an altitude that won't give the plane (and us) the shakes. I can keep my fingers on the keyboard now, so I think she's succeeded in finding the sweet spot. So here goes, unless the guy to my left decides to bolt for the bathroom again...

It's been an intense and rewarding couple of days. On Monday, I grabbed the mid-morning flight to Nashville, picking that particular flight so I (and Marty, my transportation coordinator and driver of our mini van) wouldn't have to wake up at 4:30 to catch the first round of east-bound flights and deal with the throngs trying to find a spot to unload at the airport and then snake through security.

It worked. Everybody is in a mellow mood. The lines are short. I actually have time to buy a coffee and croissant at the airport and sit down to enjoy it gracefully before being summoned to my boarding gate. And my number is A-24. Cool. I change planes in San Diego and go through my list of folks I could have alerted to my presence at the SAN airport, deciding that it's just as well that I have a few minutes to sit alone and check email before catching the next big bird to Nashville.

After an easy flight, we land

well after dark. I get my car (a Prius, still somewhat of an oddity here in Tennessee) and find my nearby hotel. It's now late Monday night, so every restaurant within reasonable distance is closed, which means I either drive across town, eat fast food, or get to bed early after a snack of Southwest Airlines peanuts and a glass of wine. I opt for the snack and early bedtime.

The Rec Room

Ben Surratt and Missy Raines are the proprietors of my go-to studio in Nashville. They call it the Rec Room. They're wonderful people. Ben always takes time the night before my session to get all the right mics set up and patched into the Pro Tools rig. My life will be greatly simplified on Tuesday, thanks to Ben's having set up. I set my alarm (Central Time Zone...) and am up early to greet the warm and balmy morning. I stop by Mitchell's Deli, a short hop from the studio, and pick up my order of sandwiches for the musicians. Fortunately, in the last year a coffee shop has opened up next to Mitchell's, so it's a one-stop event for me. I pull up at Ben and Missy's place about 9:00 AM, and head down into the studio, plug in my hard drive, and get the tunes ready. I present Ben with a bottle of Argentinian Malbec, telling him it's for Missy so he won't refuse it. We're good. Ben shows me his new mi-

crophone acquisitions, and we talk shop leisurely for a while.

Then I hear David Grier's footsteps and see him come in, swinging his two guitar cases. One holds a 1951 D-28, and the other, his recently-acquired (2 days) 1947 D-28. He loves them both. We're doing four tunes, so they'll both see good use.

Jeff Taylor shows up next, wisecracking as he walks in. "I only brought two accordions today, but I have totally separate reed assemblies that I can install in this brown one to give it either a Flaco sound or a straight-on Italian sound. It takes less than 5 minutes to change it out."

I put up one of my tunes, called "Bellingham Cotillion," and we opt for the wet sound. Go, Flaco.

Todd Phillips shows up last, not showing the fatigue he's feeling after driving 3 15-hour days back to Nashville from the Museum of Northern Arizona's Colton House, where he was recording with Chris Brasher and Peter McLaughlin. We get his bass miked up and I distribute charts for Bellingham Cotillion.

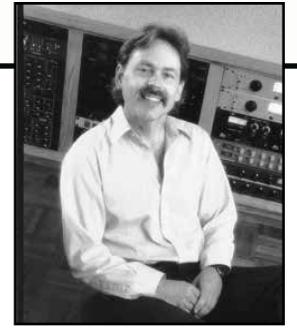
Todd often brings his own mics to sessions, and today is no different. We set him up in the large main tracking room (great for upright bass) and place his large-diaphragm Soundelux U99 microphone by the upper right-hand bout of his bass. We put his small-diaphragm Neumann KM-140 near the bridge,

about 6 - 8 inches out from the face. We run both mics into a GML (George Massenberg Labs) 8304 mic preamp, which is quick, accurate and transparent.

David will be laying down basic rhythm guitar (and later, lead) in a small iso room, so we use a pair of small diaphragm cardioid condenser mics in an x-y configuration, placed at the neck and body joint. The mics are made by the East German version of the Neumann company, called Gefell. These are two older tube-driven condensers, and Ben keeps them well-maintained. We run those both into the GML preamp mentioned above.

We mike the accordion with an xy pair of Oktava small-diaphragm condensers that Ben likes to use. They're about a foot out from the center of the accordion, and capture a good stereo image of both the keyboard sound and the bass/chords that come from the other side of the box. I can manipulate the stereo width of the accordion image later by panning the mics closer or farther apart. If Jeff moves during recording, this xy mic arrangement won't show a radical change in the image, which could happen if the mics were spaced far apart.

The rapidity of jokes and wisecracks coming over the speakers tells me that the guys are ready to start tracking. Bellingham Cotillion is a 3-part fiddle tune played at 112



Joe Weed

BPM in the keys of D and B minor. Easy stuff. We get levels, they learn the road map, and we're off and running.

It's time to send this off to my editor now, before we take over an entire page. More next month!

Joe Weed records acoustic music at his Highland Studios near Los Gatos, California. He has released six albums of his own, produced many projects for independent artists and labels, and does scores for film, TV and museums. Joe's composition "Hymn to the Big Sky" was heard in "The Dust Bowl," a film by Ken Burns, which premiered nationally on PBS. Joe recently produced "Pa's Fiddle," a collection of 19th-century American music played by "Pa" Charles Ingalls, father of Laura Ingalls Wilder, the author of the "Little House on the Prairie" book series. Reach Joe by calling (408) 353-3353, by email at joe@highlandpublishing.com, or by visiting joeweet.com.

BRENDA and the Reviews

From Page A-12

mandolin flourishes. Frank and Sam Bush trade mandolin solos on "Dark Hollow" that just nails all the possibilities. Sam also plays mandolin on Frank's original instrumental, "Cazenovia Casanova" which also gives Frank an opportunity to play fiddle with Mike playing banjo and Jerry Douglas adding dobro. Frank also plays twin mandolins with Ronnie McCoury in the traditional song, "When the Leaves Turn Brown," and the cascading notes just flow over the guitar rhythm provided by Frank's dad.

Ernie and John Cruz join their cousin on "Mask, Snorkel and Fins." Frank's mandolin easily flows with an island beat, and Leon Alexander's percussion will keep your feet tapping. Megan McCormick sings the lead on Sarah Elizabeth Campbell's "Mexico," with Frank playing solo guitar and singing harmony vocals. Frank hints that this album could be "volume one" of a series of family and friends collections; here's hoping that there will be more to come!

Dale Ann Bradley: Pocket Full of Keys

Pinecastle Records
www.daleann.com
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Song List: The Stranger, Till I Hear From You, Pocket Full of Keys, Ain't It Funny, Rachel Pack Your Sunday Clothes, Hard Lesson Road, Talking to the Moon, Sweet Hour of Prayer, Soldiers Lovers and Dreamers, Sweetheart of the Pines, I'm So Afraid of Losing You Again, I'll Live On Somewhere.

Dale Ann Bradley has been a multiple winner of the Female Vocalist of the Year award, and this latest collection of songs showcases one of the most expressive voices in bluegrass today. Dale Ann is joined by Mike Sumner on banjo, Michael Cleveland on fiddle, Steve Thomas on guitar and mandolin, Phil Leadbetter on dobro, Tim Dishman on bass and Craig Nelson on Bowed bass. Harmony vocals are provided by Ronnie Bowman, Kim Fox, Tina Adair, Jeff White, and Jim Lauderdale.

The songs are more gentle and introspective and while they give Dale Ann's expressive and heartfelt voice a chance to shine, there aren't any songs with the hard-driving mountain appeal of "Run Rufus Run" from her earlier albums. The two gospel songs are gems; "Sweet Hour of Prayer" is sung straight from the heart, and "I'll Live on Somewhere" with harmony vocals

from Ronnie and Garnett Bowman has all the excitement of a southern church revival meeting. Other songs focus on relationships and missed opportunities. Dolly Parton's "The Stranger" tells the story of a lover who leaves his pregnant girlfriend and returns years later to find their daughter and her mother's gravesite. "Rachel Pack Your Sunday Clothes" is a gentle plea for a daughter to return home and see her dying father and repair the rift with "goodbye kisses and goodbye tears, forgiveness for all those wasted years." It's a powerful song with a soaring fiddle and guitar accompaniment.

The title song, "Pocket Full of Keys," was co-written by Dale Ann, and the singer contemplates keys to opening a door only to find the door unlocked and the room beyond a place to finding oneself. Other musings on love are found in "Talking to the Moon," "Ain't It Funny" and "Hard Lesson Road." This is Dale Ann's first release on the Pinecastle label, and it is certain to put her in the running again for Female Vocalist of the Year!

