



DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter



Grass Clippings

Volume 29 Issue 4

October 2023 — November 2023

Message from the President

By Karen Dismachek, DBA President

Hello to all my fellow bluegrass lovers! It has been quite the busy summer and here we are at Fall already! It should be a busy Fall, too, with some new activities in the works.

Workshops

Workshops have started back up at St. Frances in the Foothills and are going well. We plan to continue regularly every Monday at 6:30 PM until Christmas, then we resume in January. Check the DBA calendar on the DBA website to be sure of the dates before you head out to workshop (just in case a last minute change has been made): <https://desertbluegrass.org>. See you there!



DBA members enjoying the Workshop!

Festivals

Many of us went to the Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass and Acoustic Festival in Flagstaff. See my article and photos starting on page 8.



The crowd enjoying the music at the Pickin' in the Pines Music Festival. See more starting on page 8!

President's Letter continued on page 3

➔ **Also in this issue:** New 17th Street Music Club Jam & Concert, 4. Welcome New Members, 5. In Memoriam, Emmett Sam Ole Brown, 7. Pickin' in the Pines, 8. Calendar, 12-13. Classifieds, 14. Instructors and Bands, 15-16. Great Websites, 16. Other Jams & Associations, 17.

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Webmaster: Dale Lynne Vickroy. See the DBA website at www.desertbluegrass.org. For information about the website, contact the webmaster at DesertBluegrassWebmaster@gmail.com.

Membership Secretary: Mike Headrick. To join the DBA, renew a membership, or submit an address change, contact Mike via phone at 520-403-0168, via email at mbheadrick@aol.com, or via snail mail at 13308 Placita el Algodon Tucson, AZ 85749.

Advertising: Cathy Larson. Contact Cathy about ad space at cathy_2545@yahoo.com.

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*DBA Members Free, Space Permitting

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President's Letter, continued from page 1**New Jam at 17th St.**

We have a new jam event starting November 12th at the 17th Street Music Club. It should be really fun and a comfortable jam with plenty of space and a controlled environment inside, and it's hosted by some great DBA musicians. All levels of pickers are welcome! See more information in Marshall's article on the next page (page 4).

As I said, lots of activities in the works for the end of this year and into next year! Keep your eyes on our website and social media for upcoming details.

Happy Fall and keep on pickin'!

Karen

Karen Dismachek
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desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com



Dan Levenson

Arizona Master Artist Awardee



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THE DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION AND THE 17TH STREET MUSIC CLUB TEAM UP FOR A NEW EVENT!

By Marshall Vest



On the second Sunday of each month starting in November, the DBA will sponsor a special **CONCERT AND JAM** with comfortable and ample space for pickers *and gridders*! The 17th Street Music Club will host the event in its big room, known as **Site 17**, in a climate-controlled concert space, complete with a stage and sound system.

Envisioned is a short set featuring one of our fine DBA bands, followed by a jam led by the band. Many bands were formed over the years by DBA members who developed their musical abilities at DBA workshops. This is an opportunity for them to show their stuff, to give back, and to connect with current workshop participants. The latter, in turn, will benefit greatly by getting to hear and pick with DBA all-stars!



Greg Morton leading a jam at the Music Club

Our legendary host for this new event is long-time supporter and bluegrass ambassador, **Greg Morton**. Greg has been the face of bluegrass in Tucson for many years, playing regularly around town to a large and loyal following. He has conducted workshops (aka clinics) for the DBA and appeared several times at DBA festivals. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his flatpicking abilities including the Arizona State Guitar Championship and a TAMMIES (Tucson Area Music Awards) for Best Acoustic Guitarist. He has also played with many bluegrass and country music legends including John Hartford, Chet Atkins, Bill Monroe, Mark O'Connor, and more.

