



# DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter



## Grass Clippings

Volume 30 Issue 4

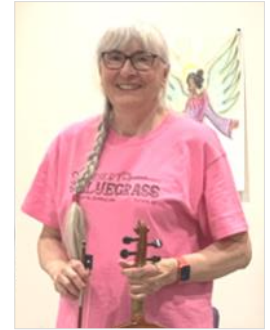
December 2024—January 2025

### Message from the President

*By Karen Dismachek, DBA President*

**The Holidays are here!** Here's wishing you all a wonderful holiday season with lots of quality chillin' and pickin' time with your family and friends. It's so nice to feel that cooler air coming in now. Better for those outside jams!

**Patagonia Campout:** In October we had our Annual Camp-out at Lake Patagonia State Park. We had a great time! It was warmer than usual, but we still had great jams morning, afternoon, and evening. Weather can't get in the way of a great bluegrass jam with your friends! See Dave Polston's full report on this starting on page 11.



**Special Workshops:** The groove workshop that just took place with Steve Smith went really well. I heard a lot of positive feedback. As opportunities like this become available, hopefully we will be doing more of this type of thing either at the church or other suitable locations. We will make sure to get the word out on these via newsletters, email blasts, and social media, and thanks to Steve for doing the workshops and getting us all in the groove! (See his thank you note on page 5!)

**Left: Attendees listen intently at Steve Smith's Groove Workshop**

**President's Letter continued on page 3**

➔ **Also in this issue.** Thank you to DBA from Steve Smith, 5. New Members, 6. DBA Bluegrass Showcase, 7. Our Annual Camp-out, 11. Fiddler's Corner: Am I Good Enough? 13. In Memoriam: Klyle Stahl, 16. Classifieds, 17. Calendar, 18. Instructors and Bands, 20. Great Websites, 21. Other Jams and Associations, 22.

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**President's Letter, continued from page 1**

**Monday Night Workshops:** Our regular workshops continue on Monday nights through December 16 at St. Francis in the Foothills UMC. After that, we are off for the holidays and will resume on January 6. As we go forward, we will be off on some holiday weekends, so please watch the calendar for up-to-the-minute information on the workshop schedule. We also announce the schedule at the workshop and post reminders on social media. The address is St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, 4625 E. River Rd., Tucson, AZ. Time is 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

**Events to Look forward to:**

**Special DBA Site 17 Event on January 12:** Both DBA and Site 17 like to support our DBA-spawned bands, so on Sunday, January 12, there will be a band showcase at the Site 17 Event Center. See the details in Marshall Vest's article starting on page 7.

**Dede Wyland will be in town in February:** Dede Wyland is a widely known award-winning bluegrass singer and has taught at Camp Bluegrass. She really knows the genre. We are in the process of planning a workshop event with her, and we'll announce the details when we have them. She will be in town for the entire month of February and will also be available for private lessons. She is great for coaching harmony singing in bands as well. See the itinerary below for details on the workshop as well as her vast experience and accomplishments. Email me with any questions in the meantime, or you can contact Dede directly at her email on the itinerary. Stay tuned for announcements regarding this!

***Plan to Attend!******A VOCAL WORKSHOP with******DEDE WYLAND******In February, Details TBD***

**Hour 1 - Learn fundamental vocal techniques that can greatly improve tone quality, increase your range and create a freer, more expressive voice. We'll also touch on other topics such as how to project your voice, how to find the key that's right for you and more.**

**Hour 2 – In this hour we will focus on vocal characteristics unique to the bluegrass singing style and necessary to give your voice that 'bluegrass sound' including phrasing, timing, ornamentation and syncopations unique to the style.**

*Dede Wyland is a nationally known singer, recording artist, vocal instructor and eleven-time winner of the Washington D.C. Area Music Association's "Wammie" award for "Bluegrass Singer of the Year." Dede's career is the subject of its own chapter in Murphy Hicks Henry's 2013 book *Pretty Good for a Girl: Women in Bluegrass* (University of Illinois Press.) She has also been awarded a Master Artist, Bluegrass and Country Vocals certificate of honor by The Montgomery County Maryland Council of the Arts for her work as a voice teacher in the traditional arts.*

*For more info you can contact Dede directly at [dedewyland@gmail.com](mailto:dedewyland@gmail.com)*

***President's Letter continued on next page***

### President's Letter, continued from page 3



**ABA Bluegrass Roundup:** It's around the corner! The ABA Bluegrass Roundup is put on by our friends at the **Arizona Bluegrass Association**. It will be in a new location this year in Apache Junction, Jan 31 – Feb 2.

Keep up with their festival information at [aba18.wildapricot.org](http://aba18.wildapricot.org) or on their Facebook page, **ABA Bluegrass Roundup**. They have a great band line up which includes but is not limited to North of Lonesome, Cross-Eyed Possum, Arizona Wildflowers, Crying Uncle (I saw them at Pickin' in the Pines; they were awesome!), and of course I must mention, the Notorious No-Gig Girl Band!