Finnders & Youngberg: Eat the Moon

Swingfingersrecords
www.finndersandyoungberg.com
©2015

Song List: She Wants to Eat the Moon, Desert Bluebell, Back Door, The Day Is Wide Open, Old Dog Waltz, After Tonight, Watch Out for the Blues, What Did I Do, Saint Vrain, Mama's Cookin'.

Colorado may not be the middle of the country, but it's often the meeting point for the wide-open musical innovation of the West and the more traditional music of Appalachia. The Americana approach of the band takes bits of both worlds with upbeat instrumentation and original songs written by Michael Finders and Erin Youngberg. The band members are Mike Finders on guitar and vocals, Aaron Youngberg on banjo, pedal steel guitar and vocals, Erin Youngberg on bass and vocals, Ryan Drickey on fiddle, and Rich Zimmerman on mandolin.

Michael's "Desert Bluebell" is a banjo fueled romp about a miner's delight in finding a beautiful flower in the midst of his mine, and is a contrast to the honky tonk "Back Door" with its suggestive "itch you can't scratch" propelled by a strummed

banjo rhythm. His unique viewpoints on life are also shown on "Saint Vrain," a water cycle journey from the mountains through Lyons, Colorado, a scene of floods in 2013. Mike's "Watch Out for The Blues" is filled with escapes to hippie communes, carnivals, and Amsterdam with funny shoes, but regardless of where you journey, you can't escape the blues. It's a fun song with a catchy melody that will capture your ear.

Erin's songs have another perspective and her lead vocals are positive and affirming. "What Did I Do" has a bright fiddle and banjo backdrop as the singer delights in a true love that simply loves her for who she is. "She Wants to Eat the Moon" is a song of yearning and discovery with an ethereal setting.

Rich's crisp mandolin playing opens the instrumental "Old Dog Waltz" and as the lead shifts to fiddle, the melody flows gently and makes your feet want to stand up and slowly sway across the dance floor. The FY5 gang brings an excitement to their music and it's easy to fall under their magical spell.

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Bluegrass, She Wrote By J. Rose

Following Your Bluegrass Heart: An Interview with Deb Livermore

Hello readers. As I sit here at my little wooden desk staring out of my little country window, I watch the rain and wonder when the grass turned green. A Mac Martin recording plays somewhere in the house. I can't help but daydream about Spring instead of write this article, which is why I'm sitting here in the first place. Naturally, I begin to contemplate the long list of exciting events that Spring and Summer will bring. Festivals, picking, camping, picking, BBQ's, picking...I smile out loud. Thank goodness for the changing of the seasons. Mac Martin sings "I'll live on" and I get back to my writing. After a couple of moments, the title comes to me. "Following Your Bluegrass Heart: An interview with Deb Livermore" You might know her as a the same bass playing, grill cheese making, bluegrass lover that I know; but as the years have gone on, Deb Livermore has remained a pillar in our bluegrass world. In 2014, she was awarded a lifetime CBA membership and celebrated for her dedication and services to the community. She was born in the green rolling hills of Elmira, New York. In 1986, she moved to California with her husband when she was eight months pregnant; they landed in Trona, a little town just south of Death Valley. According to Deb, November in Death Valley means 95-degree weather during the daytime. They didn't stay there long. "We moved north to Lodi before summer came, thankfully!" Ten years later, Deb attended The Father's Day Festival in Grass Valley for the first time.

She and her daughter would go "until my daughter turned thirteen and didn't want to attend anymore." "That's when I decided it was time to leave her at her girlfriends for the weekend and volunteer myself to the CBA!"

My mind wanders back to my first CBA music camp. I was brand new to Bluegrass and had decided to attend the camp despite my fears of being 'the new girl.' My first night at camp, I found myself jamming in the teacher's lounge where all the "cool kids" were hanging out. Looking back, I can't help but laugh at the scene. There I was, barely able to keep a hold of my guitar, let alone change chords in a timely fashion. Unaware of my own incompetence, I casually sat in the circle of pickers and kept up the best I could. Later, I would learn that the majority of the people in that jam were the best of the best and I had absolutely no business sitting there. I believe the saying is "ignorance is bliss." At any rate, it was that night that I met Deb Livermore. I stood next to the table in the middle of the room snacking on the chips and guacamole enjoying my new found community. Deb walked up to me and introduced herself with the warmest of smiles. We were laughing together by the end of the introduction and before she walked away, I made sure to look at her name tag so that I wouldn't forget: "Deb Livermore" I repeated it back to myself.

Deb began her relationship with the California Bluegrass Association in 2000. First she volunteered with the Kid's Craft program, then she helped at the front gate. After that, she was responsible for the 30th Anniversary T-shirt display. Each new position connected



Everyone's friend and super-volunteer, Deb Livermore (left) is interviewed.

Deb with more people. She now runs the beer and wine operation at the Vern's stage which has been better every year since its inception in 2007. Spotting California bands, great beer, and picnic tables adorned with vases of Spring flowers, the Vern's stage has become an audience favorite. After our meeting at music camp that winter, I was delighted to receive an email from my fast friend: Deb Livermore. She wanted to know if I would like to volunteer for the CBA selling beer tickets at the Vern's stage for the upcoming Father's Day Festival in Grass Valley, California. "Yes!" I thought. "It wasn't just the guacamole, she remembered me too!"

Despite her years of bluegrass festivals, it took Deb a while to find her instrument. With a background in classical piano-she knew she had a good ear-but had never connected with an instrument enough to commit. One night at a pickin' party, her friend needed a

break and asked Deb to hold the bass. The rest of the pickers started to give her pointers and encouraged her participation for the next song. "I followed their instructions and actually made some music." Deb recalled. "I was hooked." It wasn't long after that, Livermore bought herself a bass and never looked back. Besides festivals and picks, Deb also plays bass for Simple Folk, a bluegrass band out of Sacramento, CA. "THE Simple Folk" I asked to make sure I had heard her correctly. "Simple Folk" she repeated back to me. "No THE. That's how simple we are." We both laughed in unison.

Deb went on to explain how beneficial it has been for her bass playing to be part of that project which is why she suggests 'finding other people to play with' as one of the most important things that any musician can do.

In addition to her bass playing and volunteer work, Deb is also



J. Rose

known for her late night grilled cheese sandwiches. If it's before midnight and you've fallen victim to a jamming time warp and missed last call at the food vendors, have no fear. You can find Deb, flipping classic grilled cheese sandwiches in front of her vintage 1969 Fireball Meteor trailer. When I asked her how the tradition started, she explained that it had evolved from a similar feast that she had stumbled upon ten years ago at Larry Baker's bluegrass festival in Parker, Arizona. The only difference was that it was 4am and the main dish was hot dogs. "just plain hot dogs...the best I'd ever tasted" said Livermore. She was so inspired by the bliss in that experience that she decided to keep it going in her own camp; eventually switching to grilled cheese sandwiches because of a close vegetarian friend.

Deb is recently retired and traveling the states in her truck towing her little Fireball Meteor behind her. I caught up with her in Yuma, Arizona where she was staying at a friend's house before she headed off to the Havasu Bluegrass Festival in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. She explained "my calendar is revolving around Bluegrass festivals all year long....From Arizona to California and then to Washington and Oregon and hopefully to Arizona, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Florida starting in September." I asked Deb if it had been her dream to retire and travel the country, attending festivals during the winter. She explained that it was always her plan to travel, but that bluegrass changed the plans for the better. "Yes, there's bluegrass involved, but I'm expanding my horizons." Deb has taken up rock climbing and also called herself a "rock hound" which basically means she's gone geologist on us. Her network of people and friends to visit has also "grown by leaps and bounds."

Working with Deb at Vern's stage is one of my favorite parts of The Father's Day Festival. We spend the entire shift laughing and talking-and singing on occasion-while the happy customers come and go with the passing hours of the warm June days. Playing music with her is even better. The truth is that Deb's joy, patience and love is expressed in everything she does. From the life-saving grilled cheese sandwiches to the happy little vases of flowers, Deb's presence shines through. Come visit us at Vern's this year and see for yourself.

