

GRASS CLIPPINGS

Volume 14 Issue 12

February/March 2010

State of the Grass by President "Doc" Simpson



State of the Grass "Doc" Simpson, February 2010

Greetings Bluegrass Aficionados. Here's the latest happenings.

We're well on our way into 2010 and we're starting with a bang! Bill Trapp and Rich Errico continue to create wonderful opportunities for bluegrass lovers. Be sure to read about the Goldwing concert and the new Saddlebrooke jam in this newsletter. Meanwhile, Reid Griffin, Bonnie Lohman, Doc Reifschneider, Charlie Sides, and Marshall

Vest continue to coordinate terrific jams and workshops. Marshall set up a guitar workshop with Greg Morton on Feb. 20th and a fiddle workshop on March 20th. Also, Bill and Cindy Paul are organizing the Tombstone campout for this coming March 26th-28th (see page 8). Jack McMeekin will be doing a fundraiser for the DBA at the Voyager RV Park on February 8th. Then there's the All Association Campout (ABA, SWBA, and DBA) March 12 – 14th in Quartzite. The ABA and SWBA are dear friends – you don't want to miss this chance to hang out with our brethren from around the state.

Don't forget our annual meeting Feb. 7th at the Udall Park ramada from 1 pm – 3 pm. Afterwards we'll have our regular jam from 4 pm-6 pm. This is an important time for all of us to come together to reflect on the ac-

complishments of the past year and discuss important upcoming events – including whether we're going to have another festival this year. We'll also be voting on officers and trustees.

During these difficult economic times, it seems there is so much gloom all around us. But one of the silver linings about tough times is that it quiets down the myriad of silly distractions and reminds us of the deeper things – family, friends & faith, the beauty of the desert, the pleasure of spending time with a loved one, and enjoying simple, honest music.

So, check out this issue of the DBA newsletter. The next two months are packed with exciting bluegrass events. I encourage you to join us for a whole lot of friendship and fun.

"Doc" Simpson

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Webmaster--Bill Trapp: For information concerning the DBA website www.desertbluegrass.org contact the webmaster at trapp@wbhsi.net

Membership Secretary--Fran Riggs: To join the DBA, renew a membership or submit an address change, contact Fran via phone at (520) 490-4560, email franriggs@aol.com or snail mail 17247 E. Peach Tree Road, Mayer, Arizona 86333-4146

Publicity--Mike Headrick: Contact Mike at (520) 760-0745 or mbheadrick@aol.com

Booking Bands--Bonnie Lohman: To book a DBA band for an event, phone 520-296-1231 or email basslady78@comcast.net

Advertising--Bonnie Lohman: To purchase advertising in our newsletter, contact by phone or email

MEMBERSHIP DISPLAY ADS

PRICES

1/4 PAGE--\$25 PER ISSUE, \$100 ANNUAL
 1/2 PAGE--\$40 PER ISSUE, \$160 ANNUAL
 FULL PAGE--\$60 PER ISSUE \$240 ANNUAL
 CLASSIFIED ADS \$5 FOR 5 LINES OR LESS
 DBA members free space permitting

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THE BEST IN BLUEGRASS IS AT THE "BROOKE"

Exciting bluegrass news is happening in northern Tucson at SaddleBrooke as a new Desert Bluegrass Association jam will have its inaugural performance on Sunday, March 14. It's free and you are invited. The jam will be held from 4 to 6 pm on the second Sunday of each month starting in March at the Mountain View Clubhouse. For one hour preceding the jam (from 3 to 4 pm) there will be instructional workshops on various bluegrass acoustic instruments. So come with your instrument and your questions.

The advantage of holding jams at this location is that there is both an **indoor** and **outdoor** facility which can be used. The indoor facility (the Palo Verde room) is



Palo Verde Room & Restaurant Amphitheater

air-conditioned and will be used in the summer. It is also heated and will be used in the winter. There is an outdoor amphitheater overlooking a grassy area with a view of the Catalina Mountains and Mount Lemmon in the background that will be used for spring and fall jams with the option of moving indoors

during inclement weather conditions. This ideal situation guarantees that jams can be held here throughout the year.

