

Sonoma County Bluegrass and Folk Festival, Sebastopol, March 8th

CBA Presents



John Reischman and the Jaybirds

Festival Schedule

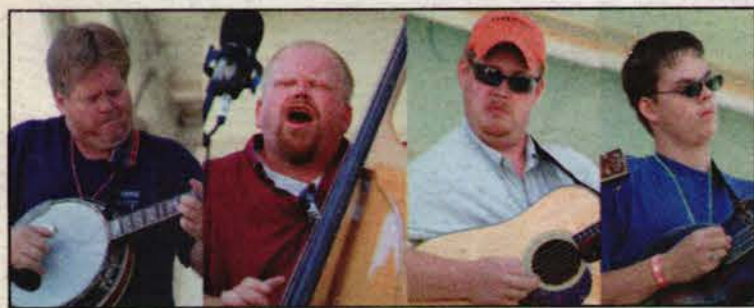
1PM Julay Brooks & the Nightbirds	6PM The Mighty Crows
2PM Roadoilers	7PM Kenny Edwards & Nina Gerber
3PM Sol Flamenco	8PM John Reischman & the Jaybirds
4PM Alhambra Valley Band	
5PM Break/Workshops	

Get your tickets online at www.CBAontheweb.org. Info: call Mark Hogan at 707.829.8012 or email hogiemoon@comcast.net.

Bluegrass Brothers Morgan Hill, March 15

CBA Presents

See story - page A-5



The Bluegrass Brothers perform in Morgan Hill
photo: Tom Tworek

Inside this issue...



David Grisman/
Mary Varner

Review: River City BG Festival in Portland, OR
--see B-1



NCBS's festival on the Peninsula:
BOB

-- see B-1

Bean Creek
photo: Tom Tworek

CBA Music Camp 2008 announced

By Ingrid Noyes

Registration opens February 1st for the eighth annual CBA Music Camp, which will take place this year from June 8th to 11th at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, just prior to the Father's Day Bluegrass Festival. This camp has been heralded by staff and students alike as one of the best bluegrass camps in the country.

The camp is designed for anyone who plays bluegrass or oldtime music, at an advanced beginning or intermediate level. Advanced beginning (level 1) means you can tune your instrument and know how to play it at least a little. Intermediate (level 2) means you're beyond that, but still have lots to learn. We also have a few level 3 classes, designed for those who have at least two years of playing

experience, and some experience playing with others in jam sessions or in informal bands. Where there is no level 3 class, the level 2 classes will be open to level 3 students as well, and teachers will cater to the ability level of the group.

The focus is on learning more

about playing your instrument, and learning more about how to play well with others. Mornings are devoted to working with one instructor in a small group, focusing on skill and technique on your instrument. Afternoons feature jam

Continued on A-7



Father's Day Festival pet program lottery

By Deb Livermore

Pause the presses please! Pursuant to the pleading, plying, and persistent pressure of "The Pet People", participants of the CBA Board have been persuaded to painstakingly and with perseverance, provide those Pet People and their Pets with the Pilot Pet Park Program. The precise place for the proposed Pet Park will be announced at the end of February on our web site and again in the March Breakdown.

There will be a lottery held to determine who will be able to participate in the program and purchase a parking space in the Pet Park. The proposed price for these precious pieces of paper will be at the "Electric Only" rate of \$90.00 plus \$5.00 per day for Pet Purposes. If you enter the lottery and are not chosen, you will be able to buy your tickets at the "Early Bird" prices, as that deadline will have passed by the time the lottery is held.



Heidi Clare returns to teach advanced old time fiddling.

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Membership includes 12 issues of the Bluegrass Breakdown, and discount prices for all CBA sponsored festivals and concerts. Band memberships available for out-of-state bands. Each member is entitled to one copy of the publication. Please write names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper. **Prices subject to change without notice. Out of United States? Postal rates may be higher, please inquire.**

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If Senior Citizens (65 and over), please list birth years: _____

Hey!
What's this?!



**Looks like a
 membership
 application!**

California Bluegrass Association Bluegrass Breakdown

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK - Darby Brandli

Happy Leap Year: February 2008

Between the Fall Campout and the first event for 2008 it might seem that the Board of Directors is on holiday break. Not a chance.



Henry "Hank" Zuniga

Volunteer extraordinaire Duane Campbell decided to substitute a SuperJam for the suspended SuperGrass festival and, by the time you read this, the event will be over. Tim Edes has been planning and organizing his Morgan Hill Concert. Mark Hogan has been hard at work finalizing the Sonoma County Bluegrass and Folk Festival. Bob Thomas has lined up the Turlock spot for the Spring Campout and of course all of us are working on Father's Day. More on that later.

We have had many opportu-

nities to interact with our membership this winter. The random survey developed by Bruce Campbell gave all of us an opportunity to speak with members we did not know. The number of phone calls each Board member was required to make was daunting (and we will definitely have more people phoning when we repeat it) but had unexpected rewards. I only



Lucy Smith

spoke to two people I knew and the rest were total strangers and all had something to tell me that was helpful, interesting or inspiring. It was wonderful to learn first hand what a diverse membership we are and what interesting lives people have and to know that sometimes the only thing we have in common

is a love for the music and/or the organization. I want to thank all of you for taking time to speak to us and sharing so many of your ideas, dreams for the organization and support for the work we do. My phone bill was enormous and so was the reward.

We are always looking for new ways to reach out to our communities and to find ways to introduce the music to a broader public. We chose to expand our list of regional activities Vice Presidents and also



Dave Gooding

to refine what the expectation of the role should be. California is a huge state and one of the messages we heard from our members in the survey was the desire to have more activities in some of the outlying areas. We heard you. Henry

(Big Hank) Zuniga (Fresno Area), Duane Campbell (South of San Jose), Dave Gooding (Solano and Yolo) and Lucy Smith (Butte and Tehama) have agreed to be Area Activities Vice Presidents for some of the counties hungry for bluegrass music. You will be able to find their contact information in



Duane Campbell

the Bluegrass Breakdown and on the website. Stay tuned, bluegrass is coming to your area soon. Your own personal VP would love to hear from you and can be your link to the organization.

Big plans are underway for our 33rd Annual Father's Day Festival. We have tweaked the Festival in response to many of your concerns. There will be longer meal breaks so you can have more choice



Darby Brandli

between workshops and other activities. There will be no breaks in the music because we will have two other stages going during those times as well. We will get you out of the sun during part of the day. We will begin to sell our Festival T-Shirts prior to the festival so you do not have to worry about us running out. Our own Steve Johnson has designed a shirt we know you will want to purchase this spring. We will have a designated area for people camping with pets and the area will not be obtrusive...watch the web site and/or Breakdown for breaking news on this. Ingrid Noyes has put together a stellar lineup of instructors for Music Camp. We are in countdown mode and will have more to share with you as the season approaches. The lineup is fabulous and Early Bird tickets are only available until February 28th. Buy your tickets, let us know you are coming.

Minutes of the December 8, 2007 - California Bluegrass Association Board Meeting

Synopsis of the minutes of the December 8, 2007 CBA Board Meeting:

CALL TO ORDER

Rick Cornish, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the home Diana Donnelly in Modesto.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Rick Cornish, Tim Edes, Darby Brandli, Deb Livermore, Bruce Campbell, J.D. Rhynes, Rich Evans, John Duncan, Lisa Burns and Carl Pagter, C.E.

Officers Present:

Diana Donnelly, Bob Thomas and Mark Varrner.

Members Present:

Frank Solivan, Larry Kuhn, Joyce Bowcock, Jack Hyland and Angelica Grimm.

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

The motion to approve the agenda as presented was carried.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Motion to approve November 17, 2007 board minutes was carried.

PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON UN-AGENDIZED ITEMS.

Frank Solivan addressed the board,

Fred Stanley, has emphysema and is quite ill. He requested we all keep him in our prayers.

OLD BUSINESS

FDF Talent Finalization (Additional band, Vern's, Cloggers etc - Brandli/Thomas)

Bob advised that all the contracts for all the bands have been processed, (except, of course, the California Showcase Bands).

The motion to have no clogging group again this year and that we fill the three open slots by giving The Wilders and Crooked Still a third set each and that we will select a sixth California Showcase Band was carried. Also, the motion to comp and pay all the "Vern's" bands on the day they play was carried.

FDF 2008 Schedule - Thomas

Bob distributed the first draft of the schedule and there was some discussion. Bob will let Russ know of the board's decision on the motion above and other suggested changes.

Open Position Appointments - All

1. Music Camp-Children's Program Coordinator: Kathleen Rushing accepted the position
2. The motion to appoint Henry Zuniga as Central San Joaquin Area VP was carried.
3. The motion to appoint Dave Zimmerman as Vern's Stage coord-

inator was carried.

4. Gate Coordinator: This position is still open

5. Education Coordinator: This position is still open

Diana reported that Ruth Tompkins and Angela Weaver accepted the position of Children's Program Directors.

Financial report for publication and approval of 2008 budget - Altson/Thomas

Ed Altson researched to find out what financial records are required, by statute, to be published and how often. Bob Thomas reported his findings as follows:

1. Assets and liabilities at the end of each fiscal year.
2. Principle changes in assets and liabilities during the fiscal year.
3. Total revenue/receipts for the fiscal year.
4. Total expenses or disbursements during the fiscal year.

However, Ed and Bob agreed that we should also publish the P&L's for other CBA activities including campouts, concerts, festivals, mercantile, music camp, and general business operations.

California Showcase Report from TAG/Selection of Bands - Duncan

After reviewing the score sheets and the recommendations from the California Showcase Band Se-

lection Committee, the motion to select Sidesaddle & Co., The Blade Runners, Belle Monroe and her Brewglass Boys, Natural Drift, Diana Donnelly & the Yes Ma'am's and Mt. Diablo String Band was carried.

Pet park proposal

Deb distributed a report and a map of the fairgrounds that delineated the pet-walking area and the designated camping area. An orange fence will be erected around the area to where pets are limited. The participants will have to sign a contract with the rules and consequences for breaking them. Rich Evans will work up the costs of providing electricity to that area. There were some revisions made by the board.

The motion to accept proposal as it was revised was carried. Deb will bring the revised proposal to the next meeting.

Winter, hotel based festival in Modesto - Update - Cornish/Thomas

Rick will continue to communicate with the man who contacted him.

Survey results, long term planning committee - Campbell/Burns
Bruce requested we push to get the rest of the surveys completed. He feels he will have enough responses to provide some useful information if all board members do their share and make their calls.

Full Hookup lottery status - Wilson
Craig emailed his report to all the board members.

IBMA final accounting - Kuhn
Larry distributed a report and made a presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

Old Time Event - Hogan

Mark emailed a proposal to the board and his proposal will be looked at again after the FDF in June, 2008.

Possible Mid-Summer family oriented campout - Cornish/Thomas

Rick rescinded the proposal because it's too much to add another event of this magnitude at this time. Rick took a straw poll vote of the board and no board members supported the idea of adding a family campout in the summer to the agenda of CBA run events, at this time.

Approval of 2008 Fall Campout location - Thomas

The motion to move the fall campout to the KOA campground near Lodi and give it a "family oriented" theme was carried. It will be held on the weekend of Oct 11 & 12, 2008 and in the meantime we will try to establish a committee of parents of children in the KOB program to create some events.

Continued on A-5

Minutes of the December 8, 2007 CBA Board Meeting

From page A-4

Yearly CBA Music Awards – Campbell

Bruce proposed an idea to have CBA music awards. The membership would nominate and elect the winners and the CBA leadership's official role would only be as a facilitator. Bruce will bring a formal proposal to the January meeting. The motion to approve the concept was carried.

Fairgrounds contract – Thomas

Bob sent an email to Montie to get a time frame to begin negotiations on the next 3 year contract and will report on it when it has been accomplished.

Considerations of bands for 2009 – Pagter

Carl suggested we reach out right now to try and get Dailey/Vincent contracted as soon as possible for our 2009 festival, before they are priced out of our range. The motion to have Carl contact them and begin negotiations was approved.

Bluegrass Museum Video Oral History Program – Pagter

Carl spoke about the IBMM video oral history program. They have done 150 interviews of Bluegrass pioneers, including several California icons. Carl requested the CBA make a donation to the Video Oral History program. The motion to contribute \$500 from the Heritage Fund for this specific program was carried.

FDF wrist band acquisition/control

– Rhynes

J.D. stated he believes we should have a written procedure on how we acquire, track and control the wrist bands. He will take the task of writing up a proposal to bring to the board in January or February.

Appointment of new TAG members

– Cornish

Rick Cornish reminded the board that a new TAG committee needs to be seated. Several candidates were suggested. A decision on this item was tabled to the January meeting.

REPORTS

Membership Report

Carolyn Faubel emailed the membership report. Each board member present advised the results of their calls to the members they had been assigned to call. Rick reported that out of all the contacts made, only 2 have renewed. All have been sent their assignments for this month. Rick will send everyone a copy of the letter he mailed and suggested that each one be personalized in some way. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to include a membership renewal form in each letter.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Alston emailed his report as he was unable to make it to the meeting.

Area VP Reports

Darby reported for the San Francisco and East Bay Activities VP's.

Chairman Report

Rick reported that he sold some more Website tiles.

CLOSED SESSION

Contract Re: Branding/T Shirt Design

SET TIME AND PLACE FOR THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Next meeting set for January 12, 2008 at the home of Diana Donnelly in Modesto.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Bluegrass Brothers Morgan Hill, March 15

The Fifth Annual Morgan Hill Bluegrass Concert will be returning March 15 @ 7:00pm. at the Grange Hall in Morgan Hill. The Grange is located at 40 East 4th Street in downtown Morgan Hill. Doors open 6:00 pm. Once again we will be featuring Guglielmo Wines, as well as other refreshments.

We open this year again with the astonishing Jack Tuttle and his School of Bluegrass. Jack brings an incredible mix of talent of students, as well as his own kids.

harmony vocals are exceptional. Brothers Robert, on banjo, and Victor Dowdy, on bass, have made many musical accomplishments over numerous years, and their vocals and musicianship are second to none. Carrying on in the family tradition, Victor's two sons, Donald and Steve Dowdy are also very talented vocalists and their guitar work is very entertaining. Brandon Farley plays an intense mandolin. All added up, The Bluegrass Brothers are one of the finest bluegrass shows in the country, and they



Jack Tuttle's School of Bluegrass

You will be amazed at the skill and professionalism of his group. They give you a comforting feeling about the direction some of our youth are going. Thanks to Jack, these kids will go far in music, as well as life.

The Bluegrass Brothers are a high energy bluegrass band that are a must see show for a traditional bluegrass delight! They have all grown up in bluegrass music families in Virginia and it is evident very soon after they hit the stage. Their family

are friendly country folk. They perform from coast to coast and in a most soulful, heartfelt manner. They have earned fans from several countries and everybody says: "We want The Bluegrass Brothers back next year!"

So check them out, you won't regret it! DO NOT miss this concert. For information or tickets visit www.cbaontheweb.org, or call Tim Edes 408-779-5456 or 408-595-4882. Tim may be reached by email t.edes@verizon.net.

2007 CBA Roll of Donors

CBA's leadership team thanks all donors who were so generous in supporting CBA programs during 2007:

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**in memory of Jake Quesenberry
***in memory of John Toliver

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2007 CBA Match Challenge Donors Honor Roll

Last March the CBA launched its Match Challenge program to rebuild its reserve fund. The program kicked off with 21 members of CBA's leadership team – board members, officers and coordinators – contributing \$21,150. Over the next several months, 216 members and friends of CBA donated a total of \$22,870.

Thus our Reserve Restitution fund reached \$44,020 by year's end. CBA's leadership team extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who so generously contributed:

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Ed Alston
P.O. Box 6954
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Just because you love bluegrass doesn't mean you have to be behind the times.

You'll be surprised how much there is to know about a music that's been around for 50 years. Our new CBA website brings you right up to date, with features like:

Latest band news.
Listing of jams throughout the state.
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These donors made it possible for young people and others who could not normally afford to attend a music camp to study at the CBA Music Camp, for the future of bluegrass music!



CBA Music Camp 2008 announced

From page A-1

groups, with help and guidance from the staff; elective classes in various topics such as songwriting, clogging, music theory, working with a band, etc; and office hours in which you can get some extra one-on-one time with any instruc-



Friends forever at CBA Music Camp.

tor. In the evenings, there are lots of jams, a contra dance, and staff and student concerts.

Camp starts Sunday afternoon with registration and some of our most valuable classes taught by Jack Tuttle. There will also be some jamming Sunday afternoon,

then dinner and introductions to the staff, followed by a jam class. Monday morning we begin our instrumental classes, and our final, yet-to-be-announced event will take place Wednesday evening. A detailed schedule is posted on our website (see below).

There is also a morning children's program for young budding musicians who are just learning to play, want to learn to play, or are too young to be in a mostly adult class. This class will be taught by Kathleen Rushing, with help from Bob Schwartz, and it is intended for children or siblings of students enrolled in the music camp.

New this year, Sid Lewis brings his popular Jamming 101 program to camp. Sid is known for his skill at getting players of all ability levels jamming together happily and successfully, and he will be leading jams every day or evening at camp (for more info on this program, see www.jamming101.com).

On staff this year—We will have three members from the Blue Highway Band. Rob Ickes will be teaching the level 2 dobro class, Tim Stafford will teach a level 3 guitar flatpicking class, and Jason Burleson will teach the level 3 bluegrass banjo class. The four members of John Reischman's Jaybirds who

were on staff last year will return: John will again teach level 1 mandolin; Jim Nunally will teach his level 2 rhythm guitar class; Trisha Gagnon will be teaching the level 2 bass class; and Nick Hornbuckle will teach level 1 bluegrass banjo. Alan Bibey from Grastowne will teach the level 2 mandolin class, and Lisa Burns from Sidesaddle will teach level 1 bass. Two teachers who taught here for the first time last year and got rave reviews will return: Heidi Clare for the level 2 oldtime fiddle class, and Butch Waller for the level 2 Monroe mandolin class. New this year, we welcome Megan Lynch, who will teach level 1 fiddle; Steve Baughman, who will be teaching the level 1 oldtime banjo class; and Carol McComb, who will teach the level 2 vocals class. We also welcome back three well-liked teachers who have taught here in previous years: Ivan Rosenberg for level 1 dobro; Dix Bruce for level 1 guitar; and Tom Sauber for level 2 oldtime banjo. And, finally, some of our "mainstay" camp instructors will be with us again: Jack Tuttle will teach level 2 bluegrass fiddle; Keith Little will teach level 1 vocals; and Bill Evans will teach level 2 bluegrass banjo this year.

Next month's Breakdown will have complete class information and bios for all these teachers and their classes. To see this information now, go to the Instructors page of our website (www.cbamusiccamp.org) and it is already posted there. It is very helpful to read these descriptions before choosing a class to enroll in. It is also helpful to read the FAQs page on the website, and What's New for 2008—check it out!

About prices, we have bad news and good news. The bad news is, due to increased expenses, including a much deserved raise for our instructors, the price of camp has gone up \$25 this year, to \$270 (for registration by May 1st--\$305 af-

ter that date). The good news is, we hardly ever have to turn people away from this camp for lack of funds, due to a very well-oiled scholarship machine, which is fed by a lot of kind and generous people—most of them our own campers who choose to chip in a little extra for this purpose. CBA campers are the best! So if you find yourself short on funds but would like to

and eating together is a nice way to get to know your fellow campers. For camping, there are various choices. Tent camping costs only \$25, our best deal. RV camping is \$60, or \$90 with guaranteed electrical hook-up, subject to availability. Other options are to commute to camp or stay in a nearby motel. For information on local lodging and meals, contact the Grass



No one is shy at the CBA Music Camp student concert.



An all-star band plays for the contra dance. You can learn to pick and dance at CBA Music Camp!

come to camp, you are encouraged to apply for a partial scholarship to make it work for you. We also have a few full scholarships available, which are awarded to promising young musicians from low-income families—to apply, just contact the director of the camp at info@cbamusiccamp.org or call 415-663-1342 (after 9 a.m.).

The above price is for tuition; meals and camping are optional add-ons. For full catered meals, Sunday dinner through Wednesday lunch, we charge an additional \$80. Other options are to bring and prepare your own food, or eat out at any of various nearby restaurants. But our meal plan is a great deal, with delicious meals prepared, and served with a smile, by Blue Sun Catering,

Valley/Nevada City Chamber of Commerce at 530-273-4667 or www.gvncchamber.org. Enrollment in this camp gets you a \$10 discount off a 4-day festival pass to the Father's Day Bluegrass Festival. Some classes fill within a few weeks, so early registration is strongly advised for best choice of classes.

To enroll, fill out the registration form in this issue and mail it in with payment, OR for online registration, you can sign up directly on the website. Our website, again, is www.cbamusiccamp.org; for any questions, you can call director Ingrid Noyes at 415-663-1342 or e-mail info@cbamusiccamp.org. Hope to see you at camp!

Announcing the 8th Annual



MUSIC CAMP

For students of Bluegrass and Old-Time Music

June 8-11, 2008

At the Nevada County Fairgrounds
in Grass Valley, California



Offering small-group instruction for advanced-beginner to intermediate level players. The focus of the camp is to improve your skill and knowledge on your own instrument, and to work on your playing or singing in a group situation. Music Camp coordinator Ingrid Noyes has lined up an outstanding staff of instructors.



2008 Instructors are:

•Banjo (Bluegrass) Jason Burleson, Bill Evans, Nick Hornbuckle •Banjo (Old-time) Tom Sauber, Steve Baughman

•Bass -- Lisa Burns, Trisha Gagnon •Dobro -- Rob Ickes, Ivan Rosenberg

•Fiddle -- Megan Lynch, Jack Tuttle, Heidi Clare

•Guitar -- Tim Stafford, Jim Nunally, Dix Bruce

•Mandolin -- John Reischman, Alan Bibey, Butch Waller •Vocals -- Keith Little, Carol McComb

You'll also enjoy: •Group practice and jams •Elective classes •Student concert •Staff concert •Dancing

•Delicious meals •Camping onsite or nearby lodging available

Class Sizes will be limited -- Reserve Your Space TODAY!

Got kids? Ask about our new morning class for young pre-musicians! (or see website for more info)



CBA MUSIC CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

Yes! Sign me up—

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (cell or work) _____

E-mail _____

Age if under 18 _____

Instrument: check one, or indicate 1st and 2nd choice, for morning classes

See instructor's page of website, or contact us, for information on each class and instructor.

- ☐ banjo, level 1
- ☐ banjo, level 2
- ☐ banjo, level 3
- ☐ banjo, oldtime - level 1
- ☐ banjo, oldtime - level 2
- ☐ bass, level 1
- ☐ bass, level 2
- ☐ dobro, level 1
- ☐ dobro, level 2
- ☐ fiddle, level 1
- ☐ fiddle, bluegrass - level 2

- ☐ fiddle, oldtime - level 2
- ☐ guitar, level 1
- ☐ guitar, level 2 (rhythm)
- ☐ guitar, level 3 (flatpicking)
- ☐ mandolin, level 1
- ☐ mandolin, Monroe-style - level 2
- ☐ mandolin, bluegrass - level 3
- ☐ vocals - level 1
- ☐ vocals - level 2

Cost of the camp:

- \$ _____ Postmarked by May 1st—\$270 (sign up early!)
- \$ _____ After May 1st—\$305
- \$ _____ Meals (optional)—\$80 (Sun. dinner thru Wed. lunch)
- \$ _____ Check here for vegetarian meals _____
- \$ _____ Tent or car camping (optional)—\$25 per adult, tents \$60 per site, RVs
- \$ _____ \$90 per site, RVs with electrical for the entire week - call first for availability

Pets are allowed only by lottery. Contact us for details.

- \$ _____ Camp T-shirt-- \$15.00 Circle size: S M L XL
- \$ _____ Circle style: Mens' gray OR Ladies' aqua
- \$ _____ The T-shirt design can be seen at our website.
- \$ _____ Contribution to scholarship fund (optional—help a low-income camper come to camp)
- \$ _____ Enrollment fee for your child (or sibling) for the morning hours young campers program - \$50 per child
- \$ _____ Child's name(s)/ age(s): _____

Total amount enclosed
Make checks payable to **CBA Music Camp**.
To register: Send this form, filled out, with payment, to:

CBA Music Camp
PO Box 840
Marshall, CA 94940

Scholarships available — call for information

Questions? Contact Ingrid Noyes at 415-663-1342 (after 9am); e-mail: info@cbamusiccamp.org or check our website: www.cbamusiccamp.org.
For information on hotels, motels and bed and breakfast inns in the Grass Valley area, call 530-273-2565 or web site: www.gvncchamber.org

2005 IBMA
Bluegrass Event of the Year

WINTERGRASS

Acoustic Sound presents the 15th Annual



February 21-24, 2008
Tacoma, Washington

Hotel Murano & Bicentennial Pavilion & Urban Grace Church & Marriott Hotel
Festival of Bluegrass and Acoustic Music

SELDOM SCENE (sat/sun)

CHRIS THILE w/THE TENSIONS MOUNTAIN BOYS (fri)

BOBBY OSBORNE & THE ROCKY TOP X-PRESS (fri)

DALE ANN BRADLEY (sat/sun)

THE GRASCALS (sat)

MIKE MARSHALL & DAROL ANGER (fri)

THE INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS (fri/sat)

MICHAEL CLEVELAND & FLAMEKEEPER

featuring Audie Blaylock (fri)

THE WILDERS (sat/sun)

THE DUHKS (sat)

CADILLAC SKY (sat)

CROOKED STILL (fri/sat)

TRAMPLED BY TURTLES (fri/sat)

VÄSEN (sat)

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Friday and Saturday night dances!

