

# GRASS CLIPPINGS

Volume 16 Issue 2

June/July 2011

## State of the Grass by President "Doc" Simpson

Greetings Bluegrass Aficionados:

Spring has sprung! And with it there were all kinds of new grass happenings in the Great Southwest! Last fall, Charlie Sides initiated discussions with the Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance ([www.saaca.org](http://www.saaca.org)) to create a brand new Springtime Marana Bluegrass Festival. The DBA caught on to his vision and partnered with SAACA in April to feature terrific bluegrass bands native to Southern Arizona. The lineup included Bear Canyon Ramblers, Bost Family Traditions, Crystal Ridge, Crucial County, Greenwood Sidee, the Greg Morton Band, Jam Pac, Los Hombres, Titan Valley Warheads, and X-Train. A great time was had by all, and the board is considering making this a new DBA tradition. Kudos to Charlie Sides and Klyle Stall for their initiative and tremendous amount of work in putting this together.

Geoff Fox took the helm to lead us in our annual Tombstone "Tune-it-or-Die" campout. It was well attended by both the DBA and ABA members. We had a great concert with Byron Berline which Bill Trapp and Rich Erico coordinated in Saddlebrook. The SOB band played at the Shriner's Temple and again at the "Trees Please" benefit. "SOB" stands for "Same Old Band" – this is a group of players who volunteer to play paying gigs that raise money for the DBA. If you'd like to join the SOB gang, contact Bonnie Lohman. The "Trees Please" gig also debuted a newly formed band, "Drops in the River" featuring Dave Polston, Kyle Brown, Andy Bennett, and Joe Grizzle (Peter filled in for Andy). I'm particularly proud of this band, because these are players who have grown up through our Monday night workshop.

Speaking of the Workshop – it continues to go gangbusters – lots of fun for everybody. We've been seeing more seasoned players joining in to teach the newbies a thing-or-two. We were even able to host two concerts – one with Crystal Ridge and another with the international bluegrass picker – Maro Kawabata.

Then there is our BRAND NEW WEBSITE! Have you gone there yet! It is fantastic! Pictures, a new calendar format, an interactive forum, local band information, and so much more. This was the result of a tremendous amount of work by Peter Gariepy, Bonnie Lohman, and Andy MacLeod. What they have done is so impressive – it gives a great first impression for those new to the DBA, improves the dissemination of information concerning all things bluegrass, and strengthens our bonds as an organization. They did a really, really great job.



Whew! All this is pretty incredible when you consider we are an all-volunteer organization. I'll say it again – our single greatest resource is our membership. Because of the faithful work and enthusiasm of our members; we have one of the most exciting and active bluegrass associations in the country.

So where to from here?

How about a road trip to Camp Bluegrass in Levelland, TX? This July 17<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, a bunch of DBA members are going to be at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Camp Bluegrass at South Plains College, 30 miles west of Lubbock. This is a residential picking camp for bluegrass musicians of all ability levels. There are learning tracks for banjo,

CONTINUED on PAGE 3

## -OFFICERS-

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Bonnie Lohman	(520) 349-4812	basslady78@comcast.net
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Jim (Doc) Reifschneider	(520) 290-6615	reifdoc@aol.com
Bill Trapp	(520) 825-5890	trapp@wbhsi.net

## How to Contact the DBA

**Newsletter Editor--Bonnie Lohman:** For information concerning Letters to the Editor, Reviews, contributing newsletter articles, submitting Concert & Band Listing information

**Webmaster--Bonnie Lohman:** For information concerning the DBA website [www.desertbluegrass.org](http://www.desertbluegrass.org) contact the webmaster at [basslady78@comcast.net](mailto:basslady78@comcast.net)

**Membership Secretary--Mike Headrick:** To join the DBA, renew a membership or submit an address change, contact Mike via phone at (520) 760-0745, email [MBHeadrick@aol.com](mailto:MBHeadrick@aol.com) or snail mail 13308 Placita el Algodon Tucson, AZ 85749

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

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

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

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### 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  
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 DBA members free space permitting

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## President's Message (continued)

bass, dobro, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and vocals. Campers stay in dorms on campus or in conveniently located RV sites and eat in the school's cafeteria. This is a great opportunity to learn from world-class instructors, take your playing to the next level, laugh a lot, strengthen old friendships, and make new ones. All this for only \$600 – that's for five days of room-and-board, expert instruction, and nightly professional concerts that will blow your socks off. So come on, what are you waiting for? Go break open that piggy bank and create a great summer experience. Find out more at [www.campbluegrass.com](http://www.campbluegrass.com). Email me at [shrinkdoctor@earthlink.net](mailto:shrinkdoctor@earthlink.net) if you plan to attend. We'll be coordinating a possible car-caravan leaving from Tucson.