Continued on page 6



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Welcome to Our New & Returning Members

John Anderson	Tucson	Kevin Josker	Tucson
Kathleen Duerksen	Tucson	Jon Kinnaman	Tucson
Stephen Feeley	Vail	Rick Lessard	Tucson
JoAnn Hankin	Sierra Vista	Nick Malone	Tucson
Susan Horn	Tucson	John Tracey	Phoenix
Benjamin Icely	Tucson	Ron Vollbrecht	Flagstaff
Caleb Jacks	Tucson	Brian Warner	Portland / Green Valley

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NEW EVENT! *Continued from page 4*

The **17th Street Music Club (The Club)** was established in 2018, just before Covid. It is a private club and gathering place for musicians and music lovers providing its members with premier access to concerts and events, workshops and seminars, performance opportunities, and music lessons.

The Club has hosted jams, group instruction, and concerts, as well as the 2019 weekend acoustic music camp led by the Hard Road Trio. Currently, **WoodSongs** offers monthly concerts in the coffeehouse setting of the cozy Club room. Also, the Club is home to **Tucson Youth Music**, a nonprofit music center answering the call for music education by offering music lessons free of charge to underserved youth.

Thanks to **Tom Kusian** and the folks at 17th Street (Tucson Party Rentals LLC) for providing this terrific venue!

This new event will be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 2-4 PM starting November 12th. Pickers *and grinners* are welcome! FREE! Open to the public – membership not required. Seating provided.

For more information, contact Marshall Vest at banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com. (ED: boy, does he have a sense of humor!)

Address: 840 E 17th Street, Tucson. Enter Site 17, under the metal awning.

Date & Time: Begins November 12, 2023; continues monthly on second Sundays, 2-4 pm.

*Notice to All Bands, Band Members,
and Instructors*

With the new Site 17 jams and concerts starting up and featuring DBA members and bands, this is a great time to check your Band and Instructor listings in the DBA Newsletter to make sure they are up to date. See page 14 for Band listings and page 15 for Instructor listings.

Please send any new listings, updates to existing listings, or removals to Cathy Larson, the DBA newsletter editor, via email to cathy_2545@yahoo.com.

Any Desert Bluegrass Association member in good standing may have their band and/or instructor contact information listed in the newsletter for free as part of their membership.

IN MEMORIAM



EMETT SAMUEL "SAM" OLE BROWN

(D. November 23, 2022 at age 99)



Emett Samuel "Sam" Ole Brown, 99. Our beloved father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, and friend passed away peacefully on November 23, 2022.

Sam was born in Spokane, Washington. He grew up with his younger brother Jim and sister June in Spirit Lake, Idaho.

In 1942, he entered the U.S. Navy and served during WWII. His fiddle and banjo playing kept his fellow sailors well entertained.

In 1993, Sam moved to Tucson, Arizona. He was a member of the Southern Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association. He spent several years playing fiddle with all his dear friends of the Desert Sun String Band. He was also a fraternal brother of the Masonic Lodge.

We remember Sam for being one of the first members of the Desert Bluegrass Association, along with his wife Georgia.

Sam passed after having a brain bleed. He is truly missed by many, especially his children (Mary Catherine, Joseph Wesley, Sadie Rachel, Laurel Ruth, and Samuel Floyd).



Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass Festival



DBA social club in line before opening time

A large group of DBA members made their way up into the mountains to enjoy the 17th Annual **Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass & Acoustic Music Festival** in Flagstaff. The bands were wonderful. The musicianship was admirable from the starters of the day to the headliners. I was delighted to see that the majority of bands had fiddlers, one (the California Bluegrass Reunion) even had two fiddlers! Being a fiddler and a fiddle fanatic myself, that alone made the festival for me. But there was plenty to enjoy and be inspired by for all bluegrass pickers and grinders. There was a fair number of innovative songs from other genres arranged in a bluegrass style, and done very well, I might add. But for the purist, there was plenty of classic bluegrass music, too. The crowds were hopping in the evening with headliners like Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway, Railroad Earth, and Sam Bush. Sam Bush was awesome on Sunday; the place was packed with all seats occupied and people dancing on either side. His band was fantastic with their tribute to John Hartford. (I especially enjoyed his fiddling. He is a master and a very creative one)

I visited a couple of the workshops and one band demonstration, and although they weren't the kind of workshops you usually see where you play hands-on (they were truly more like demonstrations), they were both informative and entertaining.

