



DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter



Grass Clippings

Volume 27 Issue 3

August — September 2021



DBA—Get Ready for Fall Workshops

By Dave Polston, DBA President

Hey, Pickers & Gridders! The summer is in full swing, but fall will be here before we know it! I'm sure you are all waiting for the temps to drop. We will be gearing up for workshops the week after Labor Day (September 13 & 14) so I thought I would take this opportunity to review what the workshops are all about.

Starting in mid-September, we will have two workshops a week. The Monday workshops are on the east side, Sept. 13 and 20 at the VFW and Sept. 27 at St. Francis in the Foothills Church (River and Swan). These are newer locations; we lost Christ Community Church at the end of last year. August dates will continue as scheduled. The weekly Tuesday workshops start up Sept. 14 in Marana at Ora Mae Harn District Park community center. See the calendar for addresses and updates. This last year, as we all know, was hard on us all and keeping the association active was tough. We did keep workshops going with the assistance of "zoom," but we all know that's just not the same as playing with others in real time. Prior to "The Covid," 40-50 people were attending our Monday night workshop. Many players had been attending for a while and were developing their jam skills and even learning to sing and lead songs. This led to us splitting up the groups and putting those intermediate players in settings where they could advance their playing and skills in jamming. That is what makes bluegrass music such a special genre: you can go to a festival or jam and play with people you've never met before and even play songs you've never heard or attempted to play. This can also be intimidating sometimes. I feel what makes our association so great is that our workshops get people to that level. I know I wouldn't be the musician I am today if I had not found the DBA and their workshops.

Unfortunately, we are unable to teach you how to play your instruments, but we do have many instructors and specific instrument workshops that can guide you with that; see page 14 for instructors. The purpose and concept of the workshop is to teach you jamming skills, and it's a place to work on your rhythm and learn "breaks" in a slower-paced atmosphere.

So, to get everyone ready for workshops, I have included some YouTube links I created (except fiddle, I'm not quite ready but am working on it, and I found a good one on chops) on what each instrument should be doing "rhythmically" during the vocals and while other instruments take their "breaks." These are just the basic ideas of "rhythm" playing and can be expanded on greatly. Also, there is a video on breaking down chord progressions and one on jam technique and etiquette.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

➔ **Also in this issue:** *New member welcome: 3. DBA Fall Campout: 4. Association news: 5. Fiddler's Corner: WoodSongs Coffeehouse Tucson: 8. New DBA Calendar page: 12. Bands: 13. Instructors: 14. Classifieds: 16.*

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*DBA Members Free, Space Permitting

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DBA, *continued*

You should use the workshops as a platform to practice new routines and become a strong rhythm player: 95% of the song you are playing rhythm and 5% of the song you are playing your break. We all want to sound good on our breaks cause that is where we shine and everyone is listening to you. But it seems that most players spend 95% of their practice time working on breaks and 5% of their time on rhythm. This should be transferred to more of a 50/50 split in your practice.

In September we will begin with Year 1 session 1 of Bill Monroe. I urge all levels of pickers to attend this first workshop Sept. 13 (check calendar for location). We will set up the format for beginners, intermediates, and advanced players. Also looking for leaders to help with all the levels.

Well, I'm off to the Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival this weekend in Hamilton, Montana. Looking forward to hearing great bands and utilizing my jamming skills I obtained over the years through the DBA workshops! AND, another great place to utilize your jamming skills will be the upcoming DBA Fall Camp-out at Lake Patagonia. See the next page for details!

YOUTUBE LINKS

Guitar rhythm	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfROpuzyOjI&t=7s
Guitar passing tones and walks	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vfv5h75dN4&t=21s
Guitar G run	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y2_-0nwwQE&t=7s
Banjo basic back up roll	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUoYzJDAEKo&t=9s
Banjo tag lick	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFtS_UxvE4c&t=11s
Mandolin chops	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muODsEcZa2g&t=10s
Dobro back up rolling	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2V_sNHQVv0&t=58s
Dobro back up "raking"	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1wkBjG5Wdg&t=54s
Fiddle chops	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbFuuF9w2PM&t=698s
Understanding and breaking down chord progressions	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV0A0Avk7uk
Jamming technique and etiquette	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aAt6e3xSuo



Welcome to Our New & Returning Members

Diana Mattick

Green Valley

Nancy & Henry Zuniga

Tucson



Come one, Come all!