Be sure to check out our clinics on taking care of your musical instrument – described below. Go forth, do good.  
“Doc” Simpson

## CARE AND FEEDING OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

On June 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, James Tanguay will be doing four special clinics at the Monday night workshop on taking care of musical instruments. James has been repairing and building instruments since 1991 and at the Folk Shop for the past 10 years. He has setup and repaired every imaginable folk and bluegrass instrument and plays a wide array of folk wind instruments. For the clinics he will do “show-and-tell” with damaged instruments, demonstrate how to restring the instrument, do a proper setup, humidification, wood care, truss rod adjustment, and much, much more. There is no charge for the clinics and you do not need to pre-register. Just show up. You do not want to miss this!

June **20<sup>th</sup>** (Monday night Workshop, at Christ Community Church, 7801 E. Kenyon Dr.)

6:30 pm – *The Care and Feeding of a Guitar and Mandolin*

7:30 pm – *The Care and Feeding of a Bass and Fiddle*

June **27<sup>th</sup>** (Monday night Workshop, at Christ Community Church, 7801 E. Kenyon Dr.)

6:30 pm – *The Care and Feeding of a Banjo and Banjolins*

7:30 pm – *The Care and Feeding of a Dobro and Autoharp*

## Welcome to Our New Members and Returning Members

### New Members:

Sandy Tudor	Vail	Jim Swafford	Tucson
Norma Luchsinger	Wheat Ridge, CO	Dick Reeves	Tucson
John Hooper	Tucson	Robert Seaman	Tucson
Dan Thompson	Tucson	Bill Eley	Tucson
Shaun Alf & Family	Palominas	John Clark	Tucson
Aimee Kibbey	Tucson	Jeffery Collins	Tucson
Michael Lynch	Tucson	Zach Newman	Tucson

### Returning Members:

Johnny & Merrienne Lange	Sierra Vista	Kyle Brown	Tucson
John & Cynthia Lytle	Tucson		

## 17th Street Market Clinics

### Bass clinic with Evan Dain

Saturday June 18 @ 2-4 PM  
17th Street Market, 840 E 17th Street, Tucson, AZ  
Further info: Marshall 520-907-9698

### Banjo clinic with Jeff Sanders

Saturday July 16 @ 2-4 PM  
17th Street Market, 840 E 17th Street, Tucson, AZ  
Further info: Marshall 520-907-9698

### E-mail to the Editor

Just a quick note to say what a great new website! Awesome. Thank you!  
Martha E.  
(Grinner)

## Great Websites

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

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

Mandolin:<http://www.mandohangout.com/>

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

## Radio

The Bluegrass Radio Show with Milo  
Saturday 10 am - 12 noon  
KXCI 91.3 FM

## Instruction

### Bill Breen

Scruggs style banjo by ear. 520-544-2418  
[www.banjohangout.org/myhangout/music.asp](http://www.banjohangout.org/myhangout/music.asp)

### Corrine Cortese

Fiddle lessons 520-235-3199

### Rudy Cortese

Banjo lessons 520-954-2103

### Nick Coventry

Fiddle lessons 805-252-1851

### Greg Morton

Bluegrass Guitar lessons 520-682-2558

### 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

## Jams & Open Mics

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All DBA sponsored jams are listed on the DBA website at [www.DesertBluegrass.org](http://www.DesertBluegrass.org) & on the enclosed calendar

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### Emeritus Retirement Center Jam

8151 S. Speedway Blvd  
2nd Wednesday  
5:30-6:30 PM  
Info: JoAnn [joscuts@yahoo.com](mailto:joscuts@yahoo.com)

### 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

### Autoharp jam

Glass Onion Café  
1990 W. River Road  
Tuesday 1-4 PM  
Info: Bonnie 520-349-4812

Saddlebrooke Jam  
38759 S Mountain View Blvd  
Workshop at 2:30 pm  
Jam 4-6 pm  
Info: Rich 520-881-0358

O'Shaughnessy's Steakhouse  
2200 N Camino Principal  
First Tuesday at 7 PM  
Info: Bill Paul 520-256-4592

