



DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter



Grass Clippings

Volume 29 Issue 6

February—March 2024

Message from the President

By Karen Dismachek, DBA President

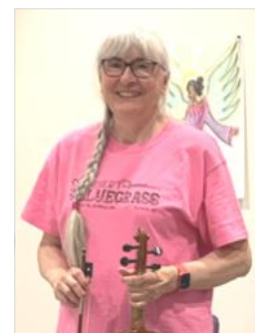
Hi, Bluegrass Lovers! With our January meeting, we have new Board Members (see page 4). It looks like 2024 is shaping up to be a great year for the DBA, with lots of fun activities just around the corner.

Jam Booth at the Rodeo: Join us in the jam booth at the rodeo in February. Help us promote the festival and the DBA. All you have to do is play music and be friendly. See more details, days, times, etc. in Doug McMaster's article on page 6.

Monroe Crossing Jam Workshop: A reminder that the bluegrass band Monroe Crossing is holding a workshop at Voyager RV park here in Tucson on **Wednesday Feb 28** (all levels welcome). Buy tickets or find out more info at monroecrossing.com or check out their Facebook page. You can also contact DBA member Bill Lindroos at 651-491-9928 for more information.

17th St. Showcase/Jam: There will be another 17th Street showcase/jam on Sunday February 11. The showcase band this time will be the "**Notorious No-Gig Girl Band,**" another band which I am proud to be member of. The band plays a short set and then everybody jams, so if you are a picker (all levels welcome) bring your instrument; if not, gridders are welcome, too! Catch our band bio in the band information in this newsletter on page 15 as we are also playing at the Desert Bluegrass Festival. The 17th Street showcase starts at 2 pm, followed by jamming until 4 pm. Doors open at 1:30. The location is **Site 17 Event Center**, 840 E 17th St., Tucson, AZ. Enter the door under the metal awning. This showcase/jam takes place every second Sunday of the month except for March: there will **not** be a 17th St. Showcase/Jam in March because our festival is the same weekend.

Desert Bluegrass Festival: Our festival is almost here! **March 8 - 10:** save the dates and don't miss the fun! See the Special Festival Insert starting on page 9. And if you can, please **volunteer for one of the jobs we still have open.** We still need more help, and one 4-hour shift gets you free weekend admittance! There is a link to the sign-up app in this newsletter under "**Volunteers Needed!!**" on page 10. You can't miss it. :-)



President's Letter continued on page 3

➔ **Also in this issue:** Membership Renewal & New Members, 4. Workshop Update & 17th St. Jam, 5. Jamming at the Tucson Rodeo, 6. Coming Soon, 7. Special Festival Insert, 9 (includes Welcome, Poster, and Band Bios). DBA Calendar, 18. Classifieds, 20. Bands, 21. Instructors, 22. Great Websites, 22. Jams & Open Mics, 23. Associations, 23.

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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

Any questions about signing up, contact me **831-239-4617** or through my email at the end of this message. See details on the festival and also the band bios of this year's great line-up in Dave Polston's festival article starting on page 10.

Regularly Scheduled Jams: Our regular jams continue. Check out the jams page on our website for the schedule, locations, and contacts. Remember to always check the DBA calendar on our website before going to make sure nothing has changed.

Monday Night Bluegrass Workshop: Our Monday night workshops continue 6:30–8:30 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, 4625 E. River Rd. All levels are welcome. We meet every Monday with occasional exceptions such as the Monday after the festival. Also, we will pause for the summer, but we are thinking of having occasional relaxed indoor jams during the summer; we will keep you posted on those. Always check the DBA calendar on the website before coming for live, up-to-the minute information.

DBA Website Resources: Finally, a reminder; if you are looking for information related to bluegrass, don't forget about the resource page on our website at <http://desertbluegrass.org>. Under "Workshops," you can find all the workshop session lyric/chord sheets and also rhythm backing tracks for the progressions we use in the workshop (very common bluegrass progressions). Under the "Workshops/Workshop Resource Page," there are links to resource materials useful for many bluegrass instruments. There is also a "Great Websites" page under "Links." Like the title on that page, there are links to great websites for those interested in bluegrass. Have a happy & music-filled Spring. See you at the Festival!!

Karen

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

Dan Levenson
Arizona Master Artist Awardee

Appalachian Fiddle
Clawhammer Banjo

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<https://clawdan.com>
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Play Nice!