Great jamming spaces!

and of course, more to come!

Look for BIG changes at

the newly redone Hotel Murano (formerly the Sheraton)



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Kyle Abbott

Bluegrass 'n Stuff... By Kyle Abbott

grass music genre and the Sudanese practice of inch pelting. You know, something that makes sense!

Ok, so you are at a loss for words. Now, you should say, "Cut!", let everybody

take 5 (but keep an eye 'cause they may get greedy and take 6), and go to the brainstorm room. (I.e. the Johnson, where greatest ideas and best decisions occur)

So, get out a sheet of toilet paper and let us arrange your speechy set-list.

First, the introduction. To impart a proper sense of familiarity and unakwardness, names are often said in the beginning. Let's start off with, "*instrument riff*" Oh, hi there! I didn't see you come in! Welcome to my home-like set. My name is Spenty Listrem (or whatever name you want to use) and today we're gonna learn to play! Now, what's your name? - wait about 3 seconds for them to say their name, or 6 seconds if you think the most of your viewers are Russian-... Ah, Well, nice to meet you."

As on stage and in street-fights, you want to start off with

a joke to kinda lighten the mood. Something approachable and zesty. Here's an example of an introduction with a joke. "Now, before I start, I'd just like to say, please, no questions 'till after the lesson. Hohoho! (Jolly laugh - mind you, snickering will not do)"

Ok, you've buttered up the crowd and now they are ready to eat out of your hand. But first, you want to put them in their place so they won't ask you where your hand has been or if you've washed it. You have to tell them that you are the only source of hand-fed food! To put it musically, in order for you to not be wrong, you have to assure them that they're stupid (even though they probably aren't... just a bit confused). That's how all the DVD's do it. "Now, unlike other DVD's, we give you the simplest way to learn Blackberry Blossom. If you are like most people, you will get it in a number of seconds. If you don't get it right away, don't assume for a the moment that you are a wingnut. (careful, that word might not be politically correct) Review this video over many times 'cause this tape is guaranteed to bring you success" Hooray! You are in the clear. Without pointing fingers, you have single breathedly told the

viewer that everybody else but/including them has learned from this DVD. Now, you haven't lied, because it's just an opinion (has that approach ever worked with mom? -ed.) If when the viewer gets blown away (not in the good way) by your teaching, the first person they will blame is themselves. They know, or at least feel, that it's their fault that they don't understand, not your fault. Now they think, "What will make me learn how to play?" Well, obvious! They'll need to buy more DVD's! Fortunately, on the beginning/end of your DVD, you will announce your other products for them to buy. Now, we're at a point where you can make you money or let that money slip through your fingers. Once they finish the DVD and decide that they can't do it, they will get another DVD. Now, you need to catch them before they slip away to other teachers. Since they don't think you are a bad teacher, you are on neutral (between bad and good) ground with all the other teachers. If you're a good teacher, you don't need any incentive for them to stay with you but if you're a bad teach, you'll need a money back guarantee and who likes that? (besides the customer) Since you are in between,

you only need a little incentive to keep them in. So, what will keep them in? Discounts! "If you are in any way dissatisfied with this product, just send it back with two easy payments of \$19.95!"

Now that they are in your power, whatever "technical" advice you give is up to you. Remember, you want them to be confused. So, let's have some confusion! For example, when showing the viewer how to do tremelo, mention what you had for lunch and what your neighbor thinks of your Hummer. That'll take those neurons for a spin. For extra "Wwhaaa?" value, in post, when you are editing this in a computer, mix some of the scenes around so you will get a little harmony training with your G-runs.

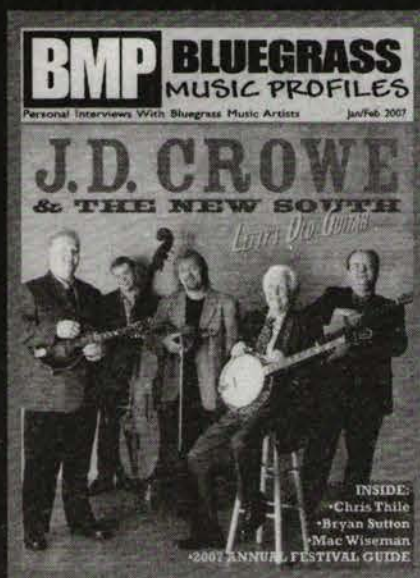
Yay! You've got a learning DVD! Congratulations! You are a... teacher! Stick a homespun label (which somehow raises the value and authenticity) on it and take it to sell at fine boutiques like Goodwill, Salvation Army, and other big retailers. Oh, you might want to put the DVD in a case, sleeve, or paper bag to protect it, FYI.

I'm glad you managed to stay with this 3-part saga. Next month

Continued on page A-11

BMP

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**Do you have an instrument
you're not playing that could
make a child smile like this?**



Luke Davisson
Photo by Bob Calkins

Many of us in the Bluegrass community have guitars, fiddles, mandolins, banjos, basses et.al in our homes that are (1) no longer being played; (2) that we never got around to learning to play; or (3) that were put aside when a new one was purchased.

If this description fits you, won't you please consider donating your usable acoustic instrument to the Darrell

Johnston Kids Instrument Lending Library? There are many families with young children that would like to learn to play the music we all love, but who can't afford to purchase an instrument for the young would-be musicians.

If you would like more information or would like to donate an instrument please contact:

**Sharon or Steve Elliott at 510-728-7613
or email kidslendinglibrary@yahoo.com**

California Bluegrass Association Financial Year 2007 Report

This annual report provides figures from CBA's 2007 fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2006 thru Sep. 30, 2007). It was prepared from CBA's books and records without benefit of outside audit.

Revenue and Expenses of General and Restricted Funds 10/1/06 - 9/30/07

	Revenue and Receipts	Expenses and Disbursements
General Fund	615,252.40	601,111.40
Heritage Fund	1,937.23	0
Kids Programs**	2,233.00	1,172.08
Reserve Restitution	45,248.38	0

**Includes both Kids on Bluegrass and Kids Lending Library

Assets & Liabilities as of 9/30/07

ASSETS

bank accounts		68,368.41
checking/savings	3,301.52	
Heritage Fund	19,818.51	
Reserve Restitution**	45,248.38	
accounts receivable		6,725.40
fixed, other assets		64,746.00
TOTAL ASSETS:		139,839.81

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

accounts payable		9,423.62
equity		130,416.19
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY:		139,839.81

**original Reserve Account stood at \$31,238.66 on 10/1/06, and was depleted by 5/2/07; Reserve Restitution Account opened on 3/20/07.

"As CBA Treasurer I certify that this annual report covers the period from Oct. 1, 2006 through Sept. 30, 2007, and was compiled without audit from CBA's books and records." - Ed Alston

BIG Bluegrass 'n Stuff

From page A-10

we'll have some fresh stuff. Now for the joke of the month: Three railroad workers, a guitar player, a mandolin player, and a banjo, are all sitting down to lunch. The guitar player says, "If I get another burrito in my lunch, I'll kill myself." The mando guy says, "If I get another slice of pizza, I'll kill myself." The banjo says, "If I get another peanut butter sandwich

again, I'll kill myself." The next day, all three men get the same lunches, so they throw themselves in front of an oncoming train. At the funeral, the guitar player's wife says, "If only I hadn't packed an burrito that day." The mando player's wife says, "If only I hadn't packed a slice of pizza that day." "Don't look at me," says the banjo player's wife. "He done packed his own vittles." Heeyoooo!!!



*Just added on
Thursday & Friday:
The Man of Constant
Sorrow himself...*

The Dan Tyminski
Bluegrass Band

CBA's 33rd Annual Father's Day

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

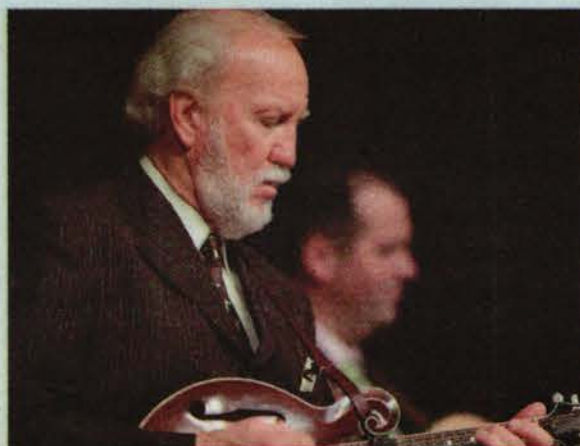
June 12 - 13 - 14 & 15, 2008

at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, California

Partial Line-up includes:



Blue Highway



Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver



Crooked Still



Bradley Walker -
IBMA's Male Vocalist of 2007



Grasstowne



The Wilders



Goldwing Express



The Doerfel Family



CBA's Kids on Bluegrass



Plus more bands to be added!

Camping, Jamming, Workshops, Children's Program and much more!

4-Full days of Family Fun and Great Music!

Early Bird Tickets on sale now!

For more information, visit www.cbaontheweb.org

**Come and join us in our 33rd 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

- Absolutely NO PETS allowed on the festival grounds before or during the festival.
- Camping is in the rough on the festival site beginning Sunday, June 8 through Wednesday, June 11 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, 2008.
- Camping during the festival is included in 3 and 4 day tickets.
- Food and soft drink concessions on site, (picnic baskets and coolers permitted).
- 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 on McCourtney Road in the town of Grass Valley, California. From Sacramento, take Hwy. 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.

~ EARLY BIRD TICKET ORDER FORM ~

CBA Member Early Bird Ticket Prices and Senior Citizen (Age 65 and over) Discounts are offered to CBA Members only. Members are entitled to purchase 1 discount ticket for a single membership or 2 discount tickets for a Couple Membership. **Deadline for Early Bird Discount tickets is February 28, 2008.** No member Discounts available at the gate.

Early Bird Discount Tickets (11/1/07 - 2/28/08)

CBA Member Tickets

4-Day Adult.....	\$95
4-Day Senior (65 & over).....	\$90
4-Day Teen (13-18).....	\$45
3-Day Adult.....	\$85
3-Day Teen.....	\$38

Non-Member Ticket Prices

4-Day Adult.....	\$110
4-Day Senior (65 & over).....	\$100
4-Day Teen (13-18).....	\$50
3-Day Adult.....	\$90
3-Day Teen (13-18).....	\$40

Advance Discount Tickets (3/1/08 - 5/31/08)

CBA Member Tickets

4-Day Adult.....	\$105
4-Day Senior (65 & over).....	\$100
4-Day Teen (13-18).....	\$48
3-Day Adult.....	\$95
3-Day Teen.....	\$40

Non-Member Ticket Prices

4-Day Adult.....	\$120
4-Day Senior (65 & over).....	\$110
4-Day Teen (13-18).....	\$53
3-Day Adult.....	\$100
3-Day Teen (13-18).....	\$43

Single Day Tickets

No discounts available	
Thursday.....	Adult \$30/Teen \$13
Friday.....	Adult \$35/Teen \$15
Saturday.....	Adult \$40/Teen \$18
Sunday.....	Adult \$30/Teen \$13

Camping is included in all 3 and 4 day tickets. Early camping opens Sunday, June 8. 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 8 through Wednesday, June 11.

Designated tent camping area available.

Special campsites with guaranteed electricity spaces @ \$90 each with advance reservations (Monday thru Sunday).

Handicapped campers who need special accommodations must make advance reservations by May 1, 2008. Please call JohnSkaar at 509-427-8928 or e-mail: johnskaar@saw.net for information and reservations.

GATE TICKET PRICES

4-Day Adult	\$130
4-Day Teen (13-18)	\$60
3-Day Adult	\$100
3-Day Teen (13-18)	\$45

Children 12 & Under FREE with a paid adult admission.

**NO MEMBER DISCOUNTS
ON GATE TICKETS.**

Please send me the following Early Bird Discount tickets to the CBA's 33rd Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival:

CBA Member Tickets

4-Day Adult @ \$95	_____
4-Day Senior @ \$90	_____
4-Day Teen (13-18) @ \$45	_____
3-Day Adult (Th/Fri/Sat) @ \$85*	_____
3-Day Teen (13-18) (Th/Fri/Sat) @ \$38*	_____
3-Day Adult (Fri/Sat/Sun) @ \$85*	_____
3-Day Teen (13-18) (Fri/Sat/Sun) @ \$38*	_____

Non-Member Tickets

4-Day Adult @ \$110	_____
4-Day Senior @ \$100	_____
4-Day Teen @ \$50	_____
3-Day Adult (Th/Fri/Sat) @ \$90*	_____
3-Day Teen (13-18) (Th/Fri/Sat) @ \$40*	_____
3-Day Adult (Fri/Sat/Sun) @ \$90*	_____
3-Day Teen (13-18) (Fri/Sat/Sun) @ \$40*	_____

*Please specify which 3 days

Single Day Tickets

Thursday Only @ \$30	_____	Teen @ \$13	_____
Friday Only @ \$35	_____	Teen @ \$15	_____
Saturday Only @ \$40	_____	Teen @ \$20	_____
Sunday Only @ \$30	_____	Teen @ \$13	_____

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 \$_____
_____ Reserved space with guaranteed electricity @ \$90 per space. (6/8/08 - 6/15/08)

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
2172 Vineyard Hills Ct
Vacaville, CA 95688-8732**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Early Bird Discount Ticket Order Form -- Deadline 2/28/08

For Credit Card orders visit www.cbaontheweb.org -- ABSOLUTELY NO PETS. NO REFUNDS.

IBMA Announces Leadership Bluegrass Class of 2008



Roger Siminoff joins IBMA's Leadership Bluegrass

The International Bluegrass Music Association is pleased to announce the following participants in the 2008 class of Leadership Bluegrass:

- Serge Bernard; Diamond Productions PEI; Stratford, Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Ethan Burkhardt; Pinecastle Records; Columbus, N.C.
- Ron Cox; Avenue Bank; Nashville, Tenn.
- Katy Daley; WAMU's Bluegrass Country; Washington, D.C.
- Debbie Durant; Brandywine Friends of Old Time Music, Delaware Valley
- Bluegrass Festival; Landenberg, Penn.
- Arnie Fleischer; The Emelin Theatre; Mamaroneck, N.Y.
- Tim Graves; Tim Graves & Cherokee; Northport, Ala.
- Cindy Gray; The Nevada Bluegrass Project; Reno, Nev.
- Bill Hartley; Birthplace of Country Music Alliance; Bristol, Tenn.
- Richard Hurst; Ulster American Folk Park, EBMA; Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland
- Diane King; Music Business Mgt.; Franklin, Tenn.
- Katy E. Leonard; IBMA; Nashville, Tenn.
- Matt Lindsey; Matt Lindsey Music LLC; Nashville, Tenn.
- Michael W. Marceau; D.C. Bluegrass Union; Kensington, Md.
- Tim McFadden; Tim McFadden Management LLC; Brentwood, Tenn.
- Gary Paczosa; Minutia Sound, Sugar Hill Records; Nashville, Tenn.
- Marty Raybon; Marty Raybon & Full Circle; Tusculumbia, Ala.
- Roger Ryan; CMA of Ireland; Cork, Ireland
- Roger H. Siminoff; Siminoff Banjo & Mandolin Parts; Arroyo Grande, Calif.
- Lorraine Short; Prime Tyme Solutions; Raleigh, N.C.
- Wayne Taylor; Raincoe Music; Crofton, Md.
- Dana Thorin; Breezy Ridge

Instruments, John Pearse Strings; Scotts Valley, Calif.

- April Verch; April Verch Band, April Verch Music; Pembroke, Ontario, Canada
- Lucy Weberling; Festival Yoga/Inner Smile Productions; Skiatook, Okla.
- Rebekah Weiler; Middle Tennessee State Univ.; Murfreesboro, Tenn. (student monitor)

Leadership Bluegrass, now in its ninth year with more than 180 alumni, is an intensive three-day program of advanced level, interactive learning experiences that invites participants to examine the challenges and opportunities facing our music along with related leadership issues.

Leadership Bluegrass will be hosted again this year at the BMI offices in Nashville, March 25-27, and will be facilitated by Fred Bartenstein. Please contact the IBMA office for information on future Leadership Bluegrass programs: (615) 256-3222, nancyc@ibma.org.

Door County Bluegrass Camp To Hold Inaugural Sessions, Summer 2008

This summer, top tourist destination Door County, Wisconsin (known nationally as "the Cape Cod of the Midwest") will host the inaugural sessions of the Door County Bluegrass Camp, a first-of-its-kind instructional camp taught by renowned bluegrass musicians.

Students may choose between two sessions, one from June 29-July 4 and one from August 3-8. The camp will work to improve playing at all skill levels, with morning and afternoon instrumental lessons and a variety of workshops, including classes about bluegrass history; songwriting; music theory; harmony singing; chart reading and writing; tab; instrument repair and maintenance; folk, round, square, and contra dance; yodeling, storytelling with music; and, of course, jam sessions. Each camp session will also afford ample opportunity for playing with fellow students and instructors, and will finish with a concert for the public.

Lessons will be taught by a musically astonishing team of instructors, all of whom are nationally respected in the world of bluegrass. The faculty includes two winners of the Memphis Premier String Player Award, and musicians who have performed with a variety of bluegrass greats, including Bill Monroe, Bela Fleck, Jerry Douglas, Vassar Clements and Robin and Linda Williams. The camp will also feature a songwriting workshop taught by published songwriter Julie Carter-Moriva.

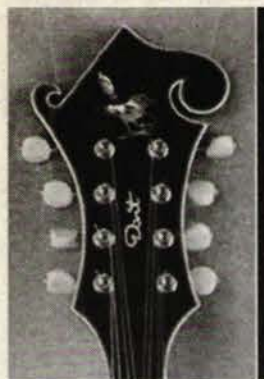


Chris Cairns will teach banjo at Camp

Camp participants will also have the chance to experience the beauty of Door County, a locale renowned for its natural and cultural richness. Thousands of people visit Door County each year from all over the world, taking advantage of the swimming, fishing, biking, hiking, culinary, theatrical, and musical opportunities the county provides.

More information on Door County Bluegrass Camp is available online at www.doorcounty-bluegrass.com or at (920) 839-2777. Because space is limited, early reservations are strongly recommended.

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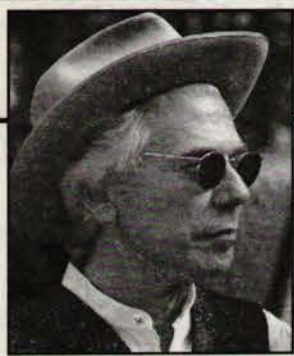


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Chuck Poling

A Portrait of Ray Bierl

"I was nineteen in Mission Beach and barely old enough to shave. It was there, beneath a flood light in a coffee can, on a stage no bigger than a kitchen table, I used to hear Guy Clark, Rosalie Sorrels, Thomas Shaw, Guy Carawan, Utah Phillips and many nights I was lucky enough to hear the voice of the great Ray Bierl. No one knows how to weave you into a song quite like Ray Bierl. The music on this record is down home elegant. You can hear the highway in his voice. From Road dust to Stardust and every town in between." — Tom Waits

Ray Bierl is all over the map, and not because he lacks a sense of musical direction. Rather, Bierl is squarely focused on the many journeys of life, a theme as ancient as the Odyssey. With the release of his new CD *Any Place I Hang My Hat*, he takes the listener on a road trip through time, space, and across the vast landscape of Americana music of the body, mind and heart. An accomplished singer, guitarist and fiddler, the Oakland resident has had a lifelong fascination with the road, perhaps inspired by his dad, a one-time hobo. Wherever he got his wanderlust from, it's reflected throughout his CD with tales of vagabonds, lonely towns, haunted truck stops and lost love.

On January 3rd, Ray celebrated the release of his new album with a performance at the Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse in Berkeley. He was joined by many of the musicians who appear on his CD including Bay Area bluegrass star Laurie Lewis, who produced the CD, Bill Evans, Markie Sanders, Mayne Smith and Tom Rozum, as well as other special guests.

Ray draws upon a huge catalog of musical genres and styles, yet he delivers each song in a manner uniquely his own. Singing in a mellow baritone, his voice isn't striking or dramatic, but it has the effect of being instantly familiar and engaging. His songs are chats between old friends, and you are admitted to the circle by virtue of your presence. A performance at DiBartolo's Coffeehouse on Grand Avenue in Oakland is a chance to capture Ray in his natural habitat. His repertoire includes cowboy ballads, Appalachian fiddle tunes, rock 'n' roll hits from the '50s, Tin Pan Alley numbers and country classics. Where does he get his material?

"My earliest musical memories are of the European classical music 78s it seemed were always playing,"

said Bierl, "and the songs my mom played on the piano as I was going to sleep at night." Born in Vancouver, but raised primarily in San Diego, Ray was exposed to all kinds of music as a child and learned to appreciate a good song, whatever its origins. His folks played records by Mahalia Jackson, Bing Crosby and other popular artists. His teenage years were marked by the rise of Elvis and, like pretty much anyone else of his generation, rock and roll had a profound influence on his musical tastes.

But it was the folk revival that inspired Bierl to join the thousands of other young people who became a new generation of troubadours. "I didn't start trying to play the guitar until the folk groups and Pete Seeger and the Weavers. Then it was the New Lost City Ramblers, Guy Carawan, Jean Ritchie, Woody Guthrie, Stu Jamieson, Mississippi John Hurt and Bob Dylan." The first song he learned? "I think it was 'The Eddystone Light,' a kind of novelty song that the Weavers did," he recalled.

Through the '60s and early '70s Ray became a 'folkie' and a regular in the coffeehouse and festival scene of Southern California, with a repertoire that ranged from old-time southern songs to civil rights and anti-war songs, cowboy songs, Woody Guthrie songs, and more. It was at the Heritage Coffee House in Mission Beach that he met Tom Waits, barely out of his teens.

"I remember him [Waits] doing 'It Looks Like I'm Up S*** Creek Again' — I got him to write down the words for me — and Elvis' 'Are You Lonesome Tonight' complete with recitation. He hadn't taken up the piano at that point, but already had a strong personal style and a flair for performing," Ray recalled. "Tom and I played on stage a few times together, more for fun than for 'future.' It was clear he was heading in his own direction."

During this time, he sporadically attended school and eventually earned a master's degree in sociology. Ray jokes that it's never earned him any money but it's provided a rich vocabulary to use when yelling back at the TV set. Well, picking and singing is all good and fine, but how did he pay the bills? Starting in the mid '70s, Ray took a "temporary" job with the San Francisco Wastewater De-

partment that was to last for almost 30 years.

"I lived hand-to-mouth on music for a number of years," Ray recalls, "not doing what I needed to do to advance any kind of a career with it. I decided to get a day job and the great and good John Barger whom I knew through the San Francisco Folk Music Club got me on 'as needed' at the wastewater plant." The Southeast Wastewater plant had long been a haven for indigent musicians. The late Barger was a beloved figure on the folk scene and found work for many fine pickers over the years. The group had a lot of informal nicknames, most of which were inspired by the "product" that flowed through the sewage system and are therefore, unprintable in this nice family publication.

After a while on the job, the bills were getting paid, but Ray

Festival of American Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend, Washington. It was there that he met Daniel Steinberg, Kevin Carr and Paul Kotapish, Bay Area musicians who enlisted him to play in Hillbillies From Mars, a popular contra dance band. After years as a solo performer in cafes and bars, Ray happily adjusted to his role as a member of an ensemble that provided instrumental music for dancing, though it did give him an enlightening perspective on the contrast between being a featured artist versus providing dance music.

"It's the difference between performing and performing a function," he said. "When I first started playing fiddle for square dances and contra dances I had to get used to people not necessarily even knowing who I was when I'd walk through the crowd on a break, though I'd just gotten off the stage.

They were relating more to each other than to the musicians they were dancing to. But that kind of playing is rewarding in a different way than singing in front of an audience. You're connecting rhythmically to people's moving bodies, providing a pulse, or connecting with the pulse that's coming from them, and often it's a thrill helping them feel real good

without them (or maybe even you) understanding how. On the other hand I'm doing more regular performing these days and it's nice relating to people's hearts and minds too. Of course if they tap their foot to what you're doing that's even better."