Hopefully see you there; it's a great festival and it's also a great way to support our sister organization, the **Arizona Bluegrass Association**.

**Desert Bluegrass Festival 2025 - Save the Dates!!** Plans are in motion for our 2025 Desert Bluegrass Festival! It will take place on March 7 – 9. The location will be the same as last year at the Gladden Farms Community Park in Marana. Some of the bands this year include Becky Buller, Never Come Down (I saw these guys at Hotel Congress and they blew me away!), Blue Canyon Boys, and more! Besides the bands, there will be some of the activities we had last year, such as a band scramble, a contra dance, and possibly a band contest as well, so stay tuned!

All those wanting to volunteer, watch for the SignUpGenius when it is published at the beginning of the year.

And to stay tuned for more details on the festival, from time to time check on our website at [www.desertbluegrass.org](http://www.desertbluegrass.org), and our Facebook pages, **Desert Bluegrass Association** and **Desert Bluegrass Discussion Group**, to keep up with any updates.

Happy Holidays!!

*Karen*

Karen Dismachek  
President, Desert Bluegrass Association  
[desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com](mailto:desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com)

## A Thank-you Letter to DBA Staff and Members

**December 1st, 2024**

**To the DBA staff and members:**

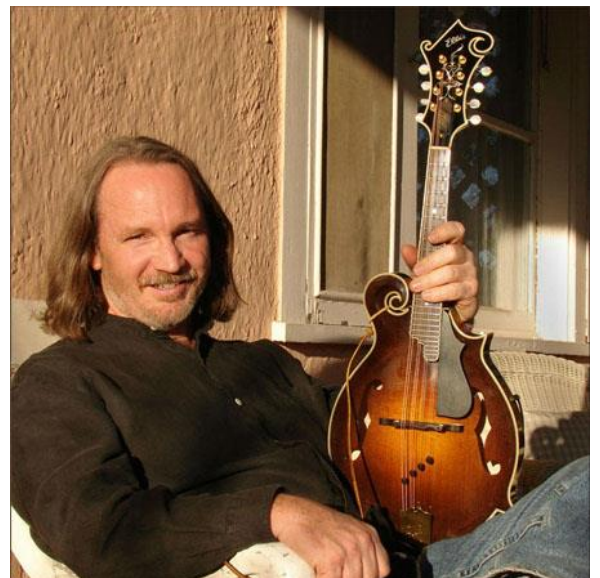
Greetings from Las Cruces. I wanted to take the time to thank you all once again for having me in on Monday November 25th for the groove workshops. You all did great and again thanks for trying new concepts of musical awareness. I was honored to be there.

An organization such as DBA is a musical community of many like-minded artists, listeners and supporters who have come together to be a part of a greater cause that brings all of us an artistic and musical adventure and satisfaction along many new friendships. (Yes everyone of you are an artist from the time you begin to sing and play.) Having an organization like DBA is as big a part of your musical outlet and conduit as it is about the support you bring by showing up and participating in all or as many events as possible. I was very impressed by the number of folks at the Monday meeting, the playing and seeing so many pitch in.

Finally a word about volunteers. As you all know it simply would not happen without them. An organization the size of DBA takes many of them and quite a bit of planning and work behind the scenes both personally and in collaboration. I ran a 501-C-3 for seven years here in Las Cruces, "The Southern New Mexico Music and Dance Society" which is still going btw, and I know what kind of work it takes to run events of various kinds. These volunteers have you and the organization in mind all of the time at home, work, driving around town etc. because as you know it matters. I was impressed by you all when I saw so many folks at the workshop last week kicking in to help. Moving chairs, PA system (Bass Player thx) and cleanup! You can't thank them enough.

I travel, perform, and teach music full-time around the US and abroad and consider it a privilege to be in my position. So many towns around the country would be envious of DBA (I am actually) and what you artists all have and are all a part of. You should all be proud of DBA, and may you continue to nurture and grow with it.

Thanks again,  
Steve Smith



*Welcome to Our New & Returning Members!*

Cynthia Allen-O'Sullivan	Tucson
Jeffrey Blumenthal	Tucson
Donalyn Bussear	Tucson
Jennifer Lloyd	Tucson
Gregory Majewski	Tucson
Dominic McGrath	Tucson
Bob Ollerton	Patagonia
Joe Reighley	Tucson