It's time for our annual . . .

Membership Renewal

Hi Bluegrass Fans,

It's time to review your DBA membership and to **renew your membership if needed**. In the Desert Bluegrass Association, we use a common yearly expiration date of March 1st. This allows us to focus on membership renewals once per year.

Of our 265 members, 159 of the memberships expire on March 1st. Your e-mail with this newsletter tells you if you need to renew. (If you receive hardcopy newsletters, we will enclose a note if you need to renew.)

You may renew either from our website or by mail. To renew from the website, go to www.desertbluegrass.org, look for the "Join Today!" area (below the banjo cactus guy), select your membership length, and click the "buy now" button. To renew by mail, print and fill out the form in the newsletter, enclose a check made out to DBA, then mail it to the address listed. Either way is simple and easy.

You can renew yearly for \$20 or for 3 years for \$50. The 3 year option has real benefits – you save \$10 and you only have to deal with renewals every 3 years.

The DBA promotes and preserves Bluegrass Music in so many ways. Think of the workshops, the jams, the festival, the website, the newsletter, the campout, the directory, and more. All of this happens because of two things: First, the hard work of incredible volunteers and second, your memberships which provide needed funds. So renew today and keep supporting Bluegrass Music in Southern Arizona.

Thanks!

Mike Headrick
Membership Secretary

Welcome to Our New & Returning Members!

Atticus Adams	Tucson
Randi Beth Albrechtsen	Boise, ID
William Cassidy	Sierra Vista
Rick Chandler	Marana
Brett & Janet Dodd	Bellingham, WA
Keri Hahn	Tucson
Koreem Johannessen	Tucson
Richard & Leslye Lane	Tucson
Jay Morrison	Tucson
Malary Prewitt	Defiance, MO
Aaron Roop	Vail

Welcome to Our New Board Members!

Jennifer Johnson
Vice President

Richard Lane
Trustee

Thank You for Your Service!

Jim Wagner

Workshop Update

The Monday workshop schedule has now been updated through May 2024 . . . Check it out on our [DBA Calendar!](#)

Note that we will skip the Monday after the festival, but otherwise we'll continue to meet every Monday night until May 13th.

Continue to check the DBA Calendar after that time for any events occurring during our summer workshop hiatus — we may, for example, get together for less formal jams and will announce those as they happen.

17th Street Jam

Here is Dave Polston's band "Monsoon Sky" performing at the recent 17th Street Jam! Be sure to attend the next 17th Street Jam on Sunday, February 11th, 2024, featuring the Notorious No-Gig Girl Band. See the [DBA Calendar](#) for details.



Join us at the Tucson Rodeo!

We are seeking players for the Tucson Rodeo to help us promote the awareness of bluegrass at the DBA booth. Last year we had a great response, obtained new members, got significant “contributions,” AND had several rodeo attendees join us, one leading several songs! If you have “regular” jamming buddies, I encourage you to talk it up, and let me know what day(s) you can be there.

Dates:

Saturday and Sunday

February 17, and 18

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

February 22, 23, 24, and 25

We will need someone present at the booth after playing stops (we generally play from about 11 am until 2 pm), staying until approximately 4:30 pm. I will do a majority of these, but welcome anyone else to help and close down the booth. Booth opens around 10:30 am.

To help get a good spectrum of instrumentalists, I have created a sign up sheet and will have it present on Monday nights. *If you do not attend the workshops, but wish to participate, please call me at (520) 404-7260, and I will place your names on the date(s) you will be playing.*

Doug McMaster
(520) 404-7260
drdoug2682@gmail.com

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Coming Soon

Sponsored by Rhythm and Roots

AJ LEE and BLUE SUMMIT

Hotel Congress Plaza Stage

Friday, May 17, Doors at 7, show at 7:30

Tickets \$17 adv, \$23 at door

Tickets and more info at www.RhythmandRoots.org

“Could This Kid Be the Next Allison Krauss?” *Mother Jones* magazine asked about AJ Lee — and for good reason. She won the Northern California Bluegrass Society’s (NCBS) Best Female Vocalist award nine times by age 21! Popular Webzine *Californiality* called AJ “California’s Hottest Singer” because of her jaw-droppingly beautiful voice. AJ began singing and performing on stage at the astonishing age of five. By twelve, she began writing her own songs and showcasing them nation-wide. She has traveled with many bands, including “The Tuttles with AJ Lee,” which was featured at numerous festivals across the U.S. and beyond. She is a fantastic

mandolinist and songwriter with a gorgeous voice.



