



DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter



Grass Clippings

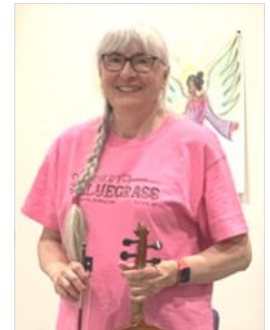
Volume 30 Issue 2

August—September 2024

Message from the President

By Karen Dismachek, DBA President

Hi all you Bluegrass lovers! I hope those of you still in Tucson are staying cool amid the **HOT** summer. I hope all of you wherever you are spending your summer are having a happy one filled with music! We have several regular jams here in Tucson that take place inside in a controlled environment for some cool jamming in comfort.



The 17th St. Jam

Regularly Scheduled Jams:

Our regular jams continue for the rest of the summer. Some of the inside jams are at Udall Park at the Rec Center, and there is one at 17th Street every second Sunday of the month. We are also continuing the jams at St. Francis in the Foothills every other Monday, and we are adding two more dates: August 26 and September 9. All the details of time, place, and contact info for our regularly scheduled jams are on our website at <https://desertbluegrass.org/> under “Jams.” Another place to find detailed information on jams is on our

[DBA calendar](#), also on our website. The calendar is a good place to check for up-to-the-minute information as any changes or cancellations will be listed there. Sometimes an additional jam will be scheduled that is not on the list of regularly scheduled jams; those jams will also be listed in the DBA calendar. So that is another good reason to keep an eye on it.

President’s Letter continued on page 3

➡ **Also in this issue:** Festival Leadership Positions Open, 5. Welcome New Members, 5. Fiddler’s Corner: An Amazing Fiddler, and Then Some, 7. Classifieds, 11. DBA Calendar, 12. Instructors & Bands, 14. Great Websites, 15. Other Jams & Open Mics, 16. Associations, 16.

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President's Letter, continued from page 1

Fall Workshops: Workshops will resume in the Fall at St. Francis in the Foothills at River and Swan. We are starting on September 23 this year, because there will be nothing scheduled on September 16 due to it being the Monday after the "Pickin' in the Pines" festival, and a lot of people are traveling back to Tucson that day. Rather than start workshops on September 9 and have a two week break between them, we will have an informal jam that evening, instead of a workshop. Like our jams, workshops are also listed on our calendar with up to the minute information. We'll be working on our sessions from "Year 2."

If you are new to jamming and haven't been to the workshops yet, there is a lot of good information in the last issue of our newsletter. "[Grass Clippings Vol. 30 issue 1, June – July 2024](#)"

President's Letter continued on page 4



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President's Letter, continued from page 3

Workshop Support: The workshops don't happen without support of club members. As we get into a new season, any help and support is appreciated. If you are at a point where you can help teach a workshop or lead a beginning or intermediate jam, let me know. We will give guidance as to what curriculum to work from so you are not starting from scratch. Thanks!!

Summer Reading: Finished with the books I reviewed in the last newsletter? Check out the review below on page 7 by Suzette on a great book on John Hartford.

Camp Bluegrass: Camp Bluegrass, held on the campus of South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, wrapped up in mid-July. Dave will have a report for us in the next newsletter.

Desert Bluegrass Festival Support: Yes, it is not until March 2025, but plans are already in motion. :-) We have so many wonderful people in this organization that work so hard to make the festival happen and also provide lots of support to our activities like workshops and jams. It is very much appreciated.

In regard to the festival in particular, we have people that have been working on it for several years in a row or more, and at some point, it is great to have new blood as it were to join in the support. We have a large committee of people that handle different aspects of the festival and do



The 2024 Desert Bluegrass Festival

a fabulous job. This year there are a few areas we will be needing some help. They are: Vendor Coordinator, Social Media Advertising, and lastly but not the least, Dave Polston will be phasing out as Festival Director and we will need someone to take his place. I am acting temporarily in that capacity until the spot is filled with an official person. Dave will be there to consult and train on what is involved in being Director. As I said, there is a great team of people working on different aspects of the festival and the director is there to make sure all the moving parts are working. So if you are interested or have experience in any of these types of jobs and want to help, please contact me. Thank you!!

P.S. Also, again, I would like to thank all the volunteers that made this year's festival such a success! You guys rocked!

Have a wonderful remaining summer everyone and keep on pickin'!

Karen

Karen Dismachek
President, Desert Bluegrass Association
desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com

Festival Leadership Positions — Open Now

If you are:

- ~ Deeply committed to the future success of Bluegrass Music in the Old Pueblo;
- ~ Interested in working with a passionate, hard-working group of fellow enthusiasts;
- ~ Intent on giving back to the community that gives you so much . . .

