



Oregon Bluegrass Association

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Bluegrass

Express

RACHEL GOLD:

A new voice for the past

by Claire Levine

Rachel Gold has a clear memory of the moment she made the leap from folk music to old time and bluegrass.

"I was at a jam and someone sang Foggy Mountain Top." While she talks about that experience, you can almost hear the fireworks going off in her brain as she heard her first dose of high-octane mountain music that so perfectly fits her own charge-ahead personality.

That chance meeting with a Carter Family song set Rachel on the path that ultimately led to a sweetheart, a popular band and a role as a KBOO programmer. Rachel spoke to The Express about the journey from Philadelphia folk fan to leadership in the Portland bluegrass community.

Folk music: The urban path to bluegrass and old time music

For urban dwellers in the 70s, roots music generally meant American folk music – Pete Seeger and the Weavers, Bob Dylan and Peter Paul and Mary. And the Philadelphia townhouse where Rachel grew up was filled with the music of these and other contemporary folk musicians.

Rachel, who always liked to sing, found her way into a folk singing club in college, then after graduation learned "three guitar chords so I could accompany myself."

At first, compared to the melodies of folk music, Rachel thought, "bluegrass music was kind of crude." She also was drawn to vocals and harmony singing, and found no appeal in playing instrumental music. "Of course, that all changed," she reflects now.

After the Foggy Mountain Top encounter, she immersed herself in

the Carter Family, then Jimmy Rogers and other early country performers. Ultimately, someone pointed her to Bill Monroe. Life would never be the same.

The real turning point was a jam on the famed Bluegrass Hill at the Northwest Folklife festival (Rachel had moved to Seattle for graduate school), which led to her joining a local band, the Pot Belly Boys. She later formed the Bristol Sisters, which she calls a "girl-power-inspired" ensemble in which she played six-string banjo.

By then, Rachel had realized that bluegrass and old time music contain "all the things I like about folk music – without the cheesiness.

"It's so simple, real honesty comes out. Even if the story in the song is outside my experience, I can hear the other person's truth in it. It becomes universal."

Wintergrass: Where great things happen

Wintergrass has made a big difference in many peoples' lives. So it's not surprising that Rachel's first meeting with Justin Auld would have been at Wintergrass 2000, where they jammed on Carter Family songs.

That summer, they met again at the Columbia Gorge Festival in Stevenson, Wash., where the chemistry – musical and otherwise – was undeniable. A year later, Rachel was living in Portland and the seeds of Whiskey Puppy were sown.

Whiskey Puppy is Rachel on guitar, Justin on banjo and Travis "Tater" Harrison on bass. Part bluegrass, part old-time, all high energy (one reviewer calls them "raucous," meaning it totally



Rachel Gold belts out vocals in Whiskey Puppy.

as a compliment), Whiskey Puppy is far from easy listening. It's the kind of music that commands hooting and stomping. And maybe, in the spirit of the band name, some imbibing.

The Traditional Country Music Association's magazine said, "Whiskey Puppy has maintained the sound of the Skillet Lickers and have as much fun as the old-timers did."

About the same time Rachel and Justin started performing together, Rachel also co-founded the Flat Mountain Girls, originally with Caroline Oakley and Lisa Marsicek, and later joined by Nann Allemann and Laura Quigley. Rachel played clawhammer, and all the musicians shared singing responsibilities. The old-time ensemble was notable for vocals that evoked visions of an Appalachian autumn.



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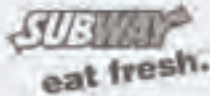
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Bluegrass Express

Bluegrass Express is a bi-monthly newsletter dedicated to informing members of the Oregon Bluegrass Association about local, regional and national bluegrass issues, events and opportunities.

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The Oregon Bluegrass Association (OBA)

PO Box 1115, Portland, OR 97207 is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation founded in 1982. Its purpose is to promote, encourage, foster and cultivate the preservation, appreciation, understanding, enjoyment, support and performance of bluegrass and other closely related music.

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Oregon bluegrass association board



The OBA Board

Contact the OBA: 503 321-5077
www.oregonbluegrass.org

Membership Information

The OBA Board of Directors invites you to join the OBA and to participate in its many activities. Our membership benefits include a subscription to the quarterly Bluegrass Express, frequent mailings about events, and ticket discounts to Northwest bluegrass events. Annual membership dues are \$20 for a General Member, \$50 for Supporting Performers and \$100 for a Contributing Business Sponsor (see page 14), as well as other options. To join, complete the application on the back cover and mail with your check to: Oregon Bluegrass Association, P.O. Box 1115, Portland, OR 97207.

Submissions

Please contact Christine Palmer via e-mail at chrispalmer@qwest.net for information about placing an ad for your music related business in the OBA Bluegrass Express.

Web Site

Features include a calendar, excerpts from the current issue of the Express, and links for local bands. Come visit us online! Visit the OBA web page today! www.oregonbluegrass.org.

Articles & Editorial Deadlines

The OBA Board invites you to submit letters, stories, photos and articles to the Bluegrass Express. Published files remain in our archives and art is returned upon request.

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Fall (October, November, December)
 Mailed October 1; Reserve by September 1, Copy deadline September 15

Advertising

Your Express advertising will directly reach over 600 households of bluegrass enthusiasts while helping OBA to keep publishing this valuable resource. Tear sheets or extra copies of the Express are available. We appreciate your support of the Oregon Bluegrass Association.

Sponsored Jams

The OBA sponsors jam sessions in Portland, Coburg, Roseburg, as well as Pendleton. Check the Scheduled Jams section of this issue for a complete listing of these and other jams throughout Oregon. If you are interested in organizing an OBA-sponsored jam, contact any of the Board members or Express Staff at the phone numbers or e-mail addresses listed on this page and on page 3.

Payment

The OBA prefers to receive advertising payment in advance. We would like one year contracts six months in advance, and we will bill for the next six months.

Please make checks payable to:
 The Oregon Bluegrass Association,
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Bluegrass Express Advertising Rates

(size)	(dimension)	(two + issues)	
Full Page	8x10"	\$125.00	\$112.00
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The OBA holds board elections each April as individual terms expire. The Board of Directors invites you to join our monthly meetings. We welcome your visit and ideas, opinions and proposals. Or, just come to see what we're doing! We generally meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The location is subject to change. Call us or email any board member for time, location and directions.



From the president

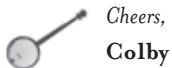
Cheers and thanks to you Oregon bluegrassers!

Not only was our annual meeting a great success at its new location in Happy Valley, it brought about a few changes – one of which is me writing to you all instead of Chip (never fear, he's staying on as a member at large). We had well over 50 folks and the jamming started at 10 a.m. and lasted well into the wee morning hours, making good use of both barns. We gained some new members and a renewal or two, but more importantly welcomed some new board members into the OBA family: Pat Connell, Sarah Ells, John Prunty and Christine Weinmeister all joined us as members at large. Their energy has already contributed greatly to the Bluegrass Express newsletter committee and beyond. Patty Spencer has agreed to Vice Presidency (no arm twisting necessary) and has been a major component in our acquiring some new and energetic members to the board. We've got some great momentum building with this new board energy. The enthusiasm about Pendarvis Farm should bode well for our 4th Annual Bluegrass and Old Time Picker's Fest, September 16-18. Mark your calendars if you haven't already, because it's going to be a great weekend to round off your festival summer!

Some of the great ideas we're working on are a Chick Rose commemorative issue. We need your photos and articles for this upcoming issue. All funds raised will go to the Chick Rose Commemorative Bluegrass Youth Program and Bluegrass Scholarship Fund. This is an account we will keep separate. We've already collected over \$500 in generous donations, all of which are tax deductible. You can email stories and photos for the issue to Robyn Rawls at robynrawls@comcast.net and any donations to our P.O. Box. We'll soon have PayPal donations set up on our website. For any eligible donation, we'll promptly send you a receipt for tax purposes. These funds will jibe strongly with the direction I/we want to take the OBA toward more of an educational and workshop focus. As the Chick Rose fund grows, which it will, we'll establish a committee responsible for incoming and outgoing funds as well as structuring and planning the educational programs, workshops and scholarship distribution. Chick's legacy will live on. If you have more ideas or would like to help, reach out to us!

So, now it's tripping toward peak festival season. Get out there and support your local and not so local festivals. We can't thank you enough for all you do to help keep bluegrass alive. This year more than others, I've noticed how many more festivals the State of Washington has over our wonderful State of Oregon. I think we should do something about that because without your support more Oregon festivals will fall off of the map. In May, Patrick Connell started a great festival in North Portland with his Boise-Eliot Bluegrass Festival benefitting Port City Development. It included seven bands, jamming and beer for a good cause. Keep it coming, Oregon. If you hear of something new on the radar, don't hesitate to check it out! If you have festival notions or ideas, we're here to help with advertising and beyond. That being said, we're really working to enhance our own 4th Annual Bluegrass and Old Time Picker's Fest with workshops and more this year. The square dance was a hit last year (I should know, being the monkey in the middle). This year we'll be working in a band scramble and a bluegrass band or three or four as well. So remember September 16-18, and we'll see you at Pendarvis Farm in Happy Valley.

Keep those OBA Fun Meters on high until we see you again!



Cheers,
Colby

Please send ideas feedback, commentary and hate mail to:
Colby Buswell President The Oregon Bluegrass Association
PO Box 1115 Portland, OR 97207
president@oregonbluegrass.org

The following quote was inadvertently omitted from Charlie Williamson's article on Copyright law and Bluegrass performances on page 10 of the April – June issue. The federal copyright law requires that any copyrighted tune or song played at a "public performance" be licensed. This includes any venue that is: "Open to the public or any place where a substantial number of persons outside the normal circle of family and acquaintances is gathered." Our sincere apologies to the author for the error, and to our readers for any confusion this omission may have caused.



WHAT'S PLAYING ON THE RADIO?

Local Radio Bluegrass and Country Listings.