Winners 2019 FreshGrass Band competition

2nd Place Winfield - National Flatpicking

Contest Winner - Sully Tuttle (yes, Molly Tuttle's talented brother)

IBMA Momentum Vocalist Award - AJ Lee

Don't miss this great performance, and be sure to check out their latest album, “I’ll Come Back.” This new project is a pure reflection of the live sound of the group, harkening back to their acoustic roots. Falling loosely under the bluegrass label, AJLBS generally plays sans banjo, with Sullivan Tuttle and Scott Gates on steel stringed acoustic guitars, AJ on mandolin, Jan Purat on fiddle, and Chad Bowen on upright bass.



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PEACE OF MIND TO PURSUE YOUR DREAMS.

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Desert Bluegrass Festival

March 8, 9, 10, 2024

Golden Equis Community Park Soccer Field
1220 North Mountain Road, Phoenix, AZ

Special



Mike Mitchell Band

Hillbilly Fever

Festival

The Storytellers

The Old Time Bluegrass Band

Cadillac Mountain

Insert

Monsoon Sky

The Notorious No-Gig Girl Band

Ten Dollar Wedding

EXECUTIVES

Colleen McDonald



Lock, Safe & Security



Buy Festival Tickets at: desertbluegrass.org/tickets-2/

Weekend : \$40 Sat. or Sun.: \$25

RV dry camping: \$50 weekend

16 and under free

Friday free





Welcome to . . .

The 2024 Desert Bluegrass Festival

Hey, Pickers and Grinners, the festival is just about six weeks away! Three days of fun and great music will be had at **Gladden Farms Park, March 8, 9 and 10**. For you pickers, we will have a band scramble on Friday afternoon and a gospel open mic Sunday from 9 to 11. For you grinners, there will be lots of music to enjoy and a contradance on Friday evening following the concert. See the band bios on the next pages and look forward to some GREAT MUSIC!!!

There will be food trucks and, of course, kettle corn and ice cream to enjoy while you watch the shows. There will be craft vendors as well and it's never too early to start shopping for Christmas. Also, here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

- ◆ Yes, dogs are allowed, as long as they're leashed and well-behaved and you clean up after them.
- ◆ Even though we don't sell alcohol, we do have a permit for you to consume such beverages if you wish during the festival. So you may bring coolers, but please drink responsibly.
- ◆ We also have a golf cart shuttle this year from the parking lot to the event.
- ◆ We also offer VIP parking near the soccer fields for a minimal cost available on the website.

Help publicize the festival by printing the festival poster on the next page and putting it up in all our favorite neighborhood spots! And please tell all your friends and neighbors about the event so that we can continue to afford to have a great festival for you all. **We are still in need of many volunteers**, so 4 hours of service will get you a weekend pass. [Click here or on the graphic below to sign up](#). See you there!!!

➔ **Volunteers Needed!!** ➔

**One 4 hour volunteer shift =
a free weekend pass!**

Desert Bluegrass Festival

Festival Dates:
March 8-10, 2024

Festival Location:
**Gladden Farms
Community Park,
12205 N Tangerine
Farms Rd, Marana, AZ**

Friday (Free!):

- ◆ **Band Scramble**
- ◆ **Nick McBlaine and Log Train**
- ◆ **Contra Dancing**
- ◆ **And more!**

Headliners (See the Saturday & Sunday schedules for times):

- ◆ **Mike Mitchell Band**
- ◆ **Hillbilly Fever**
- ◆ **The Story Tellers**

Also Featured:

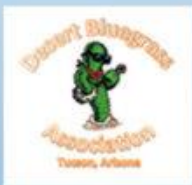
- ◆ **Alpine Divide**
- ◆ **Cadillac Mountain**
- ◆ **Monsoon Sky**
- ◆ **The Notorious No-Gig Girl Band**
- ◆ **Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band**
- ◆ **Ten Dollar Wedding**

Questions about or issues with volunteering? Contact Karen via phone at 831-239-4617 or by email at desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com

Desert Bluegrass Festival

March 8, 9, 10, 2024

Gladden Farms Community Park Soccer Field
12205 North Tangerine Farms Rd., Marana, AZ