The jams will be open to all and not limited to SaddleBrooke residents. The Palo Verde room seats about 200, so come early for the best seats. As an additional attraction, food

services will be available in the Palo Verde room restaurant where the jams will be held. Outside jams at the amphitheater/lawn is adjacent to the PV room. SaddleBrooke management will open a cash bar for attendees as an enhancement to your jam experience.

To get to the Mountain View Clubhouse, take Oracle Rd to SaddleBrooke Blvd (14 mi north of Ina Rd or 3.1 mi South of the intersection of Oracle Rd, AZ 77 and AZ 79). Travel 2.1 mi East on E. SaddleBrooke Blvd. Turn right on Mountain View Blvd and travel to the Clubhouse which is immediately past the tennis courts at the corner of Clubhouse Drive. Turn left into the parking lot. Parking and the entrance to the Clubhouse is to the right. The Palo Verde room is on the right after you enter the Clubhouse.

For more information contact:
Rich Errico 520 818 0358

GOLDWING FEBRUARY 13

Goldwing Express is coming to the Desert View Performing Arts Center at SaddleBrooke in Tucson for two concerts on Saturday, February 13 at 4:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Advanced tickets are \$25. **Seating is limited so purchase your ticket now.** Tickets are on sale now at the Mountain View Clubhouse in SaddleBrooke or <http://www.dvpac.net> (\$3.25 Processing Fee). For information call 520 825-2818. All ticket sales are final. No exchanges or refunds.

This is a benefit concert for **The SaddleBrooke Theatre Guild** and Tucson's own, **Desert**

Bluegrass Association.

Goldwing Express is a family variety show featuring the musical talents of three brothers as they run through bluegrass, country, gospel and even a touch of comedy. The unique melodies of the five-string banjo, mandolin, guitar, dobro, upright bass and more are sure to get your toes tapping. The action-packed show clips along at a lively pace that lifts your spirits and sends you out of the theater humming.

Brothers Paul, Steven and Shawn



are half Creek Indian, and perform with their father, Bob Baldrige. The band has recorded over ten CDs consisting of classic country, bluegrass and gospel music. You'll be rolling in the aisles as the group combines their musical talent with the hilarious antics of their father and you'll have a newfound appreciation of bluegrass music.

Letters & E-mail to the Editor

Since I'm moving back to Colorado it is probably best to delete me from the DBA mailing list. I can check the calendar online for jams going on when I get down this way again. Thank you, it's been a pleasure.

Micki Killoran

Ed. Micki came in and played bass for us at jams and gigs. Though she was only a member of the DBA for a short time, we will miss her smiling face and wonderful harmonies.

My husband and I attended the Dec. 3 bluegrass jam. We hail all the way from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada and were visiting with friends Gladys and Don Ector. They invited us to the jam and we thoroughly enjoyed it. Yes it was rather cool that night, however, your temperatures are not any where close to the -31C that we are experiencing presently! Loved all of the music from that night, keep up the great music.

Merry Christmas
Carol and Mel Ross

Ed. Charlie Sides received this email in reference to the Dove Mountain jam.

Hi there Bonnie.....just read the e-mail re: festival.....this year was the best festival ever....I sure hope you aren't thinking about cancelling it....I enjoyed it so much and there are so many good bands yet to see.....like Rarely Herd.....3rd Generation.....Honi Deaton.....

You have it all down pat now....hope it continues.....but I do know and appreciate all the work you and Mike and others do to put on such a perfect festival.....

See ya Sunday at Thirsty's...

Mary Ann and MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bonnie,

Thanks for your faithful distribution of bluegrass & other music events here in southern Arizona this past year. It is very much appreciated. Also your work at this year's DBA Festival made for a wonderful bluegrass experience.

God Bless & Have a Happy New Year,
Gary & Velma Tindall (veteran grinners)

The moments I cherish most are those moments when I walk away from everything I've been trying to do to get ahead and stick my fiddle under "muh chins" and let it cry for me.