- Albany/Corvallis-KBOO**,
Broadcast from Portland, can be heard
at 100.7 FM. See under Portland, below.
- Astoria-KMUN, 91.9 FM.**
Some syndicated programming.
503 325-0010.
"Café Vaquera,"
Tuesdays 9-11pm, Bluegrass/Old Timey
Western/ Folk with Calamity Jane.
CafeVaquera@hotmail.com.
"Shady Grove,"
Saturdays 7 - 9pm. Regular folk program.
Monday thru Friday 10am - noon, with
bluegrass included.
- Columbia Gorge-KBOO**,
broadcast from Portland, can be heard
at 92.7 FM. See under Portland, below.
503 231-8187.
- Corvallis-KOAC, 550 AM,**
Syndicated public radio with some blue-
grass included in regular programming.
541 737-4311.
- Eugene-KLCC, 89.7 FM,**
Local broadcast. 541 726-2224.
Mixed format, "Saturday Café,"
Saturdays 11am - Noon
and "The Backporch,"
Saturdays 9pm - 10pm.
- Eugene-KRVM, 91.9 FM,**
"Routes & Branches" 3 - 5pm,
"Acoustic Junction" 5 - 7pm, Saturdays,
plays bluegrass along w/ other acoustic music.
"Miles of Bluegrass" is 7 - 9pm, Mondays.
www.krvm.org 541 687-3370.
- Pendleton-KWHT, 103.5 FM,**
"Bushels of Bluegrass," Sundays 9 - 11pm.
contact Phil Hodgen 541 276-2476.
- Portland-KBOO, 90.7 FM,**
"Music from the True Vine,"
Saturdays 9am - Noon.
Other folk programs also include bluegrass.
503 231-8187.
- Stayton-KENC, AM 1620,**
"Into The Blue" Fridays 9:30am to 12:30 pm
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RACHEL GOLD: *A new voice for the past*

by Claire Levine

After seven years — “a really good run for any band” — Rachel decided two bands were too much. She left the Flats and dedicated herself to Whiskey Puppy, a great relationship and an intense day job.

Working, living, & Saturday mornings

Rachel works for the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research as an epidemiologist—public health researcher. She is studying ways health providers can make the best use of computer records for a healthier population.

She loves her work, but recognizes the need for balance. “I’m just glad to have the music to come home to — I feel so fortunate to have a musician as a partner.”

Once a month, Rachel and Justin are the program hosts for KBOO Radio’s Music from the True Vine. They volunteer hours of their time getting ready for the show; hosting for three hours each Saturday; arranging live on-air entertainment; and pitching contributions during pledge drive. But Rachel admits she got involved with KBOO for somewhat selfish motives.

She said, “It used to drive me crazy when the Saturday morning calendar reader would get my gig announcements wrong.” So she signed up to organize and read the calendar events.

When Dee Anne Nelson left the first-Saturday-of-the-month slot, she invited Rachel to take her place. “I was really scared, but excited,” Rachel said, and she turned to Justin and his broad, historical musical knowledge. “It’s a great opportunity to showcase both our tastes.”

Rachel appreciates time spent preparing for the show, as it gives her the rare opportunity just to listen to music — and select songs that would work well in the band. In fact, she has so little free time that she has created her own enforced time out, what she calls “Country Music Thursday.” That’s when she takes the bus rather than riding her bike to work for the specific purpose of listening to music on her iPod.

The Fun Puppies

Whiskey Puppy takes pride in the diversity of the music it performs — from old time string band songs of the 20s and 30s to straight ahead bluegrass, and of course, Rachel’s cowgirl yodels.

But the band is about a lot more than just the music. It’s a band with attitude



Rachel’s spouse, Justin (at left) shares her musical tastes, as well as her life adventures.

“I love going to jams. I love being involved in the community. I just love being part of this.”

— an attitude of good times. Rachel sums up what she likes about Whiskey Puppy: “We’re funny!” After all, this is the band that came up with the (sad but true) bumper sticker, “It takes a village to tune a banjo.”

The fans that pack Mississippi Pizza, the Alberta Street Pub, and the White Eagle agree that Whiskey Puppy is a lot of fun. They come for the jokes and bantering as much as the eclectic song selection.

The band’s got some adventures ahead of it. First, the release of their fourth CD, “Chewgrass,” in fall of 2011. Rachel expects to have it completed by the time they take off for a tour of The Netherlands (the second Puppies in Holland tour). Lucrative? Not exactly. “If we’re lucky it will pay for one of our plane tickets.” But a wonderful opportunity to connect with music fans around the world.

Rachel could have written the song, “Girls Just Want to Have Fun.” Her exuberance shines through in everything she mentions relating to bluegrass. “I love going to jams. I love being involved in the community. I just love being part of this.”



OBA Bluegrass Express - Summer 2011



Rachel Gold lives life to the fullest—with the most possible fun.

“The OBA summed it up,” Rachel said. “When I do music, my fun meter is set on high.”

Rachel: On women in bluegrass

“Occasionally, when I’m in a jam where people don’t know me, some poor fool won’t offer me a guitar break. I let them know...don’t ever assume a woman with a guitar can’t take a lead.”

“I like it when women play with a gritty style, a little edgy. Sometimes women think they have to sound so sweet. Of course, male groups sometimes do that, too. There can be a lot of saccharine in bluegrass — that doesn’t resonate with me. I prefer honesty.”

“I love a co-ed band. It adds character, it adds energy, balance. Not too sweet, not too rowdy. They are more fun.”



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On April 16, members of the Oregon Bluegrass Association showed the true spirit of the Northwest. Intrepid members kicked off the outdoor festival season with a membership meeting and weekend jam session, featuring a lot of enthusiasm, great picking – and a bunch of vehicles stuck in the mud.

The annual meeting was held at Pendarvis Farms, site of The Pickathon and the annual OBA Pickers Festival. About 50 people attended the event, and the meeting itself attracted a number of members who volunteered to join the OBA board.

Returning board members included new president, Colby Buswell and new vice president, Patty Spencer; Dave Hausner continuing as treasurer; Larry Wilder who continues as secretary; Matt Snook, continuing as membership chair; Tony McCormick, web master; Liz Crane, who represents the Roseburg Chapter; and at-large members Fred Coates, Cleve Friedman, Ian Joel, Chuck Holloway, and Chip Russell, who stepped down as president but continues as a board member.

The new board members attended their first meeting in May. They come from a diverse background but share a common enthusiasm for bluegrass and the community it creates.

Pat Connell is a member of the Portland band Whistlin' Rufus and says he has been a member of Oregon's bluegrass scene "before there was a bluegrass scene." He's been performing since the 1970s, first in Bend and now in Portland, where he is a real estate broker. He said, "I have participated in bluegrass jams on the east side, west side and all around the town and have come to consider all the wonderful pickers in Portland as friends and family members. Joining the board is a chance to give back to the bluegrass community."

Sarah Ells lives in Southeast Portland and teaches English as a Second Language to kids from kindergarten through fifth grade. She's in two bands, Shotgun Wedding, an all-female contra dance band, and the old time band Turpentine. She writes, "I've been so impressed with the OBA from the start! I hope to help with more music performances in schools and to get kids more involved through our newsletters. By next fall, I bet my students will be submitting some poems and other artwork to the Express."

John Prunty has jumped into the role of co-editor of the OBA Express. He writes, "I was first introduced to the OBA by Ken Cartwright. I was so impressed with Ken's honest straightforward help in my search for an upright bass, that I knew the OBA must be a worthwhile organization. In real (non-bluegrass) life I'm a balding high school science teacher, so the music and the OBA allow me the alter ego of a bluegrass guitar slinger with tons of friends."

Marlene Smith has bravely taken on the role of OBA volunteer coordinator. Marlene is a registered nurse who grew up listening to country and bluegrass on the radio as a farmer's daughter in North Dakota. She writes, "I had the great experience of meeting Frank Nelson (one of the original supporters of the OBA) in 2001, and I heard about the OBA. I dug my guitar out of the closet and began to practice and even took some lessons. It took several years before I got the courage to play in jams, but it has been life changing for me. I am hoping to encourage others to support the organization and all the activities, especially the jamming."

MaryJo Turner lives in downtown Vancouver, Wash., where she sells real estate "when it doesn't get in the way of my music." She plays upright bass in the band Barnyard Ruckus, is learning

guitar and writes music. She wrote, "I think the OBA is the driving force of everything bluegrass around these parts and want to encourage, empower and be inspired by all the great people and musicians involved."

Christine Weinmeister was an outdoor educator, Girl Scout song leader and campfire guitar strummer through college and after, but she is a recent convert to bluegrass. She writes, "I mostly play bass and a little guitar these days, but I have aspirations of playing fiddle and have been known to send the dog running and call a few neighborhood cats with a squeaky rendition of Angeline the Baker. I became interested in the OBA after Stevenson (the Columbia Gorge Bluegrass Festival) last year, and found an incredible community of fun, welcoming and interesting folks (Hi, Fred!) and knew it was something I wanted to be part of." As co-editor of The Express, "I'm looking forward to getting to know even more great folks from around Oregon, and would encourage anyone who has ever thought about it to go ahead and write an article for the Express!"

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Jamming is fun. In the bluegrass culture jamming is the cornerstone of our musical lives. Jamming is social, fun and satisfying. It's a great way to make friends and expand your art.

You can go to any part of the United States and find a bluegrass jam. Bluegrass music is about participation and building friendships through music. Most players are authentically friendly and want to help new players progress. So use good manners and you will all get along fine.

Here are a few simple hints to ensure that you have a great time, that the music is good, and that you will be a welcome addition to a jamming circle.

Sizing up a jam

Listen to the style and type of music being played. Is it a singing jam? A fiddle tunes jam? Traditional bluegrass? New grass? Is it an old time or swing jam? Will your playing fit in? Make a judgment before you ask to join.

Listen to a song or two discreetly from outside the circle. Note which instruments are already present and decide whether you will contribute or be in the way. For example, if there is a bass in the jam and you are a bass player, move on. One bass is all that is needed.

If you are a guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo or dobro player, there is probably room for you even if your instrument is already represented.

Also check and make sure it is not a band practice. If it is a band practice, move on immediately. It is very distracting to have people from outside of the band at band practice.

