



Bluegrass Express

Steeplegrass: A Treasured Musical Community

By Rich Powell

The average of a "musical picnic" turned out as an idea to get other members of good bluegrass shows together to play music. That's the way many members of the OBA, Vancouver, Washington, moved to a table and I moved them! We used to have to play bluegrass music and jam together about Wednesday nights, so just didn't seem like we were enjoying the fun of all that good music and the friendships formed! Well, young adults and older folks included.

Someone said "Let's have a picnic!" Not a bad idea, but where to look for a place that we could play music out of the rain? They was our target, mostly and it also was occasionally in that month. Other suggestions included: open for lots of people, cooking, bar/beer/softies, and, of course, inexpensive enough so that our budget could afford it. What budget? Several long car trips to check out possible locations before we decided on the Central Park (Baker at Lewisville Park in Battle Ground, Washington). It

has a huge big white style roof and facilities was nice with enough work and electrical accommodations. When picnic tables were inside, the County's park rangers even supplied the burned-in three days!



An email committee was formed to send invitations for our 15th Annual Day weekend event. We would have left today

to have gotten 20 tables that first year. Good, welcome table, set-up and other volunteer tables were assigned.

My '70 VW camper van looked like an old man/peddler's wagon, complete with fishing chairs, camp chairs, and kitchen supplies on the morning of the picnic.

And of course, we had a nice dinner as too that first year. And about 2000 was the number of expected bluegrass pickers showed up! Many of a 17-year-old children sprung up the restaurant on the lawn around the building, with a small gas table there to cook! People brought or made food to eat in our bar/beer/softies and bar days that we had to bring two picnic tables for the wood-burned tables, drinks, plate-all kinds of food appetizers.

The next year a third assembly was added. After writing through bluegrass (bluegrass) for in the first year to eliminate, we have seen their participation across picnic grounds. The students from the area will

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15th Annual Steeplegrass Reunion Picnic at Lewisville Park (Battle Ground, Washington)

Monday, May 28, 2017, 12 noon until dark. Rain or Shine—no kidding! We have a huge covered picnic area and a big fireplace. Come picnic, picnic, musicians, and enjoy the company of bluegrass shows from these Vancouver, Washington days of your! Non-bluegrass pickers also welcome! \$5.00 donation occupied at the welcome table. Contact for map and info: Rich Powell, powell82923@gmail.com