Love n hugs, Sam (Brown)

Associations

Arizona Bluegrass Association

7257 N. 50th Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85301
Rick Rhodes--Chair
623-435-8406

Email:

luvkomidy@hotmail.com
www.azbluegrass.org

International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA)

207 E. Second Street
Owensboro, KY 42303
502-926-7891

So. Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association

3020 W. Avenida Cresta
Tucson, AZ 85745
Info: Wilbur 520-743-7086

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

Info: 520-408-6181
www.tftm.org

Tucson Harmonica Club

Info: 520-887-2148

Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association

PO Box 26531
Tucson, AZ 85726
www.tkma.org

Tucson Old Time Music Circle

Banjo_brad@thegrid.net

Jams

All DBA sponsored jams and performances are listed separately on the enclosed calendar and the DBA website at www.DesertBluegrass.org

Bluegrass In Casa Grande

Traditional Accoustic Bluegrass Jam.

1st Saturday of each month
6:30 - 9:30

Info: Kyle Stall (520) 421-2596

Southern AZ Old Time Fiddlers Assn.

Southwest Community Center
Cardinal Ave, Tucson, AZ

Tuesday 7 PM

Info: Wilbur 520-743-7086

Tradition Acoustic Bluegrass Jam Sessions

Tempe, AZ

Wednesday 7-10 PM

Please call for confirmation of dates

Info: Howard or Susan
480-897-7425

Catalina Mountain Chapter of the AZ Old Time Fiddlers Association

3rd Monday at 7 PM

Info: Laura 520-743-9491

Bands

Bear Canyon Ramblers

Marilyn 520-760-0479
bluegrassjamboree@gmail.com
www.bearcanyonramblers.com

Cadillac Mountain

Corrine 520-235-3199

Crystal Ridge

Brian Davies 520-297-4225
www.musicucson.com

Dusty River Boys

Mary Ann McCracken 520-977-8113

Flint Hill Special

Glen Wilbourn 928-634-8411

Gold Rush

Jan or Mike 480-982-4938

Headline Bluegrass Band

Bill Cox 480-208-5217
www.myspace.com/
headlinebluegrass

Los Hombres

Kenny Erickson 520-235-7473

Peter Mc Laughlin

520-529-2992

The Bost Family Tradition

Jeff Bost 520-432-5053
JeffBost@earthlink.net

The Busted Cowboy Band

Jim Koweek 520-455-5387

Titan Valley Warheads

Ed Davenport 520-622-3699

Way Out West

Emmy Creigh 520-323-0704

Whistle Stop

Carol Pearse 623-780-8414
Whistlestopbluegrass@cox.net
<http://www.myspace.com/whistlestopbluegrass>

One or more player must be a member of the DBA to list your jam or band.

Events

The Bluegrass Radio Show with Milo

Saturday 10 am - 12 noon
KXCI 91.3 FM
520-622-5924 requests

For Sale

D41 Martin guitar, 1999, excellent shape
F5L Gibson mandolin 1999
Bill 520- 648-3224

Instrument Clinics

Guitar Clinic with Greg Morton on
February 20 from 2-4 PM

Fiddle Clinic with Corrine Cortese on
March 20 from 2-4 PM.

The 17th Street Market

Further info, contact Marshall Vest
@mbvest@aol.com



LARRY STEPHENSON
20TH ANNIVERSARY
www.pinecastle.com

PINECASTLE Records
 Marilyn Ryan Hulbert

I remember the first time I saw Larry Stephenson, at a bluegrass festival, playing mandolin and singing harmony with the Bluegrass Cardinals. I remember, I walked up to him and told him he sang the *best* bluegrass harmony and how thrilled I was to meet him. Larry was receptive and kind and a fine gentleman. I also remember how disappointed I was when he formed his own band and sang very little of that special harmony that he can perform with his pure and clear tenor voice. In my mind, he was born to sing harmony - harmony with guys, harmony with women - it's a very special gift and difficult to accomplish, as we all know.

For the 20th Anniversary of the Larry Stephenson Band, Larry invited some special guests to record with him, and he again gave us some of that harmony that I have been craving for 20 long years.

This is an advanced copy that I am reviewing. I'm not sure of the release date, but since I'm a deejay, I get some wonderful music before it hits the stores. I'm sure it'll be out soon for you to purchase.

"Teardrop Town", the first song, is a fast one featuring David Parmley on low tenor vocals - written by Randall Hylton. Jason Barie plays fiddle and Kristin Scott Benson is on banjo.

"Talk to me, Lonesome Heart", with Connie Smith and Marty Stuart, is a two-step - lie to me and tell me everything's all right!