The band contest was so much fun to watch. One of the contestants was the band 10 Dollar Wedding.



Arizona Wildflowers on stage



Sam Bush's band

They are a great bluegrass band--keep your eye out for them at our festival in March. Also, of course, the **Arizona Wildflowers** won the band contest: they did an awesome job! Congratulations to them!

Pickin' in the Pines continued on page 10



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Pickin' in the Pines, continued from page 7



Wildflowers near the festival entrance

Aside from the music, the environment is a wonderful place to listen to and play music. It is in a wonderful pine forest that is an average of about 10-20 degrees cooler than Tucson. We did have some weather, including some rain on Friday (but that adds to the atmosphere, right?). It cleared up for the most part on Saturday and Sunday and it was very pleasant. You can camp there in the park, and the town is also just ten minutes away. If you prefer accommodation there, the festival is really easy to get to. Lastly, having all those DBA members there added to the fun and the camaraderie! We were talking to one vendor and mentioned that we were from Tucson and he said, "More people from Tucson. What is going on down there in that town!" We told him: the DBA of course!



Yours truly and Dennis enjoying the show

I know it's almost a year away, but the dates are already set for next year's Pickin' in the Pines for September 13-15, 2024, so mark those calendars!

Other Festivals

On the subject of Arizona bluegrass festivals, another one is coming up soon: the **Wickenburg Bluegrass Festival** November 10-12, 2023. For details, look on **Facebook** under "**Wickenburg Bluegrass Festival.**"



Night view of stage

This is really planning ahead, but our friends at **ABA** (Arizona Bluegrass Association) have also announced their 2nd annual **Arizona Bluegrass Roundup** in Florence, February 2-4, 2024. Details are on the website at florencebluegrass.com

Of course, keep your calendars open for our own festival, the "**Desert Bluegrass Festival**" in Marana, March 8 - 10, 2024. We will keep you posted on the details on our website, newsletters, and social media.

Karen



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DBA Calendar for Jams & Workshops

For the most current information and last-minute schedule changes to the DBA's jams etc., check the online calendar at: [https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=nqkrtso114nrj6glt1uth4ifl4@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Phoenix)

[src=nqkrtso114nrj6glt1uth4ifl4@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Phoenix](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=nqkrtso114nrj6glt1uth4ifl4@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Phoenix).

NOTES:

- Note the NEW concert and jam hosted by the 17th Street Music club on the second Sundays of the month starting November 12, 2023.
- Far Horizons jam has restarted; see info below.
- Trail Dust Town jams are now from 2 to 4 pm.
- Udall park jams will be from 7 to 9 pm in October, then from 2 to 4 pm in November.

General Schedule Info

SUNDAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ First and third Sundays: Jam @ Udall Park, Oct.: 7-9pm. Nov: 2-4pm. ◆ Second Sundays: Jam @ Site 17 (17th St. Music Club), 2-4 pm (starting November 12, 2023). ◆ Fourth Sundays: Jam @ Thirsty's Neighborhood Bar & Grill, 4-6 pm.
MONDAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Weekly workshop, St. Francis in the Foothills. Questions can also be directed to the workshop coordinator at DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com.
THURSDAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Second Thursdays: Jam @ Far Horizons, 7-9 pm. (Performance jam to entertain exclusively residents of Far Horizons.) ◆ Third Thursdays: Jam @ Trail Dust Town, 2-4 pm.

Locations

- **17th Street Music Club**, located at Site 17, 840 E. 17th St., Tucson, AZ.
- **Far Horizons Jam**, 555N Pantano Rd, Tucson, AZ 85710. Tell the gate attendant that you are playing bluegrass music at the clubhouse and get directions if needed.
- **St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church**, 4625 E River Rd, Tucson, AZ 85718. Turn right as you enter the property from River Road to find the Community Room. See signs.
- **Site 17**, see the 17th Street Music Club, above.
- **Thirsty's Neighborhood Bar & Grill**, 2422 N. Pantano Rd, Tucson, AZ 85715.
- **Trail Dust Town**, 6541 E Tanque Verde Rd, Tucson, AZ 85715. Meet by the gazebo at Trail Dust Town.
- **Udall Park**, Morris K. Udall Regional Park, 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson, AZ 85715.