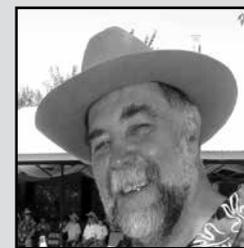
Bluegrass Bard - Cliff Compton

Broken people

He rides his bike with no tires on the rim
His hair is long and matted like a Rastafarian
There's a couple of warrants the sheriff has out on him
And he moves like a drunken squirrel on methamphetamine
But you just know him now
I knew him back when
He had a mind like Albert Einstein
And was every bodies friend

Broken people
Like broken dishes
Scattered out across the floor
Take him down
To loaves and fishes
So he don't bother you no more

He was on L street bare chested in the rain
Beating his shirt on a park bench, a wild man gone insane
He punched the air, cursed the lord, the devil and rain
Tried to ride away on a bike without tires, and a broken chain
But you just know him now
I knew him back when
He had a mind like Albert Einstein
And was everybody's friend



Cliff Compton

Broken people
Like broken dishes
Scattered out across the floor
Take him down
To loaves and fishes
So he don't bother you no more

And I ain't broken yet
But I wouldn't take a bet
About how long it will be until it's me
And I'm riding on a bike with no tires on the rim
Down to loaves and fishes
In the rain

Broken people
Like broken dishes
Scattered out across the floor
Take them down
to the good shepherd
who still cares for all the poor

The French Connection by Allan French

Carolina's Chinese Cookie

Carolina Bridges is the Director of public relations and customer service at Deering Banjo Company. Last summer, she posted onto the company blog that she had gotten a fortune cookie



Deering's Carolina Bridges.

message that read "All artists start off as amateurs." She said "this is one [Chinese fortune] I thought we all might enjoy talking about." She shared her thoughts at <http://blog.deeringbanjos.com>. (Look

for "All Artists Start as Amateurs" in the archives, posted August 26, 2015.)

I would encourage you to read the whole article, especially if you are a beginner-level musician. Her final remarks were about her own modest abilities, which I related to. "While I know I will never be on stage as an artist, I cherish my "amateur" status. I love playing the banjo with friends or by myself. I take great delight in learning to play a new song all by myself. It's those little victories that match those of an artist. They had to learn to crawl, and while the artist is off and running, [I] take solace in the fact that we all started off the same."

I think her parents gave her the perfect name to go with her future avocation (though Virginia would have been suitable also). Whenever I read her name, I can't help thinking of a railroad trestle crossing a river near Raleigh, Charlotte, Spartanburg, or Myrtle Beach ... all of which are excellent places to pick a banjo!!

Cindy Cashdollar is a Dobro player who regularly appears on "Prairie Home Companion." Since Cashdollar is indeed her real last name, don't you think she was destined to be a banker? (For all I know, she might have a sibling that did exactly that.)

Speaking of people and their interesting names ...

Political Name-Calling

Every four years it's time to wind up your Victrola and cue Charlie Poole and the North Carolina Ramblers, to hear them perform "White House Blues," circa 1926. You may want to follow that with "President Garfield's Hornpipe" and "Congress Reel." You've got until November to learn these obscure tunes and impress your friends!

Did you notice that the first tune is "White House Blues"? Why isn't it an elegant and stately waltz? Or a happy and energetic polka? Maybe politics hasn't changed so terribly much in the last ninety-plus years.

I am going to break this topic into several segments. That's mainly because I can't hog half of this newspaper. Plus, the election season runs from February to November, so I'll be here with you for the long haul. We can slog through this quadrennial quagmire quandary together.

PLEASE NOTE: This topic is not truly about politics, though politicians are indeed the subject. This article is about political leaders who have music-related names, and (next time) about musicians

who happen to be political leaders. It is not about anyone's governance ideologies.

I first had this idea back in 2012, when we were getting ready to select a new president. I never finished developing the story-line, but I retained my notes. Back then, the election choice was between Barack Oboe & Joe Bodhran of the D Minor Party (abbreviated as "Dm" or "Dem"); and Mitt Harmony & Paul Rosin of the G Party (that's "GOP"). As most of us know all too well, when half the band plays in D and half the band plays in G, the result is rather awful.

This year the only major candidates whose names suggest (to me) a musical term are Donald Trumpet and Marco Fiddle-Bow. (Carly Concertina has left the race at this point.) Five bucks says you can't find a relevant rhyme for Carson, Clinton, Cruz, Kasich, or Sanders. Without the last individual, the others could form the "Hard C Quartet" ... assuming they could just stop bickering.

Quotes from Our Musical Leaders

"The instrument proper to them [his slaves] is the banjar, which they brought hither from Africa."



Allan French

-- Thomas Jefferson (as cited on the back cover of the book "Picturing the Banjo."). He surely couldn't have imagined that the Scottish and Irish people would later come to embrace that instrument.

"The greatest thing the Democrats have ever done for me was to defeat me for the governor of Tennessee."

-- Roy Acuff. Famed for singing train ballads and gospel music, he was a politician earlier in life. If he had won election, he might later have faded into obscurity. Sometimes when a politician loses, everybody wins!

"My choice early in life was either to be a piano-player in a whorehouse or a politician," Harry Truman once said. "And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference."

CBA Calendar of Upcoming Music Events

Band Dates and Concerts

- 4/1 John Gorka with Claudia Russell & Bruce Kaplan at Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
- 4/2 Blame Sally at Center for the Arts, Grass Valley
- 4/4 Bill Evans & Alan Munde at Ifshin Violins, El Cerrito
- 4/5 Bean Creek at SAMs BBQ, San Jose
- 4/6 Sidesaddle & Co at Sam's BBQ, San Jose
- 4/6 Festival Speed and The Handsome Ladies at Revolution Cafe, San Francisco
- 4/6 Whiskey Brothers at Albatross Pub, Berkeley
- 4/7 Bruce Molsky at Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, Berkeley
- 4/7 Nearly Beloved -Americana at Atlas Cafe, San Francisco
- 4/8 Mike and Ruthy at Point Richmond Acoustic Music Series, Richmond
- 4/9 Canyon Johnson at Mission Pizza, Fremont
- 4/9 Harmony Grits at San Gregorio Store, San Gregorio
- 4/9 The Bearcat Duo at Cato's Alehouse, Oakland
- 4/9 Red Dog Ash; Windy Hill at Westside Theatre, Newman
- 4/11 The Alabama Bow Ties at Amnesia, San Francisco
- 4/12 Carolina Special at Sam's BBQ, San Jose
- 4/13 Dark Hollow at Sam's BBQ, San Jose

- 4/14 Jinx Jones at Atlas Cafe, San Francisco
- 4/15 Festival Speed at Papermill Creek Saloon, Forest Knolls
- 4/16 Circle R Boys at San Gregorio general store, San Gregorio
- 4/16 True Life Troubadours at Cleophus Quealy Brewery, San Leandro
- 4/16 John Reischman & the Jaybirds at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Redding
- 4/16 Jayme Stone's Lomax Project at Mountain View Masonic Lodge, Mountain View
- 4/18 Windy Hill at Amnesia, San Francisco
- 4/19 Cabin Fever at Sam's BBQ, San Jose
- 4/20 Sidesaddle & Co at Sam's BBQ, San Jose
- 4/20 Whiskey Brothers at Albatross Pub, Berkeley
- 4/21 Jimbo Trout and the Fishpeople at Atlas Cafe, San Francisco
- 4/22 The Dim Lights at Pacifica Moose Lodge, Pacifica
- 4/22 Kathy Kallick Band at Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
- 4/23 True Life Troubadours at Joe's Bar, Boulder Creek, CA
- 4/23 Kathy Kallick Band at Mildred Owen Concert Hall, Pacifica
- 4/25 Earl Brothers at Amnesia, San Francisco
- 4/26 Slide Road at Sam's BBQ, San Jose
- 4/27 Loganville at Sam's BBQ, San Jose

- 4/28 The T sisters at Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
- 4/29 Stragglyrs at Mission Pizza, Fremont
- 4/30 Beargrass Creek at Mission Pizza, Fremont
- 4/30 Festival Speed at Pub Republic, Petaluma

Beyond

- 5/6 EmiSunshine at Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
- 5/6 Berkeley Dulcimer Gathering at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, Berkeley
- 5/7 True Life Troubadours at Grinds Vines and Automobilia Cafe, Morgan Hill, CA
- 5/7 The Turtles with AJ Lee at Mountain View Masonic Lodge, Mountain View
- 5/11 Sean Watkins at Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
- 5/19 Evie Ladin Band; Stray Birds at Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
- 5/21 High Country at Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
- 5/25 Kruger Brothers at Freight Salvage, Berkeley
- 6/11 Rhonda Vincent & the R at Paradise Performing A Center, Paradise
- 6/11 San Francisco Free Folk Festival at Everett Middle School, S: Francisco
- 6/11 True Life Troubadours at Canery Row Brewing Co., Monterey, CA

Festivals

- April 24 (11 am): SAN FRANCISCO FESTIVAL OF THE MANDOLINS - Croatian American Cultural Center, SF http://www.croatianamericanweb.org/event_details.php?id=193
- May 5-8: PARKFIELD BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - Parkfield; Jeff Scroggins & Colorado; Gold Heart; Cray, Evans & Spurgin; Snap Jackson & the Knock On Wood Players; AJ Lee & the Valley Ramblers; Evie Ladin Band; The Honeysuckle Possums. <http://www.parkfieldbluegrass.org>
- May 14: SANTA CRUZ BLUEGRASS FAIR - San Lorenzo Park, Santa Cruz <http://www.scbs.org>

- May 26-30: STRAWBERRY SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL; David Grisman Sextet; Tim O'Brien; The Wood Brothers; Mavis Staples; Mary Gauthier; Sarah Potenza; Darlingside; The Kruger Brothers; The East Pointers; Dave Gunning; <http://www.strawberrymusic.com/home.aspx>
- June 10-12: HUCK FINN JUBILEE BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL - Cucamonga-Guasti Regional Park, Ontario <http://www.huckfinn.com>
- June 16-19: FATHER'S DAY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley.