Mike Mitchell Band

Hillbilly Fever

Nick McBlaine & Log Train

The Storytellers

The Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band

Cadillac Mountain

Monsoon Sky

The Notorious No-Gig Girl Band

Ten Dollar Wedding

Alpine Divide



Colleen McDonald



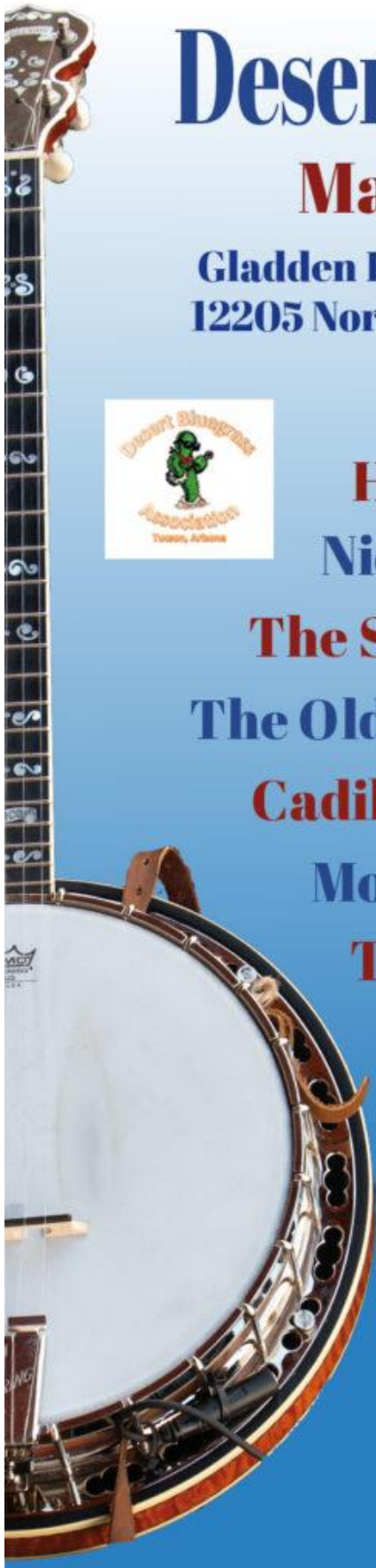
Buy Festival Tickets at: desertbluegrass.org/tickets-2/

Weekend : \$40 Sat. or Sun.: \$25

RV dry camping: \$50 weekend

16 and under free

Friday free



Band Bios

Mike Mitchell is a singer/songwriter and fiddler in the contemporary bluegrass style. With his effortless vocals, distinctive songwriting, and instrumental prowess, Mike continues to capture audiences and carve out his own place in bluegrass. He is most influenced by 70's J.D Crowe and The New South, Tony Rice, and Sam Bush. As a songwriter and recording artist, Mike has released 3 albums, the third of which, "Small Town" debuted on Billboard at # 2. His latest project, "Fathers & Sons" has enjoyed three chart-topping singles. The current one, "Making Hay," is on the Bluegrass Unlimited National Bluegrass chart at #8! Mike is fortunate to record and perform with some of the world's finest and most accomplished musicians. Having cut records with the likes of Mark Schatz, Wyatt Rice, Sammy Shelor, Jarrod Walker and Jesse Brock, Mike knows how high the bar is set in top-level Bluegrass music, and strives to make it on every cut and at every show!



He is joined on stage by the following musicians:

Jacob Wright is an amazing banjo picker from Virginia who has spent the past five years playing with Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers.

Jeff Daugherty on mandolin was raised in a family of North Carolina pickers and singers. From a young age, he followed his uncle's band, New River Gospel, to festivals throughout the Southeast. Watching his family perform on the same bill as first- and second-generation bluegrass giants, he fell in love with the traditional bluegrass sound.

Jared Houseman is an adept bassist on both upright and electric. At the age of 9, Jared began gigging in the Bluegrass-rich region of Southwest Virginia, becoming a master of the style. His influences soon grew to include Jazz, Funk, Country, and everything in between, making him a versatile player on stage and in the studio.

Ethan Ratliff is an exciting up-and-coming Bluegrass guitarist. Just 21 years old, he began his musical journey when he first picked up a guitar only 5 years ago at age 16. Born and raised in the heart of Appalachia in Russell County, Virginia to a musical family, his pedigree is not unlike so many others who have kept this form of music alive and thriving by receiving it from the generation before and expanding upon it, taking it to new heights.