Then please consider volunteering for one of the following Festival Leadership positions:

- ◆ Festival Director
- ◆ Vendor Coordinator
- ◆ Social Media Advertising

For more information, or to express an interest, please contact:

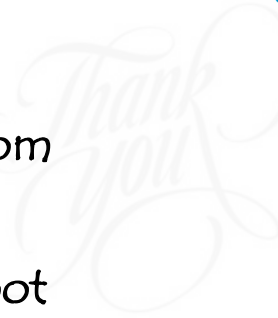
Karen Dismachek

President, Desert Bluegrass Association

desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com

Welcome to Our New & Returning Members!

Bob Bauer	Tucson
Karen Falkenstrom	Tucson
Rhonda Hertwig	Tucson
Carrie Vandersloot	Tucson





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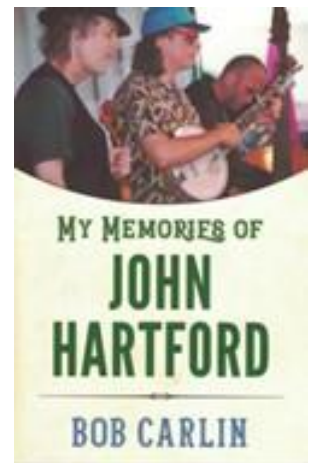
Fiddler's Corner

An Amazing Fiddler, and Then Some

By Suzette Sommerer

Today's article is dedicated to one of my favorite singer-songwriters who also happened to be a fabulous fiddler, banjoist, artist, and riverboat enthusiast. John Hartford was a prolific and profoundly influential singer-songwriter who always went his own way. Spanning genres and incorporating aspects of many different styles, his music defies categorization. His old time and bluegrass roots coupled with his boundless imagination and curiosity gave rise to his own uniquely original compositions. From unforgettable favorites such as *Gentle on My Mind*, *Tall Buildings*, and *Steam-Powered Aereo-Plane* to his numerous fiddle and banjo tunes, his talent for the deft turn of phrase, both in melody and in language, led to an immense and tremendously appealing body of work that has touched every one of us.

Close friend and musical collaborator Bob Carlin's intimate memoir, *My Memories of John Hartford*, chronicles the last sixteen years of Hartford's life, beginning with Carlin's NPR interview of Hartford for NPR's *Fresh Air* in 1985. Thus began a friendship that developed into a musical partnership that lasted until the end of Hartford's life. Carlin, a rising soloist on clawhammer banjo in his own right, eventually began backing Hartford on albums, then producing Hartford's recording and video projects, and finally becoming part of Hartford's Stringband, acting as de facto road manager and right-hand man in addition to his onstage performances.



Book cover used with the author's permission. Photo of John Hartford, Bob Carlin, and Larry Perkins by Frank Serio.

The first chapter is a retrospective look at Hartford's life before the two met. The intertwined stories of Hartford's love of music and riverboats provide context, describing the electrifying effects of hearing Flatt & Scruggs with Benny Martin perform in his hometown of St. Louis at age 15 and his underage job as night watchman on the steamboat *Delta Queen* starting that same year. These competing influences shaped his journey through life. Writing and performing music became his profession, with Scruggs and Martin heavily influencing his banjo and fiddle playing throughout, but he often wrote about the big rivers and their steamboats, and he spent his free time near and on the rivers, making his home on the *Cumberland* and piloting the *Julia Belle Swain* several weeks a year. The history continues with his time as a disk jockey in Clinton, IL and later in Nashville.

Continued on page 9



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D'Addario

When you know you know

Fiddler’s Corner, continued from page 7

He became a recording artist and extremely productive songwriter. He wrote comedy for the *Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* in LA, then wrote for and performed on *The Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour*. Writing songs and TV material during the week, Hartford continued performing on weekends, and his creative output during this time is nothing short of astounding. Unwilling to release creative control of his work, Hartford returned to Nashville, where he teamed up with Norman Blake, Tut Taylor, and Vassar Clemens. Their first album, *Aereo-Plain*, described by Carlin as “bluegrass with a rock ‘n’ roll attitude,” became hugely influential, laying the foundation of Newgrass.



Bob Carlin and John Hartford: *The Fun of Open Discussion* (CD Cover, Rounder Records, 1995). Cover Art by James Alan Higgins, Design by Nancy Given, used with permission of Bob Carlin.

The chapters that follow are a fond but clear-eyed look at the later years of an American icon. Clearly Carlin and Hartford were good friends, but they were also business partners, musical partners, band mates, and travel companions. Carlin produced a number of Hartford’s records, appears on many of his albums, including the fiddle-banjo duo shown at left, and performed live with him throughout the rest of his career. The book follows the evolution of Hartford’s stage performances and provides insights into his writing, his encouragement of unusual backup performances (the “windows” technique is particularly intriguing), and the production of his albums. The book is liberally seasoned with apt Hartford quotes, song lyrics, and lively anecdotes about life on the road, in the studio, and at home.