DBA Annual Campout at Lake Patagonia

October 1, 2, and 3, 2021

► **Reserve your spot now!** ◀



Hey Everyone, we are only two months away from our annual campout at Lake Patagonia, October 1,2 and 3, 2021. Last year was a blast! Even with Covid amongst us, a large group of pickers showed up and it made for a great weekend.

With the heat still in the air, now is a great time to reserve the date and a camping spot if you need one. We have reserved and paid for all the camp spots around a large circle of grass and trees to ensure that our group is the only one in the area. There will be several scheduled jams throughout the weekend (we have some canopies for shade, along with the trees), along with enough time for hiking, swimming, fishing, kayaking, and boating. Lake Patagonia is the perfect oasis in southern Arizona for these activities, and to top it off, blue-grass jamming in between! Last year we had many spectators from outside our circle come and appreciate the fine music we were offering up. (No one called the cops on us!!) Just like last year, we will have a DBA band performing for us and other guests at the park Saturday at 6:00 pm under the ramada at the beach. We had a large crowd (besides us) who sat and thoroughly enjoyed the music!!!

Because Lake Patagonia is such a great getaway just an hour from Tucson, most spots down there fill up a year in advance. Don't delay, send an email to desertbluegrasswebmaster@gmail.com right away requesting a spot. You don't want to miss this great weekend, and if you wait until the last minute, you'll regret it. It's going to be a lot of fun!!!

News from the Association!

ANNOUNCING . . . A New Westside Bluegrass Jam Tucson, Arizona



Second Sunday of the Month

Summer schedule: May through October 7-9 pm

Winter schedule: November through April 2-4 pm

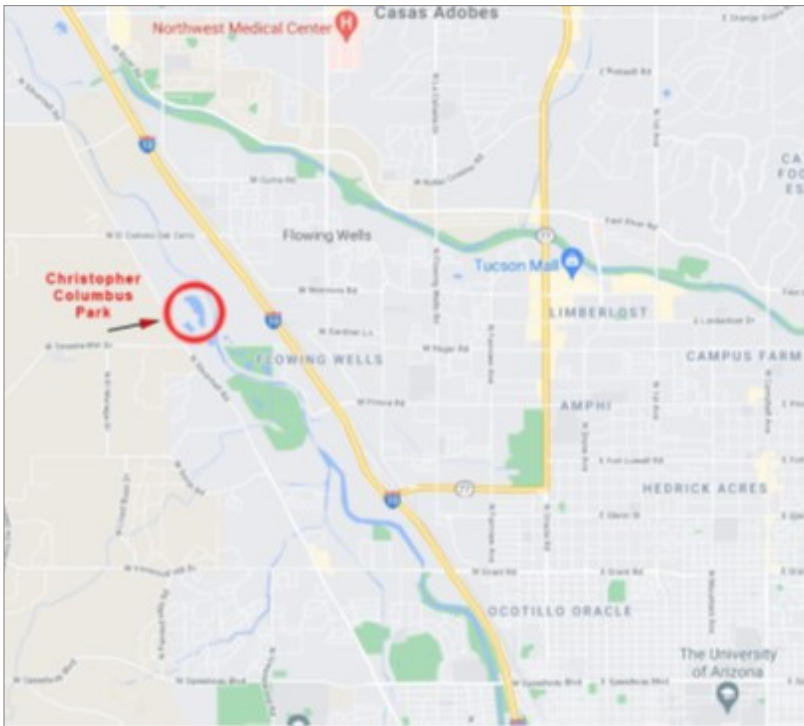
Christopher Columbus Park
4600 N. Silverbell Road
Tucson, AZ 85745



Christopher Columbus Park is located on Silverbell Road and is accessible from I-10 and Grant Road if you are coming from the south, or from I-10 and Ruthrauff Road from the north (watch for construction). Enter the park off Silverbell Road at the signed entrance. Take a left at the fork and continue to the parking lot on the left at the north end of Silverbell Lake.