Jam Size

Really great jams usually degrade when the census exceeds a certain number. This number is dependent upon the skills and instrumentation of the jam. It's hard to keep things running smoothly with more than ten people jamming.

Tune

Tune your instrument before approaching the jam. Unless you have perfect pitch (very few have), use an electronic tuner. Tune early and often.



Mind if I Join You?

Wait until a tune ends and then ask if you might join. Bluegrassers are a friendly bunch, so this is not much of a risk.

Listen

The first song or two should give you a good idea of how you fit in.

Listening is a key jamming skill that must be developed.

I have a very close friend that I no longer jam with. He doesn't listen to anyone else in the jam. He expects everyone else to conform to his rhythm, even when he is not leading a song. This makes group playing impossible.

Calling Out a Song

Pick a song that will fit the jam.

If it's a traditional bluegrass jam, don't choose a Neil Young song.

Above all pick a song that you know well enough to lead.

Avoid saying, "Let's do this song I like, I don't know how to play the song, or the chord progression" but let's do it anyway."

Have a couple of standard tunes under your belt and be ready to go.

Whiskey & Water

Which key (Whiskey) are we playing? What are (Water) we playing?

Don't just start playing at people and expect them to figure it out and join in. This is especially important in fiddle tunes!

When to Sing

When to sing and when not to sing are very important. If you called the tune,

you are expected to sing the lead and know the words to the verses and chorus.

It is usually not a good idea to sing along with the lead singer.

Singing on the chorus is usually appropriate.

Jamming & Listening

Like knowing when to sing, knowing when and when not to play is very important. The first step is listening. On instrumental tunes led by somebody else, the rest of the circle plays rhythm. You should also play low so the lead player can be heard easily.

When singing is going on, play a quiet rhythm, never so loud that the singer can't be heard.

Breaks

Be ready when it's your turn. If you do not know the tune, if it's too fast, or you don't want to take the lead, you can pass on taking a solo break, but make sure you tell the person next to you in advance. It is very annoying if the person next to you doesn't start when it is their turn or says "pass" after the verse has started. Likewise, when it comes your turn to call a tune, be ready. Think of one ahead of time. Don't wait until the last minute.

Be Inclusive

When you are the tune caller, announce the name and key of the tune, note when everyone is ready (i.e., capos on, banjo strings in place), and set the pace with a kickoff. Then, "direct" the tune around the circle.

Be Nice

Help new players feel welcome. American music is a gift to be shared. Let's help others to learn the craft.



I. THOU SHALT TUNE THY INSTRUMENT.

Electronic tuners make this easy.

II. THOU SHALT KEEP STEADY RHYTHM.

Count beats if necessary.

III. THOU SHALT TAKE TURNS

CHOOSING SONGS.

Announce the key. Vocalists always choose their key.

IV. THOU SHALT NOT SPEED.

Start songs at a reasonable tempo.
Speed up according to abilities.

V. THOU SHALT SIGNAL WHO HAS THE SOLO.

Follow a pattern when taking solo leads.

VI. THOU SHALT LISTEN TO OTHERS.

If you can't hear the lead, consider yourself too loud.

VII. THOU SHALT WELCOME OTHERS.

Include everyone in your jam. Help everyone sound as good as they can.

VIII. THOU SHALT NOT STEAL OTHER MUSICIANS FROM AN ACTIVE JAM.

With time, players move around anyway.

IX. THOU SHALT TRY NEW MATERIAL.

Original and different tunes are OK occasionally.

X. THOU SHALT BE CONSIDERATE OF PICKERS

Explain when you're rehearsing, not jamming. Help beginners.



**Roundhouse • Zach Driscoll
Brian Oberlin • The Kate White Band
Corral Creek Connection
Baxterhill Gospel Bluegrass Band**



*Santiam Canyon
Gospel Bluegrass Festival*

**Friday & Saturday, August 26 & 27
Roberts Field, 20600 Ferry Rd. SE Mehama, OR 97383
For info contact Darrell Gulstrom at (503)851-0398
ddgulstrom@yahoo.com**

Three Festivals in Three Weeks: The Perfect Trip

By Chris Palmer

After a hectic year, our company slows down to a crawl in the spring. We yearned for a road trip. Just the two of us in the car, rambling wherever we felt like going. So we decided to cash in our frequent flyer miles, head for the southern U.S. and play it by ear. The timing coincided with Merlefest as a beginning and the Gettysburg Festival as the end. What we did in the middle was unplanned.

I'd always been curious about Merlefest. We'd pored over the website many times and knew the event attracted an amazing 80,000 people, that it was far from being an all-bluegrass event, but always featured a Doc Watson show. So we flew into Charlotte, rented a car and after a beautiful 87-mile drive to Wilkesboro, settled in at the local Holiday Inn Express. The lineup was the cross section expected, ranging from The Del McCoury Band and Sam Bush to The Doobie Brothers and Robert Plant's Band of Joy. But we also caught the Kruger Brothers, Michael Cleveland, Crooked Still, Wayne Henderson, The Infamous Stringdusters and many more of our favorite bands. To give an idea of the event's size: If the main stage bands had not been displayed on a giant video screen, we would have been seated too far away to see who was on stage.

While at Merlefest, we were thrilled to find out about a new festival in Galax, Virginia, 107 miles away, happening the following weekend. So, trusty GPS in hand, we leisurely headed that direction, stopping to go through the historic village of Old Salem and every antique shop on the way. Since we made this trip on a tight budget, the backseat was loaded with groceries.

Galax is the home of the 76-year-old Fiddler's Convention, but this festival turned out to be a first-year tribute to an 18-year-old banjo player named Houston Caldwell, who died in a



Wayne Henderson entertains at Houstonfest in Galax, VA

motorcycle accident a year ago. Houstonfest was a wonderful little festival. It turned out that Houston had a lot of friends who contributed their time by performing, such as Wayne Henderson, Cherryholmes, Sierra Hull and Ron Block, Mountain Heart, the Darrell Webb Band, Larry Cordle and LST, and many others. All for \$25 for the weekend. If it repeats next year, it is well worth attending. And Galax is a charming small Virginia town.

After Houstonfest we needed to make some time to get to Gettysburg by Thursday, which meant we had to blaze through the Shenandoah Valley covering at least 100 miles a day. That gave us time to stop at the Natural Bridge--20 stories of solid rock--as well as Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and the Belle Grove plantation, plus a day to lie around in a hotel room watching movies.

Then on to Gettysburg, which turned out by far to be our favorite of the three. Held in a beautiful campground, it was all bluegrass all the time with Wayne Henderson (who probably thought we were stalking him since this was the third weekend in a row that we were in the audience), Dailey & Vincent, Mountain Heart, The Seldom Scene, Dry Branch Fire Squad, J.D. Crowe, Rhonda Vincent, The Grascals, Mi-

chael Cleveland, Peter Rowan Band, Bill Emerson, Steep Canyon Rangers, David Parmley & Continental Divide and Junior Sisk. We also had the pleasure of seeing Lynn Morris, who worked the sound board during the Bill Emerson set and joined the band for one tune. Jamming in Gettysburg happens after the stage closes down at night. And unfortunately after two wonderfully sunny days, the cloud that probably followed us from Portland burst and the last two days of the festival were in the pouring rain.

Sadly, that marked the end of our perfect trip. As with the end of most vacations, we started fantasizing about



Chris Palmer trying out the J. Bovier mandolin that RiverCity won at Merlefest.

retiring and cruising the country rather than facing the red-eye flight home back to real life. Unfortunately that's not in the cards for us in the near future unless we win the lottery. But we took away some great ideas for our next RiverCity festival, a really nice Bouvier mandolin which we had signed by all the great mandolin players that we encountered (Sierra, Rhonda, Darrell Web, Jody Stecher to start), which will end up as a raffle item for RiverCity. We also picked up quite a few vintage items for resale. But mostly we enjoyed each other's company for three whole weeks in a stress-free environment as we wandered through a beautiful part of our country. And we are planning next year's road trip, which will keep us sane until then.



The Mt. St. Helens 27th Annual

Bluegrass Festival

Little Roy & Lizzy
Midnight Flight
Great Northern Planes
Grapevine
The Howdy Boys
Hotwire

August 12-14, 2011
Toledo High School
Toledo, WA
(Exit 63 Off I-5)

*Admission: Friday \$20 Saturday All Day: \$25
Saturday Evening: \$20 Camping: \$25 for 4 days,
Weekend Pass: \$35 Sunday Gospel Show: Free*

Free WiFi Hot Showers Camping Opens Wednesday the 10th at Noon.

Oregon Bluegrass Association



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(503) 206-4911 - charlie3@nwlink.com

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Add your business name to this list: If you are a bluegrass-friendly non-music-related business and would like to actively promote your business by being an OBA supporting partner - now you can, as a Contributing Business Sponsor. A non-music-related business cannot advertise with the OBA, but a Contributing Business Sponsor can get the recognition and promotional benefits of underwriter-style sponsorship. For \$100 annually, your OBA supporting business gets all the member benefits - plus a year of promotional print and announcement recognition at OBA-sponsored shows and promotions, as well as a prominent listing in the Bluegrass Express. For more information please contact Matt Snook by email at membership@oregonbluegrass.org.



4th Annual

BLUEGRASS & OLD TIME

Picker's Festival
September 16-17-18, 2011

PENDARVIS FARM
16581 SE HAGEN RD.
HAPPY VALLEY, OR

ONLINE REGISTRATION AT
www.oregonbluegrass.org





FESTIVAL CALENDAR



Looking for What's Cookin'? Go to www.oregonbluegrass.org for the most up to date listings of shows, festivals, bands and events.

July 1-3, 2011

Wheeler County Bluegrass Festival

Fossil, Oregon Starts at 05:00PM
Prairie Flyer, Brokentop, Kathy Boyd & Phoenix Rising, Patch Road, Quincy Street, the Wheeler County Ramblers, Back from the Dead, Instant Tradition and more. This is a FREE festival!