Continued on page 10

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Fiddler's Corner, continued from page 9

This engaging memoir provides an insider's look at what it was like to work and live closely with this quirky but towering figure. For an even richer experience, I recommend putting on a playlist of your favorite Hartford tunes or looking up the albums and songs as they appear in the text. Though a fairly quick read, the book provides an in-depth look at the man, his life, and his music.

Bob Carlin will perform at the Catalyst Creative Collection in the Tucson Mall on Sunday, Sept. 29 (doors at 2:30, concert at 3, \$20, reservations recommended at <https://www.saaca.org/catalyst-classes-events.html>). Internationally known as a first-rate banjoist, he is also a well-known producer, writer, and traditional music researcher. Come hear some good old-fashioned clawhammer from one of the best players around! Hope to see you there!

Update: Local fiddler Ranelle Dietrich, about whom I wrote in the April-May newsletter, took the Junior Division championship at the National Old-Time Fiddle Contest in Weiser this year. She'll be competing at the Grand Master Fiddle championship in Nashville on Aug 31-Sept 1 and performing as a solo artist on the Grand Ole Opry on Aug 31, her 16th birthday.



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Goldtone banjo for sale. Model CC100R. Comes with tuner, metronome, instruction books and dvds. Also: music books, gig bag, music stand. Call: Jack at 520-820-6654 or Dave at 520-245-6126

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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.

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*DBA Members Free, Space Permitting

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=nqkrtso1l4nrj6glt1uth4ifl4@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Phoenix)

[src=nqkrtso1l4nrj6glt1uth4ifl4@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Phoenix](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=nqkrtso1l4nrj6glt1uth4ifl4@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Phoenix).

Notes

- **Udall Jam:** The Udall Jam will continue to take place 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm during the summer. The location is an air-conditioned room inside the Udall Recreation Center.
- **Workshops:** Workshops are still on hiatus for the summer, but informal jamming is held every other Monday at St. Francis in the Foothills. **Fall workshops start Sept. 23rd!** See time and location details below and other information on pages 1 and 3-4 in this issue.

General Schedule Info

- SUNDAYS** ♦ First and third Sundays: Jam inside the Udall Recreation Center at Udall Park, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm.
 ♦ Second Sundays: Jam @ Site 17 (17th St. Music Club), 1 – 3:30 pm.
 ♦ Fourth Sundays: Jam @ Thirsty's Neighborhood Bar & Grill, 4 – 6 pm.
- MONDAYS** ♦ Informal jam groups @ St. Francis in the Foothills every other Monday, June 3 through Sept. 9, 6 – 8 pm. **Workshops start September 23rd!**
- WEDNESDAY** ♦ August 7, Jam @ Wilmot Public Library, 3:30 – 5:30 pm.
- THURSDAYS** ♦ Third Thursdays: Jam @ Trail Dust Town, 7 – 9 pm.

Locations

- **17th Street Music Club**, located at Site 17, 830 E. 17th St., Tucson, AZ.
- **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. (Air-conditioned room inside the Udall Recreation Center.)
- **Wilmot Public Library**, (Murphy-Wilmot Library), 530 N Wilmot Rd, Tucson, AZ 85711

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*

August 2024

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	Aug 4	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Wednesday	Aug 7	3:30 – 5:30 pm	Jam @ Wilmot Library	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Sunday	Aug 11	1:00 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ 17th Street	Marshall banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com
Monday	Aug 12	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Jam @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Aug 15	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	Aug 18	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Sunday	Aug 25	4 – 6 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Aug 26	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Jam @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com

September 2024

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	Sep 1	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Sunday	Sep 8	1:00 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ 17th Street	Marshall banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com
Monday	Sep 9	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Jam @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Sunday	Sep 15	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Thursday	Sep 19	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	Sep 22	4 – 6 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Sep 23	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Monday	Sep 30	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com

➡ *And mark your calendars for the Campout at Lake Patagonia, Friday – Sunday, Oct. 4-6*



Practice your jamming skills and plan on having *even more fun jamming* at the Lake Patagonia Campout!!

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

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

Rich Errico 520-818-0358
Rerrico1@q.com
www.facebook.com/DustyRiverBand/

FRESH APPLES

Bookings: 602-618-6285
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High Lonesome

John McCann 517-212-3100
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highlonesomebluegrassband.com

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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 Joe Reighley 520-229-4123
reighlej@cox.net

MojoGrass

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Bluegrass Lyrics

bluegrasslyrics.com/

Bluegrass Tablature

www.alltabs.com/bluegrass_tabs.php

Daily Dose of Bluegrass

www.bluegrassonthetube.com

Banjo:

www.banjohangout.org

Bass:

www.bluegrassbassplace.com

Dobro:

www.reso-nation.org
www.resohangout.com

Fiddle:

www.fiddlehangout.com

Guitar:

www.bluegrassguitar.com/

Mandolin:

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

OTHER 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 | <https://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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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