Jam will be at Ramada 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1. See the maps for detail.

Location of Christopher Columbus Park:



Locations of Ramadas:



More News from the Association!

Owing to changes in the locations and set-up of the DBA Monday night workshops, the DBA is offering the following equipment for sale. All proceeds benefit the Desert Bluegrass Association and help address workshop-related costs.

FENDER PASSPORT PD-250 PORTABLE SOUND SYSTEM

A complete, portable sound system including: Amplifier, Mixer, EQ for each input and output, and two speaker cabinets. Each speaker cabinet has four 6.5-inch speakers. The entire system combines into a single assembly that can be carried to your next gig!

This system comes with the amplifier/mixer, power cable, a reprint of the owner's manual, and speaker cables. The sound system has 4 stereo channels with 8 inputs (4 XLR and 4 line inputs). It also has left and right RCA input jacks for inputs from CD and cassette players and operates on 115VAC power.

The 250-watt amplifier is in very nice condition, is fully functional, and is rated at 125 watts continuous duty each stereo channel.

Only \$250. Proceeds from this sale benefit the Desert Bluegrass Association! For information contact Jerry Wothe at 520-403-3692.



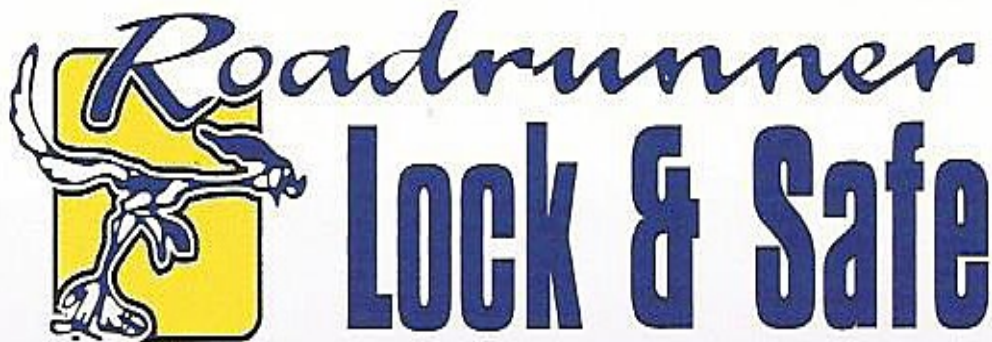
SPEAKER STANDS

One is an On-Stage tripod and the other is a Peak Music tripod. Value: \$ 30 each.

These also are DBA property. The sale benefits DBA and will help compensate for expenses involved in Monday workshop needs.

Contact Jerry Wothe at 520-403-3692.





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FIDDLER'S CORNER

WoodSongs Coffeehouse Tucson

By Suzette Sommerer

There's an exciting new series of concerts coming to Tucson! Spanning a wide array of styles and intended to help musicians truly connect with each other and with their fans, these happenings will focus exclusively on acoustic music in an intimate setting with little or no amplification. They will provide a rare opportunity for fans to see and hear some of Tucson's great musicians up close, and for those musicians to come together, sometimes in their usual groups, sometimes solo, sometimes mixing it up to bring artists together in new combinations.

WoodSongs Tucson is the brainchild of Doug Bowers, a fine guitarist with eclectic tastes and a strong drive to bring back the kinds of musical experiences that made such a powerful impression on him when he was young. His new musical experiment in Tucson was inspired by Michael Jonathon's popular radio program, WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour (<https://www.woodsongs.com>), "an all-volunteer, live audience celebration of grassroots music and the artists who make it." The program airs weekly on 537 radio stations worldwide, and has featured an amazing array of artists, including Hank Williams, Bill Monroe, Béla Fleck, Sam Bush, Odetta, Joan Baez, Tommy Emmanuel, Judy Collins, Rhonda Vincent, J. D. Crowe, and our own Run Boy, Run.