Along the way, Ray put out his first CD *Cowboy Dancing* in 1991. The album featured western-flavored songs and some of his favorite fiddle tunes. Between his solo performing, contra dance fiddling and "temporary" job, Ray kept pretty busy until a couple of years ago, when he retired from civil service and found himself with a lot of time on his hands. Encouraged by longtime friend and musical collaborator Brendan Doyle, Ray decided that after 16 years it was time to knock out another CD. So back into the studio he went, this time with Laurie Lewis as producer.

"I was nervous about it at first, knowing it would have to be pretty darn good for Laurie to put her

name on it, and I'd have to raise my expectations of my own playing and singing," he said. "I thought there'd be times when she'd be more demanding of me than I'd be of myself, but it actually worked as often in the other direction. In all it was a richly rewarding experience working with Laurie, our friendship grew as a result, and the album came out even better than I'd hoped it would."

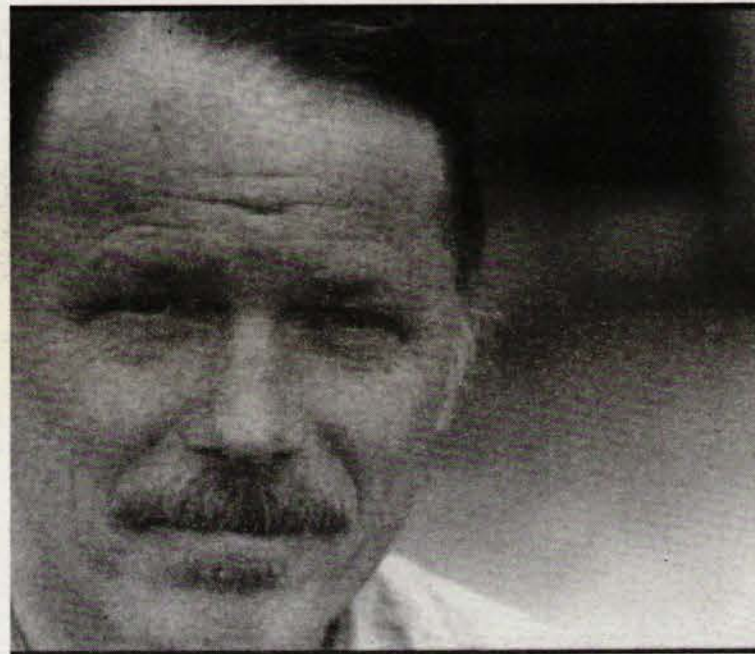
Laurie was equally pleased with both the results and the process of teaming up with Ray in the studio. "I have been a fan of Ray's musicianship for thirty-something years," she said, "since we played together in the Phantoms of the Opry. Back then, he could bring me to tears every time, reciting 'Phantom 309,' and he still can. In working with him, I was impressed by his ability to take direction from me, and to really dig deep and go for the good stuff."

Added Ray, "My original idea was to do an album of songs called 'Traveling Music,' since I realized that so many of my favorite songs had that vagabond theme. Other favorites crept into the mix by the time I got around to it, but traveling songs were still the predominant theme. I've kept doing songs from all the genres I've explored over the years, old-time music, cowboy songs, C&W, bluegrass, rockabilly, even some Tin Pan Alley and R&B songs. I'm drawn to songs by the story they tell or the attitude they express irrespective of style."

Any Place I Hang My Hat is a travelogue, not just of places, but of time, human emotions and imagination. There are classic songs of wandering bums like "The Dying Hobo" and "Tramps and Hawkers" mixed with tales of love's tortuous journey to places like "Lonesome Town" and his heartbreakingly beautiful rendition of "We Live in Two Different Worlds." One of only two tracks on which Lewis plays, "We Live in Two Different Worlds" kicks off with Laurie and Ray playing a sweet western swing twin fiddle turnaround, which leads into the chorus with Ray and Penelope Critchlow singing harmony. It's a song about love gone wrong, an all too familiar destination for many on life's road. Mayne Smith's pedal steel guitar weaves in and out with intricate yet restrained licks that complement the vocals.

On the other hand, "The Old Chisholm Trail" is delivered in a traditional, almost ancient style with Ray singing and playing fiddle, accompanied only by Mark Graham on harmonica. Paired with the instrumental "Indian Nation," Ray's version of "Chisholm Trail" is as close as you'll ever come to experiencing the weary joy of cowboys gathering around a fire for their chuck and the chance to break the mind-numbing monotony of the cattle drive by listening to their fel-

Continued on A-19



Ray Bierl

J.D.'s Bluegrass Kitchen

Howdy, howdy, howdy!

Well here I am a' settin' at this "cackalator", a' lookin' out over a hillside that's white as snow with frost this mornin'. Today is the last day of 2007, as I write this month's column, and the hills are froze solid this morning, and there's little white ice columns sticking out of the ground everywhere, and they make a "crunchin'" sound when you walk on 'em. Taking out the trash this mornin' was rather invigorating to say the least! It's clear, cold, mornings like this that really make a soul appreciate the sweet clean air of my mountain home. The last week's weather was anything but enjoyable, as the clouds were a' settin' right down on top of the mountains, a' restin' before they scuttled on over the high country into Nevada, and beyond. It snowed about 3 inches, then there was freezin' rain fer a few days, and all that a body wanted to do was get settled down real deep into a big comfortable chair, covered up with a nice warm blanket, and take a good long winters nap. AND, that's what I did fer the whole week. I had my left knee replaced on December the 10th, and I've been confined to the house, convalescing all of this time, but last week I was able to drive myself to town to get my mail and a paper, so Hooray, I'm back on the road to recovery! By the time that all of you read this I'll be getting around a lot better, and I know that I'll be chompin' at the bit, jes' waiting fer some warm spring weather here on

the mountain, so's I can start doing some of my small projects again.

I got out my recipe box out this mornin' and dug out three of my favoritest things to cook in the winter. So tie yer pony in the shed, throw him a measure of grain and come on into the kitchen where I've got the ol cook stove all fired up, and we'll make medicine over some good ol vittles!

One of the staples here on Bluegrass Acres come winter time, is always a BIG pot of good ol home made soup a' settin on the stove. Soup is good to have for a meal any time of the day. I had a great big bowl of Chicken Soup fer breakfast this mornin'. And, I'll have me three or four more bowls as the day goes by. Serve it up with some good crusty french bread, a salad and you've got a meal that satisfies every time. Of course, I didn't have me a salad this mornin', but I'll have one this evening along with a nice glass of good California wine. Wow! It gives me a case of the slobbers jes' a' thinkin about it!

Well, this month I'm gonna share two of my favorite soup recipes with you folks. This first one is one that came out of our deer camp, back around 1958. It was getting on towards the end of our stay in the mountains. And I was lookin' to fix the boy's something different fer supper on a chilly afternoon, and here's what I came up with.

Deer Camp, Bacon, and 'Tater Soup

1/2 lb of Bacon, sliced real thick
6 cups of 'Taters, cubed
2 cups celery, diced
1 onion, diced
3 tbsp butter
2 cups Evaporated Milk
1 1/2 cups water
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
Salt and pepper to taste

Cook Bacon in a heavy dutch oven till crisp. Remove, drain and crumble. Cook taters, celery, and onion in bacon grease till tender. Add every thing else, place on low heat and simmer fer an hour or so. Do not boil. Spoon it up, and garnish each bowl with a spoon of Salsa. Real mountain vittles!

I'll tell you the truth, those boys ate every last drop of that soup, along with a big dutch oven of hot biscuits that I baked up fer supper that night, on the east slope of Mount Henry. I can still smell that savory pot of soup, along with the smell of biscuits baking over a bed of coals, and a whiff of wood smoke thrown in fer "mountain perfume"! Good memories of great times I had as a young man, long gone, and never to be had again, as all of my companions of that time are long gone over "the great divide".

I love most kinds of soup, and when I ran across this next recipe, it looked like one that would really hit the spot on a cold winter's day. Well, I was right, and I make this one every time I get a hankerin' fer

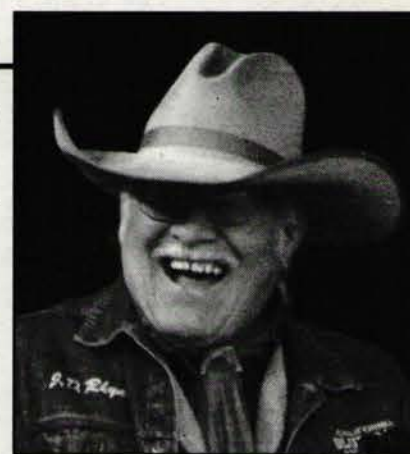
some real meaty soup, that satisfies even the pickiest of eaters. Now I'm far from being a picky eater, and I don't profess to know any, but if there's any one person that I know that could qualify as a picky eater, I would have to say that it's my good pal, Cuz'n Al. Now Al is a great chuck wagon cook in his own right, and I've featured a few of his recipes here in the Bluegrass Kitchen, in years past. BUT, he's always promising to come up to Bluegrass Acres every spring, and show me how he does his brand of cookin' over a good wood fire. I'm still a' waitin' Al! Hopefully this spring will be the magic one! But, back to the story. I can't remember where or when I got this recipe, all I know is, it sure makes a pot of soul satisfying soup!

Chorizo Soup

1 lb. Chorizo
1 onion, chopped
1/2 cup of Masa Harina, or Corn Meal
7 ounces of chopped green chilies
7 cups chicken broth
3/4 cup shredded Jack cheese
1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped fine

Remove casings from sausage, crumble into a skillet with the onion. Cook over med. heat until done and browned real good. Mix in the Masa, then stir in the Chiles and the Broth. Stirring, bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer for 20 minutes. Skim the fat, add cheese, and cilantro, stir good and serve. Excellent with some good French bread and a bottle of cold beer. Real good winter vittles!

Now if you've been reading this column fer any length of time, you know how much I love a good Chicken Fried Steak! Here the other afternoon, when it was dark as the insides of a dead cow, and it was only 2:00 in the day, I got to cravin' me a good chicken fried steak fer supper. I chopped up some red taters and put em on to boil. (You've jes GOT to have smashed taters with chicken fried steak). Put a deep skillet with some oil in it to heatin', and mixed up the fixin's fer the steak. I had me a chicken fried steak with smashed tater's, and gravy fer supper, and I slept like an 'ol hound dog a'layin in the sun, that night! Now most folks make their chicken fried steak out of round steak, and that makes a tolerable one, BUT, to make one that is really memorable you have to use a better cut of meat to my way of thinkin'. I always get a couple of sirloin tip steaks, and have the butcher run 'em through the tenderizer a couple of times. That is a more tender cut of meat, and the difference in cost is negligible



J.D. Rhynes

when you consider the difference in the end product. More tender, and a lot more flavor! And there's nothing finer to the palate than a Chicken Fried Steak, that's as tender as a momma's kiss! Throw in some real Cowboy style Cracked Pepper gravy, and Son, it don't get any gooder than this! Here's how it's did:

Cowboy, Chicken Fried Steak

Flour mix
1 1/2 cups flour
2 tsp kosher salt
2 tsp fresh ground pepper
4 Tbsp Paprika

Batter

2 eggs, beaten real good
1/2 cup buttermilk
1/2 cup of beer

Dredge the steaks in the flour mix, dip in the batter, then back into the flour mix again. Fry in hot oil till golden brown. Drain and serve hot with gravy.

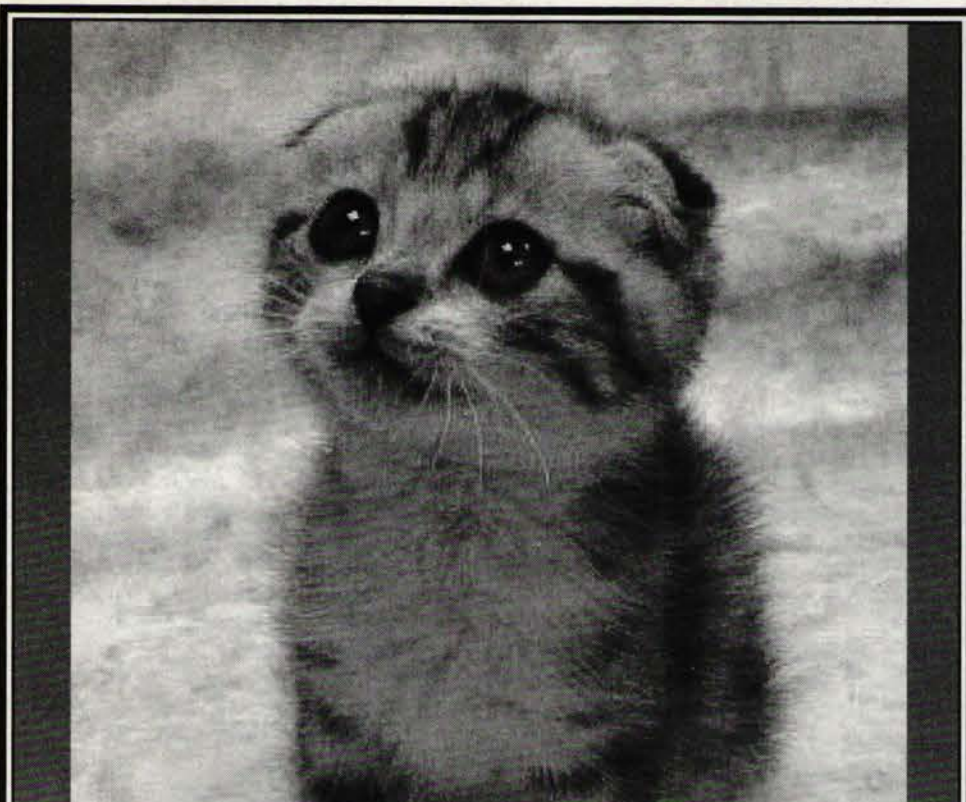
The Gravy

1/4 cup of Butter, melted
5 tbsp flour
2 1/2 cups of Milk
1 1/2 tsp kosher salt
4 tsp. cracked black peppercorns

Melt the butter over high heat, Add the flour and brown it real good, Stir in the milk and stir till it comes to a boil, add the salt and cracked pepper, stir and boil to desired thickness. Best damn gravy you'll ever wrap a lip around!

Now there my friends is how you fix a mess of fried steak that'll satisfy even ol John Murphy, my Nawth Carolina buddy. John knows his way around a fried steak, and he makes a mighty good one his own self!

Well folks, that's the Feb. edition of the ol Bluegrass Kitchen. Hopefully I'll be able to get around a lot better this time next month, and we'll share some more good vittle recipes. Meet me right here by the ol cook fire and remember to keep all of our service men and women in our prayers. GOD Bless America, and may HE grant us all peace and health. Yer friend, J.D.Rhynes



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Contact Rosanna:
Rosanna@youngconstruction.com

Joe Weed's Studio Insider

High on a Mountain

As I write, high on a mountain (Loma Prieta), there's a hurricane-force storm raging all around us. We lost the internet last night, power this morning, and only one of our phone lines works. The cats are completely freaked, and my wife Marty and I are staying home to deal with potential disasters. Shingles have blown off, so the roof is leaking. Now I appreciate all these ceramic bowls, plastic buckets, terry towels and large sponges. Gusts of wind pulled a few gutters off the eaves. I cleaned downspouts and gutters in preparation for this monster storm, but now some of them have literally blown away. Tree limbs are scattered everywhere, some taking other plants with them as they flew across the yard. I'm toughing it out like in the old days – no power or lights, and using my laptop (on battery) to write. Once the battery dies, then we'll really be roughing it. At least my acoustic guitar should still work --

Music for PBS documentary about Andrew Jackson

Night before last, January 2, 2008, Marty and I watched the PBS two-hour documentary "Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil, and the Presidency." I contributed music and audio production to Chris Hedge's sound track for this film (see last month's column) and in December, I flew to LA to perform at the ATAS theatre (where the Emmys are held) for the opening event festivities. My guitarist for the gig was my daughter, Katie, who lives in Long Beach. She picked me up at the LA Convention Center, where I'd stopped to visit the DV Expo (DV means digital video; see more about DV Expo below.) Katie and I drove the short hop to the ATAS Theater in North Hollywood, and recognized it by the larger-than-life, gleaming gold statue of a woman holding up a globe – the same statue as the miniatures that are on the Emmy's. Katie was stoked. We walked in past busts and bas-reliefs of Walter Cronkite, Angela Lansbury, Steve Allen, Hanna-Barbera, and more early television greats.

Soon, we were joined by our band mate for the gig, Santa Cruz multi-instrumentalist David Brewer. I had my fiddle, Katie brought her fiddle and guitar, and David had pipes, Irish whistles, and several Irish drums.

Sound and color

The event sponsor, KCET television in Los Angeles, provided us a protected area in the lobby, surrounded by colorful poinsettias and one of those velvet ropes that banks use to make people behave and stay in line. I had decided to perform without sound reinforcement, feeling that the energy and focus we'd develop by listening in-

tently to each other, and moving in close for high octane tunes, would provide more than enough charisma to make up for the spots in the room where our natural volume might not reach. And I'm really tired of having DJs and bands blast my sanity and shorten the life of my hearing by flooding every niche of available auditory space with loud music that prohibits normal conversation. So there it is – I'm out of the closet as a "TURN IT DOWN, PLEASE!!" old fart. And it really worked!

As we were tuning and going over a few pieces that Chris had written for the movie, people began trickling in. From the first note we played, all of us had a wonderful time. People crowded close to the band, intent on our tunes and instruments. There was much clapping, and folks asked many questions about the music and David's bodhrans. My guitarist/daughter Katie was soaking it all in, gleaming. She has learned much from her years of playing outdoors, banging out strong and effective rhythm on the guitar. David is a born performer, beating exciting and syncopated patterns on his bodhrans, as well as blowing enticing jumpy and slippery melodies on his whistles. And fiddle always works.

Chris had arranged for a large movie poster to be placed by the band. It included our names in a font only a little smaller than the one used for the film's producer, Carl Byker, and its narrator, Martin Sheen. At 21, Katie is savoring her proximity to the big time. After we packed our instruments away and ate some dinner, we heard the movie starting. We recognized the unmistakable sounds of our own playing. We gobbled our dessert and slipped into the theater to join several hundred people to watch the premiere in an historic and beautiful venue.

DV Expo

Just as the audio recording and reinforcement industries have undergone radical change in the past generation, so has the video industry. Largely spurred by the advances in computing over the past twenty years, digital video is now a reality in most studios and, on a much smaller and simpler scale, in many homes. Manufacturers have responded by releasing smaller and more powerful, feature-laden cameras and accessories, and software companies have accompanied these advances with better video editing systems and DVD authoring programs. Apple has been quite active in this field, and I hope to see some advances in their video editing suite at the annual MacWorld Expo in January. In a future column, I'll let you know what I find out there. As I mentioned above, I attended another exposition, "DV Expo," in Los Angeles in early December.

Advances I saw at the show

Most of the big players in the DV field (Sony, Canon, JVC, and Panasonic) are heavily promoting the move to HD (high definition) video. They all have consumer-level HD cameras available for under \$1,000, and their professional HD cameras are beginning to gravitate towards recording onto flash memory and hard disk, instead of tape. Tape traditionally has many benefits; it serves as a back-up archive of material that is shot in the field and in the studio; it's modular, with each tape holding a specific amount of data; and tapes are fairly immune to the crashes and corruption that can happen with hard disks. On the down side, tape is a linear format, which means that if you want to access something that's stored on a tape, you have to fast-forward or rewind the tape in order to arrive at a specific spot. In order to load material from tape to hard disk for use in a computer system, the tape has to play back in real time; this can mean lots of time with lots of gear tied up when loading a three- or four-camera

shoot into an editing system. Recent advances in flash memory (no moving parts) have provided camera manufacturers with modular "memory sticks" that take the place of tape; these keep the data in non-linear form, so it can be loaded onto an editing system quickly and easily. And some cameras now come equipped with on-board hard disk drives, which keep data non-linear, but which may limit how much a camera can shoot between off-loading sessions to free up disk space.

Another advance that's working its way onto cameras is the use of CMOS chips in place of the traditional CCD chips. These are the devices that convert light to video signal, and pro cameras always use three, one for each primary color. CMOS chips use much less power than CCDs, so they can be used on smaller portable cameras without compromising battery power or heat dissipation.



Joe Weed

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 labels, and does sound tracks for film, TV and museums. His latest production, for Woodshed Productions, is Chuck McCabe's "Sweet Reunion," featuring Chuck McCabe, Rob Ickes, Norton Buffalo, the Irrationals, and many other great artists. You can reach Joe by calling (408) 353-3353, by email at joe@highlandpublishing.com, or at www.joeweet.com.



Frank Solivan, Sr.

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

Currently the Kids on Bluegrass program, under the direction of Frank Solivan, Sr., takes place at the CBA Supergrass Bluegrass Festival in Bakersfield, Calif., the CBA Fathers Day Bluegrass Festival in Grass Valley, California and under the title of Kids on Stage also at Larry and Sondra Bakers "Bluegrassin' in the Foothills" festival in Plymouth, California.

Frank Solivan, Sr. has been directing this program for approximately 16 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 18. 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.

www.kidsonbluegrass.com

Al's Music Tidbits... By Al Shank

Harmonic Progression

Last month, I constructed the tonic (I) and subdominant (IV) triads in the key of G, and I left the dominant (V) chord for you, gentle reader. Did everybody get d, f# and a for the V chord? Let's review that:

c c# d d# e f# g g# a a# b c c# d d# e f# g g# a a# b c
db eb gb ab bb db eb gb ab bb

1 - 2 - 34 - 5 - 6 - 71

The 5th degree of the major scale on g is 7 semitones above g, so that's d. A triad on d has its 3rd 4 semitones above the root, so that's f#, right? Then a perfect 5th is 7 semitones above d, or a, which is also a minor third (three semitones) above the 3rd of the chord.

Therefore, in the key of g, the I, IV and V chords are made up like this:

I g b d
IV c e g
V d f# a

We should now be able to identify the triads on every degree of any scale, and to find the notes that comprise them. This way, if we know the chord pattern, or "harmonic progression" of a song in roman numerals, we can transpose it to any key. This is very useful for jamming, since those pesky singers tend to want to sing songs in a key that fits their vocal range.

"Harmonic progression" refers to the order in which chords are heard in a musical piece, such as a song. It can be extremely simple or extremely complex. Fortunately, Bluegrass songs and instrumentals are quite simple, harmonically; with a few exceptions, they stay in the same key throughout. Some songs have just one simple pattern all the way through, while others have a verse pattern and a slightly different chorus pattern.

Let's take the old Flatt & Scruggs standard, "Blue Ridge Cabin Home", as an example. The chord progression is I IV V I, over and over. It is the same for the verses and the chorus. Each verse and chorus consists of that progression played twice. Here's a snippet of a "lead sheet" I use for this song:

I IV
There's a well-beaten path on that old mountainside
V I
Where I wandered when I was a boy.
I IV
And I wandered alone to that place I call home
V I
In those Blue-Ridge hills far away

(The roman numerals are placed over the syllable where the "on-beat" occurs. Of course, we haven't even touched on rhythm yet, but if you can hear the song in your head, or listen to a recording, you should hear the chord changes at those spots.)

I believe the original recording was in the key of B, so what were the chords they were playing? Well, we know the I chord in B is going to be B major, right? The IV chord is a

perfect 4th above B, or 5 semitones, so if we look back at our chromatic scale (we have to wrap around if we start at b), we find c, c#, d, d#, e, so E major is the IV chord. The V chord is just two semitones above the IV, and that's going to be F# major. If you're a bass player and the singer wants to do "Blue Ridge Cabin Home" in B, you're going to have to know your B scale on the bass. The guitar player, however, is probably not going to play those B and F# chords, which have to be barred. Guitarists have their own way of transposing from one key to another, called a "capo", which raises the pitch of each string; if you put it on the 2nd fret, all the strings go up two semitones in pitch, etc. Most Bluegrass guitar players would play this song using chords from the key of G and "capo up" four frets to get into B. We already know that the I, IV and V chords in G are G major, C major and D major, so the guitar player will play those chord positions, but will actually be playing B, E and F#. The banjo player is also probably going to play G positions with the capo on the 4th fret. We mandolin players do not stoop to such "crutches", so we have to learn to play in every key, as do fiddle players.

If your tenor singer isn't Curly Seckler, or female, he might not want to do this song in B, so cut him some slack and do it in A. What will the chords be in the key of A? That's left as an exercise for you, gentle reader. No matter which key you pick, it's just a matter of finding the IV chord five semitones above the I, and the V chord two more semitones above the IV. Another exercise for guitar/banjo players: if you want to play D positions (D, G and A) but play in the key of F major, on which fret do you put your capo?

By the way, "I'm Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes" has exactly the same progression. With just these three chords, you can do a huge number of Bluegrass/Country/Folk tunes. Here are some examples of chord progressions and some well-known songs using them:

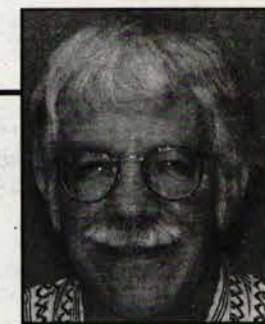
I IV V I
I IV V I - verse
I V I V
I IV V I - chorus
"I Wonder Where You Are Tonight"

I IV IV
I IV IV I
"Blue Moon of Kentucky" - verse

I IV I IV I IV V I
"Sweetheart of Mine, Can't You Hear Me Calling"

There are all kinds of ways you can arrange three chords, especially when you start to vary the amount of time spent on each chord, or the "harmonic rhythm", about which more next month.