For information email kathyboyd@phoenixrisingband.org
www.wheelercountybluegrass.org

July 15-17 2011

The Darrington Bluegrass Festival.

Darrington Bluegrass Music Park, Highway 530, 3 miles West of Darrington. Bands: The Grascals, The Larry Stephenson Band, Country Current, Queens Bluegrass, The Shuler Family Band, Grapevine, Runaway Train, Panhandle Polecats, Red Desert Rambler, 5 On A String, Deadwood Revival, Mission Mountain Bluegrass Express, The Combinations.
www.glacleriview.net/bluegrass or call Diana Morgan at 360-436-1179

July 16, 2011

The Lake Charles Gospel Bluegrass Music Festival

at Lake Charles, 3293 Buena Vista Road, Jefferson, Oregon
Starts at 10:00AM through 08:00PM, Jamming begins at 10:00AM, Performances from 2:00PM to 8:00PM. For information email sra97304@aol.com or call (503) 399-6114
website: sites.google.com/site/lakecharlesgospelbluegrass/

July 22-24, 2011

Hard Times Bluegrass Festival

This is a brand new festival with an "old-timey mountain" feel that features traditional bluegrass music. The Festival location is 10 miles south of Hamilton, Montana on U.S. Highway 93. Turn west on Forest Hill Road exactly at the 37 mile marker and follow the signs (approx. 1 mile) to parking at the Pat and Mary Thomas Ranch. The Festival is on the adjoining Tom and Janice Heiland Ranch. For more info call 1-406-821-3777. www.hardtimesbluegrass.com

July 22-24, 2011

Columbia River Gorge BG Festival

Skamania County Fairgrounds, Stevenson, WA. Bands: The Seldom Scene, Dry Branch Fire Squad, John Reischman & the Jaybirds, Prairie Flyer. www.columbiagorgebluegrass.net

July 29-31, 2011

CANCELLED - The Willapa Hills Bluegrass Festival - CANCELLED

(July 29th, 30th and 31st at the PeEll School in PeEll Washington. website is www.beckybluegrass.tripod.com/id4.html)

July 29-31, 2011

Goose Creek Opry

Wilbur, WA. The weekend is a family-oriented music festival with a variety of activities, workshops, artisans and food vendors included. Most activities take place near the center of town in and around the grassy and shaded town park with a Friday Nite Pickin' & Potluck here at the RV Park at the Country Lane Campground & RV Park, Wilbur, WA. See www.goosecreekoprassy.org and www.hikercentral.com/campgrounds/112713.html

August 5-7, 2011

Clatskanie Bluegrass Festival

Located at the Clatskanie City Park in Clatskanie, OR. You will be able to get in to camp on Wednesday the 3rd at about 10AM. Cost of the event will be \$60 for camping and an additional \$25 if you use electricity. Bands: Urban Monroes, True North, SugarPine, Brokentop, Money Creek Mining Company, Opal Creek, Fern Hill, Oly Mountain Boys, Trusting Heart. siskiyoubuegrass.com/ClatskanieFestival/clatskaniefestivalhome.htm

August 12-14, 2011

Blue Waters Bluegrass Festival

Medical Lake, WA. Workshops and Bands: The Bluegrass Regulators, Cahalen Morrison and Eli West, Prairie Flyer, The Wilders, The Wylie Family, Northern Departure, John Reischman & the Jaybirds, Mountain Heart, Wanigan, Spokane Songwriters in the Round: Jim Faddis, Kevin Brown, Kelly Bogan and Stan Hall, Joy Kills Sorrow. www.bluewatersbluegrass.org

August 12-14, 2011

Mt. St Helens Bluegrass Festival

Washington Bluegrass Association's Own Annual Fest. Bands: Little Roy & Lizzy, Midnight Flight, Great Northern Planes, Grapevine, The Howdy Boys, & Hotwire. www.washingtonbluegrassassociation.org/2010fest

August 19-21, 2011

Zillah Bluegrass Pickin'

Days
Zillah, WA (about 20 miles So. of Yakima). 119 First Ave. - Stewart Park. A weekend filled with good Bluegrass music, the 3 F's (food, friends, and fun). RV spaces are limited.

Hours: Friday: 5-9pm, Saturday: 9am-9pm, and Sunday: 9am-1pm. For info: Coy Farmer 509-829-5291

August 19-21, 2011

The High & Dry Bluegrass

Bend, OR. Ten bands, workshops, jamming. Bands: Bluestone County, Lee Highway, Misty Mamas, Local Bands, Bend'N Strings, Big Pine & the Pitchtones, Bitterbrush, Blackstrap, Cinder Blue, LeRoy & Sidekicks, Quincy Street, Prairie Rockets, Runway Ranch, Bare Roots, Back From The Dead, Mud Springs Gospel Band, Anvil Blasters. \$10 Onsite camping, Kids 12 & under free. See www.highanddrybluegrass-festival.com

August 26-28, 2011

Wild and Scenic Music Fest

at Icele Creek Music Center, Leavenworth, WA. 2.5 hours from Seattle, WA 1:00PM - 11:00PM

Aug 26-28, 2011

Bannock County Bluegrass Festival

in Pocatello, ID. Bands to be announced. Visit www.bannockcountybluegrassfestival.com

Aug 27, 2011

North Cascades Old-time Fiddlers Contest

Winthrop, WA. Registration at 8:00 a.m. 12

KZHQ 93.7 FM KORR 104 KOW Stereo AM 1290 & The Bannock County Bluegrass Music Association Presents

Idaho's 8th Annual

BANNOCK COUNTY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

AUGUST 26-28, 2011

- Featuring -
Chicken Dinner Band • JD Webb & The Crownstate Ramblers
Greenbrier Connection • Panhandle Polecats • Wild Coyotes
Molly & Tenbreaks • New South Fork • Strings Attached
Red Desert Ramblers

BANNOCK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
POCATELLO, ID

- Ticket Prices -	- Raffle -
Weekend Pass \$30 before Aug 1st \$35 after Aug 1st	Martin D-28 provided by PIANO OCEANVIEW
Friday Pass \$10 Saturday Pass \$15 Sunday Pass \$10	Stagg Guitar donated by
- Get Tickets -	Fender Dobro donated by
Budget Tapes & Records 208-233-9650	Boyz Garden
Mike's Music 208-237-3500	- Sponsors - Simplicid Agrum

For more information go to bannockcountybluegrassfestival.com





FESTIVAL CALENDAR



Looking for What's Cookin'? Go to www.oregonbluegrass.org for the most up to date listings of shows, festivals, bands and events.

hours of fiddling! One hour of insects! General admission \$15, \$5 for Seniors, kids 12 & under FREE. \$10 entry fee for contestants. Winthrop, WA - location to be announced OVER \$3000 IN PRIZES! Giant Insect Contest at noon for kids 12 & under. Grand prize: Hot Air Balloon Ride. Free Friday night jam at the Schoolhouse Pub in Winthrop. Free Sunday jam at the Shafer Museum grounds. For more info contact Brad Pinkerton at 509-996-2111, okfiddler@gmail.com. See our FACEBOOK page at NorthCascadesOldtimeFiddlers

September 9-11, 2011

The Newport Music Festival

Newport, WA - City Park. Featuring The Acoustic Heritage Band Competition for kids 18 & under, and Sunday Bluegrass Gospel Show. \$8/day admission; \$20 Weekend Pass. Free dry camping with paid weekend pass. More to be announced. Visit www.pvbluegrass.com

September 9-11, 2011

American Heritage Festival

in Tumwater, WA. Bands: Bluegrass Renegades, Blue Ridge, Black River, Lewis County Pickin' Party, Bill Stone and Friends, Rainier Philharmonic, Mission Mountain Trio, The AGB (All Girl Band), Coyote Ridge Wranglers,

Oly Mountain Boys, Great Northern Planes. American Heritage Campground, 9610 Kimmie St SW, Olympia, WA 98512. Contact paisely3@comcast.net. Visit www.americanheritagecampground.com/ah_frontpage.htm

September 12-18, 2011

3rd Annual George, WA Bluegrass Festival Campout and Jam at the George City Park in George, WA just off I-90. Entirely FREE. Bands: Prairie Flyer, Mission Mountain Trio w/ more to be announced. Visit <http://georgebluegrassfestival.com>

September 16-18

4th Annual Oregon Bluegrass Association's Bluegrass and Old Time Picker's Festival

at Pendarvis Farm - 16581 SE Hagen Rd, Happy Valley, OR, 97086. With two barns to jam in and a beautiful venue on the Southeast side of Mt. Scott, you can't go wrong. Jammin' will commence as early as you can arrive on Friday and not stop until late Sunday. We're plan-nin' to increase the scale again this year with some bands and an Old Time Squaredance. New Seasons Breakfast will be sponsored by RiverCity Music Festival. More details to be announced, but you will want to put this one on your calendar! The camping is awesome at

Pendarvis Farms - RV space is limited w/ no hookups, so reserve early. See our website for ticketing and up to the minute details www.oregonbluegrass.org

September 23-25, 2011

Tygh Valley Bluegrass Jamboree.