HillBilly Fever is a hard-driving traditional bluegrass band made of seasoned musicians with varied backgrounds.

Mark Krider, banjo. Mark has deep bluegrass roots from the North Carolina mountains where he grew up listening to and pickin' bluegrass. "You might say it's in the water there." Working hard to keep the traditional sound going, Mark formed HillBilly Fever. The band has performed from the east to the west coast. Mark has shared the stage with The Osborne Brothers, The Country Gentleman, The Lewis Family, and Blue Highway.

Continued on next page

Band Bios, continued

HillBilly Fever, continued

Randy Pasley, dobro, lead, tenor, baritone and bass. Randy's style of dobro playing is topnotch. He has performed with Doc Watson, Wyane Henderson, and Tim O'Bryant just to name a few. Randy also won first place dobro at The Galax Old TIME fiddlers convention. Randy and his wife reside in Ogden, Utah.

Tucker McCandless, lead singer and guitar player, plus he plays all the instruments well. Tucker comes to us from Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Mark and Tucker have been making music off and on for the last 25 years. Tucker has such a great bluegrass voice – he's just a pleasure to listen to and he brings out that "High Lonesome sound." Tucker also performed at Dollywood for almost 10 years.

Hudson Bosworth, lead guitar and vocals. Hudson studied guitar with Wyatt Rice for four years at ETSU in Johnson City, Tennessee Hudson has developed into one of the best flat pickers around, and makes his home in Ogden, Utah along with his 1986 Santa Cruz guitar.

Billy Parker, mandolin, tenor, lead, and baritone vocals. Billy is known all over the west coast as "The Mandolin Man." Billy comes from the east coast and makes his home in Chandler, Arizona. Billy has been recording and playing bluegrass for many years. He is one of the very top performers you will get a chance to hear.

Alan Tompkins, bass, lead, baritone, and bass vocals. Alan is no stranger to bluegrass music. He promotes one of the biggest bluegrass festivals in the central U.S. Alan and his wife and daughter live in Dallas, Texas.



Nick McBlaine and Logtrain are Nick Coventry, Peter McLaughlin, Alvin Blaine and Evan Dain. For over a decade they have entertained Tucson audiences with their off-the-cuff bluegrass show, playing hundreds of songs and instrumentals and paying homage to the greats from Flatt and Scruggs to Tom T. Hall, Kenny Baker to Merle Haggard.

Every member takes their turn leading songs that vary from lightning fast banjo breakdowns to old time fiddle waltzes while lead singer Peter McLaughlin sings whatever he pleases, including his original songs like "Alice in Nogales" and "Desert Heart, Mountain Soul." The band brings so much experience and such a varied background to this eclectic show, they are sure to entertain all audiences.

The Storytellers is a prominent progressive bluegrass band that has established itself as a creative force in the Southern California Roots music scene. They draw from the rich canon of traditional bluegrass, country blues, old time and folk music as a basis for inspired improvisations and intrepid vocal harmonies.

"This outfit is as steeped in values of the past as they are keen on keeping things fresh for today's listening ear."

~ The Bluegrass Standard

"The Storytellers seeks to bridge the gap between the traditional bluegrass and jamgrass worlds and have become known for their grassy covers of Grateful Dead songs."

~ Bluegrass Today

One of the region's premier acoustic Grateful Dead cover bands, The Storytellers bring soulful and joyful harmonies, soaring grooves, and their own hippie, bluegrassly vibe to every stage they stand on.



Continued on next page

Band Bios, continued



The Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band (Old Pueblo Bluegrass)

has been delighting audiences with high-energy bluegrass music for a decade.

Bandleader **Reid Griffin**, on guitar, is a Tucson native. He has performed throughout the Southwest since the 1980s and toured Europe with his band "Griffin Brothers."

Steve Reed, upright bass, majored in music at Pima College, along with a long musical journey from classical to jazz and onward to bluegrass.

Bob Frankot, on fiddle, has been steeped in bluegrass all his life, and has played with the popular California bluegrass band "Hot off the Press" through the 1980s before coming to the Old Pueblo. All three members of Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band sing that blend for wonderful three-part harmony.