Continued on A-24

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CBA Calendar of Upcoming Music Events

From Page A-23

Thurs.-Fri.: Rhonda Vincent & the Rage; New Reeltime Travelers; Jeff Scroggins & Colorado; Crary, Evans & Spurgin; Barwick & Siegfried; One Button Suit
 Fri.-Sat.: Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen; Blue & Lonesome; Alabama Bow ties
 Sat.-Sun.: Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass; Gibson Brothers; Flatt Lonesome; Tennessee Mafia Jug Band; Rocky Neck Bluegrass Band; Roustabouts.
<http://fathersdayfestival.com/>

June 17-19: LIVE OAK MUSIC FESTIVAL - Live Oak Camp, (near) Santa Barbara
<http://www.liveoakfest.org/pp/index.shtml>

June 18(?): SAN FRANCISCO FREE FOLK FESTIVAL - SF
<http://www.sffolkfest.org>

June 23-26: KATE WOLF MEMORIAL FESTIVAL - Black Oak Ranch, Laytonville
<http://katewolffmusicfestival.com>

June 24-26: SUSANVILLE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - Lassen County Fairgrounds
<http://lassencountyfair.org/interim-events/bluegrass-festival>

August 11-14: GOOD OLD FASHIONED BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - Bolado Park, Tres Pinos
<http://www.scbs.org/events/gof/>

August 19-21: SUMMERGRASS - Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista (San Diego)
<http://www.summergrass.net/>

September 2-5: STRAWBERRY FALL MUSIC FESTIVAL
<http://www.strawberrymusic.com/home.aspx>

September 21-25: BERKELEY OLD TIME MUSIC CONVENTION - Berkeley
www.berkeleyoldtimemusic.org/

September 30 - October 2: HARDLY STRICTLY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - SF
www.strictlybluegrass.com/

October 14-16: KINGMAN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - Kingman, AZ
kingmanbluegrassfestival.com

CAMPOUTS

April 11-17: CBA Spring Campout - Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, Turlock
<https://www.cbaweb.org/Events/SpringCampout>

May 21 (12-6 pm): Pickin' Picnic In the Park - Dahlia Picnic Area, Golden Gate Park, SF
<http://countryroundupsf.com>

August 25-28: CBA Golden Old-Time Campout - Poker Flat Campground, Lake Sonoma
<https://www.cbaweb.org/Events/GoldenOldTimeCampout>

October 17-23: CBA Fall Campout - Lodi Grape Festival & Harvest Fairgrounds, Lodi
<https://www.cbaweb.org/Events/FallCampout>

MUSIC CAMPS/WORKSHOPS

April 8-11: Walker Creek Music Camp - Petaluma
www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org

Instructors: Kathy Kallick, Tom Bekeny, Annie Staninec, Cary Black, Bill Evans, Dan Crary, Steve Spurgin, Greg Canote, Jere Canote, Sylvia Herold, Ivan Rosenberg, Alan Munde, Keith Yoder, Nate Lee, Clyde Curley, Steve Baughman, Rebecca Stout, Dave Keenan

April 15-17: Big Sur Fiddle Camp - Big Sur

May 12-16: Kowana Valley Folk School - Kowana (25 mi from Crane Flat entrance to Yosemite)
kowana-valley.com/

kowana-workshops
 Instructors: Sharon Gilchrist, Michael Witcher, Keith Little

June 12-15: CBA Music Camp - Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley
<http://cbamusiccamp.com>

June 15-18: CBA Youth Academy - Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley
<https://www.cbaweb.org/Events/YouthAcademy>

June 21-24: Susanville Bluegrass Camp - Lassen County Fairgrounds
<http://lassencountyfair.org/interim-events/bluegrass-festival>

June 28 - July 3: Voice Works - Port Townsend, WA
<http://centrum.org/programs/voice-works>

Faculty includes Laurie Lewis & Kathy Kallick; Mollie O'Brien & Rich Moore, Brigid & Lucy Moore; Carl Jones & Kelli Jones-Savoy; Carol Elizabeth Jones & Vivian Leva; Mac & Jenny Traynham, Hanna Traynham; Petunia; others

July 3-10: Fiddle Tunes - Port Townsend, WA
centrum.org/festival-of-american-fiddle-tunes-the-workshop

July 10-23: California Coast Music Camp - Placer County, just east of Auburn
<http://www.musiccamp.org>

Week 1: July 10-16
 Week 2: July 17-23

July 30 - August 19: Puget Sound Guitar Workshop - Bremerton, WA
<http://www.psgw.org>

Session 1: July 30 - August 5
 Session 2: August 6 - 12
 Session 3: August 13 - 19

August 21 - September 2: Nimblefingers - Sorrento, British Columbia,
www.nimblefingers.ca

Week 1: August 21 - 26
 Week 2: August 28 - September 2

September 8-11: American Banjo Camp - Nordland (near Seattle), WA,
www.americanbanjocamp.com

October 6-9: Walker Creek Music Camp - Petaluma
www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org

SQUARE & CONTRA DANCES

Bay Area Country Dance Society contra and square dances:

1st/3rd/5th Wed.: Christ Church Berkeley, 2138 Cedar, Berkeley
 1st/3rd Sat., 4th Fri.: St. Paul's Church, 43rd & Judah, SF

2nd/4th/5th Sat.: Palo Alto United Methodist Church

3rd Sun. (September - June): First Unitarian Church, San Jose

North Bay Country Dance Society monthly contra dances:

1st Sun: Petaluma Woman's Club

2nd Sat.: Marin Masonic Hall, San Rafael

3rd Fri.: Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa

4th Sat.: Wischemann Hall, Sebastopol

1st/3rd Fri.: North Oakland Square Dance - Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. (near Alcatraz), Oakland

1st Fri.: Squirrelly Stringband with caller Jordan Ruyle
 3rd Fri.: revolving cast of bands and callers

4th/5th Sun. (4-7 pm): Traditional Dancers of the Golden State contra dance - Hill & Valley Club, Hayward

2nd Fri.: Traditional Dancers of Santa Cruz contra dance - Live Oak Grange, SC

1st Sat.: Canyon Contra Dance - Canyon School

1st Sat.: Queer Contra Dance - Lake Merritt Dance Center, Oakland

2nd Fri.: Circle Left - First Unitarian Church of Oakland

OPEN MICS

Angel's Camp - Open Mic at Side-winders, 1252 S Main Street, in the basement next to Aeolian Harp, for info email rattle-on@rattlerecords.com

Chico - Every Thursday open mic at Has Beans, 501 Main Street, Chico, CA, from 7pm to 10pm. Singers, poets and musicians welcome. Call 530-894-3033 for information.

Chico - Every 2nd Sunday, acoustic open mic, from 11am to 2pm at Has Beans by the Creek, 1078 Humboldt Drive in Chico. Hosted by Rita Serra. For more information, contact Rita at serarita55@gmail.com. Please call first to confirm 530-894-3033!

Mariposa - Open Mic at the Hideout Saloon at 5031 State Highway 140 #F in Mariposa Thursdays, 8:00 pm.

Paradise - Every Wednesday Night: Open Mike hosted by Susan Dobra, at 490 Grange at 5704 Chapel Drive in Paradise, from 7:30-10:00pm. Signups at 7pm. Come share your musical talent, or just come to listen! \$2.00 admission & a delicious home-made dinner available for purchase.

Sonora - Open Mic at Sonora Joe's 2nd and 4th Thursday 7-9:00 pm at 140 Washington St. in Sonora.