Held annually on the grounds of the Wasco County Fairgrounds in Tygh Valley, OR. Information: Contact Debra Holbrook 541-489-3434. Weekend Pass is \$30, but a prepaid pass will be available soon for \$25. Tons of camping - Contact Sid Moss about camping at 541-483-3388. More info to come. Visit www.uptownbluegrass.com/Tygh_Valley.html

October 8-9, 2011

12th Annual Birdfest & Bluegrass Festival

Ridgefield, WA. Join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Staff as we celebrate the coming of fall and the wildlife that make the Refuge their winter home. BirdFest and Bluegrass is an opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of fall migration and bluegrass music throughout Ridgefield. www.ridgefieldfriends.org/birdfest.php

Tygh Valley Bluegrass Jamboree

September 23-25, 2011 at the Wasco County Fairgrounds in Tygh Valley, Oregon

FRIDAY 6 PM to 10 PM Admission \$10 per person, Showcase Showdown (6-8 PM) compete for cash, winner returns in 2012! ... like ROSES IN JUNE playing 8-9 PM!
Cafe Show (9-10 PM) with KATHY BOYD & PHOENIX RISING

CAFE SHOW

Workshops & Band Scramble **SATURDAY 9 AM to 9:30 PM** Admission \$20 all day, per person
Workshops 9-10 AM (Guitar, Fiddle, Bass, Dobro, Mandolin, Banjo) and Scramble Contest where everyone's a winner! (10 AM-12 NOON)

Saturday Afternoon Stage Show (1-5 PM) SEQUOIA, FIDDLEGRASS, MISTY MAMA'S & PAPA'S Dinner Break 5-6:30 PM (BBQ Marinated Beef and trimmings \$8.50) & FADIN' BY NINE

Saturday Evening Stage Show (6:30 -9:30 PM) \$10 admission per person FIDDLEGRASS, SEQUOIA, FADIN' BY NINE

SUNDAY 10 AM to 2 PM
Open Mic 10-11 AM
THE CAMPBELLS, CHARLIE WALKER
HUD SPRINGS GOSPEL BAND, KATHY BOYD & PHOENIX RISING

Special Weekend Music Pass

\$25 send by September 15th to:
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www.tyghvalleybluegrassjamboree.com

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**Food!!!
BBQ Fundraiser
& Dew Drop Inn**

**Camping
Call Sid
541-483-2288**

visiting vendors



Sunday

ASHLAND: STRINGS ON THE SPRINGS 3rd Sunday Each Month, 3-6 pm or Until The Boss Calls You Home! Greensprings Inn, in the Greensprings area of Ashland. Hwy 66 .5 mile past mm 17. Bluegrass, Old Tyme, and Irish. Beginners to Braggers. The Inn offers great food and taps. Plenty of kids to play with!

For Information: Mark 541-890-2371
email: mwlackey@hotmail.com

DAMASCUS, OR: NO APRON STRINGS JAM 1:30 pm to 6 pm, 2nd Sunday of each month. 1:30 - 2:30 workshop, 3-6 open jam. For women to gather and help each other to improve musically. (I will have coffee/snacks available) If interested, send me your email address and I will put you on the contact list.

For Information: Sharon queen.sas@juno.com

KLAMATH FALLS: OBAJAM

Every Sunday from 4-7 pm - Old Town Pizza Klamath Falls, OR 97603 541-883-2918

Contact Ben Coker 541-783-3478
banjoist48@yahoo.com

PORTLAND: OBA JAM - First Sunday of every month October- April: Portland Area

OBA JAM, 12:30-4:30 pm

Portland Audubon Center, 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland. Large gathering of OBA supporters, intermediate and advanced, small donation requested to cover room rental.

For Information: Audubon 503-292-6855
email: powellR5923@msn.com

ROSEBURG: OBA ROSEBURG JAM - 3rd Sunday, Year Round, Evergreen Grange, 5361 Grange, Rd. Take Exit 119 off I-5. Just past the 2nd stop light, turn left on Grange Rd. The Grange is down 1/2 mile on the left.

BLUEGRASS JAM - all levels encouraged. Come to play or just listen and dance to the music. Coffee provided. Snacks to share. Donations accepted.

For Information: 541-679-0553 or email: liz@cmspan.net

TUALATIN: JAM - Third Sunday of the month. 3-6 pm: Winona Grange, 8340 SW Seneca Street, Tualatin. Bluegrass, Old Time, Old Country music jam. \$1 donation requested

For Information: Loyce Martinazzi

WILLIAMS: PANCAKES & JAM

No Jam July and August - see you in September!

Second Sunday of the month. Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-11 am. Bluegrass Jam: 11 am- 1 pm. Williams Grange, 20100 Williams Hwy. A great family atmosphere, organic food & strong coffee! Oh yeah, and some fine music, to boot!

For Information: Kim 541-846-6345

Monday

CORVALLIS: "OLD-TIME" GOSPEL JAM -

Second and fourth Saturday evenings from 7 pm-9:30 pm Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship Hall at 3160 Southwest Western Boulevard, Corvallis, OR. It is open to all people in the community and the focus is acoustical Christian music in an "Old-Time" sound. Any acoustic instrument including voice is welcome. People that would like to just come and listen are also welcome.

https://sites.google.com/site/corvallisgospeljam/

For Information: corvallis.GJ.Coordinator@gmail.com

PORTLAND: RAMBLING BLUEGRASS JAM

Every Monday night all year.

For Information: see Our website for information on location, time, contact, etc. Friendly!

Tuesday

ASHLAND: BLUEGRASS JAM - 2nd Tuesday - 7-11 pm, Siskiyou Micropub, 31 Water Street, Ashland
For Information: 541-535-7001
email: justapicker@charter.net

CORVALLIS: ACOUSTIC BLUEGRASS JAM

EVERY Tuesday, from 6:30-8:30 Old World Deli, 341 SW 2nd Street, Corvallis, OR 97330

For Information: Contact Jim Ford 541-231-3163,
or Jim Jordan 541-753-6138. jimford@hotmail.com

DUNDEE: BLUEGRASS JAM - 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month, 7-9 pm .Held upstairs at La Sierra Mexican Grill right on Hwy 99W in the middle of Dundee

For Information: Jon Cooper 503-702-8978
email: cooperweld@gmail.com

EUGENE: BLUEGRASS JAM - Every Tuesday 9:00 pm - 1:00 am. Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd, Eugene Established in 1995. The venue of this year round jam offers good food and good micro brews. If you're passing through Eugene on a Tuesday evening, come on by and pick some tunes.

For Information: Chuck Holloway & Gary Dunbar
541-431-6603.

HILLSBORO: ROCK CREEK BLUEGRASS JAM

Every Tuesday 7-9 pm McMenamin's Rock Creek Tavern in Washington County off Germantown Road and Cornelius Pass Road.

Google 10000 N.W. Old Cornelius Pass Rd. Hillsboro, OR 97124. Easy Access from Hwy 26 or Hwy 30. We're closer than you'd think. Established, open, intermediate and advanced, bluegrass instruments only.

For Information: Tim timhowell74@gmail.com

PORTLAND: Our new Hollywood OFF KEY JAM is every Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at Clyde's Prime Rib, 5474 N.E. Sandy Blvd. This is a great restaurant with good food and a wonderful area for us to pick. Thanks to everyone who came out for the debut Tuesday. Remember our motto: *No one is too crummy to play with us!*

Wednesday

BEAVERTON: BLUEGRASS JAM

First and third Wednesday of every Month - 6:30-9:30 pm Round Table Pizza, 10150 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy Beaverton, OR (just east of 217) Newcomer Friendly!

For Information: Jane email: janeromfo@yahoo.com

EUGENE: BLUEGRASS JAM

Every Wednesday night from 7:30 - 10:00 pm. Cosmic Pizza All ages welcome.

For Information: Ramblin Robert of KRVM

SOUTHERN WILLAMETTE VALLEY:

BLUEGRASS JAM - Every Wednesday night from 7:30-10:30 pm. Axe & Fiddle (www.axeandfiddle.com) is located at 641 East Main Street, Cottage Grove, OR. It is an acoustic bluegrass jam open to all levels of musicianship.

For Information: Chuck Holloway
email: charlesmholloway@yahoo.com

Thursday

BEND: BLUEGRASS JAM

2nd and 4th Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Held in the board room of the Bend - LaPine School District, downtown Bend, between Wall and Bond Streets, across from the Public Library.

For Information: Becky Brown & Verda Hinkle 541-318-7341 email:hinklebrown@bendbroadband.com

GRANTS PASS: BLUEGRASS-FOLKGRASS-GOSPELGRASS-MOUNTAIN-MUSICGRASS

2nd Thursdays 5-8 pm. Rogue River Valley Grange: 2064 Upper River Road, Grants Pass, Oregon. All levels of players--to take turns in the circle and lead the group in tunes--music includes all the music above. No electronics--no mikes--so be prepared to share your instruments and voices with each other so we can all learn and grow together. We'd love to see an RSVP from you!! Bring a friend--listen or play!! Refreshments, of course!! Intersection of G street and Lincoln--just outside of downtown G street area, Grants Pass.

For Information: 541-471-2206 - Brinkerhoff and Antonucci Abrinkerhoff@hughes.net

Friday

DALLAS: GUTHRIE PARK ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM - 7:00 pm

For Information: Sally Clark 503-623-0874

SCIO: BLUEGRASS JAM - 4th Friday of every month, year'round. Held at the ZCBJ Hall in downtown Scio. Kids and listeners are encouraged to attend this community sponsored event. Activities and beginners' jam starts at 7pm, with more advanced jamming beginning at 8:30pm. All acoustic. All ages welcome! Bring a munchie to share if you can, but not required. Donations accepted to help with the Hall rent and the cost of activities.

For Information: Starla Becker 503-394-3811

Saturday

BATTLEGROUND, WA: BLUEGRASS JAM

Every second and fourth Saturday evening. The Grange Hall, on the corner of N.E. 72nd Avenue at 179th Street Battle Ground Washington. Hosted by the Columbia River Oldtime Strings. Jamming downstairs at the Grange Hall with an open mic on the stage upstairs. Anyone can join in the fun; listeners as well as musicians are welcome. There is a large stage on the main floor and a comfortable basement are with lots of room for jamming.

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email: dusterjim@hotmail.com

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For Information: Randy and Tony
offkey@oregonbluegrass.org

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Maltby Community Club, 206th St. S.E. & 87th Ave. S.E., Snohomish Jamming, potluck dinner, stage show and more jamming.

For Information: Jan 360- 568-3685
email: JLJ35@juno.com

WINLOCK, WA: SLOW JAM - Second Saturday of the month. 1 pm, October through May. Held at the Hope Grange in Winlock, Washington. Great for all levels and especially good for total beginners.

For Information: Marv Sobolesky at 360-785-4932
email: marv@marvsmusic.com

If you have jam updates or additions, please contact the OBA at PO Box 1115, Portland, OR 97207, or contact the Webmaster Tony McCormick banjo@notebene.net.