See the next page for the DBA's day-by-day calendar of jams and workshops.
But be sure to check the [DBA online calendar](#) for last-minute changes!

DBA Calendar, *continued*

October 2023

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	Oct. 1	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Oct. 2	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Sunday	Oct. 8	2 – 4 pm	Jam & concert @ 17th Street	Marshall banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com
Monday	Oct. 9	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Sunday	Oct. 15	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Oct. 16	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Oct. 19	2 – 4 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	Oct. 22	4 – 6 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Oct. 23	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Monday	Oct. 30	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com

November 2023

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	Nov. 5	2 – 4 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Nov. 6	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Nov. 9	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Far Horizons	Mike 520-403-0168
Sunday	Nov. 12	2 – 4 pm	Jam & concert @ 17th Street	Marshall banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com
Monday	Nov. 13	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Nov. 16	2 – 4 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	Nov. 19	2 – 4 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Nov. 20	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Sunday	Nov. 26	4 – 6 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Nov. 27	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com



Enjoying the jam at Trail Dust Town!

CLASSIFIEDS

Hey Pickers, After being in Montana and Albuquerque for quite a while, I am back in the great state of Arizona. If any of you are interested in lessons on banjo, guitar, dobro, or mandolin, give me a shout at Davepolston@yahoo.com or call me at **520-245-6126**.

El Rio Violino Repair of violin-family instruments, bow rehairing, violins for sale. Call Marc Rennard, 314 313-0318 (located on west side of Tucson).

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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

Cabin John Bluegrass

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

Dust Devils

Rudy Mamula 520-977-5543
tucsonrudy@msn.com

Dusty River Bluegrass Band

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Jam Pak Blues 'N' Grass Neighborhood Band

Anni Beach 480-963-6811
annibeach1@gmail.com
www.jampak.org

Just Plain Folk

Rob Wright 520-370-4843
 Suzette Sommerer:
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 240-463-1985
tradbanjo@comcast.net
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Kentucky Sky Bluegrass

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Linda Lou & The Desert Drifters

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reighlej@cox.net

MojoGrass

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North of Lonesome

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ocotillorain.com

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www.resohangout.com

Fiddle:

www.fiddlehangout.com

Guitar:

www.bluegrassguitar.com/

Mandolin:

www.mandohangout.com/
www.mandolincafe.com/

JAMS & OPEN MICS

Below is the previous list of selected other, non-DBA-related jams.

Check local contacts for current and future scheduling. Some jams may no longer be running or may have changed schedules and/or locations.

Southern AZ Old Time Fiddlers Association

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

Open Acoustic Jam in Oracle

First Thursday of every month
6:30-8:30 pm
October through April
Oracle Community Center
685 E American Ave, Oracle,
AZ 85623
\$2 per person
Map and directions are on the
website:
www.ORCA.desertsky.us
Info: Shay Cardell
1-520-357-6432
orca@desertsky.us

Casa Grande Airport Jam

1st & 3rd Saturday, 12:00 pm.
Casa Grande Municipal Air-
port, 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

118 Sardina Court
Rio Rico AZ, 85648
Mark Jukich, Chairman
markj@arizonabluegrass.com
218-390-7342
www.arizonabluegrass.com

International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA)

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

Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum

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

Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association

696 S Maricopa
Chino Valley, AZ 86323
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

swotgathering.com/

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063583240762
tucsoncontradancers.org/

Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association

www.tucsonfolkfest.org/about-tkma/
www.tucsonfolkfest.org/
www.facebook.com/TucsonFolkFest/

Desert Bluegrass Association

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www.DesertBluegrass.org

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