Twain Harte - Open Mic & Jam Night at the Eagle Tavern (Eprosan House), 22930 Twain Harte Drive in Twain Harte Wednesday at 9:00 pm

Woodbridge - Woodbridge Grange Hall, 1074 E Academy St in

Woodbridge, 4th Wednesday of every month is a Starry Night Open Mic Showcase from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Hostess Donna Christensen; Host Tim Christensen. (An acoustic open mic welcoming a variety of music including bluegrass, folk, country, pop, and gospel.)

REGULAR GIGS

Albany Taproom, High Country on the 4th Wednesday, 745 San Pablo Ave, Albany

Albatross Pub, Whiskey Brothers on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1822 San Pablo Ave, 2 locks north of University Ave, Berkeley

Amnesia every Monday, 853 Valencia St, between 19th and 20th, San Francisco. For more information, call 415-970-0012 or visit <http://amnesiathebar.com>

1st Monday: various Old Time music
 2nd Monday: Alabama Bowties
 3rd Monday: Windy Hill
 4th Monday: The Earl Brothers

Atlas Café, 3049 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco. For more information, call JimBo Trout at 415-648-1047 or email jimbotrout@gmail.com or visit <http://www.atlascafe.net>.

Every Saturday: Craig Ventresco & Meredith Axelrod-Ragtime
 Catos Ale House, 3891 Piedmont Ave in Oakland, traditional bluegrass played by Mountain Fire

Band every 3rd Sunday at 5:30 p.m. and The Bearcat Stringband every 2nd Saturday at 1 p.m., for more information check their website at www.mountainfireband.com or visit <http://www.catosalehouse.com>.

Hideout Saloon, 5031 State Highway 140 #F in Mariposa, Tim Hagar and Friends play on Sundays from 7 to 10 p.m., jazz and blues.

Millville Grange, 20237 Old Forty-Four Drive - Palo Cedro, fourth Sunday of the month there's a

free old-time fiddle & bluegrass concert from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., with an open mic after the concert.

Mission Pizza & Pub, 1572 Washington Blvd., Fremont, CA Washington Blvd Exit off 680 between 680 and Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont - Mill Creek Ramblers play every Thursday. For more information, call Phil Willis at 510-651-6858/510-574-1880 or email info@missionpizza.com or visit <http://www.missionpizza.com>.

Pacifica Moose Lodge every 4th Friday: The Dim Lights at 776 Bradford Way, 94044, Pacifica, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Great, cheap food & drinks. All ages welcome! For more information, call Vicki Frankel at 650 740-0181 or email vicki.frankel@gmail.com.

Redwood Café, 4342 Dale Road, Modesto, hear Al Medina on Friday's from 6 to 9 p.m.

Rough & Ready Grange Hall every Sunday: The Fruit Jar Pickers,

Rough & Ready Highway about five miles west of Grass Valley in Rough & Ready: For more information, call 530-272-4320 or visit www.roughandreadychamber.com.

Sam's BBQ every Tuesday & Wednesday, 1110 S Bascom Ave, San Jose: For more information email sam@samsbbq.com or visit <http://www.samsbbq.com>.

1st Tuesday: Bean Creek

1st and 3rd Wednesday: Sidesaddle

2nd Tuesday: Carolina Special

2nd Wednesday: Dark Hollow

3rd Tuesday: Cabin Fever

4th Tuesday: Slide Road

4th Wednesday: Loganville

San Gregorio General Store, Highway 84 and Stage Road, San Gregorio: For more information, call or visit

www.sangregoriostore.com.

2nd Saturday: Harmony Grits

3rd Sunday: The Circle R Boys

The Liberty Café; Karen Celia Heil,

many times with a guest, plays

Old-Time songs and tunes, one

Friday per month at The Liberty

Café, 410 Cortland Ave, downtown Bernal Heights, San Francisco.

Exact Friday to be announced on

oldtimesf. Located in the cottage

behind the main restaurant, 7:00

to 9:00 PM; full Cafe menu

available. 410 Cortland Ave. SF,

CA 94110 | 415.695.8777

<http://www.thelibertycafe.com>

The Station Grill every Saturday,

Dusty Shoes Gospel Band, 170

W Grand Ave, Grover Beach.

For more information, call

(805) 489-3030 or visit <http://dustyshoesbluegrassgospelband.org/>.

The Sand Dollar Restaurant,

3458 Shoreline Highway,

Stinson Beach. For more information,

call 415-868-0434 or visit

<http://www.strinsonbeachrestaurant.com>.

Willowbrook Ale House every

Thursday, 3600 Petaluma Blvd

N, Petaluma a weekly gig featuring

three life time CBA honorees.

Usually it is Blue & Lonesome

personnel, sometimes we have

audience participation. Sometimes

we call the band Ed Neff and Friends.

We have stellar sit ins when a

regular member cannot make it

For more information, call Ed

Neff at 707-778-8175 or email ed@edneff.com

or visit www.edneff.com. For more

information, call (707) 775-

4232

Continued on A-26

Meet Me In the Kitchen By Eileen Kleinschmidt

Yay—spring has arrived! At least it appears to be here this week. If I didn't pay attention to the weather report, I would never know from one day to the next what to expect! Last week we had monstrous winds and downpours. Everywhere I looked there were trees down and creeks overflowing their banks. I kind of expected the entire winter to be wet and wild with all the reports of El Nino. I think the most incredible force experienced by those on the coast were the huge waves. The Maverick's surfing competition took place just outside of Half Moon Bay and the films I saw showed 50 foot waves. Some day I would like to experience that. No! Not in the water but on the shore as a spectator. It makes the waves I surfed as a youngster look like kindergarten. Both Gary and I were raised in the small (back then!) beach town of Encinitas. Back in the 60's there wasn't even a freeway, just Highway 101.



It's the Best Burger Ever!

Photo: Eileen Kleinschmidt

You could walk downtown and everybody knew your name (just like Cheers!) Now it is gridlock on the roads and every block contains a big box store. The beach still looks the same, except the founding fathers have made it easier to descend down to the water with the installation of stairs. Back then it was just dirt with a path. Great memories that I would not trade for the world. It was a fun place to grow up.

Gary and I attended a wonderful night of music in Shingle Springs (only 45 minutes from home), featuring Edgar Loudermilk with Jeff Austin. The hall was filled with locals and I spotted some CBA members from far away too. John Saiti was responsible for bringing this fantastic show to our neighborhood and we thank him! We are looking forward to many future shows. Two weeks later we were fortunate enough to see the Claire Lynch Band at our own Sutter Creek Theatre. It was the first time we had seen her and we were not disappointed. She puts on a great show! The theater is small and intimate and it felt as if it were in someone's

living room. We even spotted Keith Little in the audience. Sutter Creek is a great town for a weekend away. Check out the theater's website at www.suttercreektheater.com for upcoming shows. The site has a listing for bed and breakfast inns that are within walking distance of the theater and dining options.

We are looking forward to the CBA Spring Campout in April. This will be our first time. It will be nice to get out and listen to some music. The world needs more grinners, right? We think we will bring our dog Sophie too. After all, she was raised on bluegrass. She was only three months old when she attended her first Father's Day Festival.

It's grilling weather! I want to share a very special burger that I believe is my favorite of all time. I like bacon and onions and the compote dresses up the patty very nicely.

card all but 1 tablespoon of the drippings from the skillet.

Reduce the heat to low and add the butter to the skillet; swirl to melt. Add the onions; cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden, about 15 minutes. Uncover and add the garlic. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the onions are lightly caramelized, about 5 minutes. Add the vinegar and cook, stirring, until the onions are glazed, about 1 more minute. Stir in the reserved bacon and season with salt and pepper; set aside.

To grill the burgers: Preheat a grill to medium high and brush the grates with vegetable oil. Form the beef into four 1-inch thick patties and season with salt and pepper. Grill 4 to 5 minutes per side for medium. Meanwhile, toast the rolls.

To serve: top burgers with the cheeses, bacon-onion compote and arugula. Enjoy!

- Adapted from Food Network

Gary and I are volunteers in our granddaughter Maggie's third grade class. We grade papers, prepare weekly take-home envelopes and do

anything else to make the teacher's day easier. When she told us about the valentine's day party they were planning, I thought it would be fun to contribute a batch of kid-friendly cookies. I am sharing this recipe with you because I am sure many of you have days you spend with your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, etc. where you would like to experience a little baking fun. Something easy for small fingers. Many colors make it festive! This could be adapted for each season or holiday if you want. The hardest part about making these was finding the pink sugar wafers. I visited three grocery stores and a couple drug stores with no success. Something told me to try one of the dollar stores and... SCORE! It is something they stock all the time.