Any questions or suggestions for subject matter may be sent to: squidnet@notoriousshankbrothers.com.



Al Shank

Shelby Ash presents bluegrass and country shows as part of SFBOT... and more

The following Fine, Fabulous & Amazing Feats-of-Bluegrass are for your listening pleasure. Please, I repeat, please to not try this at

home...get off your butt and check out some live music! Support local grass.

See below for band and venue info.

BLUEGRASS BONANZA!

January 18 - The Mighty Crows + Blue & Lonesome
March 21 - Anna Coogan

SAN FRANCISCO BLUEGRASS & OLD-TIME FESTIVAL (Feb 1-9)

Please note the following Shelby Ash Presents festival shows sold-out last year! Advance tickets are highly recommended!

Feb 5 - "Bluegrass Buffet" with Huckleberry Flint + The Mighty Crows + Zach Driscoll & Three Quarter Time
Feb 7 - "Country-Bluegrass Show" with Town Mountain, The Burning Embers, and The Cowlicks
Feb 8 - "Portland Invasion"

with Clampitt, Gaddis & Buck, Whiskey Puppy, Mighty Ghosts of Heaven, and Chickweed
Feb 9 - "Alt-Bluegrass Show" with Pine Box Boys, The Earl Brothers, Kemo Sabe
Feb 15 - "An After Party of Sorts" with Kenny Hall, The Bluegrass Revolution, The Pine Needles

THE CHEAP BASTARD SHOW
@The Music Store
Feb 9 - Foggy Gulch
Feb 21 - Rancho Deluxe

RANCHO DELUXE'S TRUE FREEDOM RECORD RELEASE TOUR 2008
Thursday 21 - The Music Store (SF) 4pm FREE!
Thursday, Feb 21 - Cafe du Nord (SF) with 77 el Deora + Houston Jones
Friday, Feb 22 - The Crepe Place (Santa Cruz)
Saturday, Feb 23 - McGrath's Pub (Alameda)

Show info in detail:

BLUEGRASS BONANZA! (every 3rd Friday)
@the Plough & Stars
116 Clement Street, SF
9pm sharp!

January 18 - The Mighty Crows + Blue & Lonesome (\$8)
March 21 - Anna Coogan + TBA (\$6)

THE MIGHTY CROWS (Bay Area) are what every bluegrass band strives to be, great! They combine all the five "S's" of the bluegrass acts of the 40s and 50s; style, sound, suits, showmanship, and the songs of yesteryear - oh yeah, they pick amazing instrumentals.

BLUE & LONSOME (Bay Area) are a supergroup of supergroups. Multi-instrumentalist, Ed Neff has



The Mighty Crows perform at the San Francisco Bluegrass and Old Time Festival

Continued on page A-21

Bluegrass Confidential - By Chuck Poling

From page A-15
low saddle tramps entertain them.

The album's opening cut is "Guitar Man," penned by Jerry Reed and popularized by Elvis Presley. Ray takes this quintessential ramblin' man song and strips down the arrangement to acoustic guitar, bass, harmonica and drums. His voice is relaxed and familiar, but at the same time it has a roguish quality and a little edge of weariness that provides gravitas. Ray's seemingly casual approach to singing is actually quite artful. He doesn't impose his style upon a song, but rather he takes it over from the inside and makes it his own.

This talent is most evident on the final track, the classic trucker recitation "Phantom 309." Departing from the roadmap that Red Sovine followed to make the song a hit in 1967, Ray riffs on the original and tells a rambling tale with many asides and tangential details. Sovine delivers a sermon; Ray tells you a tale.

"Every song Ray chooses becomes his own. It doesn't matter if it's been covered by Elvis, Ramblin' Jack or Ricky Nelson before him. When he sings it, it's fresh and personal," said Lewis. "For Ray, the story that's being told by the song is what's important. He's a great storyteller and an empathetic person, so he's able to really inhabit the various roles he takes on."

Added Steven Strauss, who plays bass with Ray in a contra-dance band called Swing Farm, "When Ray likes a song he gathers all the versions he likes and picks and chooses varying elements from them to create his own version. He seems to enjoy reincorporating lost and superseded versions of lyrics and melody to make a version of a familiar song that surprises you in the details. Often I'll see an unfamiliar title on the set list, and it'll turn out to be a song we all know by a different name."

Kathy Kallick, another popular East Bay bluegrassers is a long time fan of Ray's and attributes his ability to personalize a song to his "lazy, relaxed storytelling style." She describes his performances as more like conversations with a group of old friends.

While he must be flattered by the acclaim he's received as an interpreter of songs written by others, does Ray secretly desire to record his own material? Why hasn't he put any of his own songs on disc? "Because I only sing really good songs!" he replied. "And because other than occasionally adding a verse to some old folk song, I've never really written songs. Every so often I feel like I oughta, being as good a singer as I am (ahem), and being so admiring of the people I know who do write songs. But I know a good song when I hear one, and the songs I already sing express enough of me that I don't feel the need to write more myself."

It might seem ironic that a man who's so enamored of tales of the open road and endless highway spent over 30 years at a "temporary" job. But the journeys that Ray sings of are measured not only in miles, but in days and years and in tears and sighs. Any Place I Hang My

Hat is a road trip, and you're riding shotgun with Ray into a landscape that initially seems familiar and simple but at second glance reveals much more than you'd imagine was there. You notice lyrics you've never really listened to before and you understand old phrases in a new

way. Ray Bierl not only knows how to make a song his own - he knows how to make it yours.

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

In the journalistic tradition of full disclosure, it should be noted that

Chuck's dad worked with Ray at the sewage treatment plant for years. You can catch Chuck blogging away at <http://blog.myspace.com/jeanieandchuckscountryroundup>

A quality presentation of the California Bluegrass Association and the Sonoma County Folk Society



Saturday, March 8, 2008

1 PM to 9 PM

Sebastopol Community Center

390 Morris Street, Sebastopol, California

Eighth Annual SONOMA COUNTY BLUEGRASS AND FOLK FESTIVAL



John Reischman and the Jaybirds



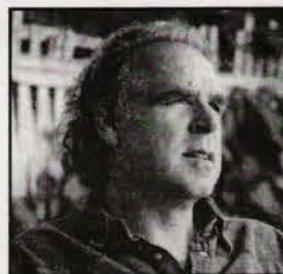
Alhambra Valley Band

Featuring:

John Reischman & the Jaybirds
Nina Gerber & Kenny Edwards
Alhambra Valley Band, Julay Brooks & the Nightbirds,
The Mighty Crows, The Roadoilers, Sol Flamenco

plus WORKSHOPS

Doors open at noon. Bring your instrument to jam, indoors or out.
Food concession on site.



Kenny Edwards



The Roadoilers



Sol Flamenco

General Admission:
\$27 Advance / \$32 Door
CBA or SoCoFoSo Members:
\$25 Advance / \$30 Door
(With current membership card)
Under 11 free with adult admission.

www.CBAontheweb.org

Info: phone Mark Hogan 707.829.8012 or email hogiemoon@comcast.net.

Please send me the following tickets for the Sonoma County Folk & Bluegrass Festival:

___ General Admission @\$27 each
___ CBA/SCFS Admission @\$25 each
CBA or SCFS Member No. _____
(circle association)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

For information, call 707-829-8012 or
email: hogiemoon@comcast.net

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail order blank, payment and self-addressed stamped envelope to:
Sonoma County Festival c/o Mark Hogan
3980 Monika Ct., Sebastopol, CA 95472

Tickets are also available online at www.cbaontheweb.org with a major credit card.

Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band to play Bluegrass Gold in Larkspur



Peter Rowan

Marin County's own bluegrass troubadour, Peter Rowan, will be headlining the Bluegrass Gold show at the Larkspur Café Theater on Thursday, February 21st, with his Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band. Bluegrass Gold is the long-running

series that is produced by Carltone Music.

Bluegrass legend Peter Rowan has led a long and varied career. In the 1960s he played with bluegrass legend Bill Monroe & The Blue Grass Boys as well as the bands

Earth Opera and Seatrain. In 1973 he formed the all-star bluegrass band Old and In the Way, with David Grisman and Jerry Garcia, and their self-titled recording is one of the best-selling bluegrass albums of all time. He then recorded a few albums with brothers Chris and Lorin, toured with his band The Free Mexican Air Force, and he has recorded several solo albums. His song "Panama Red" was a million-selling hit for The New Riders of the Purple Sage. His most recent recording on Rounder Records is Quartet with bluegrass guitar wizard Tony Rice. Peter has lived in Marin County for over thirty years, and he is one of the most entertaining and versatile performers on the scene today. Playing with Peter tonight will be Jody Stecher on mandolin, Keith Little on banjo and fiddle, and Paul Knight on bass.

The Larkspur Café Theater is Marin County's premier nightclub as well as the home for bluegrass music in the North Bay. For more information call the club at (415) 924-6107, or go to www.larkspur-cafetheater.net.

The Bluegrass Bard - Cliff Compton



In the Shadow of the Golden Gate

I was born in San Francisco
Into a two story walk-up
Somewhere in sight of the golden gate
And my daddy was a preacher
And a music director
Just out of the army band
And the first place I remember going
Was that Pentecostal holiness church off of Market
Where the preacher spoke with authority
And the music was loud and thrilling
And daddy played the violin,
All the strings, and all the horns,
Most of the woodwinds, and
The four string banjo
And I didn't know one from the other
Because I was three years old
When we moved

But that music went with me
To Yakima, Washington
Where I first heard
"I'll fly away" and "In the sweet by and by"
And I sang "Jesus loves me" in front of 240 people
When I was five years old,
Where I testified about how the lord had
delivered me from smoking big black cigars
And lying in the gutter with wild woman
Until my father told me to sit down and be quiet

And we moved, because that's the life
Of an itinerant preacher
To Kansas City, where the music was bluer
And had a backbeat
And I discovered Sam and Dave
And the Beatles
And the effect puberty has on music
And that marine, that rented the apartment above me
Taught me how to play "The Ballad of the Green Berets"
On a scroll top harmony guitar
And sister Crystal White taught me how to play the lead
On "Further Along"
And I played in my first garage band
And the electric guitar in my first stage band
And discovered that you could play Rock and Roll badly,
And it still sounded good

And I left home at eighteen
And hitch hiked to Placerville, and meant to go to Haight Ashbury
But ended up in Portland
Where Bob Dylan got my mind
And Janis Joplin got my passion
And me and Bob Cumberland did the Brewer and Shipley folk thing
Until I discovered Mike, the rolling stone guy,
and Dave the Doc Watson fingerpicker,
And we started that weird, sort of rock and roll band

And then I heard the "Nitty Gritty Dirt Band"
And they were playing with Maybelle Carter
And Earl Scruggs,
And I heard them singing "Will the Circle Be Unbroken"
And there it was
Right back where I started
Back in that Pentecostal Holiness church
Singing them Carter Family songs
Back there in the shadow of the Golden Gate
Where the music first touched my consciousness
Where I heard angels singing
And they came from Oklahoma
By way of the dustbowl migration
To that little Pentecostal church
In downtown San Francisco
Where I discovered God
And his music

Dec 2007

Help put instruments in the hands of kids...



Bethany McHenry sang and played her own guitar (signed by Rhonda Vincent) at the CBA's 2005 Grass Valley Festival. Other children are not as fortunate. Photo by Bob Calkins

The Darrell Johnston Kids Instrument Lending Library is a program for lending instruments to budding young musicians so that they can learn to play Bluegrass music. You can help our kids by donating instruments or money. The cash donations will help fix what the luthiers can't or even help us purchase, if necessary, parts or instruments that we might not get through donations.

To Make a Tax Deductible Donation, please send check or money order payable to:

Kids Instrument Lending Library
c/o Ed Alston CBA Treasurer
P.O. Box 6954
Santa Maria, CA 93456

Pine Needles perform Feb 2

The Pine Needles celebrate three years of acoustic music with a very special concert in a historic setting in San Rafael.

Please show your support for this very special house style acoustic concert in an Historic San Rafael Mansion on Saturday, February 2nd. Happy Anniversary III!

Hear the varied sounds of Rami Ziadeh on world percussion, Tristan Arnold on string bass, Morgan Meadow on Mandolin and Fiddle, and Josh Needleman on guitar, lead vocals, and a bit of bass!

The Pine Needles take the string band sound into a variety of traditional and modern acoustic directions. Currently performing on the west coast, the group explores original and classic jam improvs, acoustic rock & popular music, swing jazz, bossa nova, historic folk, old time fiddle music, and you name it. The Pine Needles formed out of a love for mountain style string band acoustic instruments and the wonderful musical textures they produce in an eclectic jam & string band setting.

Falkirk Cultural Center - All ages!
Saturday, Feb 2, 2008 8:00 PM
1408 Mission Avenue
Downtown San Rafael
415.485.3328
www.falkirkculturalcenter.org/
www.murphyproduction.com
Tickets at: <http://www.tix.com/>
Event.asp?Event=122937

www.myspace.com/thepineneedles
www.sonicbids.com/thepineneedles

Shelby Ash presents bluegrass and country shows as part of SFBOT... and more

From page A-18

been associated with so many great CA bluegrass bands; Vern Williams, High Country, True Blue, to name a few. And now comes this new amazing band with even more great players with credentials out the ying-yang...you simply gotta see this.

After swearing off music forever at least three separate times in her life, ANNA COOGAN has come to terms with the fact that she will never be able to kick the habit. Her long journey through music has taken her from opera school in Salzburg, Austria, through venues across the West Coast and back to her Seattle stomping ground. Four years of playing with her band, North19, has established Anna as one of Seattle's top roots/alt-country/folksters.

Feb 1-9
SAN FRANCISCO BLUEGRASS & OLD-TIME FESTIVAL

The 9th Annual SF Bluegrass & Old-Time Festival kicks off Feb 1st with David Grisman and ends Feb 9th with the Pine Box Boys and the Earl Brothers - and a whole lot more in between; including living legends, hot touring bands, local favorites, two square dances, kids'

shows, films, jams, and workshops. 50 BANDS at 17 VENUES!!!

Complete Schedule & Advance Tickets:
www.SFbluegrass.org

The following festival events are brought to you by Shelby Ash Presents & The Music Store...not just another record store. And please note: All the following shows sold-out last year! Advance tickets are highly recommended!

Tue, Feb 5
BLUEGRASS BUFFET
Huckleberry Flint (Humboldt) sweet old-time bluegrass The Mighty Crows (Bay Area) very fine traditional bluegrass Zach Driscoll & Three Quarter Time (OR) old bluegrass from a young band @ Freight & Salvage, Berkeley 7:30 doors / 8pm show

Thursday, Feb 7
COUNTRY-BLUEGRASS SHOW
Town Mountain (NC) smokin' hot bluegrass from down South The Burning Embers (SF) one of the finest banjo pickers around The Cowlicks (Bay Area) award winning alt-country/bluegrass band

@Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market, SF 8pm doors / 8:30 show / \$11 advance / \$13 doors

Friday, Feb 8
PORTLAND INVASION
Clampitt, Gaddis & Buck (OR) very fine bluegrass Whiskey Puppy (OR) bluegrass with a pinch of old-time Mighty Ghosts of Heaven (OR) straight up old-time Chickweed (OR) all-girl bluegrass @12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission, SF 7:30 doors / 8pm show / \$11 advance / \$13 doors

Saturday, Feb 9
ALT-BLUEGRASS SHOW
Always a great show, always sells out, and always very dark!

Pine Box Boys (SF) dark as hell alt-bluegrass The Earl Brothers (SF) THE BEST DAMN BG BAND EVER! Kemo Sabe (SF) rowdy acoustic mayhem The New Grass (SF) film short screening @Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market, SF 7:30 doors / 8pm show / \$11 advance / \$13 doors

Friday, Feb 15

AN AFTER PARTY OF SORTS
The official after party for Shelby Ash Presents the unofficial after party for the SF Bluegrass & Old-Time Festival

Kenny Hall (Fresno) 85 year old 1960's Folk Revival legend! The Bluegrass Revolution (Bay Area) fire hot bluegrass The Pine Needles (Petaluma) hot new band from the North Bay plays what they call mountain jazz

Fun! Food! Music! Door Prizes! Beer Specials!

@Plough & Stars, 116 Clement, SF. 415-751-1122 8:30 doors/food 9pm music \$10 General Admission \$5 for band members playing SFBOTF, FREE TO ALL SFBOTF VOLUNTEERS! (note, your admission will get you some food while supplies last)

Although Kenny Hall was blind at birth he learned to play fiddle and mandolin at a early age. He also learned several styles of traditional music; old-time Texas tunes, Irish, Swedish, Norwegian, Mexican, Portuguese, and Italian tunes. Kenny stopped playing mu-

sic in public for close to 20 years. Then, during the Folk Revival of the late 60s, musicians began seeking him out. Kenny is a one-of-a-kind. Some say Kenny knows more tunes than all the other bands in this year's festival combined.

You won't want to miss this very rare event!

THE CHEAP BASTARD SHOW
@The Music Store
66 West Portal Ave, SF
415-664-2044

Feb 9 - Foggy Gulch (Bay Area)
One of the Bay Area's newest bands are sportin' a fresh new CD! Get it hot off the grill at the Cheap Bastard Show. (2pm FREE)

Feb 21 - Rancho Deluxe (L.A.)
RD are one of the best damn country/honky-tonk bands on the music scene today. Get their brand-spankin' new CD at the Cheap Bastard Show. (4pm FREE)

RANCHO DELUXE'S TRUE FREEDOM RECORD RELEASE TOUR 2008
Thursday, Feb 21 - The Music Store

Continued on page A-22



The Infamous Stringdusters

The Infamous Stringdusters, winners of the prestigious Album of the Year and Song of the Year Awards at the 2007 IBMA Awards ceremony, are six musicians poised at the point where youthful energy is balanced with maturity, inspiration with discipline and creativity with experience — exactly the sweet spot where the greats have made their most lasting marks. Schooled in tradition yet able to stretch out in jam band style improvisation, endowed with razor-sharp vocals, fiery instrumental abilities and a rapidly growing repertoire of well-crafted original songs and tunes, the Infamous Stringdusters are as fresh an addition to the bluegrass — make that, the music — scene as has come along in many a year.

Plaidgrass:

PlaidGrass is an acoustic band from Nashville, Tennessee, that plays a mixture of traditional Irish instrumentals with a Bluegrass improvisational blend. Although PlaidGrass is primarily an instrumental band, they are equally adept as a vocal group. The band's individual members' vocal song writing has been acclaimed in magazines such as Music Row, Dirty Linen, Bluegrass Now and Bluegrass Unlimited. PlaidGrass puts on a high energy performance and features some of the best acoustic players in Nashville.

Flatpicking Guitar Magazine Presents:

The Infamous Stringdusters plus Plaidgrass Sunday, March 16th, 2008 The Blue Goose Loomis, California

The Blue Goose
3550 Taylor Rd
Loomis, CA 95650
Questions? Call 800-413-8296



Tim May & Plaidgrass

The Luthier's Corner - Roger Siminoff



Q: Last month, you said a violin soundpost is positioned under the bridge so that the bridge can rock back and forth. I thought it was there to keep the soundboard from cracking.

A: Thanks for this question, and a lot of folks think that the soundpost is in the violin to support the soundboard. Actually, the violin will get along quite well without the soundpost, structurally speaking. In

fact, there are a lot of violins out there that have had the soundpost knocked out of them for years and they are still in good mechanical shape.

There are a lot of presumptions floating around on what the soundpost does. These include:

- 1) Reinforcing the soundboard.
- 2) Communicating vibrations from the soundboard to the backboard.
- 3) Dividing the soundboard into two halves – a bass side and a treble side.
- 4) Transferring vibrations from the bridge directly into the air chamber.
- 5) Connecting the soundboard and the backboard so they vibrate as a unit.
- 6) To control the overtones.

As to reinforcing the soundboard, the arched soundboard of the violin is very strong. The average violin soundboard can withstand a load of about 100 pounds before it implodes. Since the downward force from the strings' pressure is only about 25 pounds, the soundboard doesn't need any extra support to keep it whole.

With regard to communicating vibrations from the soundboard to the backboard, this is quite misleading. As I've discussed in several previous columns in the Breakdown, an acoustic string instrument works by creating compression and rarefaction within the air chamber. Compression is where the air is made more dense and is forced out of the apertures (f-holes in the case of the violin), and rarefaction is where the air is drawn back into the instrument to replace the void created by the compression. To create compression and rarefaction, the soundboard and backboard cannot move in the same direction at the same time. The soundboard has to move toward the backboard (creating compression) and then away from each other (creating rarefaction). If they move in the same direction at the same time, there will be no compression or rarefaction.

Dividing the soundboard into two halves can't really be accomplished by a soundpost. At least not significantly enough to make a difference.

The idea of transferring vibrations from the bridge directly to the air in the air chamber via the soundpost has no merit. The soundpost is too small to affect the air in the air chamber in any way.

The last thought about connecting the soundboard and backboard so they vibrate as a unit deserves the same response to "communicating vibrations from the soundboard to the backboard." It just doesn't work that way.

The idea of controlling the overtones does have some merit. If you have ever heard a violin played that has no soundpost, you would know that the instrument lacks power and has a rich, full voice filled with extraneous noise. The placement of a soundpost quickly improves the amplitude (power) and cleans up the noisy overtone series. But that is a coincidence of what the soundpost does, and not the purpose.

The violin strings' motion is continuous. I don't mean that it never stops, but compared to the quick attack of a guitar or mandolin pick, the violin's bow typically plays long drawing notes that force the strings to move in lateral orbits only; orbits that mirror the direction of the bow (this doesn't happen on non-bowed instruments). In this regard, the string's energy is forced side to side, in the direction of the bow's arc. Take a look at Fig. 1 that I showed last month.

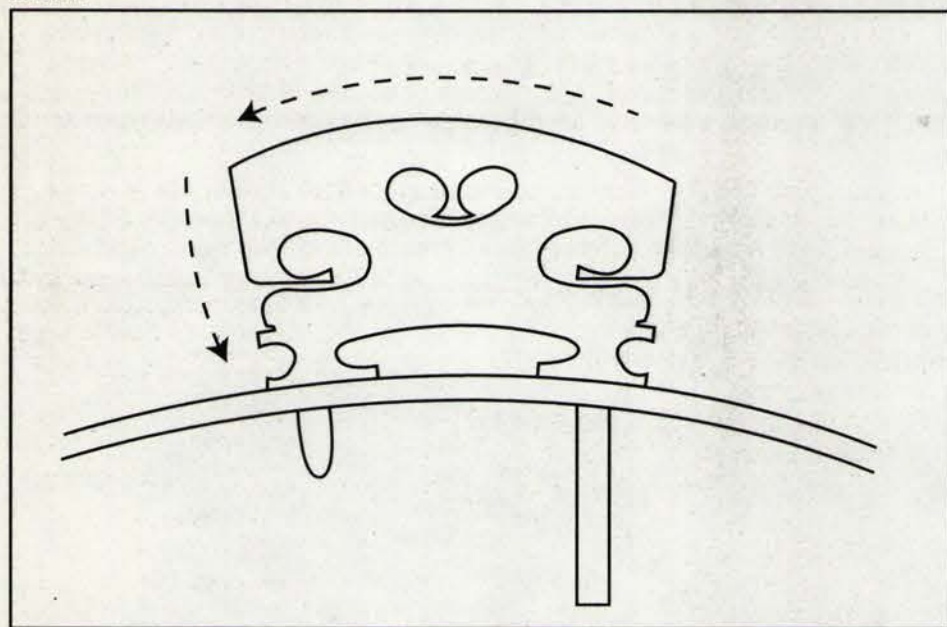


Fig 1: Regarding its side-to-side location, the soundpost in the violin is positioned almost directly under the treble foot of the bridge. The bridge's bass foot sits directly over the bass bar. As the string's energy is forced sideways, the soundpost acts like a fulcrum about which the bridge can rock to transfer the strings' energy to the bass bar.

The purpose of the bass bar is to distribute the strings' energy to as large a portion of the soundboard as is possible. With the bridge positioned so that one foot is on the bass bar and the other foot is on a sturdy support – the soundpost in this case – the bridge can rock sideways in response to the strings' energy and drive that energy to the bass bar.

So, while the soundpost does a lot to diminish unwanted overtones it plays a great role in focusing the strings' energy to a large area of the soundboard via the bass bar.

As to the forward or backboard location of the sound post, the violin luthier positions the post slightly behind the bridge to adjust the overall timbre (sound quality) of the instrument and keep it from sounding too bright or harsh. This adjustment is done by trial and error and every violin has its soundpost in a slightly different position (regarding forward or backward) according to what is required to produce good tone.