Cadillac Mountain has been performing Bluegrass music all over Arizona for around twenty years. The current incarnation features Heather Hardy on fiddle and vocals, Katy Colville on bass, Alvin Blaine on banjo and dobro with Joel Leland on guitar and vocals and the addition of Hank Abbey on guitar and vocals. With great pickin' and tight harmonies, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Hailing from Cape Elizabeth, Maine, **Joel Leland** and got the name of the band from the highest point on the eastern seaboard in Maine, Cadillac Mountain. It's the first place the sun touches the continental United States. Joel has been playing bluegrass guitar in the Tucson area for 20 years.

After moving to Tucson in 1990, **Heather Hardy** joined the Sam Taylor Band as a feature violin soloist, and soon became a vocalist. By 1996, Heather had formed her Lil' Mama band, taking it to New York in 1997, and in 2000, she was inducted into the Arizona Blues Hall of Fame. She has been bringing her amazing style to Cadillac Mountain and putting the blues in Bluegrass for over 12 years.

Katy Colville joined the band on the upright bass after a long-standing stint gigging and touring with the Molehill Orchestra. Katy has been keeping everyone on time and smiling since 2002.

Alvin Blaine has been playing music across the country for decades and brings his unmatched style and virtuosity to every tune.

Hank Abbey came to Arizona's deserts from the Great Plains as a songwriter, vocalist, and guitarist. He combines his love of country music traditions of east and west with the high lonesome sound of Appalachia.



Continued on next page

Band Bios, continued

Monsoon Sky, formed late in 2022, is comprised of five musicians who have played with each other in various line-ups over the past decade. All are Desert Bluegrass Association (DBA) devotees who met during workshops or jams. They opened the 2023 DBA festival and will be performing at the upcoming festival in March.

Band members are **Dave Polston** (banjo), **Andy Bennett** (mandolin), **Brad Austin** (dobro), **Daniel Stolte** (guitar), and **Stephanie Austin** (bass).



The Notorious No-Gig Girl Band: With everything shut down in 2020, The Notorious No-Gig Girl Band formed when four friends who had met at the Desert Bluegrass Association workshops decided to break COVID quarantine and jam outdoors in a city park. Spaced well apart from each other, the group played and sang for the pure joy of being together and making music. Playing every week in (nearly) all weather, they developed a following among park visitors, and were especially popular with the under-4 set.

Jennifer Johnson on bass brings raucous good humor and a strong beat. **Karen Dismachek** on guitar and fiddle lays down a mean groove. **Louise Courtney** plays an unusually soft-spoken banjo, but has been known to let her rip on occasion. **Suzette Sommerer** on fiddle just plays whatever the heck she feels like. All four sing like angels (possibly angels with tarnished haloes), and their tight harmonies really bring the band together. Made up entirely of musicians who either took up their instruments late in life or who came late to bluegrass or both, they are a great example of how it is never too late to find passion for something new. Who ever thought that one day this group would be gigging? And no, they are not planning to change the name.

Ten Dollar Wedding: Born and raised in Arizona's vibrant bluegrass scene, Ten Dollar Wedding is a 5-piece band with a love of tradition and an eye toward the future. While the lineup (banjo, guitar, fiddle, mandolin, bass) and tight harmonies are something Bill Monroe might recognize, the band's original material and arrangements mark Ten Dollar Wedding as a thoroughly contemporary act.

Born in 2022, the band is rapidly gaining fans and recognition. Ten Dollar Wedding won the band contests at the Wickenburg Bluegrass Festival and Grande Fiddle Championship. In 2023, the band played spirited sets at the Prescott Bluegrass Festival, Hassayampa Music Festival and the Wickenburg Bluegrass Festival, and brought a toe-tapping good time to bars and backyards across their home state.



Continued on next page

Band Bios, continued

Ten Dollar Wedding, continued

While the band is relatively new, the members of Ten Dollar Wedding are bluegrass veterans. Fiddle player **Mavis Enders**, guitarist **Chris Doyle**, and mandolin player **Brian Mariner** are mainstays at jams in Phoenix and northern Arizona. Banjo player **Patrick Brady** (Romen Buffalo) and bassist **Marc Oxborrow** (Haymarket Squares) have spent more than a decade in other bluegrass acts.

This experience and adventurous spirit is evident in a Ten Dollar Wedding set, where a heartfelt traditional number may be followed by an energetic original and a playful reworking of a pop tune. What's the connecting thread? Superb musicianship and the joy of hearing a band that loves playing together.