Easy Project Cookies (for lack of a better name!)

Melting chocolate:

This can be found in the cake decorating section of JoAnn Fabrics or Walmart. Probably other stores too. It comes in a tub or as pieces. I prefer the tub (I tried both).

Variety of sprinkles:

Gary had more fun with the multi-colored ball sprinkles. Yes, he helped make them! Sugar wafer cookies
Parchment or waxed paper
Cooling racks

Prepare your work area (this gets real messy!)
Sophie, our dog



Guaranteed kid magnets: Easy Project Cookies.

Photo: Eileen Kleinschmidt



Eileen Kleinschmidt

was doing a grid search to find dropped sprinkles and pieces of cookies) Lay out cooling racks on top of parchment or waxed paper.

Melt (microwave) dipping chocolate per directions on package. Arrange containers of sprinkles on top of paper plates (one plate for each color).

Dip the ends of each cookie in the chocolate and immediately apply sprinkles. Lay on cooling rack and allow to harden.

I piled all the cookies in a windowed cake box I purchased at JoAnn's and by the time it was filled it probably weighed five pounds. When Gary took them to the school he was stopped by the school bus driver and the staff, begging for a sample. Today while we were in the classroom one of the students told me how much she liked the cookies!

Let the fun begin! Release your inner child!

There are a few holidays in April worthy of mention, starting with April Fools Day on the first day of the month. That was my dad's birthday and he was always a good sport when it came to a joke. The 21st is the Queen's birthday (I feel a tea party coming on!); the 22nd is the start of Passover and also Earth Day; the 27th is Administrative Professional's Day (I think they used to call them secretaries) and the 29th is Arbor Day.

I hope to see many of you at the Spring Campout this month. Otherwise, I will see you back in my kitchen in May!

"Spring is Nature's Way of Saying Let's Party!"

- Robin Williams (and others)

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CBA Calendar of Upcoming Music Events

From Page A-24

vid Naiditch at 626-794-2424 or email davidnaiditch@charter.net or visit <http://www.coffee-gallery.com>.

Arroyo Grande – Second Sunday of each month at the South County Regional Center, 800 West Branch Street in Arroyo Grande from 1 to 4 p.m., this is an open jam and all are welcome. For more information, call Mike Morgan at 805-837-2238.

Berkeley – Every Sunday at the Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 2020 Addison Street Berkeley 94702 from 1 to 4 p.m., slow jam session. For details, call Richard Brandenburg at 510-559-0938 or email richarderic-brandenburg@gmail.com or visit www.freightandsalvage.org.

Boulder Creek – Second Sunday (2 pm): Methodist Church, Boulder Creek (831-423-5214)

Castro Valley – First Sunday of every month at Cafe 4 Coffee Shop at 3 Crosses Church, 20600 John Drive in Castro Valley from 4 to 6 p.m., mostly Gospel Bluegrass Jam. For more information, call Rich & Debra Ferguson at 510-219-7752.

Castro Valley – Fourth Sunday (1:30 p.m.) United Methodist Church of Castro Valley, 19806 Wisteria St. California Old Time Fiddlers Association. For more information email <http://www.csotfa9.org>.

Columbia – Second Sunday of every month at the Jack Douglass Saloon, 22718 Main St. in Columbia from 2 to 6 p.m., Irish music jam. For more information, call T Drohan at (209) 533-4176 or call (209) 532-1885 or visit www.jackdouglass-saloon.com.

Cotati - Redwood Cafe, 8240 Old Redwood Highway. For more information email knccarney@yahoo.com or jdfiddler@yahoo.com or visit <http://www.redwoodcafecotati.com/>.

Coulterville - The Magnolia Saloon, 5001 Main Street at the corner of Highway 49 and Route 132 on the way to Yosemite. The Magnolia Saloon, a part of the Hotel Jeffery, is the oldest working saloon in California, complete with the original "bat wing" doors and is one of only a few saloons to still have them. For more information, call 209-878-0461 or visit <http://www.hoteljeffery.com/>.

Dutch Flat – 3rd Sunday The Monte Vista Inn 32106 Ridge Rd. 530-389-2333 Strictly old time

Fairfax - The Sleeping Lady, 23 Broadway. For more information, call (415) 485-1182 or visit <http://sleepingladyfairfax.com/home>.

Folsom – Third Sunday of each month at the Lockdown Brewing Company, 718 Sutter St. Suite 200, upstairs in Folsom from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information call 916.358.9645.

Grass Valley – Third Sunday of each month at the Holbrook Ho-

tel, 212 Main St in Grass Valley from 3 to 6 p.m. For more info call 530-346-6942.

La Grange – Fourth Sunday of every month at the LaGrange Saloon and Grill, 30048 Yosemite Blvd in La Grange, Old time jam. For more information, call 209-853-2114.

Livermore - 3rd Sunday (4:30 pm): "Full speed" jam - Community Living Center (Building 90), Veterans Affairs, 4951 Arroyo Rd., Livermore; <wes@spaincarolinabbq.com>.

Madera Ranchos – First Sunday of every month at the Madera Ranchos Cafe, 37193 Avenue 12 in Madera Ranchos from 3 to 5 p.m., jam is mostly old time and Celtic music. 1st hr slow jam, then full speed. For more information, call Kelly O'Neill at 559-283-6093 or email kellyoneillappraisals.com.

Nevada City – First Sunday of each month at the National Hotel, 211 Broad Street. Old time jam from 1 to 4 pm. For more information, call 530-575-8766.

Nevada City - Second Sunday of the month at California Organics at 135 Argall Way in Nevada City from 4 to 6 p.m. for an old time jam. For more info call 530-265-9392 or visit www.californiaorganics.com.

Nipomo – First Sunday of every month at the Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church, 1235 N Thompson Rd at Los Berros Rd, just east of the Rt. 101 exit in Nipomo from 5:30 to 8 p.m. In the Community Room, comfy chairs available, bring music stand and music. For more information email captainc@slonet.org.

Orangevale – Second Sunday of each month Old-time Fiddlers jam at the Orangevale Grange Hall, 5805 Walnut Ave. (just north of Madison Ave.) in Orangevale from 1 to 5 p.m. For information call 916-723-2314.

Oroville - Feather River Senior Citizens, 1335 Myers Street. Food & Drink available - Potluck For more information, call Jimi Beeler at 925-282-3205 or email zeke103@digitalpath.net.

Palo Cedro - Fourth Sunday Of The Month: Free Old Time Fiddle & Bluegrass Concert, 2:00 PM to 4:00PM. Open Mic (after the concert). Held at the Millville Grange, 20237 Old Forty-Four Drive – Palo Cedro CA.

Paso Robles - Old Carnegie Library, City Park, between 11th and 12th streets, Spring and Pine. Open acoustic jam -- all levels of ability welcome, we range from rank beginners to accomplished professionals, and try to have something for everyone. For more information visit www.folkjam.org/recurring-jam/us/ca/paso-robles/carnegie-haul.

Redding - First Sunday of the month at St James Lutheran Church, 2500 Shasta View Drive in Redding from 1 to 4:30 p.m., Old Time Fiddle & Bluegrass Jam.

Free Concert at 2:00PM. Open mic (after the concert).

San Francisco – Second and fourth Sundays at Progressive Grounds Coffee Shop at 400 Courtland Ave. at 3 p.m., old time jam. For more information email larry-the241@yahoo.com.

San Francisco – Every Sunday (4 p.m.) The Lucky Horseshoe, 453 Cortland Ave. For more information visit <http://www.theluckyhorseshoebar.com>.

San Francisco – First Sunday (8 pm): Shoe Jam - invitational jam at the Lucky Horseshoe, 453 Cortland Ave., SF

San Jose – First Sunday of every month at Hoover Middle School, 1635 Park Ave in San Jose from 1 to 5 p.m. Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association jam session. \$6 members, \$8 non-members, youths 17 and under are free. For more information visit <http://www.fiddlers.org>.

San Leandro - First Sunday (5 pm): Cleophus Quealy Beer Co., San Leandro

Santa Cruz – Fourth Sunday (1 p.m.) of each month at Oceanview Park at 102 Ocean View Ave. (Ocean View Ave is off Broadway between Ocean St. and Branciforte.). A bluegrass and old time jam. This jam has three separate circles: slow jam, advanced bluegrass jam, old time jam. For more information call Jessica Evans at 831-359-1864 or email santacruzjam@googlegroups.com or visit <http://groups.google.com/group/santacruzjam>.