Q: I'm building a mandolin and want to use a shorter fretboard than the ones typically used on F5 mandolins. If I shorten the fretboard, how do I calculate the new scale length and figure out where the bridge goes?

A: This is a good and seemingly complicated (but actually very simple) question. The fretting scale is calculated solely on the length of the string scale from nut to bridge. To determine the position of each of the frets a formula called the "twelfth root of two" is applied to the scale. The magic number is 18.817. So, if you have a 20" scale (from nut to bridge) you divide the length (20" in this case) by 18.817 and come up with 1.059" – this is the distance from the nut to the first fret. Then, you deduct the 1.059" from the 20" to arrive at a new scale length (from the first fret to the bridge) of 18.94" and begin the math process over again, dividing the 18.94 by 18.817. You keep going until you have calculated the location for all the frets. (I have a free fretscale calculator that makes this job easy – check my website at www.siminoff.net under the "downloads" section).

If you shorten a fretboard, you don't have to re-calculate the fretscale. As you can see in the calculation example above, the location of frets is what is important not the quantity of frets you have. If you shorten the fretboard, the bridge should be positioned in the same place as it was for the longer fretboard.

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 1138, Arroyo Grande, CA 93421.

Roger Siminoff was the founder of Pickin' and Frets magazines and has written several books on instrument set-up and construction. His latest book, *The Art of Tap Tuning* (Hal Leonard Corporation) is a 56-page text that features an accompanying 50-minute DVD with acoustical tests, set up and use of electronic tuning gear, and an actual demonstration of the tap tuning process. The book is available at most music stores and luthier supply houses or directly from Roger's web site. For more on Roger Siminoff, Siminoff Banjo and Mandolin Parts, Gibson and Lloyd Loar history, visit his web site at: www.siminoff.net.

Shelby Ash presents bluegrass and country shows as part of SFBOT ... and more

From page A-21

66 West Portal, SF. 415-664-2044
4pm, FREE

Thursday, Feb 21 - Cafe du Nord
2170 Market Street, SF. 415-861-5016
with: 77 EL DEORA (alt-country/neo-noir
honky tonk)
and HOUSTON JONES (high-octane
Americana)
8:30 doors / 9pm show / \$10
advance tickets: www.cafedunord.com

Friday, Feb 22 - The Crepe Place
1134 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz. 831-429-
6994
8:30 doors / 9pm show / \$10

Saturday, Feb 23 - McGrath's Pub
1539 Lincoln Ave, Alameda. 510-522-6263
7:30 doors / 8pm show / \$5

Rancho Deluxe (L.A.) celebrate the release of their brand-spankin' new CD, *TRUE FREEDOM* with a Northern California tour de force. Over the last 5 years RD has earned a reputation as "one of the best damn country/honky-tonk bands on the music scene today." Although inspired by some of the greats; Hank, Johnny, Buck, George, Merle, Lefty - Rancho Deluxe remain very original. Their fresh sound, hard driving rhythm and great songwriting will get you off your feet and dancing like a crazy drunk...if you're not already.

FDF Slow Jam news

By Dan Martin

Hello everyone. I'd better get on the ball and start planning the Slow Jam for this year. If you're new to jamming, shy in crowds or learning to play an instrument I would like to hear what songs you would like to play at our slow jam at Grass Valley this summer. If you email me we can discuss your bluegrass songs.

This jam is a two part jam. Thursday thru Saturday, from around 3- 5 PM, we get together and play songs from a list we have prepared ahead of time and sent out on the web site and in the Breakdown. If you can play basic chords you are welcome. If you want to



Dan Martin

take breaks on a song you will be encouraged to but you don't have to.

We will talk a lot about how to jam. What you need to do in jam if you don't want to take a break or if you do. We try to keep it low key and play at the speed we need to, starting slow and playing it faster after a round or two. Every day is different with new advanced players joining us on different instruments. Some love to sing so they may lead a few different songs. These are the songs I'd like you to send. I do have a basic list I will post in a few weeks and may add your additions.

After the final act of the night, Thursday thru Saturday evening, we meet near the entrance gate and play from around 11 PM till 1 AM or longer depending on the group. This jam is less structured: anyone can join. We sing more songs and anyone can pick a song. Some nights we've had large turnouts other times a little smaller. This jam is still a slow jam. We discuss chords, take our time and have fun. This jam has many advanced players that have dropped in and played a song or two, given a few pointers, but they have been done in a teaching way. We have had people just come up to listen who are suddenly holding a songbook and singing the lead in a song. You never know. The important thing is to get that instrument out, dust it off and get as ready as you can. No one expects anyone to not make mistakes. That's part of it. This is a good place to meet others that are playing at your level who you can play with and develop together. Making music with others is a special part of Bluegrass, come and share it with us.



Beginning/Intermediate Jammers:
Check out Steve Kaufman's tab in the B-Section



Redwood Bluegrass Associates Presents

◆ **The Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band** ◆

With Jody Stecher, Keith Little, & Paul Knight

February 23, 2008

Co-sponsored by the Northern California Bluegrass Society

Bluegrass in Mountain View

First Presbyterian Church

1667 Miramonte Ave (at Cuesta Dr.)

Doors open at 5:30 pm for jamming

Concert Venue open at 7:00 pm

Showtime: 8:00 pm

\$18/advance, \$20/day of show



Peter Rowan, one of the most popular musicians to grace the RBA stage, is internationally known for his music on more than 50 albums and decades of memorable performances in a variety of stylistic settings, including impressionistic folk, Tex-Mex, "Reggae-billy," Celtic, his "New World" blend of Afro-Cuban and Caribbean, fusion rock, and more. But it is with **bluegrass** that he has made some of his most memorable music. Peter was a member of Bill Monroe & the Bluegrass Boys, Old & In the Way, and Muleskinner, and has collaborated extensively with a number of bluegrass greats, including the Nashville Bluegrass Band, Jerry Douglas, Ricky Skaggs, Tony Rice, Richard Greene, Tex Logan, Bill Keith, Druha Trava, and, now, the best bluegrass band he's ever led.

Jody Stecher (mandolin, fiddle, vocals) is best known for an incomparable series of albums with Kate Brislin, providing a powerful duet and body of songs, and he has been a mainstay in acoustic music for over three decades. His musical explorations have covered bluegrass, traditional old-time, and Indian classical music, and his recordings have served as a primer for a large and diverse group of musicians, including Jerry Garcia, David Grisman, Peter Rowan, Martin Simpson, Laurie Lewis, Kathy Kallick, Hot Rize, and the band he co-leads, Perfect Strangers.

Keith Little (banjo, vocals), a native of the Sierra Nevada foothills, began playing bluegrass as a teenager — with the mighty Vern Williams Band, then with High Country. Keith moved to Nashville, where he was a member of The Country Gentlemen and Lonesome Standard Time, as well as the bands of Ricky Skaggs and Dolly Parton. In the past decade, he's co-led a band with Kathy Kallick and a duo with Jim Nunally, is currently a member of the David Grisman Bluegrass Experience and Ed Neff's Adobe Creek, and has been awarded a Lifetime Membership by the California Bluegrass Association.

Paul Knight is a highly regarded sound engineer (providing the fine acoustic sound at most RBA shows). He is also a veteran bass player, who has played and recorded with Laurie Lewis, Sandy Rothman, Papermill Creek Rounders, Perfect Strangers, David Thom Band, Coyote Ridge, Judith Edelman, The Mike Stadler-Mary Gibbons Band, and many others.

Mar. 15/08: The Infamous Stringdusters

IBMA award-winners: Emerging Band Of the Year, Song Of the Year, Album Of the Year
Ticket Prices: \$18 advance/\$20 day of show



Apr. 19/08: The Mighty Crows

The Tuttle Family opens
Ticket Prices: \$15 advance/\$18 day of show



For All Concerts:

Half Price: Ages 13 - 18

FREE (when accompanied by a ticket holder):

- 12 and under
- Music Students

Tickets are available online from TicketWeb (www.ticketweb.com) and by mail order: RBA, P.O. Box 390515, Mountain View, CA 94039. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your check or money order, plus a note indicating what you want to order. Tickets are also available at Gryphon Stringed Instruments, 211 Lambert St., Palo Alto. Additional information: 650-691-9982, www.rba.org Thank you for your support!

sixth annual

PARKER

Bluegrass On The River

Bluegrass Music Festival · Feb 29 thru March 2 '08
LaPaz County Park · Parker, AZ



The Chapman's



Honi Deaton & Dream



William's & Clark Expedition



U.S. Navy Bluegrass Band Country Current
(Master Chief Wayne Taylor's Last Performance)



The Gibson Brothers



The Bluegrass Brothers

Wonderful Jamming throughout the campground including our Pickin' Pit
Band Workshops With a Special **Full Navy Band** Workshop
Shuttle Service Provided within Festival Grounds
Special Raffles · Classic Car Show (Saturday)

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OLD BLUE

3 DAYS OF
GREAT FUN
ALONG THE
BEAUTIFUL
COLORADO
RIVER

FEATURED BANDS

The Gibson Brothers · The U.S. Navy Bluegrass Band Country Current
Honi Deaton & Dream · Monroe Crossing · The Chapman's
The Bluegrass Brothers · Williams & Clark Expedition
Frank Ray & Cedar Hill · Digger Davis & Tombstone · Sawmill Road

Early camping opens Monday, February 25, 2008 (\$14 per rig per night)
Clean Restrooms with Showers · Water & Dump Station on Site · Held Rain or Shine
Handicap Campers **MUST** sign up before February 1, 2008 · Outdoor Stage
BYO Chairs or Blankets for Grass Seating · Music Daily 10:00am - Dusk · **No Refunds!**

Single Day Tickets Friday or Sunday \$17/person · Saturday \$20/person
3-Day Tickets (includes camping Friday-Sunday nights) Adults \$74 at Gate
Early-Bird Discounts Available Before February 1, 2008 on Advanced Purchased 3-day tickets
For Credit Card Ticket Orders visit www.LandSPromotions.com (service charges apply)

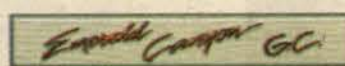
For more information visit us on the web at
www.LandSPromotions.com or call 209-480-4693

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February 2008
Happy Valentines Day!

River City Bluegrass Festival, Portland, 2008 - a review

By Mark Varner

I doubt that I'm alone. I don't think I'm the only fan who has elevated the bluegrass festival to holiday status. I'm not the only one who realizes that the most exciting moments at a festival can be life changing and that the calm moments can bring a level of relaxation that can soothe a year's worth

of stress. And I'm sure I'm not the only one who gets the blues during the "off season". Of course there is no real off season when promoters are offering indoor winter bluegrass and old-time festivals. If you've got the resources you can get to one of indoor events on the west coast or in other parts of the country. It's not exactly the same as camp-

ing under the pines at the Nevada County Fairgrounds, but it's a way of getting rid of those blues that come from missing those big doses of music and the fellowship of our brethren and sisterthren.

It's hard to get a festival earlier in the year than they do up in Portland at the River City Bluegrass Festival. This year's, the fourth annual, began on January 4th.



Trisha Gagnon sings an original song with the Jaybirds. She returns as bass instructor at CBA Music Camp 2008.



Sam Hill's first show in three years, sounding good!



Mickey Harris keeps a straight face while Darrell Webb jokes.



She may pose with a Weber, but she still plays her Smith Creek.



Jackstraw dudes: David Pugh and bassist Jesse Withers.

Lower three photos: Julia Paris

Also in the B section...

NCBS's Bluegrass On Broadway
Steve Kaufman guitar tab
Mike Melnyk photo reviews
Brenda Hough's CD reviews
The CBA calendar
and many more features, photos and articles



Continued on B-3

NCBS presents BOB! Feb 14-17, 2008

See page B-2 for a listing of events at the NCBS Bluegrass On Broadway Festival

The Northern California Bluegrass Society presents:

The Bluegrass On Broadway Festival
Downtown Redwood City, California
February 14-17, 2008

Concerts - Workshops - Film Festival - Lectures - Special Programs
All programs are free and open to the public. Info: www.ncbs.us (650) 596-9332

NCBS presents:
The First Annual
International Bluegrass Music Museum
Bluegrass Master's Film Festival

Redwood City Main Library, Redwood City, California
Sunday, February 17, 2008, Noon-5:00pm
FREE - Part Of The Bluegrass On Broadway Festival

Emcee: Carl Pagter, International Bluegrass Music Museum Trustee & Treasurer

Jake Quesenberry (2007) - Traditional bluegrass singer and band leader of both Pikeville, Kentucky and Morgan Hill, California (IBMM).

Ola Belle Reed & Family (2007) - The "Banjo Pickin' Girl," a pioneer bluegrass star who inspired later female performers and also led a multi-generation family of bluegrass songwriters.

The Goins Brothers (2007) - Pikeville, Kentucky's "other" bluegrass stars spent a half century on the road playing bluegrass music (IBMM).

Bluegrass Ramble Picnic (2007) - Bill Knowlton's classic August gathering in Syracuse, New York, is now 3 decades old.

Vern Williams (2004) - The Father of California Bluegrass Music made came from Arkansas to make California bluegrass traditional (IBMM).

The Northern California Bluegrass Society's Bluegrass On Broadway Festival including the Bluegrass Masters Film Festival received principal funding from the Redwood City Cultural Arts Commission and the Redwood City Public Library.

Redwood City Main Library, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA 94063

The Northern California Bluegrass Society's The Bluegrass On Broadway Festival

Features concerts, awards, workshops and film festival

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February 14-17, 2008

Concerts – Workshops – Film Festival – Lectures – Special Programs
All programs are free and open to the public.
Info: www.ncbs.us (650) 596-9332

Concerts:

Valentine's Day Senior Concert
Fair Oaks Intergenerational Center, Redwood City
Thursday, February 14, 2008, 11:30am-1:00pm

11:30am -- Optional Valentine's Day Lunch
11:45 – Autumn & The Fall Guys

Noontime Office Workers Concert
Redwood City Main Library Front Steps, Redwood City
Friday, February 15, 2008, Noon-1:00pm

Noon – The Stoney Mountain Ramblers

Bluegrass Concert & Awards Show

Peninsula Christian Center Main Hall, Redwood City
Saturday, February 16, 2008, 10:00am-7:00pm

9:00am – Dulcimer Girls
(at Main Street Coffee Roasting Co.)

10:00am – Lecture: Enjoying & Understanding Bluegrass Music
11:00 – Jayme Kelly Curtis Band
Noon – Autumn & The Fall Guys
1:00pm – TBA
2:00 – Sidesaddle & Co.
3:00 – Alhambra Valley Band
4:00 – Northern California Bluegrass Awards
5:00 – Sidesaddle & Co.
6:00 – Bean Creek
(Workshops – Sid Lewis Acoustic College)

CBA founders to receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

By Michael Hall

Carl Pagter, Jack Sadler and the late Jake Quesenberry will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards at the Northern California Bluegrass Awards in Redwood City on February 16, 2008. They will be honored for turning their passion for bluegrass and old-time music into a West Coast phenomenon by founding the California Bluegrass Association in 1973, and for all of their other many accomplishments in the bluegrass field.

The Northern California Bluegrass Awards will also honor the region's best primarily non-touring bluegrass bands and musicians with awards for best band, male and female vocalists, and six instruments. The ceremony will take place during the 4-day Bluegrass On Broadway Festival. The 4:00pm awards show will be part of a day-long concert held at the Peninsula Christian Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Redwood City.

The awards show, and all programs of the Bluegrass On Broadway Festival are free and open to the public. Bluegrass On Broadway is presented by the Northern California Bluegrass Society with principal financial support from the Redwood City Cultural Arts Commission, the Redwood City Public Library, and the Peninsula Christian Center. Info: www.ncbs.us or call (650) 596-9332.

2008 Northern California Bluegrass Awards finalists announced

By Michael Hall

The Northern California Bluegrass Awards honor the region's outstanding (primarily) non-touring bluegrass bands and musicians. NCBS members engaged in a three-part process that will determine the honorees for the ceremony during the Bluegrass On Broadway Festival. A first-round ballot solicited nominations, a second-round ballot selected the 5 finalists, and, in late January, the voters chose the winners in a final round of balloting. In a few cases, a tie led to 6 finalists in a category. The Saturday, January 16, 4:00pm awards show will be held at the Peninsula Christian Center Main Hall, 1305 Middlefield Road in Redwood City and is free and open to then public.

Northern California Bluegrass Awards 2008 Finalists

(There are 6 finalists in a few categories due to a tie vote):

1. Bluegrass Band
Alhambra Valley Band
Barefoot Nellies
Bean Creek
High Country
Mighty Crows
Sidesaddle & Co.

2. Male Vocalist
Glenn Dauphin
Pete Hicks
Keith Little
Billy Pitrone
Jake Quesenberry
Chris Smith

3. Female Vocalist
Diana Donnelly
Angelica Grim
A. J. Lee
Lynn Quinones
Yvonne Walbroehl

4. Guitar Player
Jerry Ashford
Larry Chung
Jim Nunnally
Steve Pottier
Yvonne Walbroehl

5. Mandolin Player
Joe Craven
Kim Elking
Pete Hicks
Chojo Jacques
Butch Waller

6. Banjo Player
Larry Chung
Larry Cohea
Bill Evans
Keith Little
Sonia Shell

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CBA Membership?

RENEW

& the cookie is yours

River City Bluegrass Festival, Portland, 2008 - a review

From page B-1
and beautiful Portland airport. Theirs is one of the nicest airports I'm flown into.

We didn't stay at the host hotel, the Red Lion. My sister lives in Vancouver, WA, just about 20 minutes away from downtown Portland, so Marty and I stayed with her. The hotel and the convention center are not attached, so it's a bit different than Supergrass or Wintergrass. One had to walk across the street from the hotel to get to the festival. Since there are other motels and hotels in the immediate area one need not count on getting a room in the sold-out Red Lion. It was all pretty much the same for all of us walking into the Convention Center, wherever one is staying. And let me tell ya, it was COLD outside. Frankly, the North West is not my cup of tea, weather wise. It sure felt good getting into the Convention Center, which despite its size was kept toasty warm!

Chuck and Chris Palmer put this show on and they really do a fine job. The festival is held in the enormous Portland Convention Center. The festival itself does not have that large of a footprint in this huge facility (there are about forty five Starbucks located inside the Convention Center). It's tucked at one end of the building. At first I thought we would get bored being in this relatively small area for three days. There were jamming rooms, a lobby stage, a luthier area, a general vendor area and the main stage area. But that never happened because we just had too much fun. The music was enough in itself, but we had fun catching up with festival friends from hither and yon and did some jamming as well.

The seating in the main stage area was comfortable with no bad seats. The sound was good as well. Things moved along on schedule.

When we arrived on Friday afternoon, the first day of the event, it was in time to catch Sam Hill. I was just thinking about how long it had been since we had seen this enjoyable Oregon band when they announced this as being their first gig in three years. They did a fine job and it brought back some fun memories of when they've played at Plymouth and other CA festivals.

Tim O'Brien's band played mostly Cornbread Nation stuff, which was great. Unfortunately the Martin 00 Tim and Danny Barnes shared was plugged in and sounded too twangy and that distracted from an overall very enjoyable set.

John Reischman and the Jaybirds were wonderful as always. John split time between playing his Lloyd Loar and playing a Lewis that had its own bright and sweet tone. We were actually convinced, due to hucksterism on the part of the Jaybirds, to purchase some of bassist Trisha Gagnon's homemade raspberry jam at their record table. Delicious.

We had ducked out quickly during the evening (no meal breaks in the schedule!) to get dinner at the small restaurant in the Red Lion Inn. Great food at good prices! We ran into our friend Steve Ruffo and David Grisman. He was kind enough to let us take a photo with Marty.

We caught the David Grisman Quintet's set and enjoyed the spe-

cial brand of musicianship that band brings. I first saw this group in '77 and it really expanded my musical taste. They're still doing it well and doing it strong.

I got to see some of the Flatlanders set before my posse (two pre-adolescents and my sister) konked out and had to go home. They were laying down some cool Texas-style country folk when we

retreated, and the audience was loving it.

Between sets Tony Furtado played solo slide guitar and banjo on stage, instead of canned music. In fact Tony was all over. He lives in Portland now as does Darrell Anger who also did a lot of sittin-in, besides playing with his Republic of Strings band. That group includes Californian Trishtan Clar-

ridge. Tony Furtado did a killer set as banjo player for Oregon's Jackstraw, our long time family friends.

During the festival there were three stages going if one counts the conference room set up with a stage to present an array of family bands and bands with young people featured prominently. Thusly

Continued on B-4

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www.parkfieldbluegrass.com

River City Bluegrass Festival, Portland, 2008 - a review

From page B-3

they presented young grassers. These groups, with Chick Rose's supervision, gave other youngsters pointers on playing bluegrass.

The second stage was in the lobby of the event. That stage presented regional bands. Many of these bands were on the fringes of bluegrass but of all of quality. To tell the truth, it was hard to spend much time in the lobby when there were so many big time bands on the main stage. The lobby shows really drew nice, big boisterous crowds, though. Kathy Boyd did a fine job running this stage.

There were some workshops being taught by hotshots like Bill Evans and David Grisman, but I made it to exactly none of them.

We got back on Saturday morning in time for the Jackstraw performance on the main stage. We saw Reischman and company's second set, Darol Anger's Republic of Strings, and a kick butt performance by Dry Branch Fire Squad.

Ron Thomason's humor was in perfect form. He seemed to have a lot of fun, as did many performers at the Oregon festival, using California as the butt of jokes. He even regaled the great northwestern denizens with stories about Nevada City's own Utah Philips. And is his way he moved effortlessly into bringing a tearful audience to its feet with his version of "He's Coming to Us Dead". Can't wait to see them at Grass Valley 2008.

Rhonda! Rhonda and the Rage positively rocked. It was a fun weekend of performances by this band that we've seen many, many times. Fun because a couple of wild cards were thrown in: Ron Stewart sitting in for Hunter Berry on fiddle and new guitarist Darrell Webb playing in one of his first shows with the Rage. Hunter had been in a car wreck and had to have a back operation. Ron really got into the spirit of the show and was a lot of fun on stage. Former Wildfire mandolin player Darrell was just hilarious, besides rocking the guitar parts and singing lead and harmonies well. The dynamics were that of a super talented group really letting their hair down and the crowd loved it.

The Dan Tyminski Bluegrass Band played in the CBA suite at IBMA last year, so I had seen them and knew what to expect: good solid bluegrass with a bluesy touch. And yes, he sang Man of Constant Sorrow. Excellent set and Grass Valley is going to appreciate this band this year.

Del was Del. Always excellent and well appreciated. Marty Stuart followed and we watched him for a while before succumbing to the need to jam.

Sunday not only brought a delightful gospel set by Rhonda and Dry Branch, but performances by David Grier, Darol Anger, and the amazing Bryan Bowers. The only sets by Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver and the Seldom Scene capped off the festival. Doyle's new

band is fantastic of course, though no one on planet Earth can equal the departed Jamie Dailey's voice. He did have Terry Baucom sitting in, so we didn't see his new banjo player.

The Seldom Scene has always

been one of my very favorite bands and the trend continues. They make ya laugh, they make ya cry, they make ya wish Duffey still walked amongst us. They have a new album out and played a number of enjoyable tunes from it, along with

a LOT of favorites.

The attendance was very good and they posted record numbers of attendees. The crowd was very mixed age-wise. Quite a few twenty-somethings and small kids. Like Wintergrass, River City is not

100% bluegrass, but there was certainly enough to recharge my batteries. I'd really recommend this festival to all Californians.

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Week 2: Flatpick: Russ Barenberg, Kathy Barwick, Mitch Corbin, Mark Cosgrove, Beppe Gambetta, John Goldie, Cindy Gray, Chris Jones, Steve Kaufman, Chris Newman and Keith Yoder
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Father's Day

June 12-15

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Steve Kaufman shares guitar and mandolin tab with CBA members

It's hard to find a picture of Steve Kaufman with a sour face. It's not surprising that Mr. Kaufman is a happy guy, given his success in his chosen field of endeavor. Steve has made a crusade of bringing folks into music, mostly providing guitar flatpicking instruction. He's issued approximately one trillion books, tapes and DVD providing instruction to everyone from rank beginners to hotshots, in every aspect of playing. He runs the famous Kaufman Acoustic Music Kamps, which offer a well-rounded education in instruments like banjo, bass, mando and guitar. Steve is one of the foremost educators in our music, simply put.

Over the coming months Steve will be sharing tab for guitar and mandolin parts for well known tunes and songs that will fit in with most jams. Thanks, Steve!