WoodSongs Coffeehouse Tucson (<https://woodsongscoffeehousetucson.godaddysites.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/woodsongs Tucson/>) is patterned on '60s-style coffeehouses where artists performed their music in small, informal settings with audience members close enough to hear and see everything. Tucson's WoodSongs will be hosted by the 17th St. Music Club and housed in the newly renovated event space, Site 17, where the old 17th St. Market used to be. WoodSongs will provide concerts for small audiences of fewer than 50 people, generally once or twice a month, and will feature a wide variety of acoustic musical styles. Doug refers to WoodSongs as "a venue with no menu" to emphasize that the focus will be entirely on the music. Although there may eventually be coffee and tea, one key aspect of this idea is to provide a place where artists and their music are fully heard by their audiences without the distractions of food and conversation. There are too many places in this town where incredibly gifted musicians have become background music. WoodSongs is a strong effort to bring an intensely shared musical experience back to both musicians and audiences, with instruments and voices being heard as they actually sound.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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FIDDLER'S CORNER, continued

While WoodSongs Coffeehouse Tucson is an all-volunteer organization, one of its important pillars is the idea that featured artists should be compensated fairly. The intent is to pay those musicians well with funds WoodSongs raises through donations and merchandise sales. In addition, all tips and any CD or merchandise sales by the artists go directly to them with no cut being taken. Some concerts will have a small admission charge, and that will go to the musicians as well.

An evening might kick off with a few numbers by the house band, followed by the night's featured performers. In keeping with the informal atmosphere, musicians in the audience may be invited up to play a song or two, using one of the house instruments available on stage. Every session will be different, and will vary in style and tone according to the preferences of whoever happens to be playing that night. The hope is that performances will be so engaging and entertaining that both musicians and fans will want to come back and be a part of whatever's happening down the road.



WoodSongs Coffeehouse Tucson will launch with a soft-opening in August with concerts on the 17th and 31st by the house band, Hamilton Beech (Doug Bowers on guitar, Arlene Tomlinson on bass, Marshall Vest on banjo, and yours truly on fiddle). These invitation-only free concerts will give us an opportunity to introduce the WoodSongs concept and help spread the word to the broader Tucson musical community. WoodSongs is inviting the entire DBA, and space is limited, so please email me at s.sommerer@icloud.com if you'd like to attend.



RSVP



THE POSTCARD PEOPLE



520-829-1407
RSVPTucson.com

DBA Calendar for Jams & Workshops

For the most current information and last-minute schedule changes to the DBA's jams and workshops, check the online calendar at: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=nqkrtso114nrj6glt1uth4ifl4@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Phoenix>. The Monday workshops especially are still in flux.

General Info

SUNDAYS	First and third Sundays: Jam @ Udall Park. Summer hours until Oct., 7-9 pm Second Sunday: Jam @ Christopher Columbus Park. Summer hours until Oct., 7-9 pm Fourth Sundays: Jam @ Thirsty's Neighborhood Bar & Grill, 4-6 pm
MONDAYS	Weekly, locations vary; see schedule below and check the online calendar for updates
TUESDAYS	Weekly starting Sep. 14: Workshop @ Ora Mae Harn Park, Marana, 6:30-8:30 pm
THURSDAYS	Third Thursday: Jam @ Pinnacle Peak, 7-9 pm
SATURDAYS	This monthly Jam @ the Veteran's Hospital is cancelled until further notice

Locations

- **Christopher Columbus Park.** 4600 N. Silverbell Rd., Tucson, AZ 85745. Check Ramadas 5, 4, 3, 2, & 1
- **Ora Mae Harn District Park.** 13250 N Lon Adams Rd, Marana, AZ 85653
- **Pinnacle Peak.** 6541 E Tanque Verde Rd, Tucson, AZ 85715. Meet by the gazebo at Trail Dust Town.
- **St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church.** 4625 E River Rd, Tucson, AZ 85718
- **St. Paul's United Methodist Church.** 8051 E Broadway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85710
- **Thirsty's Neighborhood Bar & Grill.** 2422 N. Pantano Rd, Tucson, AZ 85715
- **Udall Park,** Morris K. Udall Regional Park, 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson, AZ 85715
- **Veterans for Foreign Wars (VFW),** 8424 S Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85747. Use the side entry on the south side of the building