# Dan Levenson

Arizona Master Artist Awardee

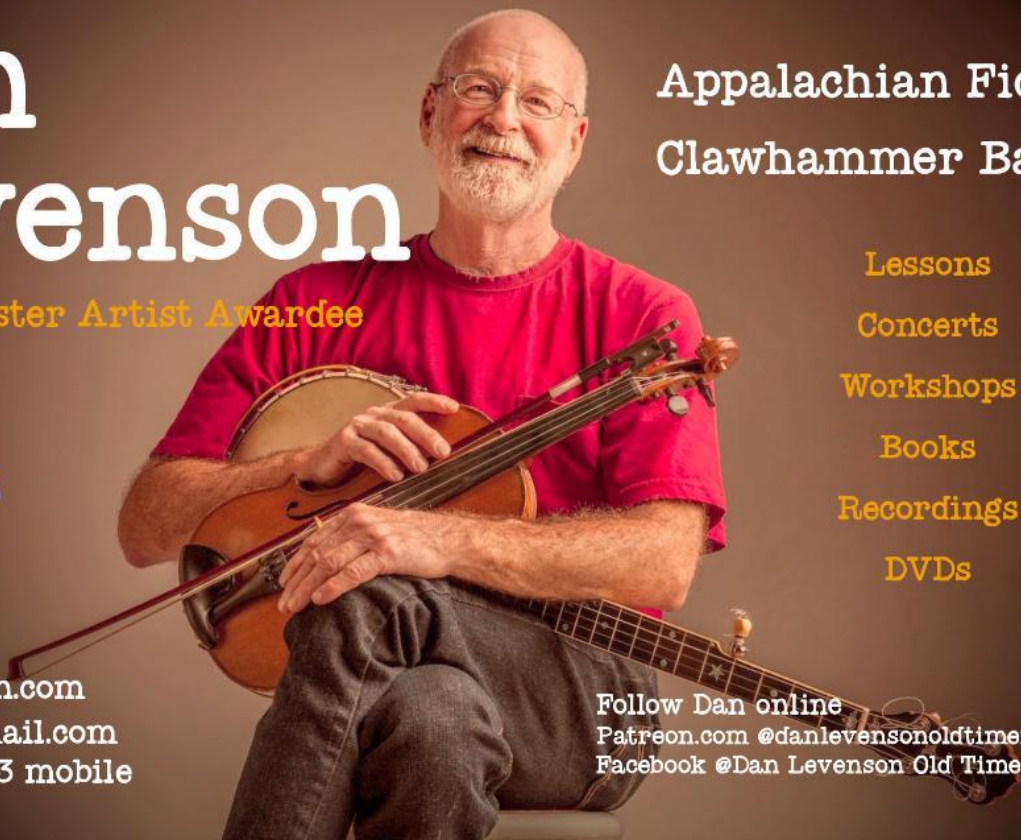
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## DBA Bluegrass Showcase at 17<sup>th</sup> Street

By Marshall Vest



On **January 12 (the second Sunday), 2025**, the DBA will showcase four bands. This special event is an opportunity to recognize, appreciate, and celebrate accomplishments of our members and their bands. The afternoon will be filled with great music and camaraderie, so bring your family and friends! Grinners are welcome! Our featured bands, in their own words...

**The Bloomin' Desert Band** started out as a group of DBA members attending the Monday night workshops. We've been meeting for the last year every Thursday for a little extra practice, conversation, and the occasional root beer float. For most of us, this is our first experience playing in a band. We first stepped on a stage together at the 2024 Desert Bluegrass Festival where we played a couple of songs for the Sunday Gospel open mic, backed up by members of the Storytellers Band on bass and fiddle. Terrifying and exhilarating all at the same time! Since then, we have performed at the 2024 Bluegrass Showcase at St. Francis in the Foothills, and twice at the Comanche Wells Mobile Home Park. The second time, we opened for the Notorious No Gig Girl Band (our heroes). Along with the upcoming 17th Street Bluegrass Showcase on January 12, we will be playing in the DBA booth at the rodeo and will be the performing band at next year's DBA Patagonia Camp-out. Our journey has been like learning to swim by jumping off the high dive. We just step out onto that stage and play. (Pickin' in the Pines Band contest? Maybe. Something to set our sights on.) Ready or not, here we come! Band Members include: *(In order of original to newest members)* **John Anderson** - guitar and vocal; **Ben Icely** - guitar; **Eileen Hennessy Farland** - dobro, guitar and vocal; **Sheila Scanlan** - guitar and vocal; **Samantha Madison** - fiddle and vocal; **Michael Faltin** - bass, vocal and human metronome; **Jon Kinnaman** - mandolin, guitar and vocal; **Laurel Lacher** - banjo and vocal. Former members include (we miss you guys) **Diana Dolan** - banjo; **John Padgett** - mandolin; **Rick Chandler** - bass.



**The Bloomin' Desert Band: L-R: Samantha Madison, Jon Kinnaman, John Anderson, Sheila Scanlan, Laurel Lacher, Eileen Hennessy Farland, Ben Icely, Michael Faltin (kneeling)**



Recent arrivals in Tucson, **Janet and Brett Dodd** met over 30 years ago over a casual conversation about mandolins and music. Life partners and musical partners ever since, they honed their craft as regular fixtures of the Inland NW music scene in the Spokane area playing multiple festivals and local venues. They perform on mandolin, guitar, accordion, bass, fiddle and whatever else they find in their closet. They blend closely-knit harmony singing on original and contemporary folk/bluegrass and americana, as well as instrumentals from a variety of styles including fiddle tunes, choro and even a random tango!