## Associations

### Arizona Bluegrass Association

7257 N. 50th Dr.  
Glendale, AZ 85301  
Rick Rhodes--Chair  
623-435-8406  
[luvkomidy@hotmail.com](mailto:luvkomidy@hotmail.com)  
[www.azbluegrass.org](http://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](http://www.tftm.org)

### Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association

PO Box 26531  
Tucson, AZ 85726  
[www.tkma.org](http://www.tkma.org)

### Tucson Old Time Music Circle

[Banjo\\_brad@thegrid.net](mailto:Banjo_brad@thegrid.net)  
Brad 520-818-0260  
[www.totmc.org](http://www.totmc.org)

## Jams & Open Mics

**Open Mic at The Hut on 4th Ave**  
**Every other Monday 6:30 PM**  
**Info: Rudy Cortese@gmail.com**

**Canyon's Crown Open Mic**  
**6958 E Tanque Verde Road**  
**Third Tuesday at 7 PM**  
**Info: Phil 520-885-8277**

## Bands

### Bear Canyon Ramblers

Marilyn 520-760-0479  
[bluegrassjamboree@gmail.com](mailto:bluegrassjamboree@gmail.com)  
[www.bearcanyonramblers.com](http://www.bearcanyonramblers.com)

### Brush Arbor Revival

Peggy 928-713-3616  
[Bluegrassdove21@wildblue.net](mailto:Bluegrassdove21@wildblue.net)

### Cadillac Mountain

Corrine 520-235-3199

### Desert Sun String Band

Charlie Sides 520-579-5918  
[www.myspace.com/desertsunstringband](http://www.myspace.com/desertsunstringband)

### Dusty River Boys

Rich Errico 520 818 0358  
[Rerrico1@q.com](mailto:Rerrico1@q.com)

### Greg Morton

520-682-2558

### Los Hombres

Kenny Erickson 520-235-7473

### Manzanita Bluegrass

Reid Griffin 520-349-4321  
[Manzanitabluegrass@dakotacom.net](mailto:Manzanitabluegrass@dakotacom.net)

### Peter Mc Laughlin

520-529-2992

### Rincon Mountain Boys

[www.rinconmountainboys.com](http://www.rinconmountainboys.com)  
Mike Masters  
[zmike72@yahoo.com](mailto:zmike72@yahoo.com)  
520.403.8865

### The Bost Family Tradition

Jeff Bost 520-432-5053  
[JeffBost@earthlink.net](mailto:JeffBost@earthlink.net)

### 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](mailto:Whistlestopbluegrass@cox.net)  
<http://www.myspace.com/whistlestopbluegrass>

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

Thought you pickers might enjoy some quotes I came across:

Bill Breen

"Classic folk music. I hate that stuff. My dad had a Kingston Trio record, and even at the tender age of 7 I could tell this stuff was for dweebs. The sound probably hung in your clothes like cigarette smoke; you'd pass bullies, they'd twitch their nose, hiss "Tom Dooley!" and beat you up. It's so frickin' earnest, that's what kills me. And so lyrically inane: "If I had a hammer." Well, what's stopping you? Go to the hardware store; they're about a buck-ninety, tops."  
- James Lileks

"Compare music to drinks. Some is like a strong brandy. Some is like a fine wine. The music you're playing sounds like Diet Coke."  
- Luciano Pavarotti

"I want another banjo. Sure, I own two banjos already, but the world is a sad place these days and I think extra precautions are needed."  
- John Kavanagh

"The banjo is the swiss army knife of the darkside."  
- [www.jakerock.com](http://www.jakerock.com)

"Nothing says 'dropping out of society' like learning the banjo."  
- Daniel Roth, *Fortune* magazine, January 21, 2002

"If singing rap is a gift, I think I'd rather have a toaster."



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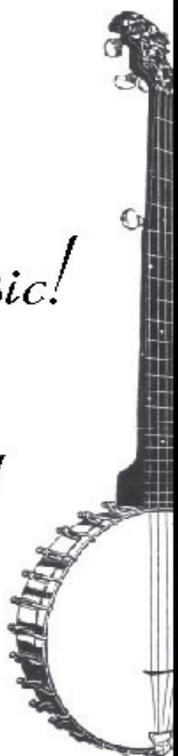
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## Tucson's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Desert Bluegrass Festival Presented by the Desert Bluegrass Association

Hi folks,

In the last issue of Grass Clippings we announced that our 12<sup>th</sup> festival will be **October 28, 29 and 30, 2011 at the beautiful AVA Amphitheater.** We also announced that our headline band would be **Blue Highway** that the **Kickin Grass Band** from North Carolina will appear and that **Steve Smith and Hard Road** will come from New Mexico. (Betty and I saw Steve Smith last Friday night in Sahuarita and they are fantastic.) So what is new? Quite a lot so read on.