Alpine Divide Bluegrass: High energy, traditional and contemporary bluegrass, soulful ballads, tight harmonies and interesting originals is Alpine Divide Bluegrass. Having performed at festivals and other venues throughout the region, each member brings years of experience to the band. Each plays multiple instruments and sings, which adds versatility to the sound of the band.

Mark “Big Juke” Jukich on mandolin is a veteran of many bands back in his home state of Minnesota and his new home in Arizona. He recently placed third in the highly competitive, state mandolin championship in Wickenburg. Whether a song needs precision, speed, or tenderness, Mark knows just how to make each song special.

Jan Zale has been playing a driving bass, keeping the rhythm for multiple bands over the years. Whether a backyard jam or a festival stage, she keeps the music moving! She also enjoys lead and harmony vocals and has won several awards in specialty and harmony vocal and bluegrass band competitions over the years.

Galen Anderson is another veteran of bands in both Minnesota and Arizona. A prolific song writer, his original tunes have earned high accolades throughout the region. Playing guitar and singing both lead and harmony vocals is Galen's specialty. He has won several awards, including many blue ribbons in specialty and harmony vocals, bluegrass bands and specialty instrument competitions.

Howie Jorgenson describes himself as an “old retired veterinarian from North Dakota.” We describe him as a multi-instrumentalist who plays bluegrass and clawhammer style banjo with precision. A lover of train songs, you'll hear his rendition of several with Alpine Divide.

You're sure to enjoy Alpine Divide Bluegrass!



Did You Know? Singer-promoter Carlton Haney and folklorist Ralph Rinzler have been widely credited as producing the **first-ever genuine bluegrass** festival, held in Fincastle, Virginia, on Labor Day Weekend in 1965. Performers included Bill Monroe singing with Carter Stanley; Red Smiley's band featuring a young David Grisman on mandolin; blind guitarist Doc Watson; multi-instrumentalist Don Reno, and many more. Some say, as rock and roll had emerged as the dominant genre in popular music, that this historic event “saved” bluegrass. It certainly kindled a lot of interest and imagination, and no doubt helped fuel the many new directions bluegrass music itself would follow over the ensuing decades. Footage from this momentous occasion can still be found on YouTube, with the search phrase *Fincastle bluegrass 1965*.

*Try playing this music fragment “Fast” and see if you can guess what it's from. It might have been played at that first bluegrass festival, though not on the instrument it's arranged for here. Give up? See answer after the Classifieds on page 20!



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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>.

NOTES:

- Note the concert and jam hosted by the 17th Street Music club on the second Sundays of the month.
- February is Rodeo month! Note jamming dates on next page; see details on page 6!
- **Udall Jam:** The hours for the Udall Jam have been changed to 1:30pm to 3:30pm, and its location will be in a room inside the Udall Recreation Center.

General Schedule Info

- SUNDAYS
- ◆ First and third Sundays: Jam inside the Udall Recreation Center at Udall Park, 1:30pm – 3:30pm.
 - ◆ Second Sundays: Jam @ Site 17 (17th St. Music Club), 2-4 pm.
 - ◆ Fourth Sundays: Jam @ Thirsty's Neighborhood Bar & Grill, 4-6 pm.
- MONDAYS
- ◆ Weekly workshop, St. Francis in the Foothills. Questions can also be directed to the workshop coordinator at DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com.
- THURSDAYS
- ◆ 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**, 555 N. Pantano Rd, Tucson, AZ 85710. Tell the gate attendant that you are playing bluegrass music at the clubhouse and get directions if needed.
- **Rodeo Grounds:** 4823 S. 6th Ave, Tucson, AZ 85714; at S. 6th Ave and E. Irvington Rd.
- **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.

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*

February 2024

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	Feb. 4	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Feb. 5	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Feb. 8	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Far Horizons	Mike 520-403-0168
Sunday	Feb. 11	2 – 4 pm	Jam & concert @ 17th Street	Marshall banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com
Monday	Feb. 12	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Feb. 15	2 – 4 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Saturday	Feb. 17	11 am – 2 pm	Jam @ Rodeo Grounds	Doug (520) 404-7260
Sunday	Feb. 18	11 am – 2 pm	Jam @ Rodeo Grounds	Doug (520) 404-7260
Sunday	Feb. 18	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Feb. 19	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Feb. 22	11 am – 2 pm	Jam @ Rodeo Grounds	Doug (520) 404-7260
Friday	Feb. 23	11 am – 2 pm	Jam @ Rodeo Grounds	Doug (520) 404-7260
Saturday	Feb. 24	11 am – 2 pm	Jam @ Rodeo Grounds	Doug (520) 404-7260
Sunday	Feb. 25	11 am – 2 pm	Jam @ Rodeo Grounds	Doug (520) 404-7260
Sunday	Feb. 25	4 – 6 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Feb. 26	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com