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~ 2008 Festival Events ~

Friday, February 1st

An Evening with David Grisman Bluegrass Band
The Independent 8:30pm \$30
Martha Spencer and Jackson Cunningham (VA)
John McKelvy
McGrath's 7:30pm \$10

Saturday, February 2nd

The Crooked Jades
Stairwell Sisters, Spring Creek Bluegrass Band
Noe Valley Ministry 7pm \$20/\$22

Sunday, February 3rd

Belle Monroe & her Brewglass Boys,
Kleptograss, The Mercury Dimes,
Scott Nygaard & Paul Kotapish, Toshio Hirano
Verdi Club 7:30pm \$10

Monday, February 4th

Spring Creek Bluegrass Band (CO)
Town Mountain (NC), Homespun Rowdy
Freight & Salvage 7:30pm \$15⁵⁰/\$16⁵⁰
Zach Driscoll & Three Quarter Time (OR)
Ida Viper, Mountain Boys
Amnesia 8pm \$10

Tuesday, February 5th

BLUEGRASS BUFFET
Huckleberry Flint (Humboldt)
The Mighty Crows
Zach Driscoll & Three Quarter Time (OR)
Freight & Salvage 7:30pm \$15⁵⁰/\$16⁵⁰
Freight Hoppers (NC)
Jeanie & Chuck's Country Roundup, Jimbo Trout
Bottom of the Hill 8:30pm \$12

Wednesday, February 6th

The Whoreshoes
The Deciders
Devine's Jug Band
Make-Out Room 8pm \$12
Ida Viper
The Barefoot Nellies
McGrath's 7:30pm \$10

Thursday, February 7th

COUNTRY BLUEGRASS SHOW
Town Mountain (NC)
Burning Embers
The Cowlicks
Cafe Du Nord 8pm \$11/\$13
The Carolina Chocolate Drops
Freight & Salvage 7:30pm \$18⁵⁰/\$19⁵⁰

Friday, February 8th

PORTLAND INVASION
Clampitt, Gaddis & Buck (OR)
Whisky Puppy (OR)
Mighty Ghosts of Heaven (OR)
12 Galaxies 7:30pm \$11/\$13
Freight Hoppers
Crooked Jades
Freight & Salvage 7:30pm \$18⁵⁰/\$19⁵⁰

Jackstraw

Fret Not

The Wranglers

Noe Valley Ministry 7pm \$18/\$20

Saturday, February 9th

ALT-BLUEGRASS SHOW
Pine Box Boys
The Earl Brothers
Kemo Sabe
screening of The New Grass
Cafe Du Nord 7:30pm \$11/\$13
Peter Rowan
Eric & Suzy Thompson
Noe Valley Ministry 7pm \$23/\$25

Kids' Show - at the Randall Museum (2/2)

Workshops - guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin (2/3 & 2/9)

Jams - at Baja Taqueria (2/4), McGrath's (2/4), & Plough & Stars (2/6)

Film Screenings - at Red Vic (2/2 & 2/3)

Free Shows - at The Atlas Cafe (2/2, 2/7, 2/9) & Epic Arts Studios (2/3)

Square Dances - at Make-Out Room (2/6) & Swedish American Hall (2/9)

Door times shown. For show details, times,
tickets, band info and more, go to www.sfbluegrass.org

Rhonda Vincent's got a Good Thing Going

Burlington, MA – The reigning queen of bluegrass, Rhonda Vincent, is going with her "Good Thing." On Saturday, January 12, Vincent and her band The Rage will be performing on the Grand Ole Opry stage. The performance will also be televised on Opry Live starting at 7 PM CT on GAC. Monday, January 14, finds Vincent the sole guest on Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour and she hits the Northeast a week later on January 21 to perform at Joe's Pub in New York City. The hardest working woman in bluegrass music is

returning to the road in support of her new album Good Thing Going.

Released this week on Rounder Records, Good Thing Going is Vincent's most personal album to date. With hope, resilience, and gratitude, Vincent presents a set of songs that range from timeless straight-ahead bluegrass to effervescent swing and heartfelt ballads. The twelve tracks that make up Good Thing Going include five originals or co-writes, alongside a range of contemporary and classic cover tracks. The Boston Globe calls it a "...superb new effort...no

messing up this 'Good Thing.'" From the hard-driving bluegrass "Hit Parade of Love" (an old Jimmy Martin tune and longtime



Rhonda Vincent

concert favorite) to tender balladry "I Give My Love to You" (a touching original ballad, performed as a duet with Russell Moore) to the rollicking, playful autobiographical title track and the concert favorite, "Bluegrass Saturday Night," Rhonda proves once again she will not abdicate her throne anytime soon!

For a complete and up-to-date tour schedule, go to www.rhonda-vincent.com or www.rounder.com.



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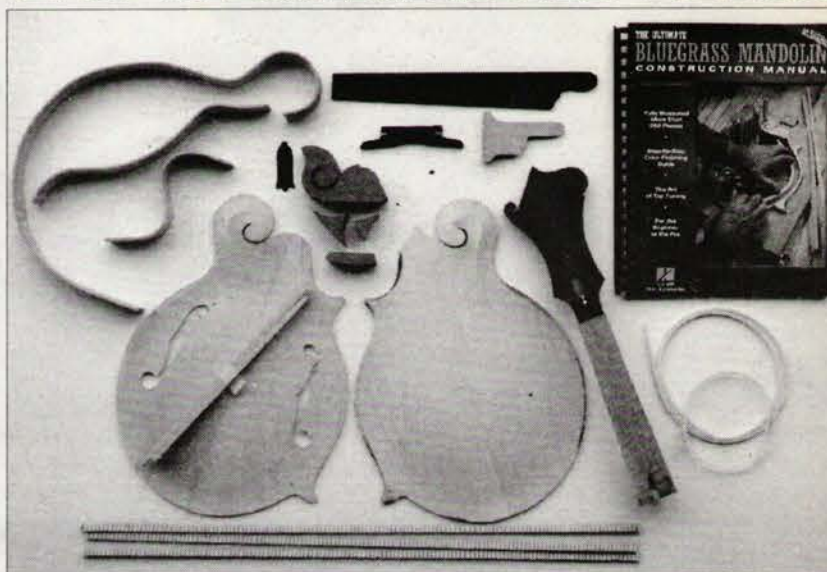
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River City Festival. Portland 2008

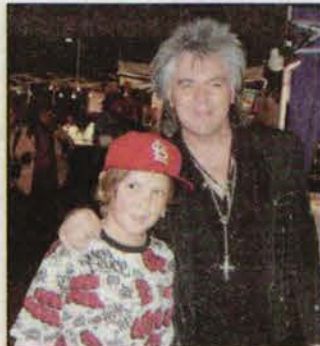


Misty River weaves their spell on the lobby stage.

Ron Stewart sits in with Rhonda Vincent and the Rage. New guitarist Darrell Webb is on the right.



Tony Furtado sits in with Oregon fave Jackstraw. This band is do-not-miss part of the upcoming SFBOT in San Francisco.



A couple of Martyrs who play mandolin and dress snappy. Hot new band, Dan Tyminski Bluegrass Band.



David Grisman Quintet includes founding member, Darol Anger.



The iconic Seldom Scene moved the audience.



Co-producer Chris Palmer enjoys her party.

All photos this page: Mark Varner



Everyone comes back on stage for the closing ceremony, singing Will the Circle Be Unbroken early Sunday evening. This festival will continue to grow with the support of the west coast bluegrass community.



New Portland, OR resident Tony Furtado was everywhere at the River City Bluegrass Festival.

Mike Melnyk photo review - Bay Area events



Dr. Elmo poses backstage



Dr. Elmo's Christmas Show cast: John Pierson, Doug Adamz, Dr. Elmo, Carol-Joy Harris, Maggie Catfish, Lary Carlin, and Dana Roth

Dr. Elmo photo review by Mike Melnyk

Pix from the yearly tradition: Granda Got Run Over By a Reindeer and more Christmas cheer at Larkspur Cafe Theater.



Doug and the Doctor: very serious.



Lovely singers Carol-Joy Harris and Maggie Catfish.



Larry Carlin (far left) sings.



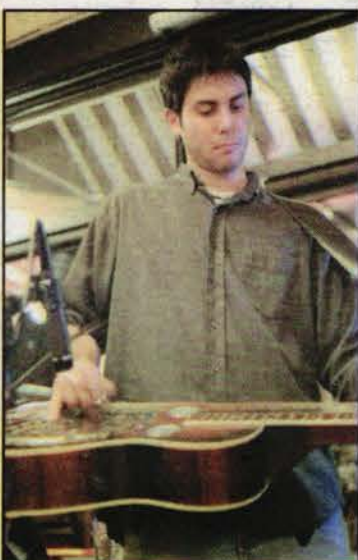
Last minute touch-up.



Doug saws.



Jeanie Poling and Misisipi Mike Wolfe



Will Fourn hold forth on dobro.



Pat Campbell plays bass for the group.



SF legend Ray Bierl.

Velo Rouge photo review by Mike Melnyk

San Francisco's Jeanie and Chuck Poling hosted the Humbug Hoedown on December 21st at the Velo Rouge Café. Worn out from weeks of Christmas music, the Polings put together an evening of local artists who celebrated the joyous spirit of the season without all the harking and let-it-snowing and fa-la-lahing.

Helping out Jeanie and Chuck were Pat Campbell on bass and Will Fourn on dobro. Special guests Ray Bierl, Matt Lax and Misisipi Mike Wolfe each performed a few songs as well, and an enthusiastic crowd packed the little room.

It was a great evening of bluegrass, country, soul and pop. Will was featured on "Meet Me in the Moonlight" with harmony help from Jeanie and Chuck. When Ray sang Ricky Nelson's "Lonesome Town" the café chatter stopped and you could have heard a pin drop. And Jeanie closed out the show with a rousing rendition of "Harper Valley PTA" that had everyone singing along. Sock it to 'em, Jeanie.



Jeanie whips out the frailing banjo for some old time country.



THE PLOUGH AND STARS

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CBA sponsored jam every 1st Wednesday

RECORDING REVIEWS

Robert Plant and Alison Krauss: Raising Sand

Rounder Records
One Rounder Way
Burlington, MA 01803
www.rounder.com
c. 2007

Song list: Rich Woman, Killing The Blues, Sister Rosetta Goes Before Us, Polly Come Home, Gone Gone Gone, Through the Morning Through the Night, Please Read The Letter, Trampled Rose, Fortune Teller, Stick With Me Baby, Nothin', Let Your Loss Be Your Lesson, Your Long Journey.

While Alison and Robert's names are on the title, this unique collaboration between a bluegrass diva and a Led Zeppelin rocker was only possible because of the talents of T. Bone Burnett as the producer. T Bone is known as the musical producer for "O Brother Where Art Thou" with its amazing blend of old-time music, and he has been the catalyst to the amazing blend of sounds and styles shown by Robert and Alison. Alison's ability to sing complementary harmonies to Robert helps to tone down his famed holler-singing and the resulting blend transcends genres of blues, rock and country. This music is unlike anything either has done before, and it is an exciting remake of classic songs charged with the energy of two very unique singers.

The instrumentation is an aggressive blend of electric guitar and drums with a dose of pedal steel and an occasional banjo and only a light dusting of fiddle from Alison Krauss. The songs have a disquieting, dark tone, with a coming together of feelings and reality that don't always match with feelings of loss and departure. The accompanying band is Jay Bellerose on drums, Dennis Crouch on bass, and T Bone Burnett and Marc Ribot on electric guitars. In contrast, Alison and Robert's voices have a soft, soaring quality as they twine and interweave with lacy harmonies. The most traditional song is Doc Watson's "Your Long Journey" which is performed in close two-part harmony with a backdrop of autoharp and banjo. But it's a song again of parting with none of the joy of heavenly reunion that often marks gospel songs.

"Killing the Blues" is a lament about nothing "sadder than losing yourself in love" that the duo sings with heartfelt feeling. "Sister Rosetta Goes Before Us" is sung by Alison with a banjo providing a Middle Eastern flavor as she intones "looks like I've lost the love I've never found." An old Everly Brothers song, "Gone Gone Gone" is the album's first Grammy nominated single, and its blend of bass riffs and drums give the song a heavy rhythm and Alison and Robert have a great blending harmony mimicking the famed brother

duo. Alison sings the Led Zeppelin song, "Please Read the Letter" and the Tom Waits song of loss, the "Trampled Rose." Robert takes the lead on "Stick with Me Baby" and "Nothin'," two more songs echoing the dead end of a love affair. It is to T Bone Burnett's credit that the instrumental settings and the singers give the songs a greater life than the mere words provide. With the success of this first collaboration, perhaps a second album may be forthcoming. A less dark, more uplifting set of songs would be a natural continuation of the song progression. Perhaps Mickey and Sylvia's "Love Is Strange?"

Dailey and Vincent

Rounder Records
One Rounder Way
Burlington, MA 01803
www.rounder.com
c. 2008

Song list: Sweet Carrie, More Than A Name on the Wall, Cumberland River, River of Time, By The Mark, Poor Boy Workin' Blues, Take Me Back, My Savior Walks With Me Today, Don't You Call My Name, I Believe, Music of the Mountains, Place on Calvary.

Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent have become well known as starring members of the Doyle Lawson and Ricky Skaggs bands, and it was a real leap of faith for both of them to leave Quicksilver and Kentucky Thunder to venture out on their own and revive the sounds of the brother duo singing as pioneered by the Stanley Brothers, Osborne Brothers and Jim and Jesse. Both men have had a long association with bluegrass music, and the singing and instrumentation on their debut album is superb and the band made a lot of fans when they performed at the IBMA. Current band members are Jamie on vocals and guitar, Darrin on vocals and bass, Jeff Parker on vocals and mandolin and Joe Dean on banjo and quartet vocals.

To be sure, the album starts with a barnburner: "Sweet Carrie," has Joe Dean's banjo punching out a frantic rhythm as Jamie keeps Carrie on his mind. Jamie's voice gives the song a true high lonesome flavor. The band's "Don't You Call My Name" is another traditional bluegrass song originally recorded by the Johnson Mountain Boys and given an up-tempo feeling with Darrin taking the lead vocal and Jeff Parker and Jamie completing the harmonies. Two of the songs were written by Statler Brothers band member Jimmy Fortune. "More Than A Name On A Wall" was written for the Vietnam War memorial, and Jamie and Darrin joined Jimmy in singing the song on the 25th anniversary of the wall's dedication. "I Believe" is the other Jimmy Fortune song, and Jamie's soaring tenor is perfectly blended with Darrin and Jeff's har-

monies to produce the most heartfelt song in the set.

Gillian Welch's "By the Mark" was one of the first songs that Darrin and Jamie recorded and the duo pares the arrangement to vocals, guitar and mandolin. Darrin and Jamie also perform one of Jamie's songs "My Savior Walks With Me Today" in the duo style. Though Darrin and Jamie are not related by blood, their kinship runs strong and their partnership should flourish and grow for many years to come.

Benny Martin: The Fiddle Collection

CMH Records
PO Box 39439
Los Angeles, Ca 90039
www.cmhrecords.com
c.2007

Song list: Muleskinner Blues, Sweet Bunch of Daisies, Alabama Jubilee, Home Sweet Home, Little Footprints in the Snow, Georgian Moon, Back Up and Push, Flint Hill Special, Blue Moon of Kentucky, Bile 'Em Cabbage Down, Salty Dog, The Fiddler's Dream, Dueling Fiddles, Lara's Theme, Black Mountain Rag, Under the Double Eagle, How Will I Explain About You, Beautiful Dreamer, Foggy Mountain Breakdown, Ragtime Annie, Fire on the Mountain, Bury Me Beneath the Willow, Cotton-Eyed Joe, Sunny Side of the Mountain, Night Train to Memphis, Freight Train Blues, Cruisin' on the Blue Danube, Lee Highway Blues.

Benny Martin's fiddling career has spanned some 66 years and from his early days with the Martin Family Band when he played mandolin, guitar and washtub bass. His virtuoso fiddling style has graced many recordings and he has been part of most of the pioneering bluegrass bands: Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, Jimmy Martin, and Flatt and Scruggs. He also recorded with Roy Acuff and appeared many times on the Grand Ole Opry. His recordings with Flatt and Scruggs featured some of his most memorable fiddling in "Flint Hill Special," "Foggy Mountain Chimes" and "Dear Old Dixie." His version of "Flint Hill Special" with Vic Jordan on banjo is filled with double stops and alternating notes to embellish the melody. Benny's style also includes related notes that are a fifth above the melody note and some sliding in tone to and from the melody notes. His forceful bowing also allows him to vary the tone and pull out tonal nuances as he moves his bow from note to note.

Johnny Gimble plays twin fiddles with Benny as the two of them play a rousing "Dueling Fiddles" complete with the fiddles doing some "talking" together. Benny is joined by Buddy Spicher in the exciting twin fiddle classic, "Lee Highway Blues," and the floor

must have been covered with horse-hairs from the bows when the two of them finished the song. Benny's talent and skill shines through in each of the 28 songs presented in this collection.

Four Finger Music: The Bluegrass Tribute to the Music Made Famous by The Simpsons

CMH Records
PO Box 39439
Los Angeles, Ca 90039
www.cmhrecords.com
c.2007

Song list: The Simpsons Main Title, We Put The Spring in Springfield, The Monorail Song, Cut Every Corner, Who Needs the Kwik-E Mart?, See My Vest, Senior Burns, We Do (The Stonecutters Theme), Baby on Board, Bagged Me A Home, Happy Birthday Lisa, The Planet of the Apes (The Musical), Hail to Thee Kamp Krusty, The Simpsons Closing Theme.

Hit and Run Bluegrass has moved from its Colorado home base and is now part of the Nashville music scene. Rebecca (Hogan) and John Frazier are joined by Travis Book (also in The Infamous Stringdusters) and Scotty Marlboro on this highly engaging tribute to the Simpsons. The popular, irreverent show has had a great selection of songs with pointed barbs at our world today. Fans of the show will be able to place the songs in their appropriate episodes and the band has done a great job adapting the lyrics and instruments to a bluegrass context. Their instrumentation has a upbeat flow and the vocals have a touch of the wry humor and irony that are part of the show.

Rebecca Hogan's guitar work has earned her the honor of a feature article in Flatpicking Guitar magazine, and John's mandolin and Scotty's banjo provide the quirky bounce that fit the show's tone and songs. Travis Book anchors the bass rhythms and his vocals have a Homeresque quality. The Simpsons' Main Theme and corresponding Closing Theme have the mandolin taking the main lead with the banjo and guitar taking the rhythm and bass counterpoint.

"We Put the Spring in Springfield" is a bouncy catalog of all the parts and pieces that make this town a unique place. "We Do" is a parody of the Masonic (Stonecutters) influence on the politics of a town while the "Monorail Song" proclaims the necessity for a useless boondoggle while the streets languish unrepaired. Rebecca sings the solos on "Cut Every Corner," a celebration of Homer's philosophy that has a resemblance to a Mary Poppins song. Mr. Burns is the vil-



Brenda Hough

lain of the show and his evil machinations are celebrated in the Latin rhythm song, "Senior Burns" and his clothing using "greyhound fur tuxedo" and "gopher loafers" are cataloged in "See My Vest." Even the love songs don't quite match reality - "Bagged Me A Homer" - puts love in the language of a baseball game. Even the Planet of the Apes' Dr. Zaius has a song, and there's also the "Hail To Thee Kamp Krusty" for all the clown fans. For those bluegrass fans who also love those yellow cartoon guys on TV, this is an absolute must-have!

Monroe Crossing: Live From Silver Dollar City

17625 Argon St NW
Ramsey, MN 55303
c.2007
www.MonroeCrossing.com

Song list: Fox on the Run, Oh Lonesome Me, Just Wondering Why, The Children Are Crying, Crazy, 20-20 Vision, Scotland, Rocky Road Blues, The Rain, The Atlanta Church, At Last, Nail That Catfish to a Tree, Sally Goodin/That's What I Like About the South.

Monroe Crossing can lay claim to being the most active bluegrass band in Minnesota, and their travels take them all over the country including a memorable set of performances at the 2007 Grass Valley Festival. Their harmonies are carefully blended and the instrumentation follows the bluegrass tradition with some fine mandolin, banjo, fiddle, guitar and bass work.

The band members are Art Blackburn guitar and vocals, Mark Anderson bass and harmony vocals, Benji Flaming banjo, Lisa Fuglie fiddle and vocals, and Matt Thompson mandolin, fiddle and vocals.

The recordings were made during the band's performances at the Silver Dollar City in Branson and the enthusiastic audience response is a testament to the band's appeal and entertaining skills. The song mix is a delightful combination of bluegrass and country songs, and they are even brave enough to play "Fox on the Run." Lisa's vocals are top-notch and she gives soulful performances of Dolly Parton's "Jolene" and the Patsy Cline classic, "Crazy." Matt's crisp mandolin

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accompaniment highlights the Jim and Jesse McReynolds song "Just Wondering Why" that features the band's harmony vocals. Matt and Lisa also team up with twin fiddles to present some high-powered versions of "Dueling Banjos" with fiddles and some bagpipe inspired tones on Bill Monroe's "Scotland." Art performs the lead vocal duties on a rollicking "Rocky Road Blues," another Bill Monroe tune which isn't surprising given the band's name. Another crowd pleaser is Lisa's bluesy version of Etta James' "At Last." Matt calls "Nail That Catfish to a Tree" the band theme song, and it certainly gives the band a chance to show their instrumental prowess. This band has it all – entertaining song selections, excellent musicianship and a contagious enthusiasm that will make bluegrass lovers out of any audience!

The Jim and Jesse Story

CMH Records
PO Box 39439
Los Angeles, Ca 90039
www.cmhrecords.com
c.2007

Song list: Midnight Train, Drifting and Dreaming of You, Border Ride, Just Wondering Why, Golden Rocket, Grave in the Valley, My Little Honeysuckle Rose, Sleepy-Eyed John, Let Me Whisper, Somewhere Down South, When It's Time For the Whippoorwill to Sing, Great Speckled Bird, A Memory of You, Paradise, The Girl I Left Behind Me, Diesel on My Tail, Remember Me, Are You Missing Me?, I Will Always Be Waiting For You, The Flame of You, Gosh I Miss You All The Time, Farewell Blues, I Want To Be Loved, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, Where Do We Go From Here?, Are You Tired of Me My Darling?, Rider in the Rain, Those Brown Eyes.

Jim and Jesse are one of the pioneer bluegrass groups, and certainly the premier proponents of the brother duet style. Jim's soaring tenor matched Jesse's lead vocals in perfect cadence and the angelic harmonies are exemplified in the gorgeous "Drifting and Dreaming of You." Blaine Sprouse's fine fiddle embellishments add extra tenderness to a perfect song. More examples of their superb love song harmonies are found in the waltzes, "Let Me Whisper" and "Remember Me." "Just Wondering Why" has captured the anguish of a lover's departure, and "The Flame of Love" features shifting rhythms and a flurry of cascading banjo notes. Jesse McReynolds invented the fast-flowing mandolin technique called cross picking that uses the flow of banjo rolls on the mandolin to play the tune's melody, and the four instrumental songs on the album, "Border Ride," "The

Girl I Left Behind Me," "Somewhere Down South" and "Farewell Blues" show Jesse's technique blended with the banjo and fiddle. "Border Ride" has some south of the border rhythms that Jesse plays with a strong mandolin chop and expansive tremolos. Band members on the earlier recordings include Carl Jackson, Allen Shelton and Bobby Thompson on banjo, Blaine Sprouse, Jimmy Buchanan on fiddle, and Keith McReynolds on bass.

Jim and Jesse wrote many of the songs, but the album also features songs written by the Delmore Brothers, Hank Snow's "Golden Rocket," and Randy Newman's "Rider in the Rain" with its innovative use of drums. With 28 songs on the album, it would be hard to pick just one or two songs to favor, but there will certainly be many that will appeal to every listener.

Jim Hurst: A Box of Chocolates

www.jimhurst.com
c. 2007

Song list: Chocolate Chaise Lounge, Look Down Hannah, Mando Bounce, I Ain't Gonna Cry For You, Wildcatter, Nine Pound Hammer, Kentucky Sunrise Waltz, Darlin' Tell Me Why, C5 A La Mode, Little Baby Child, Unlucky Seven, Mary of the Wild Moor, Susie Q, Till There Was You, Young At Heart.

Forest Gump said that "Life is a Box of Chocolates," and Jim Hurst may be using the same analogy in his in the box/out of the box approach to music. As a member of the Claire Lynch Band and a Nashville guitar session player for many years, Jim has had a chance to experience many tastes and flavors of music and his skills as a vocalist, banjo, mandolin and guitar player give him a wide range of ingredients for his concoctions. Eight of the songs are Jim's own compositions and he also pulls out the classic "Till There Was You" and "Susie Q."

Jim's "Mando Bounce" definitely has a bounce to it and the swing guitar rhythm is joined with piano, drums and some fine solo mandolin from Jim. "Chocolate Chaise Lounge" has Sam Bush on mandolin and Mark Schatz on bass, and the three guys lay down melodic grooves that are just filled with jazzy riffs. "Unlucky Seven" was written on banjo by Jim, and it gets a full bluegrass band treatment with Jim on guitar, Wayne Benson on mandolin, Scott Vestal on banjo, Michael Cleveland on fiddle and Mark Schatz on bass – and this tune just pumps! In contrast to the hard-driving number, Jim pulls out his solo guitar to play the very tender "Till There Was You."