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Many are the traps along the way to ensnare the eager beginning bluegrass picker. Heed the sage advice about the dangers of tablature, and how the unwary can become mired on it, unable to stray from what's written there. Equally dangerous is to be bogged down with 'licks.' Practicing alone and without a recording can leave you unaware that you stop and interrupt the song with each mistake, only to find that while flubbing a note is unnoticeable in a jam, to stop or interrupt causes a train wreck!

I have recently encountered more than a few beginners with a different problem. They've mastered the chord fingerings and picking patterns of their instruments, but find themselves

stranded on the chord shape when it comes time to improvise! For banjo players, rolling along over the chords may be an appropriate backup banjo technique, but it doesn't often produce a satisfying solo. How can the creative picker break away from just playing chords?

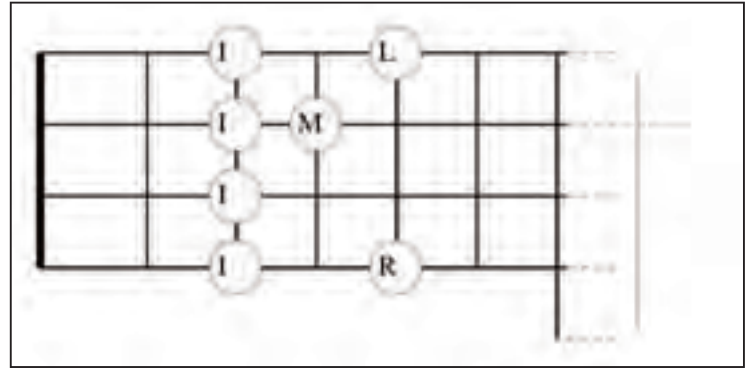


Figure 1. Finger the D chord by barring the A at the second fret with the Index (I) finger, then use the Ring (R), Middle (M), and Stupid, er, Little (L) fingers as shown. Now you can 'dissolve' the D chord into the A by lifting one finger at a time.

In the last column I demonstrated that every note of a scale is to be found in the relevant chords. For those familiar with the scale, this provides a new

Cuckoo's Nest

The melody to Part A for banjo with the fifth string capped up to A

A typical melodic banjo break for the first half of Part A

Using the banjo roll and a dissolving D chord, second half of Part A.

Dissolve to A C to G Partial D chord

Part B - have fun!



perspective or image of the keyboard. But even those not yet familiar with the scales on their instrument can use this idea to jumpstart their improvisation.

When picking out a melody, *all the notes that are fair game* – likely to sound good – are all the *notes found in the chords* of that key. For instance, if you're playing in D, not only are the notes of the D chord acceptable, but those of G, A, Bm, etc. This information is useful if you can picture those other chords on the fingerboard while you're following the chords of the song. If the banjo player is rolling over the D chord, she can break away from that safe haven by pulling in some notes from the A or G chord just a step away. One way of doing this is to dissolve one chord into another, one string at a time.

In the opening phrase of the fiddle tune *Cuckoo's Nest*, the song starts out in D and moves to the A chord. Our

stranded picker will roll over a straight D chord, and switch to rolling over the A as the song progresses. But this doesn't even come close to sounding like the melody.

So let's try dissolving the D chord, one string at a time into that A chord. On the banjo, fret both the A chord and the D chord at the same time; this is easy if you just bar the A at the second fret, while fingering the D as in Figure 1.

In measure 17 of the tab you see a forward roll with a complete D chord, then a backward roll with *just the little finger raised*, leaving the first string fretted at the second fret. Then the roll is forward again, *with the middle finger raised as well*. The tune finally reaches the full A chord just as the banjo player lifts the ring finger to finish the phrase with a pinch. The combination of rolling and chord dissolving yields a cute,

banjoistic rendition of the melody – without practicing scales!

The next two measures (19 & 20) repeat the process dissolving from C into G – and let's keep going! Measure 21 then shows a way to build a D chord one string at a time – it works both ways! A similar technique can be used just about anywhere. Don't be stranded on that safe chord! Remember, any notes from adjacent chords in the same key are fair game when picking out a melody. Reach out and grab them!

Matt teaches banjo & dobro in Corvallis, Coos Bay and Portland, Oregon. Send messages to matt@greenbeard.us.



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Clatskanie Bluegrass Festival

2011 Clatskanie Bluegrass Festival, Clatskanie, Oregon:
August 5th - 7th. Only 30 miles from the Oregon coast!

For the last 14 years, on the first full weekend of August, there has been a wonderful gathering of bluegrassers in the little coastal town of Clatskanie, Oregon. Well, this year it's happening again and we would like to invite you join us at the **15th annual Clatskanie Bluegrass Festival!** A tradition in the Northwest, the Clatskanie Bluegrass Festival is founded, and grounded, on traditional bluegrass content. There are many bluegrass festivals all over the United States, but this event is so much more than that. It's a yearly gathering of friends and family who get together each August to celebrate bluegrass music in a family atmosphere. If you're wondering who the "family" is, remember this: if you're a bluegrass picker or grinner, you're part of the family. Not only will you get three days of great bluegrass music here, you'll also be treated to a free breakfast each morning. Pancakes, bacon and eggs are there for the taking. We gladly accept donations to help defer the cost of the breakfast, but it's by no means required. Clatskanie is a wonderful, all American, small town located approximately 35 miles east of Astoria, on Highway 30 in the beautifully green Coastal Range Mountains near the Mighty Columbia River. We love this town, and we are confident you will too. The festival is held at the Clatskanie City Park which is located at 300 NE Park Street. Directions are as follows: From highway 30 (the lower Columbia River highway). Take Nehalem Street northeast 0.2 miles to NE 5th street. Turn right (southeast). Take entrance to park (Park ST) approximately 0.1 miles. There are a very limited number of camping spaces outside the park itself, however, there is plenty of room for camping inside the park on the grass. There is electricity available on a limited basis. Camping for the event is \$60/unit (Wednesday - Sunday) or, \$15/day for those not coming in on Wednesday, and there is an additional charge of \$25 if you use electricity. Entrance to the interior of the park will be on Wednesday morning around 10 O'Clock. On Thursday, as has become a Clatskanie tradition, there will be a cornbread cooking contest chili/corn-on-the-cob feed, so don't forget to bring your best cornbread recipe along to so if you can beat out the competition. PLEASE make plans on joining us for the 15th annual Clatskanie Bluegrass Festival!

2011 Festival Bands:

The Urban Monroes
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Opal Creek
Oly Mountain Boys
Fern Hill
Trusting Heart

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Bill Bogan – A Trusting Heart

by Gene Bach

The world of bluegrass lost a most ardent supporter in early June: Bill Bogan.

For several years Bill fought cancer, never giving in to the thought of defeat. He lived the rest of his life the same way. A true family man, his wife and children always came first – although that devotion extended to his bluegrass family and oftentimes made it difficult to tell his blood relatives from his musical ones.



Festival promoter Bill Bogan will be missed by the bluegrass community. – photo by Cleve Friedman

Bill was a wonderful promoter of bluegrass music, producing festivals in Oregon and Arizona. He is widely known as being responsible for the popularity of bluegrass in Arizona today.

Bill was the leader of the traditional bluegrass band Trusting Heart, which played throughout Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Instrumentally a mandolin player, Bill was most noted for his strong voice. When he started singing you could hear him miles away. He never gave less than one hundred percent when it came to his singing.

Bill was also an accomplished songwriter, producing a full CD of all original songs with favorites such as “Old Big Cabin Farm” and “Let Me Rest in the Shade of the Evening.”

He was a strong bluegrass traditionalist and was particularly fond of the Stanley Brothers.

An electrician by trade, Bill worked throughout California and Oregon, including doing a stint at the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant during its heyday.

He often told stories about his early days of work with the electric company in California where he was placed way out in the backcountry. In fact, his wife, Geneva, was the camp cook on one of those out-in-the-woods sites. When he talked about being out there he would light up and you firmly believed that those days were some of the best he ever spent.

Friends are one thing Bill was never short of. While he was in Clatskanie, Bill started a bluegrass festival that has run for 14 years. That event has always been a favorite among pickers everywhere, and I’m happy to say that it is going to continue in his honor (August 5 – 7, 2011).

No matter where Bill was camped, you could always count on breakfast being served on a daily basis. Bacon, eggs and pancakes were available for anybody who wanted them every day the world existed. There was never a question of whether or not it was OK to stop by for

breakfast. The simple fact of the matter was, breakfast was available, and, if you wanted it, all you had to do was come and get it.

I’ve known Bill for many years, and have had the pleasure of picking rhythm guitar for him for a few. There is no doubt in my mind that Bill is upstairs, sitting in a jam with his son Brett (who passed away in 2004) and belting out some great bluegrass tunes.

Thank you for everything Bill...we’re all gonna miss you.



photo by Vicki Vance



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Hi again, everyone. Bluegrass festival season is hard upon us and I hope most of you will have an opportunity to experience some great live music this year. As I write this, I am looking forward to being at Goldendale once again (Fiddling Under the Stars Bluegrass Festival, June 24-25, 2011) and am slowly going through all my gear to make sure everything works as it should when I get there.

During a recent discussion with a bass player who had questions regarding various methods of reinforcing his bass, I tried to add up how many bluegrass musicians I encounter in a given year of running sound at festivals and recording in my studio. It turned out that well over five hundred bluegrass musicians a year put their sound in my hands. That's a lot of responsibility. It is also flattering to know how many of those musicians trust me to make them sound their best.

While sitting out in front of so many great bands, I have wondered what makes one band sound better than another. Is it their ability to play their instruments? Is it their unity as a group? What makes one band sound better and keep my attention while another group is simply "there"? They are all using the same mics, the same stage and the same sound system and most have the same mix of instruments. What separates the good from the great?

I believe the answer is something I call "Audio Charisma." It is that indefinable quality that some musicians have on stage and others don't. It can have a drastic effect on how an audience perceives the music and thus can make a band sound better, even if it has nothing whatsoever to do with playing ability. To reinforce my theory, I started looking at some well-known bluegrass musicians and bands to see what they provide in the form of Audio Charisma.