Day	Date	Time	Event & Location	Contact
Sunday	Aug 1	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike (520) 403-0168
Monday	Aug 2	6 – 8 pm	Workshop @ VFW	Carole (520) 760-0993
Sunday	Aug 8	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ C. Columbus Park	Bob (775)747-1214
Monday	Aug 9	6 – 8 pm	Workshop @ St. Paul	Carole (520) 760-0993
Sunday	Aug 15	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Aug 16	6 – 8 pm	Workshop @ VFW	Carole (520) 760-0993
Thursday	Aug 19	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Pinnacle Peak	Jerry (520) 749-4149
Sunday	Aug 22	4 – 6 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Aug 23	6 – 8 pm	Workshop @ St. Paul	Carole (520) 760-0993
Monday	Aug 30	6 – 8 pm	Workshop @ VFW	Carole (520) 760-0993
Sunday	Sep 5	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Sep 6	cancelled	No workshop – Labor Day	N/A
Sunday	Sep 12	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ C. Columbus Park	Bob (775)747-1214
Monday	Sep 13	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ VFW	Carole (520) 760-0993
Tuesday	Sep 14	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ Ora Mae Park (Marana)	Jim 520-407-6572
Thursday	Sep 16	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Pinnacle Peak	Jerry (520) 749-4149
Sunday	Sep 19	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Sep 20	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ VFW	Carole (520) 760-0993
Tuesday	Sep 21	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ Ora Mae Park (Marana)	Jim 520-407-6572
Sunday	Sep 26	4 – 6 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Sep 27	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Jam Skills Workshop @ St. Francis	Carole (520) 760-099
Tuesday	Sep 28	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ Ora Mae Park (Marana)	Jim 520-407-6572

TO INSTRUCTORS & BANDS



Would you like your services, band, and/or concerts listed on our website, at www.desertbluegrass.org? Current DBA members can be listed by sending their contact information to Dale Lynne Vickroy at DesertBluegrassWebmaster@gmail.com. Refer to the "Links" tab on the homepage to view current band and instructor information. We have added a second calendar to the website for other (non-DBA sponsored) concerts and events. If you are a member of a band, and have a gig scheduled that you would like added to that calendar, send me the date, time, address and band contact info. You may also include a link to your band's website or to a special event flyer.

BANDS

The 2 Lazy 2 Ranch Band

John Hall 520-647-1234
www.2lazy2ranchband.com

Cabin John

Bookings: Anni Beach 480-963-6811
annibeach1@gmail.com
Web: Howard Anderson 480-897-7425
handy31@mindspring.com
www.cabinjohnbluegrass.com

Dan Levenson and The Cat Mountain Rounders

Dan Levenson 412-551-0933
clawdan1@gmail.com
www.ClawDan.com

Dusty River Bluegrass Band

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romenbuffalo.com

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The Sonoran Dogs

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Brian Davies 520-349-9497
www.thesonorandogs.com

The Speedway Brothers Band

Thom Gelineau
thardwater@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/TheSpeedwayBrothersBand

Titan Valley Warheads

Ed Davenport 520-904-6050
www.facebook.com/The-Titan-Valley-Warheads-161939573828277/

Way Out West

Emmy Creigh 520-323-0704
www.bluebhikku.com/WayOutWest.htm

HAVE A LAUGH

I just got my musician friend a "Get Better Soon" card. He's not sick. I just think he should get better.

How many bluegrass musicians does it take to screw in a light bulb? Four. One to change the light bulb and three to complain that it's electric.

A banjo player decided to learn to play a "real" musical instrument, so he went into a music store and looked around. The sales clerk approached the banjo player and asked, "May I help you?" The banjo player answered, "Yes, I'm interested in the white accordion and the red saxophone." The clerk looked around then finally said, "I can sell you the fire extinguisher, but I can't sell you the radiator. It's attached to the wall."