We have completed our band lineup by adding great regional and local talent. **The Jam Pak Blues 'N' Grass Neighborhood Band** will perform on Saturday. We welcome Anni and her crew for the 11<sup>th</sup> year! **Whistle Stop Bluegrass Band** - our band contest winner from last year - will perform both Saturday and Sunday. **Crucial County** and **Titan Valley** will appear during the day on Saturday and **Copper River** will open our first ever Saturday evening show. Sunday will feature a gospel set by **Manzanita Bluegrass**, and performances by the **Rincon Mountain Boys** and the **Dusty River Boys**. Rounding out the performances will be the top three winners from our Friday Evening Band Contest – that could even be you! So it is shaping up to be a great weekend of music with a great national headliner, a young up-and-coming band with a great female singer / song writer playing for the first time in Arizona, fantastic regional talent and a great bunch of home grown talent.

Did I mention that we are going to have a Saturday evening show? Last year, a lot of people remarked that with the great venue like the AVA Amphitheater we should have an evening show – so we are going to do it! Opening the show at 7 pm will be **Copper River** – the Phoenix band with an all-star line-up. Following them will be the **Kickin Grass Band** from Raleigh N.C. and closing the show will be **Blue Highway!** We are offering a special entry price of \$15 for this fantastic show. Of course, weekend and Saturday passes will be honored but, in addition, we hope to attract local folk who don't have the time for an entire day or weekend but would enjoy an evening concert. Hopefully we will attract some new people to Bluegrass Music. This is a rare opportunity to hear world-class bluegrass music performed in the premier entertainment destination in Southern Arizona – Casino del Sol's AVA amphitheater.

In addition, your DBA membership just got more valuable. The DBA board has approved festival discounts to DBA members. By presenting your DBA membership card, you will receive a \$5 discount on weekend passes - limited to a maximum of two passes per membership. Remember that the mailing label for this newsletter serves as your membership card – unless it says that it expires 2-11. In that case you need to renew today to not miss this discount and all the other benefits of being a DBA member..

Each year we offer people the opportunity to support our festival in a special way. For a \$100 contribution, you may become a **FESTIVAL PATRON**. We will list your name in the festival program as well as in Grass Clippings as being a patron. This year you get more. We will give each patron 10 tickets to the Saturday evening show that they can give to friends, family or business associates. You can now invite all those friends who say they would like to come to the festival but never quite get there to a great evening show. To become a **FESTIVAL PATRON** send your check for \$100 made out to **DBA Festival** to:

Mike Headrick

13308 Placita el Algodon

Tucson, AZ 85749

Well now you are up to date on our plans so it is time to make your plans. Mark your calendar now for a great weekend of Bluegrass Music in the fall.

Mike Headrick

## Tombstone 'Tune It Or Die' Campout - March 25-27, 2011

It was a bright and sunny Friday morning, another great southern Arizona day, as I drove down to the Fry's on south Houghton to rendezvous with Jack McMeeken for our annual pilgrimage to the DBA's Tombstone campout. Jack and I have been RV pooling, in his RV mind you!, for a number of years now and have an established routine of loading up in Fry's parking lot and ambling down interstate 10 to the McDonald's on the west side of Benson for our lunchtime Big Macs. On the way we banjo pickers trade the latest gossip about our fellow DBA members, as well as consider and often solve numerous current worldly problems. We have found our US/Canadian collaboration to be a particularly powerful intellectual combination.

One item of consideration over our Big Mac repast is to carefully weigh the pros and cons of proceeding to Tombstone by way either highway 80, which necessitates getting back on 10 and navigating through all the traffic in Benson, OR, to immediately turn south out of McDonalds and head for the next traffic light on 90, some 22 miles down the road. Knotty, nebulous topics as these require full stomachs and much sober thought.

This year we reached the sun was still shining but, as seems to was blowing with, as the British might by the inability of the receptionist to the park's curious accounting system; a other attendees. Something to but were soon disappointed to find that point - not a good sign. As organizer of word had not gotten out as effectively year had foreshadowed consideration realized that nothing had been done to the job and scrambled about making everyone came to hear about it as newsletter and website. Hey! Give me a break! This is an all volunteer outfit.