**Janet and Brett Dodd**

**Continued on page 9**



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## ***DBA Bluegrass Showcase, continued from page 7***



**Permafrost Road: L-R: "Banjo Bob" Emmert, John Adams, Dan Mullin, Ken Brown. Jon Kinnaman not shown**

**Permafrost Road** was originally started by three former Alaskans who wound up in Tucson. One member moved to Reno, so the band expanded to include **"Banjo Bob" Emmert**, **Dan Mullin** on upright bass, **Jon Kinnaman** on mandolin and guitar, **Ken Brown** on guitar and dobro, and **John Adams** on fiddle. Permafrost Road played the Casa Grande Bluegrass Festival (2023) and will be performing at the Desert Bluegrass Festival in Marana on March 8, 2025. They have played at the Gaslight Music Hall in Oro Valley twice, most recently on November 19, 2024. While traditional in structure, Permafrost Road plays a wide variety of

songs and tunes from the Americana, Bluegrass, and Classic Country music repertoires, plus some Irish fiddle tunes.

The **Wild Woodpickers** are a Tucson-based band whose members met through the DBA, and all started playing our instruments late in life. We love to play everything from bluegrass to the Beach Boys, including Americana, Celtic, blues, whatever else catches our fancy. Close friendships are the true foundation of the band, but great melodies, tight harmonies and a love of playing together make this band one you won't want to miss! **Suzette Sommerer** (fiddle), **Matt Teller** (mandolin), **Karen Dismachek** (guitar), **Louise Courtney** (banjo), and **Arlene Tomlinson** (bass). Everyone sings!



**The Wild Woodpickers: L-R: Suzette Sommerer, Matt Teller, Karen Dismachek, Louise Courtney, Arlene Tomlinson**

We are grateful to **Greg Morton**, long-time supporter, DBA member, and bluegrass ambassador in the Tucson music community for serving as host and MC for this event. And a very special thank you to **Tom Kusian** and the folks at 17<sup>th</sup> Street (Tucson Party Rentals LLC) for providing this terrific venue! Indoors, climate controlled, and seating provided. Plus, free parking (just please don't block driveways across the street).

***Continued on next page***

***DBA Bluegrass Showcase, continued from page 9***

Music begins promptly at 1:00 pm and lasts until 5:00 pm. For your favorite libation and meal before (or after), you can visit the NEW Slow Body Brewery across the street: <https://www.slowbodybeer.com/>, or Barrio Brewing Company down the street and around the corner: <https://barriobrewing.com/>.

So, mark your calendars and join in the fun! While you are here, you can also:

- ◆ Renew your membership (or become a member)!
- ◆ Learn about the upcoming DBA Festival in March!
- ◆ Sign up to be a volunteer!
- ◆ Become a Festival Sponsor!

Address: **840 E 17<sup>th</sup> Street**, Tucson, AZ. Site 17 entrance, under the metal awning. Doors open at 12:30, music at 1:00.

For more information, contact Marshall Vest at [banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com](mailto:banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com).

# D'Addario

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## Our Annual Camp-out

By Dave Polston

Our annual camp-out was held at Lake Patagonia on October 4, 5, and 6, and what a great time we had once again!! The heat of the summer extended way into October this year, but we found relief with the shade of the large mesquites and a cool breeze coming off the lake.

Besides the great jamming taking place all weekend, it was as always a great weekend for visiting with friends and sharing a meal or two.

Each year, we encompass a circle area with a large open area ideal for jamming. This year, the mesquites must have had good water intake as their branches seemed to have doubled, extending a great canopy over our jam circle. Closer to the water, we take over all the tent sites, and some great jams go on at what we now refer to as “Tent City”!

Each year, we put together a DBA band to perform at the Ramada at the beach. Once again we had a large audience of non-bluegrassers that discovered what an awesome genre of music we have. We’ve even developed groupies that come to camp each year just to hang out and listen to us play! Don’t wait — make your reservations for next year now!

Next year, our camp-out will be October 3rd-5th.  
Make your reservations now!! See ya there!



The audience enjoys some might fine picking!



A fun tee-shirt was spotted on Larry

*Continued on next page*

***Our Annual Camp-out, continued from page 11***

**Photo R - And the band played on!**



**Photo L - Close-up of jammers. See how many folks you recognize!**

**Photo R - A jam circle playing under the great canopies of mesquite trees**



**Photo L - A another jam circle playing near the RV parking. Plenty of beautiful shade!**



## Fiddler's Corner

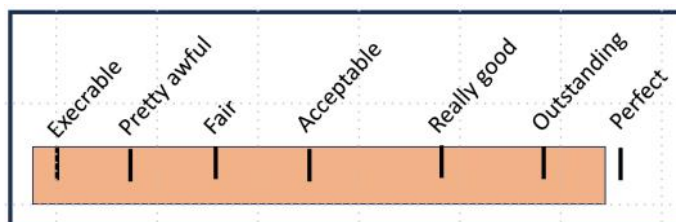
# Am I Good Enough?