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GREAT WEBSITES

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www.desertbluegrass.org

Arizona Bluegrass Association

www.arizonabluegrass.com

Bluegrass Arizona Blog

www.bluegrassarizona.blogspot.com

Bluegrass Backing Tracks (Free)

www.fbbts.com/

Bluegrass Lyrics

bluegrasslyrics.com/

Bluegrass Tablature

www.alltabs.com/bluegrass_tabs.php

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www.reso-nation.org

www.resohangout.com

Fiddle:

www.fiddlehangout.com

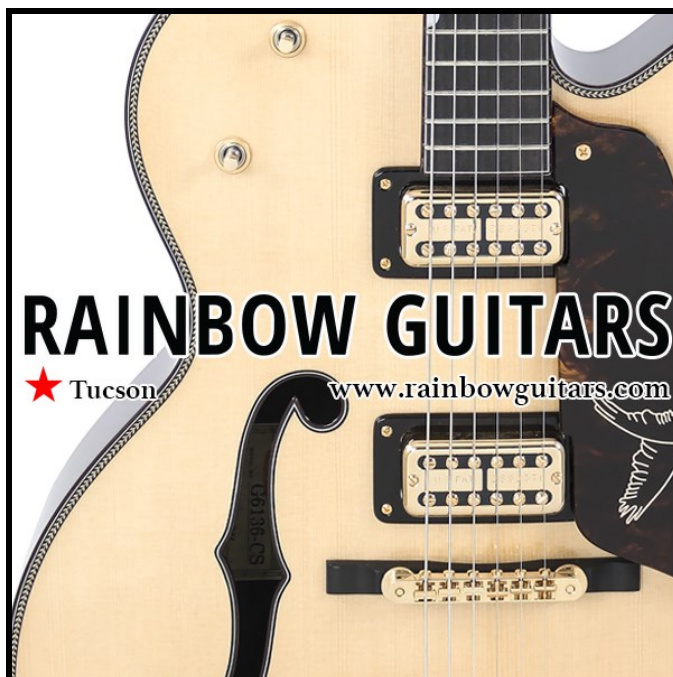
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JAMS & OPEN MICS

Some DBA jams are now up and running!
See the details earlier in this issue and check the [online DBA calendar](#).

Below is the previous list of other, related jams.

Check local contacts for current and future scheduling.

Southern AZ Old Time Fiddlers Association

Unitarian Universalist Church
4831 E 22nd St, Tucson
Tuesday 6:30—8:30pm
Info: Wilbur 520-743-7086

ORCA Bluegrass Jam

700 E Kingston St, Tucson
\$2.00/per person
First Wed. of the month
September through April
(except Holidays), 7-9pm
Info: Shay Cardell 520-357-6432
sierra1@desertsky.us

Casa Grande Airport Jam

1st & 3rd Saturday, 12:00 pm.
Casa Grande Municipal Airport, 3225 N Lear Ave. Casa Grande Az. Acoustic stringed instruments only, NO Amps, Bluegrass songs preferred. Contact Steve Hartwell steve@arizonabluegrass.com

ASSOCIATIONS

Arizona Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 42406
Phoenix, AZ 85080-2406
Mark Jurich, Chairman
markj@arizonabluegrass.com
218-390-7342
www.arizonabluegrass.com

International Bluegrass Music Association

4206 Gallatin Pk.
Nashville, TN 37216
Phone 615-256-3222 | Toll Free 1-888-438-4262
Email info@ibma.org | www.ibma.org

Hall of Fame Bluegrass Music & Museum

311 West Second St.
Owensboro, KY 42301
270-926-7891
888-MY BANJO (toll-free)

Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association

www.arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/index.html

Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association, Southern Arizona Chapter

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

Southwest Old Time String Band Association

wotgathering.com/

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

www.facebook.com/Tucson-Friends-of-Traditional-Music-91279619523/
tucsoncontradancers.org/

Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association

www.tucsonfolkfest.org/
www.facebook.com/TucsonFolkFest/

Desert Bluegrass Association

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Membership dues for the Desert Bluegrass Association are \$20 annually per family and are due March 1st. Members joining after September 1 of any year will have their memberships extended through the next year. Those joining before September 1 must renew the following March 1st.

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Do you wish to be included in the Membership Directory? (Check one) YES NO

What instruments do you play? BANJO BASS FIDDLE GUITAR MANDOLIN
 RESONATOR GUITAR OTHER _____

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 E Placita el Algodon
Tucson, AZ 85749