Tombstone RV park by mid afternoon. The have become part of the routine, the wind say, 'Great Vigor'. Our check in was delayed negotiate our special DBA discount through problem later found out to have plagued remember for next year! We found our spot only one other DBA'er had shown up by that the event I became fearful that maybe the as it should have. Earlier DBA activities this of our campout and only at a late date was it get the campout off the ground. I opted for arrangements but was unsure whether announcements had missed both the

By late afternoon only a few more pickers had straggled in and attendance was looking bleak indeed. And jamming that night was meager to say the least. However, by Saturday morning things turned around rapidly and several jams were in swing by the time I got up. We were scheduled to go into town just before noon to pick at Big Nose Kate's and the Crystal Palace. While this is an activity I've always enjoyed I soon found difficulty getting other jammers to break up and drive into town. I got a big assist from some grinners asking where we were going to play down town. This proved to be the motivation needed to get everyone to pack up and make the move. We assembled about 15 pickers and I divided them into two bands to perform simultaneously in Kate's and the Palace. After getting everyone situated I ended up playing in the Palace for the duration. Both establishments were packed with tourists and I heard afterwards that the Kate band had a good time. About six of us played the Palace for around 2 1/2 hours and 'done real good' picking up a modest amount of spare change in our tip jar. I find it a blast performing in those old saloons. Everything broke up around 3 pm and we all headed back to the RV park. Jamming continued on from there but was impacted (somewhat) by the U of A's basketball team's late afternoon appearance in the NCAA tournament - a game they ended up losing by 2 points.

A potluck was planned for 6 pm and by then a large number of pickers, grinners, and camp followers had assembled in the recreation trailer provided by the RV park. The food outlay exceeded previous years in both quantity and quality. As an aside I, as the most likely candidate as organizer for next year's campout, would like to suggest we encourage the idea of a 'gourmet' potluck challenge. This is not to be taken as a complaint about the present quality, I just think it sounds like a neat idea.

Following our pig out we commenced with our pick out, a large jam comprising about 15-20 pickers and as many grinners fawning appreciatively around us. "Hey, that guy is pretty good". I would guess this to be probably our largest turnout to date and this despite not having as many of our Phoenix friends as in the past years. While we missed their presence I don't know what we would have done had they showed up in force, as our 'event' building is not that large and nightly temperatures were again not that kindly on picking fingers. Regardless, we picked for a number of hours and most hit the sack at a reasonable time. Over the years I've come to note that we are not as young as we used to be and that most now seem to prefer sleep over all night picking sessions! Whatever, Saturday's bottom line proved the campout to be a huge success, a great relief to me.

Sunday morning saw a nice gospel jam getting off the ground early and continuing for a number of hours. As far as I could tell everyone having something to say to the guy above got their chance. By noon most everyone had packed up and headed for home, as has become customary. Jack and I headed for our routine Sunday breakfast at the Longview restaurant on Allen street, which I can vouch for as offering one of the best breakfasts in the Southwest. Then we spent the entire trip back to Tucson gossiping about our DBA friends and commiserating about how awful they must feel for not playing the banjo.

Geoff Fox



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## The Difference Between Bluegrass and Old Time Music

### BANJO:

An OT banjo is open-backed, with an old towel (probably never washed) stuffed in the back to dampen sound. A BG banjo has a resonator to make it louder.

An OT banjo weighs 5 pounds, towel included. A BG banjo weighs 40 pounds.

A BG banjo player has had spinal fusion surgery on all his vertebrae, and therefore stands very straight. If an OT banjo player stands, he slouches.

An OT banjo player can lose 3 right-hand fingers and 2 left-hand fingers in an industrial accident without affecting his performance.

A BG banjo needs 24 frets. An OT banjo needs no more than 5, and some don't need any.

A BG banjo player puts jewelry on his fingertips to play. An OT banjo player puts super glue on his fingernails to strengthen them. Never shake hands with an OT banjo player while he's fussing with his nails.

### FIDDLE:

A BG fiddle is tuned GDAE. An OT fiddle can be in a hundred different tunings.

OT fiddlers seldom use more than two fingers of their left hand, and uses tunings that maximize the number of open strings played. BG fiddlers study 7th position fingering patterns with Isaac Stern, and take pride in never playing an open string.

An OT fiddle player can make dogs howl & incapacitate people suffering from sciatic nerve damage

An OT fiddle player only uses a quarter of his bow. The rest is just wasted.

The BG fiddler paid \$10,000 for his fiddle at the Violin Shop in Nashville. The OT fiddler got his for \$15 at a yard sale.