By Suzette Sommerer

**That awful sinking feeling** that we all struggle with can sometimes seem inevitable when we take a look at ourselves as musicians and consider the ideals that first motivated us to pick up an instrument. The quagmire of self-doubt that plagues even the greatest performers leads us to question, am I good enough to perform? Am I good enough to jam? Am I even good enough to start working on this piece that I know will challenge me? Is there any point to what I'm doing, or is perfection so completely unattainable that there's no point in trying?

For this article, I asked a number of professional and amateur musicians for their thoughts. Each responded with his or her own insights, but without exception, every one freely acknowledged that this is a problem they have wrestled with. What I'm sharing here are some of the nuggets of wisdom they shared, as well as my own observations on what has worked for me. My heartfelt thanks go to all who contributed!

It's important to understand that almost every musician faces this question at various points, at least partly because we are always trying to improve. Recognizing what needs to get better is an integral part of the process, but focusing solely on the shortfalls can sabotage our efforts. It's important not to let feelings of inadequacy prevent us from getting better, and to deliberately acknowledge what's going well. How do we balance striving for excellence with not making ourselves miserable for not being perfect, something no musician has ever achieved? When you're working on your own to improve your skills, go ahead and take on the challenges, honestly identify your weaknesses, and develop strategies to address them. When you're playing for or with others, use the skills you've developed to make better (not necessarily more impressive) music. Most importantly, don't beat yourself up for perceived mistakes. Learn from them, but also learn from what went well. It's way too easy to see only the problems when we critique our own playing.



*While we do need objective standards, assessing our playing by comparing ourselves to absolute criteria or to players with abilities far beyond our own can be overwhelmingly discouraging. Note that perfection is off the scale. Don't waste your emotional energy being disappointed that you didn't get to that impossible ideal.*

One big mistake many make is measuring ourselves by other peoples' yardsticks. Every musician is on his own journey, and we are all at different points along the way, some traveling faster, some more slowly, all heading for their own particular destinations. Where you go and how you get there is up to you, but save yourself the misery of worrying about everyone

**Continued on next page**

***Fiddler's Corner, continued from page 13***

else's abilities and achievements and allow yourself to enjoy your own progress. There is so much pleasure to be had in making music. It seems a terrible waste to spoil it by wallowing in shame over our perceived failures.

One of the professionals I spoke with said that he accepted a long time ago that he is never going to be as good as some of the musicians he admires, but that he has to be comfortable with who he is. It's not that he ignores what other people are doing, and he still tries to learn from them, but he is not trying to compete, and he accepts his place. He admits that it's hard for people to let go because we've grown up in a world where, especially as adults, mistakes can cost you. Some have had it beaten into them or have beaten it into themselves that the worst thing you can do is to play something wrong. But if you don't make mistakes in music, you really can't learn much. You do need some sort of standard that will take you to a place where you can be comfortable, but music is personal, and it just needs to be you.

One aspect of asking yourself "am I good enough" has to be "for what?" What is it you want to do with your music? If your answer has anything to do with impressing other people, you're likely to be disappointed. If you want to play something musical and beautiful that adds to whatever you are currently part of, then you've got a good shot. And if you feel like the jam or the performance or whatever is happening is just going too fast or your fingers aren't quite cooperating enough for you to do what you prepared, play something simpler in the moment. It's a key survival skill. One of the finest musicians I know says he gets his biggest audience reactions from playing simple, beautiful melodies.

When you are playing, just about the worst place to put your attention is on what other people are thinking. The truth is that your audience and jam- or bandmates want you to succeed – they really are rooting for you. They want to be entertained, and we all know that it is not fun to watch someone fumble around and be visibly upset with what's happening. If a tricky solo that you're finally pushing yourself to try onstage or in a jam goes awry, fall back as gracefully as you can to something that works and keep going. It's amazing how often people will not even notice that you didn't play what you intended! Others' opinions are irrelevant while you are playing, and they only matter up to a point afterwards. What matters is what you are sharing, what you want to express, and how to make it as beautiful or as compelling as possible. You want to help your audience or jam partners feel something and experience the story you're telling them through sound. It's very hard to be expressive when you are focused too hard on avoiding mistakes. It kills the relaxation that is so essential to making good music, and it takes your focus off really immersing yourself in the music and letting it flow. Much better to include a few wrong notes, as long as you are truly listening and participating in what's around you, are keeping the groove alive, and are expressing the feelings that you're trying to convey.