"My Old Kentucky and You" - Ricky Skaggs carries lead vocal, Larry is doing harmony vocals, Aubrey Haynie is playing fiddle, Kenny Ingram on banjo, and Kevin Richardson on guitar - this a Bill Monroe quick tempo tune!

"Shelly's Winter Love" has Ronnie Reno singing low tenor vocal. This is Merle Haggard song. Larry gives it a tempo lift - with Jason Barie on fiddle.

"Me and My Old Banjo" a Sonny Osborne song - featuring Sonny himself joined by Ronnie Reno. Kristin Scott Benson is playing the banjo and the guys get to sing.

"The Bluebirds Singing for Me" -this is a Mac Wiseman song. The lead is sung by Dudley Connell, the man that sang lead for The Johnson Mountain Boys - I have every album the Johnson Mountain Boys ever made and I sat in the pouring rain at many festivals just to hear Dudley's voice. This song moves right along -Larry gets to sing harmony - it's great!!!

"Give This Message to Your Heart" is an Ira and Charlie Louvin song featuring Daley and Vincent - whew! Still my beating heart!

It just keeps getting better! How do they change keys without taking breath? The soaring vocals at the end are fantastic!

“Have You Come to Say Goodbye” - Del McCoury and Larry switch back and forth doing lead and harmony with each other. Another up tempo song. Del is always fantastic!

“This Heart of Mine Can Never Say Goodbye” slows down a bit, but we don’t want Dale Ann Bradley to sing too fast because her beautiful voice and angelic style need to linger in our ears. Kevin Richardson breaks your heart with his guitar playing. Beautiful!!

“Traveling Kind”- fast banjo picking by Kristin, Aubrey Haynie plays a haunting fiddle on this minor key tune, and Kevin tears up the guitar!

“You’ll See Jesus” is an Eddie Raven song with Aubrey Haynie playing fiddles. This is sweet song with a lot of meaning and Larry sings it from the heart.

“Mule Skinner Blues” - by Jimmy Rogers and George Vaughn. Larry performs this one with no harmonies, holding those long, long yodels and doing his own rendition - with Jason Barie on fiddle, Kristin playing fantastic banjo. This is especially wonderful!

Of course, Larry plays mandolin on every song - he’s a dynamic, very experienced and very fine mandolin player.

The last cut repeats “Talk to Me Oh Lonesome Heart” with Robby Turner joining in on steel guitar and Tommy Giampietro on drums. This is a originally country song, with Connie Smith singing, so drums aren’t disallowed, but if you don’t like a bluegrass album with a drum, no big deal, turn the music off before the last song.

This is a really fine CD - every song beautifully done in the traditional bluegrass way - every instrument can be heard, harmonies are great, and songs are really well chosen. I love great vocals - a most important part of bluegrass music.

So, let’s wish Larry Stephenson a very happy 20th Anniversary and all of the friends and band members that joined in to make this special album, a very wonderful 2010!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST DBA MEMBERS

Horace & Lillian Barnes Tucson

Peter Clark Tucson

Gene Collins Tucson

Dave & LaVerna Hill Green Valley

Vern Lanham Saddlebrooke

Andrew Potter Tucson

Bruce Scher Tucson

Scott Wander Tucson

Erin Callaghan Tucson

Bonnie Colby Tucson

Larry Garris Green Valley

Dick Holben Green Valley

Michael & Kathy Leonard Tucson

Morris Richardson Tucson

Sue Dayton Tucson

Don Donkowski Tucson

Great Websites Check 'Em Out!

Desert Bluegrass
Associatiom
[www/desertbluegrass/
org](http://www.desertbluegrass.org)

Bluegrass Arizona Blog:
[www.bluegrassarizona.
blogspot.com](http://www.bluegrassarizona.blogspot.com)

Banjo: [www.
banjohangout.org](http://www.banjohangout.org)

Fiddle: [www/fiddlehangout.com](http://www.fiddlehangout.com)

Dobro: [www.reso-
nation.org](http://www.resonation.org) or
www.resohangout.com

Bass: [www.
bluegrassbassplace.
com](http://www.bluegrassbassplace.com)

Daily Dose of
Bluegrass;[www.
bluegrassonthetube.
com](http://www.bluegrassonthetube.com)

Annual Spring Campout Tombstone March 26, 27 & 29, 2010

It's campout time! We always have a great time at the campout and this year promises more of the same!