### GUITAR:

An OT guitarist knows the major chords in G and C, and owns a capo for A and D. A BG guitarist can play in E-flat without a capo.

The fanciest chord an OT guitarist needs is an A to insert between the G and the D7 chord. A BG guitarist needs to know C#aug+7-4.

OT guitarists stash extra picks under a rubber band around the top of the peghead. BG guitarists would never cover any part of the peghead that might obscure the gilded label of their \$3,000 guitar.

### MANDOLIN:

It's possible to have an OT band without a mandolin.

Mandolin players spend half their time tuning their mandolin and the other half of their time playing their mandolin out of tune

OT mandolin players use 'A' model instruments (pear shaped) by obscure makers. BG mandolin players use 'F' model Gibsons that cost \$100 per decibel.

### BASS:

A BG band always has a bass. An old OT band doesn't have a bass, but new time OT bands seem to need one for reasons that are unclear.

A BG bass starts playing with the band on the first note. An OT bass, if present, starts sometime after the rest of the band has run through the tune once depending on his blood alcohol content

A BG bass is polished and shiny. An OT bass is often used as yard furniture.

### OTHER INSTRUMENTS

A BG band might have a Dobro. An OT band might have anything that makes noise including: hammered or lap dulcimer, jaw harp, didgeridoo, harmonica, conga, wash tub bass, miscellaneous rattles & shakers, or 1 gallon jug (empty).

### INSTRUMENTATION:

All the instruments in an OT band play together all the time. BG bands feature solos on each instrument. BG bands have carefully mapped-out choreography due to the need to provide solo breaks. If OT band members move around, they tend to run into each other. because of this problem, OT bands often sit down when performing, while a BG band always stands.

Because they're sitting, OT bands have the stamina to play for a square or contra dance. The audience claps after each BG solo break. If anyone claps for an OT band it confuses them, even after the tune is over.

### THE MUSIC:

OT songs are about whiskey and food.

BG songs are about God, mother and the girl who did me wrong.

If the girlfriend isn't murdered by the third verse, it ain't Bluegrass

OT bands have nonsense names like 'Hoss Hair Pullers' 'Fruit Jar Drinkers' and 'Skillet Lickers'. BG bands have serious gender-specific name like 'Bluegrass Boys,' 'Foggy Mountain Boys', and 'Clinch Mountain Boys' The most common OT keys are major and modal (i.e. minor). BG uses major, mixolydian, Dorian and minor keys A BG band has between 1 and 3 singers who are singing about an octave above their natural vocal range. Some OT bands have no singers at all.

A BG band has a vocal orchestrator who arranges duet, trio and quartet harmonies.

In an OT band, anyone who feels like it can sing or make comments during the performance.

All BG tunes & songs last 3 minutes. OT tunes & songs sometimes last all night.

### PERSONALITIES & STAGE PRESENCE:

BG band members wear uniforms, such as blue polyester suits and gray Stetson hats. OT bands wear jeans, sandals, work shirts and caps from seed companies.

Both the Stetsons and seed caps cover bald spots.

Chicks in BG bands have big hair and Kevlar undergarments. Chicks in OT bands jiggle nicely under their overalls.

A BG band tells terrible jokes while tuning. An OT band tells terrible jokes without bothering to tune.

BG band members never smile. OT band members will smile if you give them a drink.

You can get fired from a BG band for being obviously drunk on stage.

BG musicians eat barbecue ribs. OT musicians eat tofu.

BG musicians have high frequency hearing loss from standing near the banjo player. OT musicians have high frequency hear loss from standing near the fiddler.

### FESTIVALS:

A BG band travels in an old converted Greyhound bus that idles all weekend with the air conditioner running full blast, and fumigates the county with diesel exhaust. The band's name and Inspirational Statement are painted on both the side and front of the bus in script lettering.

An OT band travels in a rusted-out 1965 VW microbus that blows an engine in North Nowhere, Nebraska. It's pretty evident that their vehicles don't have air conditioning.

BG bumper stickers are in red, white and blue and have stars and/or stripes on them. OT bumper stickers don't make any sense (e.g. 'Gid is My Co-Pilot')

BG musicians stay on the bus or at the nearest Motel 6. OT musicians camp in the parking lot.

**DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION**  
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Tucson, AZ 85750-2819

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## 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.

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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:

Mike Headrick (DBA Membership Secretary)  
13308 Placita el Algodon  
Tucson, AZ 85749