Can you completely banish the sense that you don't belong in front of an audience or in a jam? Probably not. But one simple strategy that I use often involves a little acting. When I step up to play, I usually pretend that I am a much better musician than I really am. I take a

***Continued on next page***

***Fiddler's Corner, continued from page 14***

few deep breaths, imagine the first few notes I'm about to play exactly as I want to hear them, and imagine I'm the hottest fiddler on the planet and I am about to bring down the house. My very wise teacher advises me to expect to play about 70% as well in performance as when I practice for a variety of reasons, so I plan my solos accordingly and try to keep them a little simpler than what I can actually do. Then I get up there and play it like I own it. Does it always work? Nope. Sometimes I fall flat on my face, but I have a much higher success rate with just trusting myself to play rather than micromanaging my fingers and trying too hard to not miss that risky shift.

When someone compliments your performance, does your brain immediately jump to what you did wrong? Do you get really mad at yourself? How often have you heard someone respond to praise with a "Yes, but...?" Why not concentrate instead on what they liked about your playing and try to bring more of that next time instead of worrying about bringing less of what you didn't like? One of the best things in life is knowing that you brought joy into someone else's day. Relish that feeling and save the self-critique for the practice room when you can actually do something to make it better for the future.

Jazz great Ornette Coleman famously said, "Style is defined by what you can't do." Embrace that at whatever level you find yourself, and play like no one but you can. Another great Ornette quote: "It was when I found out I could make mistakes that I knew I was onto something." When you play something you didn't mean to, but discover that you kinda liked it, why not incorporate it somehow into your playing? We all emulate the masters, and try to learn from them, but it's a fool's errand to think we're ever going to play exactly like them. Our limitations become a part of our own unique style.

One friend said, "We do reach for excellence, but we don't reach for excellence to be perfect. We reach for excellence to fulfill potential, whatever that may be." We learn to do more than we're capable of right now, and for me, that learning and growing and striving to be more than I am is a big part of what makes music so incredibly addictive and enjoyable.

Another wisely observed, "I got into music much later in life, and I've come to realize that I will never be really good. But I am good enough to have fun!" None of us is likely to top the billboard charts, but every one of us is well equipped to have fun. And I think for most of us, that's really the point.



**Remember, even in big name bands such as this year's Desert Bluegrass Festival headliner Becky Buller Band, every band member started out as a beginner.**

## IN MEMORIAM



### KLYLE STAHL

(D. November 27, 2024)

Contributed by David Lanham

Most of you didn't know Kyle Stahl; you'd have to go back a few years. Kyle joined DBA in May 2007. He was an active member and also hosted a monthly jam in Casa Grande for quite a while. He was very active in our early jams and in the Agri-Fair Festival up in Casa Grande. He really loved the camaraderie and was an enthusiastic picker. Kyle was a veteran and had participated in the first Gulf War. He was a jovial soul, and his spirit will be missed by all who knew him.

Kyle passed away November 7<sup>th</sup> of this year while in the hospital at Tucson's VA.

There will be a Celebration of Life on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the United Methodist Church of Casa Grande beginning at 10:00 am. The church is located at 1428 N. Pueblo Drive, Casa Grande, AZ.

Kyle wants a decent send-off of jamming after the reception. I will be going up with some Tucson friends and meeting some Phoenix friends there, also!

RIP, Kyle.





# CLASSIFIEDS

## *Instruments*

**Martin D-28 Dreadnought guitar** for sale. Excellent condition, price negotiable, Call or text Patrick: 520.268.5259

**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

## *Services & Instruction*

**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](mailto:davepolston@yahoo.com) or call me at 520-245-6126.

**Descending Dragon Health Services Manual Therapy** involves the practitioner using their hands to release tension, enhancing blood circulation, and facilitating the body's inherent ability to heal itself. Commonly used for but not limited to- back, neck, shoulder, and hip pain. **Movement Therapy (Qigong)** is a practice based on 3 principles- breath, posture, and intent. This practice is excellent for reducing pain, improving joint mobility, and calming the central nervous system. [Descendingdragoncommunity.com](http://Descendingdragoncommunity.com) // 520-404-4869

**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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### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING PRICES

1/4 PAGE:	\$25 PER ISSUE, \$100 ANNUAL	1/2 PAGE:	\$40 PER ISSUE, \$160 ANNUAL
FULL PAGE:	\$60 PER ISSUE \$240 ANNUAL	CLASSIFIED AD:	\$5 FOR 5 LINES OR LESS*

\*DBA Members Free, Space Permitting

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Adria Coleman Agency

(520) 531-1900 (Office) | (520) 531-1900  
3275 W Ina Rd Ste 113  
Tucson, AZ 85741-2152  
[adriacoleman.com](http://adriacoleman.com)

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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?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

- Some jams have switched to Fall hours; see the next page or online calendar (link above).
- Workshops: **Fall workshops started Sept. 23rd and are held every Monday** at St. Francis in the Foothills through Dec. 16. See time and location details below and online.