But if the instrumentals are the nuts and chews in the chocolate box, the vocals are the soft crèmes.

Claire Lynch joins Jim on the old classic "Young At Heart" as they do the crooning to the sounds of piano and strings. "Susie Q" is funky, lay down low, and you almost hear the bayou and alligators in the swamp. "Mary of the Wild Moor" is the tear-jerker of the bunch with its story of the lost mother and child suffering in the cold winds. Yummy selection – now all I want to find out is how did they get the chocolate guitars on the candy?

Andy Hall: Sound of the Slide Guitar

Sugar Hill Records
PO Box 120897
Nashville, TN 37212
www.sugarhillrecords.com
c.2008

Song list: Resurrection Bay, The Chase, Paples Blues, Circle The Sun, Deep Elem Blues, Velocity, Fresh Flowers, C-Bops (Special Ops), Always You, One More Moment With You, Green Light on the Southern/Bony Crossing The Alps.

Andy Hall has been one of the members of the high-powered band the Infamous Stringdusters, and the group has won the IBMA 2007 Best Album, Best Song and Emerging Artist awards. No small part of that award is the resophonic guitar playing of Andy Hall. Like an artist with an array of pastels at his command, Andy's resophonic guitar work has a wide range of moods, colorations, emotions and tones that he displays on this sec-

ond solo album.

Andy is a Berklee College of Music graduate, and his songwriting skills are featured in 8 of the 11 songs. He blends his mahogany Meredith resonator guitar with David Grier's guitar in the opening cut "Resurrection Bay" and the two instruments trade fluid passages of notes. Guitarist Tim Stafford provides a melodic backdrop for Andy's heartfelt rendition of Mark Simos' "Fresh Flowers" with its ecological message of leaving "something behind for those who will surely follow." Bandmate Jesse Cobb plays mandolin alongside Andy's koa Harper resonator guitar in "C-Bops" and the duo punches out some smooth melodic riffs that soar up and down the scales. Six of the songs feature Stringdusters members Travis Book on bass, Chris Eldridge or Andy Falco on guitar, Jeremy Garrett on fiddle, Chris Pandolfi or Noam Pikelnny on banjo and Jesse Cobb on mandolin. "One More Moment Here With You" is one of Andy's songs, and the banjo provides the punch for this bluegrass-style song about a "love lost in the rain." The group also joins together for a bluesy Doc Watson song, "Deep Elem Blues" with Andy playing a metal body National tricone. Another tribute to tradition is Andy's solo playing of Norman Blake's "Greenlight on the Southern/Bony Crossing The Alps." A satisfying glimpse into the carefully constructed blend of melody, taste and tone by a master craftsman.

Iron Horse: The Gospel

According to Hank Williams

CMH Records
PO Box 39439
Los Angeles, Ca 90039
www.cmhrecords.com
c. 2007

Song list: Wealth Won't Save Your Soul, How Can You Refuse Him Now?, I Saw the Light, Thy Burdens Are Greater Than Mine, I'm Gonna Sing, House of Gold, Calling You, Pictures From Life's Other Side, I'll Have A New Life, The Angel of Death, Ready to Go Home, Message to My Mother.

Iron Horse is an Alabama-based bluegrass band that has made several bluegrass flavored "tribute" albums to Metallica and Led Zeppelin with CMH Records. The band is Tony Robertson on mandolin and guitar and vocals, Ricky Rogers on bass and vocals, Vance Henry on guitar and vocals, Andy Richardson on banjo, dobro and vocals, and Donnie Carpenter on fiddle. Ten of the songs are Hank Williams originals and the other two songs, "Thy Burdens Are Greater Than Mine" and "I'll Have A New Life" are gospel stalwarts from Pee Wee King and Luther Presley.

Iron Horse has a fine vocal blend and sterling instrumental chops. The a cappella song, "I'll Have A New Life," features Andy's bass vocals with that unmistakable rumble that defines gospel quartets. It's a shame that there is not another song to feature their quartet sound. Hank's "Ready To Go Home" has a Andy's banjo leading

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Aimee Anderson playing the first fiddle from the lending library on the CBA stage at Grass Valley in 2005.

Photo by Bob Calkins

Darrell Johnston Kids Instrument Lending Library

The Darrell Johnston Kids Instrument Lending Library was established in memory of CBA's former Treasurer who died suddenly in 2004. He was a generous man who loved music and was especially fond of the Kids on Bluegrass and helping young people acquire instruments to play Bluegrass Music.

Darrell made the first instrument donations to the program that would later become the Kids Instrument Lending Library and supported the program with his wallet and his heart.

The lending library has collected donated instruments, had professional luthiers set them up to be played, and established a program for lending instruments to families for their children's use.

To borrow an instrument for a child or for further information regarding this program, please contact:

**Sharon or Steve Elliott at 510-728-7613
or email kidslendinglibrary@yahoo.com**

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the instrumental mix with Tony's mandolin taking a strong lead and chop rhythm blended with vocal harmonies. Hank's gospel songs have a recurring theme with wealth and worldly ways pitted against the soul's salvation. "Wealth Won't Save Your Soul" and "House of Gold" both reach out to the sinner to change his ways. "Angel of Death" and "Message to My Mother" are poignant reminders of life's fleeting moments. This is an engaging collection of songs deserving of more playing in Sunday morning gospel performances.

Peter, Bethany and Rufus: Puff and Other Family Classics

Salasaree Records
c.2007

www.peterbethanyandrufus.com

Song list: Blue Tail Fly, Cindy, Careless Love, The Cuckoo, You Better Mind, Long Chain On, Frankie and Johnny, Foggy Dew, Shule Aru, Turkledove, Puff the Magic Dragon.

Peter Yarrow, of Peter Paul and Mary fame, joins his daughter Bethany Yarrow and her musical partner, cellist Rufus Cappadocia, in a joyous, upbeat and totally modern romp through classic Peter, Paul and Mary and American folk songs. Bethany and Rufus have been performing as a duo for some years and their cello enhanced songs have a blend of world groove rhythms and jazz crescendos in tandem with Bethany's versatile vocals. Peter and Bethany trade vocal riffs in "The Cuckoo" imbued with mandolin, cello and kora instrumental breaks. It's unlike any other version of the song you've heard, and has its own source of energy. "You Better Mind" is a stirring fusion of gospel and jazz enhanced with organ, pedal steel and percussion that would rock any southern church. "Long Chain On" is a 7 minute blend with the vocals brimming with mysterious wonder at the stranger who materializes out of the mist bound in chains. "Shule Aru" is also known as "Johnny Has Gone For A Soldier," and Bethany's rendition has all the warmth and wistfulness of Mary's original version with some fine cello, mandolin and guitar accompaniment. Peter's version of "Puff the Magic Dragon" is a little more world-weary, but there is still a strong sense of magic and wonder in the friendship message in the song. An excellent collection of modern old songs that crosses genre and generation lines.

Please contact Brenda Hough for more information or to submit material for review:

hufstuff2003@yahoo.com

CBA Calendar of Upcoming Music Events

BAND GIGS & CONCERTS FEBRUARY

2/2/2008 -- Riley's Mountaineers

"Hometown Jamboree" 6 pm at Riley's at Los Rios Rancho, 39611 Oak Glen Road, Yucaipa, CA. Folks can tuck into a tasty meal and enjoy a hand-clappin', knee-slappin', toe-tappin' good time as Riley's Mountaineers and special guest performers. Guest musicians are always welcome to tote along an instrument or two and join in the free-wheeling jam after the show. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids 12 and under. For tickets or information, go to www.losriosrancho.com or call 909-797-1005.

2/2/2008 -- The Pine Needles 8 pm concert at the Falkirk Cultural Center, 1408 Mission Avenue in downtown San Rafael, CA. This is a 3rd Anniversary party for the band. For information, call 415-485-3328 or visit www.falkirkculturalcenter.org. Tickets available at <http://www.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=122937>.

2/2/2008 -- Howdy! will perform at the Connecticut Yankee, 100 Connecticut St., San Francisco, CA. For information, call 415-552-4440 or visit <http://www.theyankee.com/>

2/2/2008 -- Dore Collar & Bermuda Grass will perform at 2 pm at the Iron Springs Pub & Brewery, 765a Center Blvd., Fairfax, CA. For information, call 415-485-1005 or visit www.ironspringpub.com

2/3/2008 -- Earthquake Country will play from 2 to 5 pm at San Gregorio General Store, Highway 84 and Stage Road, San Gregorio, CA. For information, call 650-726-0565 or www.sangregoriostore.com

2/4/2008 -- Homespun Rowdy will perform from 7:30 to 10:30 pm at Amnesia, 853 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA. For information, call 415-970-8336, email info@homespunrowdy.com, or visit www.homespunrowdy.com

2/4/2008 -- Town Mountain, Spring Creek and Homespun Rowdy, 8 pm at the Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 1111 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA. Part of the San Francisco Bluegrass and Old-time Festival. Tickets are \$15.50 advance and \$16.50 at the door. For information or tickets, call 510-548-1761, email info@freightandsalvage.org, or visit www.freightandsalvage.org

2/5/2008 -- Chuck and Jeanie's Country Roundup and Jimbo Trout and The Fish People will perform at the Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th Street, San Francisco, CA. Part of the SF Bluegrass and Old-time Festival. For information, call 415-621-4455 or visit www.bottomofthehill.com/

2/5/2008 -- Bean Creek will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com

2/5/2008 -- Bluegrass Buffet featuring Huckleberry Flint, The Mighty Crows, and Zach Driscoll & Three-quarter Time 8 pm at the Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 1111 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA. Part of the San Francisco Bluegrass and Old-time Festival. Tickets are \$15.50 advance and \$16.50 at the door. For information or tickets, call 510-548-1761, email info@freightandsalvage.org, or visit www.freightandsalvage.org

2/6/2008 -- Don Edwards will perform at 8 pm in the Willow Lounge at Black Oak Casino, 19400 Tuolumne Road North, Tuolumne, CA. For information, contact Brent Pierce at 877-747-8777, email bpierce@blackoakcasino.com, or visit www.blackoakcasino.com

2/6/2008 -- The Crooked Jades and Spring Creek Bluegrass Band 7:30 pm concert at Don Quixote's International Music Hall, 6275 Highway 9 and Graham Hill Road, Felton, CA. Tickets are \$10 advance and \$12 at the door. For information or tickets, contact Tom Miller at 835-335-5308 or visit <http://www.donquixotesmusic.com/>

2/6/2008 -- Devine's Jug Band, The Deciders, and The Whoreshoes will perform at the Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd Street, San Francisco, CA. Part of the SF Bluegrass and Old Time Festival. For information, call 415-647-2888 or visit <http://www.makeoutroom.com>

2/6/2008 -- The Freighthoppers will perform at 2 pm at the Iron Springs Pub & Brewery, 765a Center Blvd., Fairfax, CA. For information, call 415-485-1005 or visit www.ironspringpub.com

2/6/2008 -- Whiskey Brothers will perform at 9 pm at the Albatross Pub, 1822 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley, CA. For information, call 510-843-2473 or visit www.albatrosspub.com

2/6/2008 -- The Barefoot Nellies and Ida Viper will perform at McGrath's Irish Pub, Corner of Lincoln and Stanton, Alameda, CA. Part of the SF Bluegrass and Old-time Festival. For information, call 510-522-6263, email peter@mcgrathspub.com, or visit www.mcgrathspub.com

2/6/2008 -- Sidesaddle & Company will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com

samsbbq.com

2/7/2008 -- The Burning Embers and the Cowlicks will perform at Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market St., San Francisco, CA. A Country Bluegrass Show - part of the San Francisco Bluegrass and Old Time Festival. For information, visit www.sfbbluegrass.org, call the cafe at 415-861-5016 or visit www.cafedunord.com

2/7/2008 -- Carolina Chocolate Drops, 8 pm concert at the Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 1111 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA. Tickets are \$18.50 advance and \$19.50 at the door. For information or tickets, call 510-548-1761, email info@freightandsalvage.org, or visit www.freightandsalvage.org

2/7/2008 -- Russ Barenberg & Bryan Sutton 7:30 pm concert at Don Quixote's International Music Hall, 6275 Highway 9 and Graham Hill Road, Felton, CA. Tickets are \$13 advance and \$15 at the door. For information or tickets, contact Tom Miller at 835-335-5308 or visit <http://www.donquixotesmusic.com/>

2/7/2008 -- Keith Little & Jim Nunally will perform from 7 to 10 pm at the First Street Cafe Upstairs, 440 First Street, Benicia, CA. For information, call 707-745-1400, email firststcafe@pacbell.net, or visit <http://www.firststcafe.com>

2/7/2008 -- Dark Hollow and High Country will perform at Atlas Cafe, 3049 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA. Part of the SF Bluegrass & Old-time Festival. For information, contact JimBo Trout at 415-648-1047, email shout@jimbotrout.com, or visit <http://www.atlascafe.net>

2/7/2008 -- Ed Neff & Friends will play at the Willowbrook Ale House, 3600 Petaluma Blvd., Petaluma, CA. For information, call 707-775-4232

2/8/2008 -- Tempest will perform at a 9 pm Celtic Rock Concert in the Willow Lounge at Black Oak Casino, 19400 Tuolumne Road North, Tuolumne, CA. For information, contact Brent Pierce at 877-747-8777, email bpierce@blackoakcasino.com, or visit www.blackoakcasino.com

2/8/2008 -- Woody Guthrie's American Song -- a musical show will be staged at The Stage 3 Theater, 208 S. Green Street, Modesto, CA. Performances Thursday through Sunday. For information or tickets, call 209-526-1778, email info@stage3.org, or visit www.stage3.org

2/8/2008 -- The Crooked Jades and The Freighthoppers 8 pm concert at the Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 1111 Ad-

dison Street, Berkeley, CA. Part of the San Francisco Bluegrass and Old-time Festival. Tickets are \$18.50 advance and \$19.50 at the door. For information or tickets, call 510-548-1761, email info@freightandsalvage.org, or visit www.freightandsalvage.org

2/8/2008 -- Fret Not, Jackstraw and The Wranglers (w/Warren Hellman, Ron Thomason & Heidi Claire) in concert at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA. Part of the SF Bluegrass & Old-time Festival. For information, call 415-454-5238, email sflivearts@comcast.net, or visit www.noevalleymusicseries.com

2/8/2008 -- Portland Invasion featuring Chickweed, Clampitt, Gaddis & Buck, Mighty Ghosts of Heaven and Whiskey Puppy at 12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission, San Francisco, CA. Part of the San Francisco Bluegrass and Old Time Festival. For information, call 415-970-9777, email info@12galaxies.com, or visit www.12galaxies.com

2/9/2008 -- Faux Renwabs, Squirrelly String Band and String Break 4 pm concert at the Atlas Cafe, 3049 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA. Part of the SF Bluegrass and Old-time Festival. For information, contact JimBo Trout at 415-648-1047, email shout@jimbotrout.com or visit <http://www.atlascafe.net>

2/9/2008 -- Eric and Suzy Thompson and Peter Rowan concert at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. at 23rd, San Francisco, CA. Part of the SF Bluegrass & Old-time Festival. For information, contact Larry at 415-454-5238, email sflivearts@comcast.net or visit www.noevalleymusicseries.com

2/9/2008 -- Fred Eaglesmith will perform at 8 pm at the West Side Theatre, 1331 Main Street, Newman, CA. Tickets are \$19 General Admission / \$22 Reserved Seats. For information or tickets, call 209-862-4490, email info@westsidetheatre.org, or visit <http://www.westsidetheatre.org>

2/9/2008 -- Ed Neff & Friends will play at 2 pm at the Iron Springs Pub & Brewery, 765a Center Blvd., Fairfax, CA. For information, call 415-485-1005 or visit www.ironspringpub.com

2/12/2008 -- Carolina Special will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com

2/13/2008 -- Diana Donnelly & the Yes Ma'ams will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's

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CBA Calendar of Upcoming Music Events

- Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- 2/14/2008 -- Ed Neff & Friends will play at the Willowbrook Ale House, 3600 Petaluma Blvd., Petaluma, CA. For information, call 707-775-4232
- 2/14/2008 -- The Salt Martians will perform from 5:30 - 7:30 at Tupelo Junction Cafe, 1218 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA. For information, call 805-899-3100 or visit www.tupelojunction.com
- 2/14/2008 -- Autumn and The Fall Guys 1 pm concert, part of The Bluegrass On Broadway Festival at The Fair Oaks Senior Center, 2600 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA. NCBS Valentine Luncheon & Bluegrass Show. Lunch 11:30 am - 1 pm. E-mail for reservations. Lunch is \$2.50 for seniors & \$5 for those under 59. This is a fully sponsored FREE to the audience event in the town of Redwood City. The Redwood City Civic Cultural Commission has provided a Grant for partial support. For information or reservations, contact Patrick Weldon at 650-365-3178 or email jpweldon@earthlink.net
- 2/15/2008 -- Stoney Mountain Ramblers! 12 pm show, part of The Bluegrass On Broadway Festival at the Redwood City Public Library, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City CA. For information or reservations, contact Patrick Weldon at 650-365-3178 or email jpweldon@earthlink.net
- 2/15/2008 -- Earthquake Country will play from 8 - 10 pm at Blue Rock Shoot in Saratoga, CA. For information, call 408-867 3437
- 2/15/2008 -- The Stairwell Sisters 8 pm concert at the West Side Theatre, 1331 Main Street, Newman, CA. Tickets are \$14 General Admission / \$17 Reserved Seats. For information or tickets, call 209-862-4490, email info@westsidetheatre.org, or visit <http://www.westsidetheatre.org>
- 2/16/2008 -- The Stairwell Sisters will lead a Clogging Workshop and concert at The Severance Building, 4750 N. Wilson Ave., Fresno, CA. Workshop is from 2-4 pm and the concert begins at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 for workshop and \$15 for concert or \$20 for both in advance or \$30 for both at the door. Sponsored by the California Arts Academy and the Fresno Folklore Society. For information or tickets, call 559-222-6539 or visit www.calartsacademy.com
- 2/16/2008 -- Ron Thompson 8 pm concert at the West Side Theatre, 1331 Main Street, Newman, CA. Tickets are \$14 General Admission / \$17 Reserved Seats. For information or tickets, call 209-862-4490, email info@westsidetheatre.org, or visit <http://www.westsidetheatre.org>
- 2/16/2008 -- The Trespassers will perform at 9 pm at The Old Stan Restaurant, 177 S. Washington Street, Sonoma, CA. Old-time, Bluegrass and Gypsy Jazz. For information, call 209-536-9598 or email mandobil@bigvalley.net
- 2/16/2008 -- The Bluegrass On Broadway Festival NCBS Dulcimer Breakfast, 9 am at The Main Street Coffee Roasting Co. 1305 Elm Street, Redwood City, CA. For information or reservations, contact Patrick Weldon at 650-365-3178 or email jpweldon@earthlink.net
- 2/16/2008 -- Alhambra Valley Band, Autumn and The Fall Guys, Bean Creek, Sidesaddle & Company, The Dulcimer Girls, Jayme Kelly Curtis and Laura Devine, The JKC & Friends Band will perform at The Peninsula Christian Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA. Part of the Bluegrass On Broadway Festival. NCBS presents 2008 Awards Show and Bluegrass Appreciation discussion at 11 am. Bands begin at 12 pm. For information or reservations, contact Patrick Weldon at 650-365-3178 or email jpweldon@earthlink.net
- 2/18/2008 -- Homespun Rowdy will perform from 7:30 to 10:30 pm at Amnesia, 853 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA. For information, call 415-970-8336, email info@homespunrowdy.com, or visit www.homespunrowdy.com
- 2/19/2008 -- Cabin Fever will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- 2/19/2008 -- The Duhks will perform at 8 pm at The Palms, 13 Main Street, Winters, CA. For information or tickets, call 530-795-1825 or visit www.palmsplayhouse.com
- 2/19/2008 -- The Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band will perform at the Larkspur Cafe Theatre, 500 Magnolia, Larkspur, CA. For information or tickets, contact Daniel at 415-924-6107, email daniel@larkspurcafe theatre.com, or visit www.carltonetone.com
- 2/20/2008 -- Peter Rowan 8 pm concert in the Willow Lounge at Black Oak Casino, 19400 Tuolumne Road North, Tuolumne, CA. For information, contact Brent Pierce at 877-747-8777, email bpierce@blackoakcasino.com, or visit www.blackoakcasino.com
- 2/20/2008 -- Lighthouse will play at the Golden Goose Coffee House, 10001 Maine Ave, Lakeside, Ca. For information, call 619-390-1990 or visit www.waynerice.com/lhgigs.htm
- 2/20/2008 -- Sidesaddle & Company will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- 2/20/2008 -- Whiskey Brothers will perform at 9 pm at the Albatross Pub, 1822 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley, CA. For information, call 510-843-2473 or visit www.albatrosspub.com
- 2/21/2008 -- Ed Neff & Friends will play at the Willowbrook Ale House, 3600 Petaluma Blvd., Petaluma, CA. For information, call 707-775-4232
- 2/22/2008 -- Country Joe McDonald's Tribute to Woody Guthrie 8 pm at the Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 1111 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA. Part of the San Francisco Bluegrass and Old-time Festival. Tickets are \$18.50 advance and \$19.50 at the door. For information or tickets, call 510-548-1761, email info@freightandsalvage.org, or visit www.freightandsalvage.org
- 2/23/2008 -- Joni Morris 8 pm concert at the West Side Theatre, 1331 Main Street, Newman, CA. Tickets are \$25 General Admission / \$28 Reserved Seats. For information or tickets, call 209-862-4490, email info@westsidetheatre.org, or visit <http://www.westsidetheatre.org>
- 2/23/2008 -- Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band 8 pm concert at the First Presbyterian Church, 1667 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View, CA. Sponsored by Redwood Bluegrass Associates. Ticket prices vary. Band with Jody Stecher, Keith Little & Paul Knight. For information or tickets, contact Redwood Bluegrass Associates at 650-691-9982 or visit www.rba.org
- 2/23/2008 -- Keystone Station will perform at the Iron Springs Pub & Brewery, 765a Center Blvd., Fairfax, CA. For information, call 415-485-1005 or visit www.ironspringspub.com
- 2/23/2008 -- Sonia Shell and the Factor of Five will play at the Big Basin Bistro, 14480 Big Basin Way, Saratoga, CA. For information, call 408-867-1764
- 2/24/2008 -- Chris Webster and Houston Jones concert at the Little Fox, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City, CA. Tickets are \$14 advance and \$16 at the door. For information or tickets, call 652-369-4119 or visit www.foxdream.com
- 2/26/2008 -- Larry Lynch & Sunshine Mountain will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- 2/27/2008 -- Diana Donnelly & the Yes Ma'ams will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- 2/28/2008 -- Ed Neff & Friends will play at the Willowbrook Ale House, 3600 Petaluma Blvd., Petaluma, CA. For information, call 707-775-4232
- 2/28/2008 -- High Country will perform at 9 pm at the Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA. The band will be followed by late night jam until 1:30 am. For information, call 510 841-2082 or visit www.starryploughpub.com
- 2/28/2008 -- The Salt Martians will perform from 5:30 - 7:30 at Tupelo Junction Cafe, 1218 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA. For information, call 805-899-3100 or visit www.tupelojunction.com
- MARCH
- 3/1/2008 -- Riley's Mountaineers Mountaineers "Hometown Jamboree" 6 pm at Riley's at Los Rios Rancho, 39611 Oak Glen Road, Yucaipa, CA. Folks can tuck into a tasty meal and enjoy a hand-clappin', knee-slappin', toe-tappin' good time as Riley's Mountaineers and special guest performers. Guest musicians are always welcome to tote along an instrument or two and join in the free-wheeling jam after the show. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids 12 and under. For tickets or information, go to www.losriosrancho.com or call 909-797-1005.
- 3/2/2008 -- Earthquake Country will play from 2 to 5 pm at San Gregorio General Store, Highway 84 and Stage Road, San Gregorio, CA. For information, call 650-726-0565 or visit www.sangregoriostore.com/
- 3/3/2008 -- Homespun Rowdy will perform from 7:30 to 10:30 pm at Amnesia, 853 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA. For information, call 415-970-8336, email info@homespunrowdy.com, or visit www.homespunrowdy.com
- 3/4/2008 -- Bean Creek will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- 3/5/2008 -- Sidesaddle & Company will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- 3/5/2008 -- The Whiskey Brothers will perform at 9 pm at the Albatross Pub, 1822 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley, CA. For information, call 510-843-2473 or visit www.albatrosspub.com
- 3/6/2008 -- Ed Neff & Friends will play at the Willowbrook Ale House, 3600 Petaluma Blvd., Petaluma, CA. For information, call 707-775-4232
- 3/6/2008 -- Gayle Lynn & Her Hired Hands will perform at The Swingin' Door, 102 E. 25th Ave., San Mateo, CA. For information, call 520-376-7282 or visit www.theswingin-door.com
- 3/7/2008 -- Blame Sally 8 pm concert at The Palms, 13 Main Street, Winters, CA. For information or tickets, call 530-795-1825 or visit www.palmsplayhouse.com
- 3/11/2008 -- Carolina Special will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- 3/12/2008 -- Diana Donnelly & the Yes Ma'ams will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- 3/13/2008 -- Ed Neff & Friends will play at the Willowbrook Ale House, 3600 Petaluma Blvd., Petaluma, CA. For information, call 707-775-4232
- 3/15/2008 -- The Infamous Stringdusters 8 pm concert at the First Presbyterian Church, 1667 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View, CA. Sponsored by Redwood Bluegrass Associates. Ticket prices vary. For information or tickets, contact Redwood Bluegrass Associates at 650-691-9982 or visit www.rba.org
- 3/17/2008 -- Homespun Rowdy will perform from 7:30 to 10:30 pm at Amnesia, 853 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA. For information, call 415-970-8336, email info@homespunrowdy.com, or visit www.homespunrowdy.com
- 3/18/2008 -- Cabin Fever will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- 3/19/2008 -- Sidesaddle & Company will play from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sam's Barbeque, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-297-9151 or visit www.samsbbq.com
- FESTIVALS
- FEBRUARY
- 2/1/2008 - 2/9/2008 -- San Francisco Bluegrass & Old Time Festival being held at many venues in the Bay Area. For information, visit <http://www.sfbbluegrass.org>. A few of the events include: 2/7/2008 -- "Country Bluegrass Show" featuring the Burning Embers and the Cowlicks at Cafe du Nord, San Francisco; 2/8/2008 -- "Portland Invasion" featuring the Mighty Ghosts Of

CBA Calendar of Upcoming Music Events

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Heaven, Chickweed, Whiskey Puppy, and Clappitt, Gaddis & Buck at 12 Galaxies, San Francisco; 2/9/2008 -- "Alt-Bluegrass Show" featuring the Pine Box Boys and Kemo Sabe, plus a screening of the film "New Grass" at Cafe du Nord, San Francisco;

2/8/2008 -- 2/10/2008 -- Colorado River Bluegrass Festival one-half miles South of the Laughlin Bridge across from the Colorado Belle, Laughlin, NV. Bands include James King, Ronnie Reno, Alicia Nugent, Lost & Found, 3rd Generation, the Rarely Heard, Just for Fun, Flintridge Special and Traditional Bluegrass. Sound by Old Blue. Presented by Blue Ridge Productions. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Dry camping is available for \$10 per unit. For information, call Randy Gray at 928-768-5819 or visit coloradoriverbluegrass.com.