Bill & Cindy Paul have us all set with the folks at Tombstone RV Park, located on Highway 80 just as you get to Tombstone. (Thanks!)

A pot-luck is again planned for Saturday evening at 5 PM in the park Rec Hall. Y'all bring a dish to share and if you want to cook something on the grill, we'll have that all fired up.

Jams downtown are being negotiated. Info will be available at the campout if you wish to participate.

Full RV hook-ups are available as is tent camping and cabin rentals. A 10% discount is offered for DBA members.

If you want to make reservations at the park call 520-457-3829, 800-348-3829, or www.tombstone-rv.com. See y'all at the campground!

Voyager RV Resort February 8th, 7 PM

Looking for a new place to go hear some of the DBA folks play and get a chance to kick up your heels? How about the Voyager RV Resort located at 8701 S. Kolb, Tucson. This is a special evening for their residents with the DBA providing some of our excellent bluegrass music as part of he entertainment. Admission is \$5. Part of the proceeds are donated back to the DBA.

ALL ASSOCIATION CAMP OUT

March 12, 13 & 14 at Quartzite near MP 115. Free dry camping, porta potties available, Saturday Night Potluck, Sunday 9 AM gospel music (open for anyone who wants to perform, sign up sheet will be passed around at the camp site) It is a week-end of jamming and fun. The purpose of the All Association camp out is to meet and jam with people you do not know. We encourage day campers to come join in. The 2010 camp out is hosted by the ABA. For further info, email Leslie at luvinbluegrass@hotmail.com

Instruction

Bill Breen

Scruggs style banjo by ear. 520-544-2418
www.banjohangout.org/myhangout/music.asp

Corrine Cortese

Fiddle lessons 520-235-3199

Rudy Cortese

Banjo lessons 520-954-2103

Peter McLaughlin

Flatpick & bluegrass guitar: Beginner & advanced 520-529-2992

Mike Purdy

Guitar & mandolin 520-318-0659

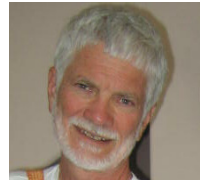
J.P. Thom-Gronachan

Banjo, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, theory 520-682-6201

Mike Wallner

Banjo, Scruggs, melodic & clawhammer 520-327-8259

FESTIVAL UPDATE



Hi Bluegrass Fans,

In the last issue of Grass Clippings we raised the possibility that our 10th Annual Bluegrass Festival could be our last unless we got solid commitments from new volunteers willing to take responsibility for significant tasks – fundraising, publicity, production, volunteer coordination, etc. I am pleased to report that we have had quite a few volunteers step forward. Thanks to Jack Arnold, San & Georgia Brown, Rich Errico, Reid Griffin, Bill & Cindy Paul, Paul Tew, Bill Trapp and Bob Van Hoesen for their commitment. Also thanks to the “old guard” for agreeing to continue – you know who you are. However, while we were clearing that hurdle another one appeared in front of us. Desert Diamond Casino has decided not to host our festival this year so we may have to find a new venue. We have asked Desert Diamond to reconsider and we are assessing what other venues adequate facilities and a desire to host the festival. So stay tuned for further updates. If you want to help or have ideas of possible venues, give me a call (520.760.0745) or e-mail at mbheadrick@aol.com.

Thanks

Mike Headrick



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February/March 2010 Volume 14, Issue 12
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300 copies



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ADDRESS Label

MEMBER OF THE DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

www.DesertBluegrass.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Membership dues for the Desert Bluegrass Association are \$15 annually per family, due March 1st, and includes bulk mailing of the bi-monthly newsletter to each member.

Members joining after November of any year will have their membership extended through the next year. Those joining before November must renew the following March 1st.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email address: _____

Do you wish to be included in the Membership Directory? (check one) Yes No

Complete this form then mail it, along with your personal check or money order payable to Desert Bluegrass Association, to:

Fran Riggs (DBA Membership Secretary)
17247 E Peach Tree Road
Mayer, AZ 86333-4146