### 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      ♦ Workshops at St. Francis in the Foothills, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.
- THURSDAYS   ♦ Third Thursdays: Jam @ Trail Dust Town, 2 – 4 pm.

### Locations

- **17th Street Music Club**, 830 E. 17th St., Tucson, AZ. Use the door at the wheelchair ramp.
- **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.
- **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.)

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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!

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## DBA Calendar, *continued*

### December 2024

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event &amp; Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	Dec 1	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Dec 2	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	<a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>
Sunday	Dec 8	1:00 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ 17th Street	Marshall <a href="mailto:banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com">banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com</a>
Monday	Dec 9	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	<a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>
Sunday	Dec 15	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Dec 16	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	<a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>
Thursday	Dec 19	2 – 4 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	Dec 22	4 – 6 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Dec 23	—	No workshop til January	<a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>
Monday	Dec 30	—	No workshop til January	<a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>

### January 2025

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event &amp; Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	Jan 5	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Jan 6	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	<a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>
Sunday	Jan 12	1:00 – 5:00 pm	Showcase @ 17th Street	Marshall <a href="mailto:banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com">banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com</a>
Monday	Jan 13	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	<a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>
Thursday	Jan 16	2 – 4 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	Jan 19	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Jan 20	—	No workshop today	<a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>
Sunday	Jan 26	4 – 6 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Jan 27	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	<a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>
Friday	Jan 31	9:00 am -	ABA Bluegrass Roundup starts; in Apache Junction	<a href="https://aba18.wildapricot.org">https://aba18.wildapricot.org</a>



Practice your jamming skills and plan on having *even more fun jamming* at ALL the jams around town!

## TO INSTRUCTORS & BANDS



Would you like your services, band, and/or concerts listed on our website, at [www.desertbluegrass.org](http://www.desertbluegrass.org) ? Current DBA members can be listed by sending their contact information to Dale Lynne Vickroy at [DesertBluegrassWebmaster@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:annibeach1@gmail.com)  
 Web: Howard Anderson 480-897-7425  
[handy31@mindspring.com](mailto:handy31@mindspring.com)  
[www.cabinjohnbluegrass.com](http://www.cabinjohnbluegrass.com)

### Dan Levenson and The Cat Mountain Rounders

Dan Levenson 412-551-0933  
[clawdan1@gmail.com](mailto:clawdan1@gmail.com)  
[www.ClawDan.com](http://www.ClawDan.com)

### Dust Devils

Rudy Mamula 520-977-5543  
[tucsonrudy@msn.com](mailto:tucsonrudy@msn.com)

### Dusty River Bluegrass Band

Rich Errico 520-818-0358  
[Rerrico1@q.com](mailto:Rerrico1@q.com)  
[www.facebook.com/DustyRiverBand/](http://www.facebook.com/DustyRiverBand/)

### FRESH APPLES

Bookings: 602-618-6285  
[theFRESHAPPLESband@gmail.com](mailto:theFRESHAPPLESband@gmail.com)  
[www.theFRESHAPPLESband.com](http://www.theFRESHAPPLESband.com)

### High Lonesome

John McCann 517-212-3100  
 423-430-4543  
[office@highlonesomebluegrassband.com](mailto:office@highlonesomebluegrassband.com)  
[highlonesomebluegrassband.com](http://highlonesomebluegrassband.com)

### Jam Pak Blues 'N' Grass Neighborhood Band

Anni Beach 480-963-6811  
[annibeach1@gmail.com](mailto:annibeach1@gmail.com)  
[www.jampak.org](http://www.jampak.org)

### Just Plain Folk

Rob Wright 520-370-4843  
 Suzette Sommerer:  
[s.sommerer@icloud.com](mailto:s.sommerer@icloud.com)  
 240-463-1985  
[tradbanjo@comcast.net](mailto:tradbanjo@comcast.net)  
[just-plain-folk.com](http://just-plain-folk.com)

### Kentucky Sky Bluegrass

Randy Hackworth 208-251-0575

### Linda Lou & The Desert Drifters

Linda Lou 520-444-9897  
[Facebook.com/desertdrifters](https://www.facebook.com/desertdrifters)

### Lost Hombres

Slim Edelman 520-444-2522  
[s.edelman@icloud.com](mailto:s.edelman@icloud.com)  
 Joe Reighley 520-229-4123  
[reighlej@cox.net](mailto:reighlej@cox.net)

### MojoGrass

Daniel Stolte 520-369-7524  
[mojograssaz@gmail.com](mailto:mojograssaz@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/mojograss](http://www.facebook.com/mojograss)

### North of Lonesome

Alan Lister 623-692-8620  
[alister377@gmail.com](mailto:alister377@gmail.com)  
[www.NorthofLonesome.com](http://www.NorthofLonesome.com)  
 Facebook: North of Lonesome Bluegrass