Sebastopol – Fourth Sunday (2 p.m.) of every month at Sebastopol Christian Church, 7433 Bodega Avenue Corner of Bodega & Jewell Ave, gospel jam. For more information call 707-824-1960.

Sunnyvale – Third Sunday of every month at the Heritage Park Building, Sunnyvale Community Center 550 East Remington Drive (southwest corner near the orchard) from 1 to 5 p.m. This is a great location near the orchard. Play outside in the shade or inside. All levels welcome. \$5 fee per person pays the City for the space. If you have questions, contact Paul or Sue, 408-737-2521 or 775-720-2400 or email paulcc@nvcbell.net.

Monday

Bakersfield – First Monday of each month at Rusty's Pizza, 5430 Olive Drive (in the Von's Center) beginning at 6 p.m., a bluegrass jam open to all skill levels. For more information, call Slim Sims at 760-762-6828 or email to slim1070@msn.com.

Culver City - Industry Cafe & Jazz, 6039 Washington Blvd. For more information call Jeff Fleck at 310-390-4391 or email jfleck47@ca.rr.com.

Oakland – Every Monday is the invitational Baja Taqueria Jam at Baja Taqueria, 4070 Piedmont

Ave. (near 41st Street), Oakland hosted by Tom Lucas For more information call Joe Howton at 510-547-2252 or email TRman2323@aol.com or visit <http://sfbbluegrass.org/php/tacojam.html>.

Oakland - The Stork Club - 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland joshjakus@gmail.com

Oroville – First and third Monday is the Fiddle Group Workshop for musicians of any age at the Bolt Tool Museum at 1650 Broderick St in Oroville from 7 to 9 p.m. Instruction is from 6:15 to 6:45 at a cost of \$15 per session. Each session features a new fiddle tune. Admission to the museum is \$2.50 per person. For more information, call Jimi Beeler at 530-282-3205., and to get on the District 1 mailing list, either call Jimi or email csotfadistrict1@aol.com.

Palo Alto – Every Monday old-time jam at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 East Charleston Road in Palo Alto, the new home of the previous Fandango jam from 7 to 9 p.m.

San Francisco - Second and Fourth Mondays (6:30 pm): The Pick Jam - Amnesia, 853 Valencia, SF - precedes the Bluegrass Monday show

San Francisco - Third Monday (6:30 pm): The Handsome Ladies Jam - Amnesia, SF

Tuesday

Berkeley - Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists (BFUU), 1606 Bonita Ave. at Cedar St. in North Berkeley. We play Bluegrass standards kinda slow, support each others' learning, and have some laughs. My job is to act as the Jam Lifeguard when songs start to unravel, and do some coaching. Email me if you have questions to Ran Bush at ranbush@gmail.com.

Dublin – Second and fourth Tuesday of every month at the Dublin Heritage Center, 6600 Donlon Way in the old schoolhouse from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information call 925-452-2100.

Folsom – First Tuesday of each month at Nicholson's MusiCafe, 632 Bidwell in Folsom from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the acoustic guitar club meets. For more info call 916-984-3020.

Folsom – Third Tuesday of each month at Nicholson's MusiCafe, 632 Bidwell in Folsom from 6:30 to 8 p.m., beginners bluegrass club. For more info call 916-984-3020.

Merced - The Coffee Bandits, 309 W Main St. in Merced. First Tuesday of each month bluegrass, old-time, Americana, acoustic only. For more information call 209-383-1200.

Modesto – Every Tuesday except the first Tuesday of the month at the Queen Bean Coffee House, 1126 14th Street from 7 to 9 p.m. Flavor of music is bluegrass, gospel, fiddle-tunes, old-time and traditional country. For

more information call Rainy Escobar at (209) 985-9282 or email InamMec@aol.com.

Pacifica – First and third Tuesday of every month at Winter's Tavern at 1522 Francisco Blvd in Pacifica. Mid-Level Bluegrass jam from 7:00 - 10:00 pm. We'll stick to bluegrass standards and follow standard jam etiquette. All bluegrass instruments welcome. There will be a core group of bluegrass instruments that'll help lead. The Winter's Tavern loves bluegrass music and are thrilled to be helping start up this jam.... bring a few bucks to indulge in their reasonably priced, fantastic selection of beers. Well-behaved dogs are welcome! There's usually a steaming pot of chili offered served with chips too, along with endless popcorn. I'm hoping they'll sell pickled eggs soon. For information, contact Vicki Frankel at vicki.frankel@gmail.com or call me at 650-740-0181.

Paso Robles - Oak Creek Commons, 635 Nicklaus Drive. We meet in the common room in the common building at the center of the complex. Bring an instrument and join in! For more information, call (805) 234-0809.

San Francisco – First, third and fifth Tuesdays at Andronico's Market, 1200 Irving Street, Funston between Lincoln and Irving in San Francisco. For more information email dinahbeatrice@gmail.com.

Santa Maria - La Maria Trailer Park, 1701 S Thornburg - When you turn in off Thornburg, go right and follow on around to a little right turn in the street, go to the left and you can see the club house on the left. If you are a musician [string instruments (violin/fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bass, banjo, and ukulele), accordion, and harmonica and want to participate, please come join us for jamming.

Sebastopol – First and third Tuesday of each month at Subud Hall, 234 Hutchins Ave off Highway 116 on the south side of town near The Aubergine in Sebastopol. For more information email davidacarlson62@hotmail.com.

Ventura - Milano's Italian Restaurant, 1559 Spinnaker Drive Ste 100. For more information, call (805) 658-0388 or email michaelrubin1@earthlink.net or visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~generubinaudio/>.

Wednesday

Atascadero – Second and fourth Wednesdays every month at the Last Stage West BBQ, 15050 Morro Road in Atascadero from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and is open to all. For more information, call Bern Singsen at 805-595-1970 or visit <http://www.laststagewest.net>.

Chico - Third Wednesdays of each month: bluegrass & old time slow jam from 7:00pm to

Continued on A-27

CBA Calendar of Upcoming Music Events

From Page A-26

9:00pm at the Blue Oak Charter School, 540 W. East Main. All music played is at a slower pace. Songs and fiddle tunes are shared and taught, so this is a perfect venue for beginning and intermediate musicians who want a relaxed jam! Special thanks to Jim Myers for his great leadership of this jam! For additional information, email Jim at: myersjj@gmail.com

El Cerrito – El Cerrito Music Works (6:30 p.m.), 11225 San Pablo Avenue. The jam is upstairs, accessible through the door just north of the store entrance, 11231 San Pablo. Near the Del Norte Bart station and bus lines. Open bluegrass jam at the Music Works music store in El Cerrito. All levels welcome, two larges rooms available. No food or drink except water. For more information, call (510) 232-1000 or visit www.ecmusicworks.com.

Folsom – Every Wednesday at Nicholson's MusiCafe at 632 Biwell in Folsom from 6 to 9 p.m. Open mic and jam. For more info call 916-984-3020.

Fresno - Santa Fe Basque Restaurant, Friends of Kenny Hall Regular Jam at 3110 N Maroa Ave., Fresno, CA

Martinez – Armando's, 707 Marina Vista Martinez, CA 94553. Hosted by Bruce Campbell and Red Rick Horlick from 7 to 10 p.m., with sign up at 6:30 p.m. The house band, led by Bruce Campbell, will be there to back up any pickers and singers. Are you a bluegrass musician that hasn't hit the big time yet? Then, come on down to Armando's and get on stage with some of the hottest bluegrass players in the Bay Area. Are you a bluegrass fan? 3 hours of music for \$3! For more information, call Eloise Cotton at 925-229-1989 or visit www.armandosmartinez.com.

Nevada City – Every Wednesday at Ol' Republic Brewer at 124 Argall Way in Nevada City from 6 to 9 p.m. For more info call 530-264-7263.

Palo Alto - Wednesdays: Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 East Charleston Rd., Palo Alto (bluegrass)

Petaluma – Fourth Wednesday each month at the Aquas Cafe, 189 H Street in Petaluma, bluegrass and Old Time open jam from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 707.778.6060 or visit <http://www.aquascafe.com>.

San Francisco - First Wednesday: The Plough & Stars - 116 Clement (@ 2nd Ave.), SF; hosted by Jeanie & Chuck Poling [bg, old time, classic country]

Sand City – Second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Sand City City Hall, 1 Sylvan Park in Sand City, regular bluegrass jam from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information contact Chuck at churdley@att.net.