Tony Rice. He doesn't move around a lot, isn't a flashy showoff on stage, but he literally fills the stage with his presence. How can that be? I saw Sam Bush attempting to be a rock star at one show and half the audience got up and walked out. How can that be? Rhonda Vincent. No matter who in her band is taking a break, she commands the stage without trying. How can she do that?

Some of the old school great bluegrass performers seem to use their Audio Charisma more than their musical ability to capture audiences and provide highly entertaining performances. Ralph Stanley, J.D. Crowe and others fill the stage with their presence and don't have to be playing instruments at break neck speed. Just being on stage seems to be enough.

The stage presence of a performer or a band seems to have a large effect on how that person or band is perceived to sound. This should be a wakeup call for all bluegrass musicians who think all they need to do is master the art of the 32nd note lead. Without some form of stage presence, the audience may not be paying attention or even listening.

How can local and regional bands hope to create something as nebulous

as stage presence and Audio Charisma? Here are a couple of tips that may help.

Look nice. Looking like you just walked in from the barn doesn't connect you to anyone except the one or two farmers in the audience. Involve your audience in your performance. That doesn't mean simply talking between songs, it means looking at everyone while you play, smiling, and looking like you are enjoying yourself. Shoe gazing is not an art form. And don't sit down. Plopping down on a chair or stool may be fine for a jam with friends, but I don't know of any popular national bluegrass bands that made it to the top by sitting down on stage.

So now you have a blueprint of how to create something that cannot be defined, is hard to explain and difficult to achieve. Pretty simple, right? It's just one more cog in the wheel of success and something important in "sounding" your best.

If you have any questions about anything involving recording, mastering, audio software, duplicating, mics, speakers or sound reinforcement, please feel free to contact me: GZsound@hotmail.com.



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July 28 ~ Summer Concerts in the Park, Oregon City, Oregon

July 31 ~ Newberg Old Fashion Festival, Newberg, Oregon

August 17 - 18 ~ Clackamas County Fair, Canby, Oregon

August 25 ~ Summer Concerts in the Park, Myrtle Creek, Oregon

August 26 ~ My Coffee & Wine Experience, Roseburg, Oregon

August 26 ~ Star of Hope Bluegrass Bash, Coos Bay, Oregon

September 23 - 25 ~ Tygh Valley Bluegrass Festival, Tygh Valley, Oregon

More dates added weekly!

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For recorded samples check out our website
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Fueled by a mutual passion for good music and drawing from a variety of influences such as The Lonesome River Band, Vince Gill, John Mayer, Hot Rize, and Buddy Miller, the Regulators deliver a unique blend of contemporary bluegrass, complete with solid instrument and vocal work. Jake Dewhirst - Guitar, Vocals; Luke Dewhirst - Banjo, Vocals; Martin Stevens - Fiddle, Vocals; Josh Adkins - Bass, Vocals.

Contact: www.myspace.com/regulatorbluegrass,
then give us a yell: regulatorbluegrass@gmail.com

Bluestone County

If you've spent any time at all around the Northwest Bluegrass scene you've run into one or more of these musicians in one or more bands. Formed in late 2008, Bluestone County features powerful vocalists and accomplished instrumentalists, all from the Mid-Willamette Valley. You'll find that they are not afraid to wander the spectrum of bluegrass from traditional to contemporary. Chris Floyd- rhythm/lead guitar/vocals- Jered Widman-rhythm guitar/vocals- Mark Thomas-Banjo- Rick Campbell-mandolin/vocals-Sam Samuels-bass/vocals- Suzi Samuels-vocals.

Contact: www.bluestonecounty.com
booking@bluestonecounty.com

Brian Oberlin

Brian is a singing, songwriting, multi-instrumentalist (guitar and tenor banjo). He teaches private lessons, workshops, and mandolin camps, focusing on many types of musical genres, including swing and bluegrass. As a solo act, Brian lights up the stage with originals and covers that swing, stomp, waltz, and ease into his personal style. He is also the mandolinist for the band Ida Viper.

Contact: 503-686-8673.
Email: brian@mandoberlin.com
www.mandoberlin.com

Dewgrass

What started out as a family's love for bluegrass, has now taken off into an all out passion. Dewgrass, made up of siblings Jake, Luke, & Kaiti, with parents Erin & Gary, play straight ahead bluegrass & gospel in a manner that surprises many & delights most who have had an opportunity to hear them. "If this is the next generation of bluegrass, we're in good hands."-TNT

Contact: dewgrassbluegrass@hotmail.com

Down The Road

A trio of bluegrass and American roots music musicians from the Seattle, Washington Area. Husband / wife duo Cathi and Gary Davidson on guitars and vocals and John Tubbs on mandolin and vocals. Old-time, country and traditional bluegrass, folk and contemporary bluegrass, with a focus on duet and trio harmony singing,

Contact: www.downtheroadband.com

Eight Dollar Mountain

With five rising musician singers including Stuart Green on banjo, Darren Campbell on guitar, Phil Johnson on mandolin, Peter Koelsch on bass, and Mark Lackey on dobro, Eight Dollar Mountain brings hard driving traditional inspired bluegrass to the Northwest. Available for most events and establishments.

Contact: www.eightdollarmountain.net

Floating Glass Balls

Floating Glass Ball is a band whose music is broad and pulls from many genres — bluegrass, Caribbean, contemporary, country, and swing tunes — the likes of the Stanley Brothers and the Carter Family, to name just a couple. It is reflected in what each member brings to the table. Together now for 13 years, "The Balls" can easily play four to five straight gigs without repeating a song — a testament to the depth the group has developed throughout those years playing together. They are Dan Conner on Dobro, Joel Marshall on guitar, Gar Keiski on fiddle, Peter (Spud) Siegel on mandolin and Bill Uhlig on bass.

Contact: www.floatingglassballs.com

GTM Stringband

With two guitars and a bass fiddle, members Greg Stone, Tony Rocci and Marty Henick take the stage with a mix of bluegrass, ragtime, swing and blues. They deliver a nice balance of instrumentals and vocal numbers with three part harmonies.

Contact: Greg at 971-207-3195
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Contact: Dave Morris 541-929-3742
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Hudson Ridge

Hudson Ridge has a sound all it's own. Love of harmony and the desire and ability to "Ridgetize" their own blend of Americana, Bluegrass, and traditional Country music, gives this band a truly unique sound. Members have been 'playing together in different bands' for many years and have now come together to create what promises to be a quality musical experience for themselves and anyone who gives a listen. Harmony is their passion and the love for what they do shines through at each performance.

Mary Luther- lead vocal and bass, Jerene Shaffar-vocal, mandolin and bass, Shelley Freeman- bass and vocal, Kevin Freeman, lead guitar and vocal, Bob Shaffar-fiddle and dobro, Fred Grove- rhythm guitar.

Contact: 541-404-9281 mluther56@gmail.com
www.hudsonridgeband.com

Kathy Boyd & Phoenix Rising

Kathy Boyd & Phoenix Rising Family friendly, outstandingly entertaining original roots bluegrass featuring the talents of RMA Bluegrass Songwriter of the year Dennis Nelson along with the talents of Kathy Boyd, Tim Crosby and Tom Tower. This highly entertaining group is willing and able to travel and is a sure fired winner for your next event or festival!

Contact: 503-691-1177,
kathyboyd@phoenixrisingband.org,
www.phoenixrisingband.org



OBA Bluegrass Express - Summer 2011

Kate White Band

A compelling folk rock/ gospel/ celtic/ bluegrass blend, the KWB's original songs will resonate with your own life and send your spirit soaring. Stunning vocals, an extensive instrumental repertoire and a powerful yet fun-loving stage presence make the KWB a great choice for festivals, churches, concerts and private events. Kate White (vocals, violin), Glenn Farley (vocals, guitar), Scott Minter (mandolin, banjo, whistles), Robert Wayne (djembe, percussion).

Contact: 360-904-4062
katewhiteband@comcast.net
www.katewhitemusic.com
www.myspace.com/katewhiteband

National Yodeling Champion Larry Wilder & the Stumptown Stars

Bring engaging Americana entertainment to the stage: bluegrass, blues, cowboy, Gospel, early country, 70s and folk roots tunes from a repertoire of over 400 songs. All ages will be singing along and laughing with this unforgettable band! Nolan Bronson-guitar; Jon Lindahl-bass; Andy Emert-fiddle; Cliff Ashmon-harp; Larry Wilder, 7 string banjo, guitar, Autoharp. Eight workshops available.

See our list of songs at: www.larrywildermusic.com
503-407-8676

Long Mountain Revival

Long Mountain Revival's main emphasis in the group is sharing the Gospel through song. Their song repertoire includes that of such groups as Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, Hotrize, Nashville Bluegrass Band, Hank Williams, and other artists, as well as original music by Jon Clement. Many of the songs are very upbeat, as bluegrass music usually is, with an occasional waltz or country ballad as part of the set, to balance out the tempo and give listeners variety. Long Mountain Revival is available for church functions, outreaches, community events, and any other venue where Gospel Bluegrass music is desired.

www.myspace.com/lmrevival

Lost Creek Bluegrass Band

Lost Creek delivers driving bluegrass and old time standards with outstanding vocal harmonies and tasteful instrumentation. For years they've delighted audiences at bluegrass festivals, pubs, parks, weddings, and markets in both Oregon and Washington.

Contact: 503-442-2832
theband@lostcreekmusic.com

Lucky Gap

Good Old-time Traditional Americana and bluegrass on the Oregon Coast. Guitar, Banjo, Fiddle, Mandolin, Dobro, Bass. Weddings, Parties, Dances, Special Occasions.

Contact: Chaz Malarkey at 541.265.2677,
malarkey@charter.net, or Bob Llewellyn at
541-444-2069, pusspud@yahoo.com.

Misty Mamas

Misty Mamas serve up powerful harmonies and tasteful instrumentals combining the American genres of bluegrass, gospel, folk and country music. Carol Harley (vocals, guitar, banjo, mandolin), Katherine Nitsch (vocals & guitar), April Parker (vocals & mandolin) and Eilee Rocci (vocals & upright bass).