### Ocotillo Rain

Booking: Holly Tripp 520-241-8421  
[ocotillorain.com](http://ocotillorain.com)

### Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band

Reid Griffin 520-349-4321  
[manzanitabluegrass@comcast.net](mailto:manzanitabluegrass@comcast.net)  
[www.facebook.com/theoldpueblobluegrassband/](http://www.facebook.com/theoldpueblobluegrassband/)

### Permafrost Road

Ken Brown  
 801 W. Limberlost, Unit P  
 Tucson, AZ 85705  
 (907) 378-6542  
[kengbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:kengbrown@hotmail.com)

### Peter McLaughlin

520-247-1027  
<http://www.petermclaughlin.info/>

### Romen Buffalo and the Loyal Order

Scott Lewis 602-265-9887  
[romenbuffalo.com](http://romenbuffalo.com)

### The Sonoran Dogs

Peter McLaughlin 520-247-1027  
[www.theonorandogs.com](http://www.theonorandogs.com)

### Ten Dollar Wedding

Chris Doyle 602-315-0615  
[chris.doyle@cox.net](mailto:chris.doyle@cox.net)  
<https://www.facebook.com/tendollarwedding>  
<https://instagram.com/tendollarwedding>

### Way Out West

Emmy Creigh 520-323-0704  
[www.bluebhikku.com/WayOutWest.htm](http://www.bluebhikku.com/WayOutWest.htm)



*Learn to play and come to the DBA workshops and jams!*

## INSTRUCTION

**Reid Griffin**

Guitar Instruction All levels and styles  
(520) 349-4321

**Dan Levenson**

Old Time fiddle, old-time guitar,  
and clawhammer banjo  
Clawdan1@gmail.com  
412-551-0933  
[www.Clawdan.com](http://www.Clawdan.com)

**Andy McCune**

Bluegrass & clawhammer banjo, mandolin,  
guitar, dobro, & bass  
520-869-6818

**Peter McLaughlin**

Flatpick & bluegrass guitar: Beginner &  
advanced 520-247-1027

**Dave Polston**

Banjo, guitar, and dobro lessons  
520-245-6126

**Mike Purdy**

Guitar, mandolin, and banjo  
520-977-9780

**Marc Rennard**

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cramdranner@yahoo.com  
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Instruments – and Bow Rehair

## GREAT WEBSITES

**Desert Bluegrass Association**

[www.desertbluegrass.org](http://www.desertbluegrass.org)

**Arizona Bluegrass Association**

[www.arizonabluegrass.com](http://www.arizonabluegrass.com)

**Bluegrass Arizona Blog**

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

**Bluegrass Backing Tracks (Free)**

[www.fbts.com/](http://www.fbts.com/)

**Bluegrass Lyrics**

[bluegrasslyrics.com/](http://bluegrasslyrics.com/)

**Bluegrass Tablature**

[www.alltabs.com/bluegrass\\_tabs.php](http://www.alltabs.com/bluegrass_tabs.php)

**Daily Dose of Bluegrass**

[www.bluegrassonthetube.com](http://www.bluegrassonthetube.com)

**Banjo:**

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

**Bass:**

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

**Dobro:**

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

**Fiddle:**

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

**Guitar:**

[www.bluegrassguitar.com/](http://www.bluegrassguitar.com/)

**Mandolin:**

[www.mandohangout.com/](http://www.mandohangout.com/)  
[www.mandolincafe.com/](http://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](http://www.ORCA.desertsky.us)  
Info: Shay Cardell  
1-520-357-6432  
[orca@desertsky.us](mailto: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](mailto:steve@arizonabluegrass.com)

## ASSOCIATIONS

### **Arizona Bluegrass Association**

118 Sardina Court  
Rio Rico AZ, 85648  
Mark Jukich, Chairman  
[markj@arizonabluegrass.com](mailto:markj@arizonabluegrass.com)  
218-390-7342  
[www.arizonabluegrass.com](http://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](mailto: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/](http://www.bluegrasshall.org/)

### **Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association**

696 S Maricopa  
Chino Valley, AZ 86323  
[www.arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/index.html](http://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/](http://swotgathering.com/)

### **Tucson Friends of Traditional Music**

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063583240762](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063583240762)  
[tucsoncontradancers.org/](http://tucsoncontradancers.org/)

### **Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association**

[www.tucsonfolkfest.org/about-tkma/](http://www.tucsonfolkfest.org/about-tkma/)  
[www.tucsonfolkfest.org/](http://www.tucsonfolkfest.org/)  
[www.facebook.com/TucsonFolkFest/](http://www.facebook.com/TucsonFolkFest/)

# Desert Bluegrass Association

December 2024—January 2025

Volume 30 Issue 4



[www.DesertBluegrass.org](http://www.DesertBluegrass.org)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Membership dues for the Desert Bluegrass Association are \$20 annually per family and are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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