Scotts Valley – Java Jam at Coffee Catz, Scotts Village Shopping Center, 255 Mt Hermon Road #A, Scotts Valley. This is an invitational bluegrass jam, patterned after the Taco Jam that is held in Oakland. If you are interested, please send an email to Steve Rosen (steverosen@polarlight.com) to request a spot on the list. For more information, call Steve Rosen at 831-566-6828 or email steverosen@polarlight.com or visit <http://www.TheJavaJam.com>.

Sonora – Second Wednesday of each month at Christopher's Ristorante Italiano, 160 Washington Street in the historic Sonora Inn. Ukulele jam at 6 p.m. For more information, call 209 533 2600.

Vacaville – Third Wednesday of each month at Vacaville Winestyles, Vacaville Winestyles 11-B Town Square Place in Vacaville from 7 to 9:00 pm Jam is intermediate and above. Each participant needs to be able to lead three songs For more information, call John Erwin at (707) 447-9463 or visit <http://www.winestyles.net>.

Vacaville – First and third Wednesdays at the McBride Senior Center, 91 town Square Place in Vacaville from 6 to 9 p.m. for More info call 707-448-8963.

Woodbridge – Second Wednesday of each month at the Woodbridge Grange Hall, 1074 E Academy St in Woodbridge from 7 to 9 p.m. Hostess: Gloria Hensel; Host Danny Maple. (An acoustic jam welcoming a variety of music including bluegrass, folk, country and gospel.)

Thursday

Corte Madera – First and third Thursdays at the Marin Lutheran Church, 649 Meadowsweet in Corte Madera, bluegrass jam from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. For more information, call Emily Riddell at 415 331 8989 or email emily.riddell@att.net or visit uimfamilyministry@earthlink.net.

Folsom – First, third and fourth Thursdays at Landmark Baptist Church, 609 Figueroa in Folsom from 6 to 9 p.m., new pickers welcome! For more info call 916-988-8062.

Hopland – Second and fourth Thursdays at the Hopland Tap House, 13351 S Highway 101, right across the street from the Bluebird Café, from 6:30 to 9 or so. Open, acoustic, not strictly bluegrass jams. Contact Albert Farrens at albertfarrens@msn.com for more information.

Morgan Hill – First, second and fourth Thursdays at the Morgan Hill Grange Hall, 40 East 4th St. For more information, call Tim Edes at (408) 779-5456 or email tim.bei@charter.net or visit <http://www.cbaontheweb.org>.

Murphys – First and third Thursdays at Figaro's Pizza, 164 E Highway 4 in Murphys (next to

Murphys Suites Hotel). Bluegrass and acoustic jam from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Growler Craft Brewery aka Figaro's Pizza For more information, call 209-728-1162.

Oakland - 1st/3rd/5th Thursdays: Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (old time)

Sacramento – Every Thursday at Fifth String Music Store at 3184 N St in Sacramento, from 7 to 10 p.m. For more info call 916-442-8282 or visit www.thefifthstring.com.

Sacramento – Second and fifth Thursdays at various Sacramento area homes from 6 to 9 p.m., new pickers welcome! For more info call Ron at 916-988-8062 or John at 916-990-0719.

Sacramento – Third Thursday of each month at Old Ironsides, 1901 10th St in Sacramento from 7:30 to 10 p.m. For more info call 916-443-9751.

San Francisco – Third Thursday: Doctor's Lounge, 4826 Mission St., SF; hosted by the Beauty Operators String Band

San Francisco – Final Thursday: Atlas Cafe, 3049 - 20th (at Alabama), SF (415-648-1047)

Friday

Hanford - Yarnall's Pizza - back room, <http://www.yarnallpizzeria.com> 820 W Lacey blvd. Hanford, CA. All are welcome! Young and old. This is a regular jam of mostly old time fiddlers. For more information, call Stacey Snodgrass at (559) 836-0068 or email ssnodgrass@gmail.com.

Placerville – Every Friday at Main Street Music, 263 Main Street at the corner of Center from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 530-622-1357.

Saturday

Arroyo Grande – Second Saturday of each month at Lightning Joe's Guitar Heaven, 100 East Branch Street in the Historic Village, just off Highway 101 at Grand Ave from 1 to 4 p.m. and is open to all. Bluegrass, old time, old grass, originals, country, newgrass. We will explore tunes with an emphasis on working them up to speed, understanding the forms and allowing the players to find a place to shine. Plenty of stools, but bring music stands. For more information, call 805-481-2226.

Chico – First Saturday of each month at Upper Crust Bakery, 130 Main Street. Butte County Folk Music Society sponsored Folk Music Jam 4 to 6 p.m. For more information, call Steve Johnson at 530-345-4128.

Crowley Lake - McGee Creek Lodge, 12 miles south of Mammoth Lakes and 20miles north of Bishop. Take 395 to the McGee Creek Exit. First place on the left. Open jam for pros to beginners! For more information, call Jeff Meadway at 760 914 1089 or email meadwayjeff@yahoo.com or visit none.

Dublin – Second and fourth Saturday of each month at the Dublin Heritage Center, Old St. Raymond's Church 6600 Donlon Way. Slow/practice Jam Session from 1 to 4 pm. For more information, call 925-452-2100.

Fremont – First and third Saturdays at Mission Pizza & Pub, 1572 Washington Blvd., Fremont take Washington Blvd Exit Off 680 Between 680 and Paseo Padre Parkway. Hosted by Mill Creek Ramblers. For more information call Phil Willis at 510-651-6858/510-574-1880 or email info@missionpizza.com or visit <http://www.missionpizza.com>.

Lafayette - 1st Saturday (noon): Lamorinda Bluegrass & Old Time Music Jam - Lamorinda Music Store, 81 Lafayette Circle Lafayette

Mountain View - Saturdays (5 pm) preceding RBA concerts: 1667 Miramonte Blvd.(corner of Cuesta Dr.), Mountain View; info: Ed Cirimele <jocimo@gmail.com>

Paso Robles – Every Saturday at Matt's Music, 617 12th St. Matt's Jam every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in downtown Paso Robles For more information, call 805-237-0054.

Redding - Second Saturday of the month: Free Old Time Fiddle & Bluegrass Concert, 5:30 PM to 7:30PM.Open Mic (after the concert). Round Table Pizza at

Shasta Mall, 900 Dana Drive in Redding

Roseville – Every Saturday at the Acoustic Den, 10271 Fairway Drive #120 11 am-2 pm 916-412-8739 Jam & performance

Santa Clara - Edward Peterman Museum of Railroad History at Santa Clara Depot, 1005 Railroad Avenue - Santa Clara Amtrak Station (Santa Clara Depot) across from Santa Clara University . A friendly bluegrass music jam, intermediate to advanced. Sunny days jam outside on the SW corner next big shady tree. Rainy days - jam inside the museum. Free parking in front of the museum. Paid parking (not checked often) to south and west of museum For more information call Mary M. Kennedy at 408-241-5920 or email kennedymk@comcast.net.

Sebastopol –Every Saturday afternoon is the North Bay Area bluegrass and old-time music jam from 2 to 5 p.m., held at Community Market, 6762 Sebastopol Avenue #100, Highway 12 just east of Sebastopol by the Sebastopol Inn. This is not a slow jam or beginner's jam, intermediate and above players are expected and new additions are always welcome.

Sebastopol – Saturdays at 2 pm at Coffee Catz, 6761 Sebastopol Ave., Sebastopol (707-829-6600)

Attention bands, promoters, venues – if you would like to have your performances, concerts, festivals or jam sessions listed in the Bluegrass Breakdown and on the CBA website, please send your information to our CBA Calendar Editor - Mikki Larrick at mikfid@gmail.com.

New CBA calendar manager is ready to help promote your events

From Page A-1

3. At the end of the first paragraph, it says, click here to post and event.

4. Required fields are title, date, venue and event city. Please add as much information as you know into the optional fields.

5. Under the date, you may select repeating events, or single events. (If the title, venue, or event city changes each time, you need to select single event. If the event is a repeating event with the same title, venue and city, you may choose the repeating event.) You will need to enter a starting date and ending date, even if the beginning date and ending date are the same.

6. Click on the orange box, save event, at the bottom of the page.

7. I will get an email notice telling me that there are events awaiting approval. I'll open it, take a look and will likely approve it right then. If I have questions, I'll try to contact you!

8. You can also contact me by telephone at 530-518-3093 or email me at mikfid@gmail.com with your info or any questions or challenges encountered. You can also contact Rick Cornish at rickcornish7777@hotmail.com

I have entered all the regularly scheduled jams (up to 12 dates for repeating events) that I am aware of. If you see something in the calendar that needs correcting, please let me know.

LET'S SEE A SHOW!

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