Mollybloom

Original contemporary bluegrass quintet. David Dahl, guitar; Ron Relaford, mandolin; Clark Blanchard, bass; Bob Rindy, fiddle; and Rand White.

Contact: 503-399-1965
www.mollybloombluegrass.com
or Anita Blanchard at blanchardca@comcast.net

Go To www.oregonbluegrass.org For more info & links

Please contact Matt Snook, (OBA Database & Membership Manager) at matt@snooksband.com if you are interested in receiving a Supporting Performer Membership form.

Money Creek Bluegrass

With over 150 years combined musical experience (don't worry...individually we're not that old), Money Creek Mining Co. offers music that's enjoyable by the young and young-at-heart. These wonderful musicians not only bring a superb technical quality to their performances, but audiences appreciate their warm, down-to-earth charm. Money Creek plays a nice variety of old and newer bluegrass tunes while mixing it up with original songs, and a few top 40 tunes from the past. The band has a CD available for purchase and looks forward to providing some "hard driving" bluegrass at many more venues and events in the Puget Sound and beyond. Money Creek has its own sound system and is available for performances at festivals, concert halls, pubs and taverns, community venues, weddings and parties.

Contact: LuAnn Price 425-346-6136
www.moneycreekbluegrass.com

New Old Friends

New Old Friends is a "real deal" traditional bluegrass band that gets its inspiration from the major bluegrass bands from the 1940s through the 1960s, and performs its material (including some original tunes) in a way that keeps the essence of "classic" bluegrass intact. Though all play several different instruments, in New Old Friends, they have settled on the following line-up: Rollie Champe, mandolin and vocals; Chuck Davidshofer - acoustic bass and vocals.

Contact: Randy Oman, guitar and vocals
503-288-4191; or Peter Schwimmer, banjo and vocals
503-282-0344, email schwimbo@pacifier.com.

Pacific Rim Bluegrass Band

play bluegrass in the beautiful Willamette Valley region of Oregon, just south of Portland. Pacific Rim band members are Paul King on Guitar and vocals, Gary Schottle on mandolin and vocals, Mary Cox on bass and vocals & Debra King on banjo and vocals.

Contact: Paul King at 503-363-9682
email: pacificrimband@earthlink.net for inquiries

Rogue Bluegrass Band

Music the way music should be: Bluegrass style, Ed Hershberger, banjo technician; Don Tolan, professor of mandolin; Ben Trump, fiddlin'; Paul Hirschman, flat pickin'; Deb Smith-Hirschman, bass thumpin'.

Contact: Ed 503-245-4158
www.geocities.com/roguebluegrassband
or email: roguebluegrassband@yahoo.com.

Rose City Bluegrass Band

Pure entertainment for young and old! Bluegrass, Irish, Americana and more. Contact us for your wedding, picnic, party or club.

Contact: Charlie Williamson 503-248-1854 (days)
or 503-892-2641 (evenings).
email: charliew3@nwlink.com
www.rosecitybluegrass.com

Roundhouse

Founded in 1994, members are Donn Whitten, Kim Jones, Ron Leavitt and Joe Denhof. Roundhouse was formed with the goal of providing a variety of musical genres to diverse audiences: something for everyone. Toward this end Roundhouse performs bluegrass, southern rock, doo-wop, gospel, country, blazing instrumentals and original compositions. Roundhouse instrumentation includes guitar, mandolin, banjo and bass.

Contact: www.roundhouse-band.com
roundhouseband@qwestoffice.net

Runs Real Good

Runs Real Good is Clayton Knight, Tom Marshall, Kelli Plummer, and Bill Marshall. We Play not-too-traditional bluegrass, respectful of our roots, but willing to roam a little now and then

Contact: Clayton Knight, 503-358-0658
claytonknight@comcast.net

Sawtooth Mountain Boys

Picking traditional bluegrass music since the mid-1960s all over OR, the Pacific NW and the West Coast, and even Kentucky, Texas, several western states and the UK and Europe, we bring along plenty of fun and energy with our hard-driving sound. From pubs, to wineries, to bluegrass festivals, private gatherings and weddings, we've just about delivered our bluegrass to every situation and venue type possible. Seasoned and well-known members of the SMB are Rollie Champe - guitar, Chuck Davidshofer - bass fiddle, John Van Brocklin - 5-string, and Steve Waller - mandolin. We all sing.

Contact: www.myspace.com/sawtoothmountainboys
or www.facebook.com and search
Sawtooth Mountain Boys or contact
Steve at stwaller@juno.com

Shasta Ray

Shasta Ray and the Downhome Band from Myrtle Creek Oregon. The band's founder and leader is Shasta Ray, born in New England. His travels and experiences are reflected in his songwriting. The music played is a real slice of Americana including bluegrass, folk, country, sing-a-long gospel, and old time favorites.

Contact: Shasta Ray at 541-537-1031
email: downhomeband@yahoo.com

Sidekicks Bluegrass and Nostalgia Band

Perfect for weddings/anniversaries, conventions, community events and cruises. Bluegrass, Country, Swing, and Ragtime. CD's available. 2105 NW 12th Street, Redmond, OR 97756.

Contact: 541-923-6946 or 503-580-5274
www.leroynewportsband.com

Siskiyou Summit:

Since 1999, Siskiyou Summit has performed its special brand of bluegrass music to a growing fan base in the Pacific Northwest. The band members have decades of individual musical performance experience and benefit from each being a strong singer, instrumentalist, song writer and arranger - highly unusual for any band, especially one so geographically distanced from the origins of this uniquely American music. Siskiyou Summit members are Jeff Jones on mandolin, Glenn Freese on guitar, Bob Evoniuk on Dobro - all formerly with the entertaining bluegrass group, Foxfire - Crystal Reeves on fiddle - formerly with the national touring acoustic group, the Robin Flower Band - Sam Cuenca on upright bass, and Rick Nelson on banjo - formerly with the Rogue Valley Bluegrass Boys.

Booking: Jeff Jones - Jeff Jones Advertising and
Marketing 541-488-0178, jjrjones@opendoor.com,
www.siskiyousummit.com

Urban Monroes

Fashioned from the heart of tradition and infused with adrenaline, the Urban Monroes' contemporary bluegrass style is an outgrowth of the combined skill of some of the Pacific Northwest's finest talent. Possessing band member credits ranging from "record of the year" and "CD of the Year" to state bluegrass instru-

ment champions, their musical experience circles the globe having taken them as far away as England and Scotland and even to Siberia...the long way. Three of the Urban Monroes four members have been featured on the Emmy award winning television show "Oregon Art Beat" and collectively they have opened for and shared the stage with the likes of Laurie Lewis, Ricky Skaggs, Iris Dement, Lee Ann Womack, Paul Delay and others.

With Fran Kent- guitar and vocals, Matt Gray-banjo, Jason Mellow-bass and Jeff Shippy- fiddle, The Urban Monroes are a new tradition in contemporary bluegrass.

Contact: 503-754-7577 www.urbanmonroes.com
or email urbanmonroes@hotmail.com

Wayward Vessel

Members: Ken Chapple (guitar and vocals), Julie Schmidt (violin and vocals), Chris Walther (bass)

Contact: Ken Chapple info@waywardvessel.com
www.waywardvessel.com

Whiskey Puppy

Dedicated to preserving americana roots music, while exploring early & contemporary bluegrass.

Contact: 503-227-0647 email: rgold@myvw.net
www.whiskeypuppy.com

Whistlin' Rufus

The Whistlin' Rufus musicians bring a lot of experience to the stage and have roots in Classical, Irish, Folk, Bluegrass, Rock and Roll and Jazz music. When you stir it all together combining their exciting knack for arrangements, their three and four part vocal harmonies, original ballads and toe tapping fiddle tunes, well, you end up with Whistlin' Rufus. The 2009 release of the latest Whistlin' Rufus CD, "It's About Time" has won rave reviews across the country, from the "Back Porch Music Program" at the WUNC in Raleigh, to KBOO in Portland, OR. Whistlin' Rufus is just perfect for your event or Festival.

Contact: Pat Connell 971-207-5933
whistlinrufus@comcast.net or go to
www.whistlinrufus.com website for more
information, videos, and CD information.

Yvonne McMillan

is the Northwest's best-kept bluegrass secret. While raising a family in a small Willamette Valley town, Yvonne developed a dedicated following of fans who only heard her sing informally at jams and gatherings. Now, with her family grown, she's ready to bring her crystal-clear voice to a wider musical audience. Yvonne is joined in SugarPine by others long admired by the close-knit bluegrass community. Matt Snook, who recently relocated to the Willamette Valley, performed on banjo, dobro and vocals in a variety of La Grande groups. Barbara Collins is one of the region's most versatile, fluid and accomplished fiddlers. Garrett Maass plays mandolin with tone and taste, enlivening several Portland bands. Steve Blanchard's guitar playing has helped make Prairie Flyer one of the Northwest's most popular - and musical - groups. SugarPine's song selection ranges from traditional bluegrass to contemporary covers and originals by Yvonne, Matt and Steve. The rich vocal blend created by Yvonne, Matt and Barbara distinguishes this band from others in the Pacific Northwest. With an instrumental ensemble that plays hard, fast and creatively, SugarPine's the whole package.

Contact: Matthew Snook matt@greenbeard.us
541-805-5133





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Oregon Bluegrass Association Membership

The Board of Directors of the Oregon Bluegrass Association cordially invites you to join the organization. Benefits include a subscription to the Bluegrass Express and discounts to OBA sanctioned events. The Oregon Bluegrass Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation founded in 1982.

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P. O. Box 1115, Portland, OR 97207



Check out our website at:
www.oregonbluegrass.org

Membership

Check all that apply

- New Member Renewal
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- Supporting Performer\$50 (1 yr.)
- Angel Sponsor\$60 (1 yr.)
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- Contributing Business Sponsor\$100 (1 yr.) / \$275 (3 yrs.)

Volunteering

- Yes! I am interested in helping as a volunteer at OBA-sanctioned events. Please add me to your list of volunteers.