2/15/2008 -- 2/17/2008 -- Bluegrass Festival at the Havasu Landing Resort & Casino. 1 Main Street, Havasu Lake, CA. Bands include: Dry Branch Fire Squad, Fiddle Mania, Flint Hill Special, Lost Highway, Maple Leaf, The Colorado River Boys, Trusting Heart and a Big Bucks Band Scramble. Schedule: Friday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Admission: Adults 3-day pass \$25.00; Adult daily pass \$10.00; Children 7-17 3-day pass \$15.00; Children daily pass \$5.00; Children under age 7 FREE. Camping: Full Hook-ups (14th, 15th & 16th) \$75.00; \$60.00 with any ticket purchase; Add \$5.00 for waterfront. Dry Camping Daily \$6.00; Monday - Sunday \$30.00. For information or tickets, contact G. Dunlap at 760-858-4593 ext. 227, email gjdunlap57@yahoo.com, or visit www.bluegrassfestival.biz.

2/21/2008 -- 2/24/2008 -- 15th Annual Wintergrass Festival at the Hotel Murano and Bicentennial Pavilion, the Urban Grace Church and Marriott Hotel in Tacoma, WA. Partial line-up includes Seldom Scene, Chris Thile with the Tensions Mountain Boys, Bobby Osborne & the Rocky Top X-Press, Dale Ann Bradley Band, The Grascals, The Infamous Stringdusters, Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper, The Wilders, the Duhks, Cadillac Sky, Crooked Still, and many more. For information, tickets or reservations, call 253-428-8056 or visit www.wintergrass.com.

2/29/2008 -- 3/2/2008 -- 6th Annual Parker "Bluegrass on the River" along the scenic Colorado River at La Paz County Park, 7350 Riverside Dr., Parker, AZ. Featured line-up

includes: The Gibson Brothers (NY), The U.S. Navy Band Country Current (featuring Wayne Taylor, Keith Arenson, Pat White, Joe Wheatley & Frank Solivan II) (Washington DC), The Bluegrass Brothers (VA.), Williams & Clark Expedition (TN), Honi Deaton & Dream (GA.), Frank Ray & Cedar Hill (MO.), Monroe Crossing (MN.), The Chapman's (MO.), Sawmill Road (AZ & CA.) & more. Many other great activities including: A classic car show (Sat), a great array of arts and crafts with fine food selections, many raffles including a special instrument, a special US Navy Band Workshop where you will have a chance to talk to the entire band. In addition we will have other fine one on one workshops from various bands and much more! The camping at La Paz County Park is some of the best in the southwest with clean restrooms & hot showers. Advanced tickets available online at www.landspromotions.com or call toll free 1-866-463-8659. You can mail ticket orders to L&S Promotions, P.O. Box 444, Copperopolis, CA 95228 or call (209) 785-4693.

MARCH

3/8/2008 -- Sonoma County Bluegrass & Folk Festival from 1 to 9 pm at the Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA. Co-sponsored by the California Bluegrass Association and the Sonoma County Folk Society. Doors open at noon. Bands include: John Reischman & the Jaybirds, The Mighty Crows, The Road Oilers, Julay Brooks & the Night Birds, Alhambra Valley Band, Sol Flamenco, and Nina Gerber & Kenny Edwards. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door for members of the CBA or SCFC and \$27 advance or \$32 at the door for the general public. For information or tickets, call Mark Hogan at 707-829-8012, email hogiemoon@comcast.net, or visit www.cbaontheweb.org.

3/15/2008 -- 3/18/2008 -- Old Town Temecula Bluegrass Festival, Temecula, CA. Bands will perform on three indoor stages from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Bands include: The Marty Warburton Band, Bluegrass Etc. featuring Dennis Caplinger, Highway 138, Pacific Ocean Bluegrass, Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan, Sligo Rags, The Silverado Bluegrass Band, Andy Rau Band, Bluegrass Brethren, Windy Ridge, This Just In, Temeku Bluegrass and the Burnett Family Bluegrass Band. Admission is free. Sponsored by the City of Temecula, and Tricopolis Records, the Old Town Bluegrass Festival

is just part of the entertainment schedule for Old Town Temecula in 2008. To visit the cultural district of Old Town Temecula take the 15 Freeway to Rancho California Road or Highway 79 south and follow the signs leading to Old Town Front Street. Public parking is free. RV parking is available in town for \$30 for the weekend. Reservations are recommended at (951) 678-0831. For more information call (951) 694-6412 or visit www.temecula-california.com.

MAY

5/8/2008 -- 5/11/2008 -- Parkfield Bluegrass Festival in the town of Parkfield, CA. Bands include James King Band, Junior Sisk & Rambler's Choice, Hillman/Pedersen/Bryson, Leroy Mack & the BG Gospel Band, Eric Uglam & Sons, Bean Creek and more TBA. For information or tickets, visit <http://www.parkfieldbluegrass.com>.

5/22/08 -- 5/25/08 -- Strawberry Spring Music Festival, Camp Mather near Yosemite National Park, CA. Advance tickets now on sale. Bands include: Tim O'Brien, John Cowan Trio, Chuck Prophet, South Austin Jug Band, Cadillac Sky, Peter Rowan and the Free Mexican Airforce; plus many more to be announced. For information or tickets, call 209-984-8630 or visit www.strawberrymusic.com. Tickets sell out early for this one!

JUNE

6/12/2008 -- 6/15/2008 -- 33rd Annual Father's Day Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA. Presented by the California Bluegrass Association. A partial line-up includes: Blue Highway, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Crooked Still, Bradley Walker (IBMA Male Vocalist of the Year 2007), Grasstowne, The Wilders, Goldwing Express, The Doerfel Family, The Dan Tyminski Bluegrass Band and Kids on Bluegrass. More bands TBA. Early Bird tickets now available by mail and at www.cbaontheweb.org. Please see our ad on pages A-12 & 13 of this issue for mail order information and ticket prices.

AUGUST

8/28/2008 -- 8/31/2008 -- Strawberry Fall Music Festival, Camp Mather near Yosemite National Park, CA. Advance tickets now on sale. Bands include: Sam Bush, Riders in the Sky, The Avett Brothers, The Steel Drivers, Victor Martinez and Oaxaca Contemporaneo, Chick Gamine plus many more to be announced. For information or tickets, call 209-984-8630 or visit www.strawberrymusic.com. Tickets sell out early for this one!

JAM SESSIONS SUNDAY

- Alameda -- Regular Jam Session from 6-8 pm every Sunday at the Alameda School of Music, 1307 High St., Alameda, CA. The 1st and 3rd Sundays are Bluegrass and 2nd and 4th Sundays are Swing/Jazz nights. Separate rooms are available for different skill levels, and a professional player will always be on hand to facilitate the jams. All skill levels welcome. For information, contact Barry Solomon at 510-501-2876 or email barry6661@earthlink.net
- Berkeley -- Bluegrass Jam every Sunday at 7 pm at the Jupiter Brewpub, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA. For information, contact Kurt Caudle at 510-649-0456 or email weelitzo@pacbell.net
- Berkeley -- Spud's Pizza, 3290 Adeline (at the corner of Alcatraz), Berkeley, CA. Old-time Singing jam on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Occasional performances by local musicians. For information, email laurence.white@gmail.com.
- Castro Valley -- California Old-time Fiddlers Association Jam from 1:30 to 5 pm on the 4th Sunday of every month at the United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria St., Castro Valley, CA. For information, call 925-455-4970.
- Coulterville -- Old-time and Irish Music and Dance Celebration on the 4th Sunday of every month at the Magnolia Saloon in the Hotel Jeffrey, 41 Main Street, Coulterville, Ca. Open Old Time and Irish traditional music Jam from 1 to 3 pm and open session from 3 to 6 pm. For information, call 209-962-6455; email kowanalynn@yahoo.com or visit www.hoteljeffreycgold.com.
- Crescent City -- Bluegrass Jam from 6-8 pm every Sunday at the United Methodist Church, 7th & H Streets, Crescent City, CA. Everyone welcome especially newer players. For information, contact George Layton at 707-464-8151 or email ke6tkn@juno.com.
- Nevada City -- Mountain Fiddlers Jam session, 1 pm on 1st Sunday of every month at Madelyn Helling Library Community Room, Nevada City, CA. For information, call 530-292-4203.
- Orangevale -- California Old-Time Fiddlers' Association Jam Session on the 2nd Sunday of every month from 1 to 5:00 pm, Orangevale Grange Hall, 5805 Walnut, Orangevale, CA. For information, call 916-967-5399.
- San Francisco -- Bluegrass Jam at 6 pm on the 2nd and 4th Sun-

day of every month at Progressive Grounds Coffee Shop, 400 Courtland Ave., San Francisco, CA. For information, email larrythe241@yahoo.com.

- San Jose -- Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association Jam from 1 to 5 pm on the 1st Sunday of every month at Hoover Middle School, Naglee & Park Streets, San Jose, CA. For information, call 408-730-1034 or visit www.scvfa.org.
- San Luis Obispo -- Tacos and Jam Session from 5:30 pm, the 3rd Sunday of every month at Taco Roco, 3230 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, CA. For information, contact Roger Siminoff at 805-474-4876 or email siminoff@siminoff.com
- Santa Barbara -- Bluegrass jam session beginning at noon on the second Sunday of every month Tucker's Grove County Park [near intersection of Turnpike Rd. and Cathedral Oaks Rd.; follow road into park about 1/3 mile, keeping to the right, until you reach Kiwanis Meadow]. For more information, email Alan: constatty@aol.com
- Santa Margarita -- Bluegrass jam session sponsored by the CBA in collaboration with Solomon's Café on the first Sunday of every month from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Solomon's is a great meeting and eating spot located 15 miles south of Paso Robles and 15 miles north of San Luis Obispo. For more information, contact Roger Siminoff at 805-474-4876 or email siminoff@siminoff.com.
- Sebastopol -- Bluegrass Gospel Jam from 2-5 pm on the 4th Sunday of every month at the Sebastopol Christian Church, 7433 Bodega Avenue Corner of Bodega & Jewell Ave., Sebastopol, CA. Bring your acoustic instruments & favorite old hymns/gospel songs to lead. For information, contact Jack & Laura Bengel at 707-824-1960 or email bengeatlarge@sbcglobal.net
- Sutter Creek -- Old-time and Irish Jam session from 1 to 5 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month at the American Exchange Hotel, 53 Main St, Sutter Creek, CA. For information, call 209-296-7706. New location.
- Belotti's Bar on Main St (Hwy 49) in Sutter Creek, CA. For information, contact Masha Goodman at 209-296-7706; email masha@banjodancer.com; or visit www.banjodancer.com.
- Thermalito -- Bluegrass Jam on the 4th Sunday of every month from 1-4 pm at the Thermalito Grange, Thermalito, CA. For information, call 530-589-4844.
- Various locations -- Pickin' Potlucks and Jams on the

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CBA Calendar of Upcoming Music Events

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2nd Sunday of each month in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Potluck from noon to 5 pm along with jam session. The jams will be held in various private homes in Oakland, Berkeley and El Cerrito. For information and exact location, email Metronome7@aol.com or visit <http://www.pickinpotlucks.com/>

MONDAY

- Alameda – Bluegrass Jam every Monday at McGrath's Irish Pub on the corner of Lincoln and Stanton in Alameda, CA. For information, contact Darby Brandli at 510-533-2792 or email darbyandbruno@comcast.net.
- Oakland – Bluegrass Jam at 8 pm every Monday beginning at 6 pm at the Baja Taqueria, 4070 Piedmont Ave. (near 41st Street), Oakland, CA. For information, call Joe Howton at 510-547-2252 or email TRman2323@aol.com.
- Palo Alto – Old Time Jam session, 7 to 10 pm on the first and third Monday of every month at Fandango Pizza, 3163 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA. For information, call 650-328-0853 or email akatiff@sbsglobal.net.
- San Diego – Open Mic and Jam from 6 to 9 pm on the 4th Monday of every month at Godfather's Pizza, 5583 Claremont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA. For information, email Mike Tatar at staghorn2@cox.net.
- Signal Hill – Bluegrass Jam Session every Monday from 7 to 10 pm at Curley's, 1999 E. Willow St., Signal Hill, CA. For information, call 562-424-0018.

TUESDAY

- Berkeley – Bluegrass jam session every Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:30 at the 5th String Music Store, 3051 Adeline St., Berkeley, CA. The jam is hosted by Jacob Groopman of the Donner Mountain Bluegrass Band and is open to all skill levels and is given in an instructional environment. For information, email jgroopman@gmail.com.
- Berkeley – Old-Time Sing Along jam from 7:30 - 9:30 pm with occasional performances by local bands, at Spud's Pizza, 3290 Adeline (at the corner of Alcatraz), Berkeley, CA. For information, email Larry.White@gmail.com.
- Brookdale – Bluegrass jam session every Tuesday at 8 pm at Brookdale Lodge on Highway 9 in Brookdale, CA. For information, call Eric Burman at 831-338-6433.
- Dublin – Bluegrass Jam on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at Dublin Heritage Center, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin, CA. For information,

call 925-803-4128.

- Escondido – Bluegrass Jam every Tuesday from 7 to 10 pm at the Round Table Pizza, Ash and Washington Streets, Escondido, CA.
- Granada Hills – Band performance and Bluegrass Jam from 7 to 10 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Baker's Square, 17921 Chatsworth Street (at Zelzah) in Granada Hills, CA. Sponsored by the Bluegrass Association of Southern California (BASC). For information, call 818-700-8288 or 818-366-7258.
- Loomis – Bluegrass Jam from 6 to 9 pm every Tuesday evening at the Wild Chicken Coffee House, Horseshoe Bar & Taylor Rd, Loomis, CA. For information, call 916-276-1899.
- Los Gatos – Bluegrass Slow Jam at 8 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at the Lupin Naturist Resort, Los Gatos, CA. For information, contact Buck Bouker via email at buck@lupin.com.
- Palo Alto – Celtic Slow Jam session from 7 to 9:45 pm every Tuesday at Fandango Pizza, 3163 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA. Hosted by Pete Showman. For information, call 408-255-0297.
- San Diego – Bluegrass Jams, bands and open mic happening on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month. 2nd Tuesday – Fuddruckers at Grossmont Shopping Center, in La Mesa; 3rd Tuesday at Fuddruckers on Third Street in Chula Vista; and 4th Tuesday at Boll Weevils on Mira Mesa Blvd in San Diego. 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays are open mic and jams, and 4th Tuesday includes a featured band. Come hungry as we get a donation from each item sold there. Just tell them you are with the bluegrass club. For more information, contact Mike Tatar at staghorn@cox.net.
- Truckee – Bluegrass slow jam on the 1st Tuesday of every month, 6 pm at Between the Notes Music Store, Truckee, CA. For information, call Matt Milan, 916-276-1899.

WEDNESDAY

- Ben Lomond – Intermediate Pickers Jam, 8 pm until closing at Henflings Tavern, 9450 Highway 9, Ben Lomond, CA. For information, call Jered at 831-335-1642 or 831-336-8811, email jered@weber-hayes.com or visit www.henflings.com
- Lompoc – Bluegrass Jam from 7 to 9 pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at Southside Coffee Co., 105 South "H" St., Lompoc, CA. For more information, call Bill at (805) 736-8241
- Morgan Hill – Bluegrass Jam

from 6 to 10 pm on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of every month at El Toro Brew Pub on the NW corner of Monterey and Main Streets in Morgan Hill, CA. For information, call the pub at 408-782-2739 or email Dick.Simunic@jrsimunic@hotmail.com.

- Palo Alto – Bluegrass Jam from 7-10 pm every Wednesday at Fandango Pizza, 3163 Middlefield Road (corner of Loma Verde), Palo Alto, CA. Sign on building also says Pommard's Café. For information, call 650-494-2928 or visit www.TheBluegrass.com.
- Placerville – Bluegrass Jam on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 7-10 pm at Hidden Passage Books, 352 Main St, Placerville, CA. For information, call 530-622-4540 or 530-626-8751.
- San Francisco – Bluegrass and Country Jam on the 1st Wednesday of every month at the Plough and Stars, 116 Clement St. (between 2nd & 3rd Ave.), San Francisco, CA. For information, contact Jeanie or Chuck Poling at 415-751-1122.
- Santa Rosa – Old-Time and Bluegrass jam on the last Wednesday of every month at The Black Rose Pub, 2074 Armory Drive, Santa Rosa, CA. For more information, call Don Coffin at 707-995-0658 or Ricky Rakin at 707-824-9376.

THURSDAY

- Berkeley – Bluegrass Jam session at the 5th String Music Store, 3051 Adeline Street, Berkeley, CA. For information, call Tim Hicks at 510-548-8282 or visit <http://www.5thStringBerkeley.com>
- Corte Madera – Marin Bluegrass Jam on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month from 7:30 to 10 pm at the Marin Lutheran Church, 649 Meadowsweet, Corte Madera, CA. For information, visit www.carltonemusic.com
- Morgan Hill – South County Bluegrass Jam on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at The Buzz Stop, 17400-1B Monterey Road, Morgan Hill, CA. Open jam from 6-10 pm. For information, call 408-892-9157 or email Duane Campbell at dicampbell339@yahoo.com.
- Napa – Bluegrass and Fiddle Jam session every Thursday night from 7 to 10 pm in Napa. For information and location, call Pat Calhoun at 707-255-4936.
- Sacramento – Bluegrass jam session every Thursday from 7 to 10 pm at The Fifth String Music Store, Alhambra & Streets, Sacramento, CA. For information, call 916-442-8282.
- Sacramento – Bluegrass Slow Jam from 7 - 10 pm most Thursdays at various Sacramento area

homes. Call John at 916-990-0719 for dates and location. New pickers welcome.

- Sacramento – Bluegrass Jam session the 3rd Thursday of every month beginning at 7 pm at Café Refugio Coffeehouse, 1901 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento. For information, contact Matthew Coleman at matthewcoleman999@hotmail.com.
- San Francisco – Bluegrass and Old-time music jam on the 4th Thursday of every month at the Atlas Café, 3049 20th Street at Alabama, San Francisco, CA.
- Ventura – Bluegrass Jam from 6 to 9:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at Zoey's Cafe, 451 E. Main Street in Ventura, CA. All skills welcome. For information, contact Gene Rubin at 805-658-8311 or email gene@generubinaudio.com or visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~generubinaudio/index.html>.

FRIDAY

- Copperopolis – Bluegrass Jam session 7 pm on the first and third Friday of every month at the Old Corner Saloon, 574 Main Street, Copperopolis, Ca. Open to acoustic instruments only no drums. For more information, call Mike at (209) 785-3047.
- Felton – Bluegrass Slow Jam on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 7-9 pm at 1145 El Solyo Heights Dr, Felton, CA. For information, call Barbara & Eric Burman at 335-3662.
- Sonora – Bluegrass Jam starting at 7 pm on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at the Old Stan, 177 S. Washington Street, Sonora, CA. For information, email mandobil@bigvalley.net.

SATURDAY

- Chico – Acoustic music from 2 to 5 pm on the 2nd Saturday of every month at Augie's Café, 230 Salem Street, Chico, CA. For more information, call David: 530-872-2084.
- Chico – Old Time Jam from 2 to 5 pm on the 3rd Saturday of every month at Augie's Café, 230 Salem Street, Chico, CA.
- Chico – CBA Bluegrass Jam from 2 to 5 pm on the 4th Saturday of every month at Augie's Café, 230 Salem Street, Chico, CA. For more information, call Lucy: 530-894-1149.
- Clovis – Bluegrass Jam session 7 to 11 pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month at the Clovis Senior Center, 850 4th street, Clovis, CA. There is a \$1 fee to cover the cost of the rental of the hall. Sponsored by the Kings River Bluegrass Association. For information, contact Gerald L. (Jerry) Johnston at 559-225-6016; email tophawker@yahoo.com or visit <http://www.KRBLUE.NET>.

- Fremont – Bluegrass Jam Session on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month at Mission Pizza and Pub, 1572 Washington Blvd., Fremont, CA. For information, call 510-651-6858 or visit www.missionpizza.com.
- Fresno – Old time fiddle jam and dance from 7 - 10 pm on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Senior Citizens Village, 1917 Chestnut Ave., Fresno, CA. Sponsored by CSOTFA District 2. For information, contact Lynda Emanuels at 559-924-1766 or email semanuels@comcast.net.
- Kingsburg – Bluegrass and Country jam session and potluck from 6-10 pm on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month at 1450 Ellis St., Kingsburg, CA. For information, contact Bud Cartwright at 559-582-9155 or 559-582-7680, or email BudCartwright@comcast.net.
- Long Beach – Jam Session from 1-6 pm at Fendi's Cafe, 539 E Bixby Road, Long Beach, CA. For information, call 562-984-8187.
- Marysville – Regular jam session from 3-6 pm on the 1st Saturday of every month at the Brick Coffee House Cafe, Marysville, CA. For information, call 530-743-0413 or 530 701-5090.
- Sebastopol – CBA Jam Session every Saturday from 2 to 5 pm at Catz Roastery, 6761 Sebastopol Avenue in Sebastopol, CA. (1st & 2nd Saturday – Old-time, bluegrass, old-country and more; 3rd Saturday – standard Bluegrass and last Saturday – pickers choice.) For information, call 707-829-6600.
- Squaw Valley – Open Jam and Potluck, 5-9 pm on the last Saturday of every month at the Bear Mountain Library, 30733 E. Kings Canyon Road (Highway 180), Squaw Valley, CA. For information, contact Nancy or Henry Zuniga at 559-338-0026 or 559-476-0446.

Attention bands, promoters, venues – if you would like to have your performances, concerts, festivals or jam sessions listed in Bluegrass Breakdown and on the CBA website, please send your information to CBA Calendar Editor Suzanne Denison at bgsbreakdown@volcano.net.





Mary Curtin at Superjam.



Mustafa from Sudan is a member of the Jam!



CBA Directors Craig Wilson and John Duncan.



CBA VP Dave Gooding stuns observers with a bass solo.



Val Cornejo, David Naiditch (harmonica), and Rick Cornish.



Ellen Naiman, Tim Edes, Rick Cornish, and Tom Naiman in Bakersfield. Pickin'.



Jamie & Brittany from Palos Verdes sang some fine harmony.



Howard Goetz assists John Cogdill on the mandolin

THE CBA SPRING CAMP-OUT

We promise things won't get *too* out of hand.

www.CBAontheweb.org

April 10-13, 2008 - Stanislaus County Fairgrounds - Turlock, CA