March 2024

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	Mar. 3	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Mar. 4	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Friday	Mar. 8	3:00 – 7:00 pm	Our Bluegrass Festival!	Gladden Farms Community Park
Saturday	Mar. 9	9:45 am – 6:00 pm	Our Bluegrass Festival!	Gladden Farms Community Park
Sunday	Mar. 10	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Our Bluegrass Festival!	Gladden Farms Community Park
Sunday	Mar. 10	—	No jam; go to the Festival!	Marshall banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com
Monday	Mar. 11	—	No workshop today	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Mar. 14	7 – 9 pm	Jam @ Far Horizons	Mike 520-403-0168
Sunday	Mar. 17	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Mar. 18	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Mar. 21	2 – 4 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	Mar. 24	4 – 6 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Mar. 25	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com



Be sure to attend the Desert Bluegrass Association's
2024 Bluegrass Festival, March 8 - 10!

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).

Banjo for sale. **The Missing Link, ML-1**, designed by Bela Fleck and manufactured by Gold Tone. It's halfway between the octave-lower "cello banjo" and the standard G-tuned five-string (a fifth lower). This "baritone" banjo is deep voiced with tuning cGCEG (open C). Bela, inspired by John Hartford who often played in lower tunings, plays it and records with his spouse, Abigail Washburn. This one is from the second production run of 2015, number 068. Signed by Bela Fleck. \$1,200, includes hard case, a set of new strings, and capo. Contact Marshall, BanjoGR8MJV@gmail.com.

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

Goldtone BG 150. Gently used, like new. Brand new head – 7th and 10th fret 5th string spikes. The Gater case is also available. Contact: Carole Wothe, cawothe@cox.net



ANSWER TO MUSIC FRAGMENT ON PAGE 16: It's from "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" sheet music (Easy Piano version) at [https://www.musicnotes.com/!](https://www.musicnotes.com/)

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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
theFRESHAPPLESband@gmail.com
www.theFRESHAPPLESband.com

High Lonesome

John McCann 517-212-3100
 423-430-4543
office@highlonesomebluegrassband.com
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:
s.sommerer@icloud.com
 240-463-1985
tradbanjo@comcast.net
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
 Joe Reighley 520-229-4123
reighlej@cox.net

MojoGrass

Daniel Stolte 520-369-7524
mojograssaz@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/mojograss

North of Lonesome

Alan Lister 623-692-8620
alister377@gmail.com
www.NorthofLonesome.com
 Facebook: North of Lonesome Bluegrass

Ocotillo Rain

Booking: Holly Tripp 520-241-8421
ocotillorain.com

Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band

Reid Griffin 520-349-4321
manzanitabluegrass@dakotacom.net
www.facebook.com/theoldpueblobluegrassband/

Permafrost Road

Ken Brown
 801 W. Limberlost, Unit P
 Tucson, AZ 85705
 (907) 378-6542
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

The Sonoran Dogs

Peter McLaughlin 520-247-1027
www.thesonorandogs.com

Ten Dollar Wedding

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

Way Out West

Emmy Creigh 520-323-0704



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

INSTRUCTION

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Dan Levenson

Old Time fiddle, old-time guitar,
and clawhammer banjo
Clawdan1@gmail.com
412-551-0933
www.Clawdan.com

Andy McCune

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520-869-6818

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GREAT WEBSITES

Desert Bluegrass Association

www.desertbluegrass.org

Arizona Bluegrass Association

www.arizonabluegrass.com

Bluegrass Arizona Blog

www.bluegrassarizona.blogspot.com

Bluegrass Backing Tracks (Free)

www.fbts.com/

Bluegrass Lyrics

bluegrasslyrics.com/

Bluegrass Tablature

www.alltabs.com/bluegrass_tabs.php

Daily Dose of Bluegrass

www.bluegrasonthetube.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/

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

February—March 2024

Volume 29 Issue 6



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