



DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter



Grass Clippings

Volume 30 Issue 5

February 2025—March 2025

Message from the President

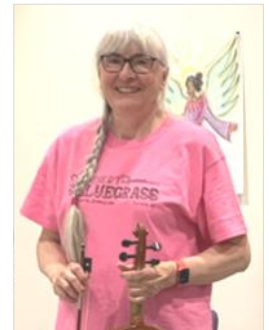
By Karen Dismachek, DBA President

Happy New Year, Everyone! Here's wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year! May it also be full of the enjoyment of Bluegrass Music! We have lots of activities going on to help with that. :-)

Desert Bluegrass Festival: It's almost here! Our extensive Festival Insert starts on page 10. Lots of fun activities and great bands, both national and local. Make sure you check out the bands' bios in this newsletter — you don't want to miss this year's line-up! Spread the word! Tell all your friends and neighbors!! You can print off promotional material from our website; here is the "festival/publicity" page with the links: [Festival Poster & Fliers – Desert Bluegrass Association](#)

- ◆ **Volunteers needed!** Thanks so much to all of you who have signed up so far! There are still plenty of slots available. One four-hour shift gets you a weekend pass! (Camping not included). Just click on this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4CAEA72BA0F85-54175524-desert#/>
- ◆ **Sponsors needed!** Other ways we could use the help is with drumming up sponsorship. We have sponsorships from \$5 and up, and anything helps. The sponsorship form and information is on our website: [Sponsors – Desert Bluegrass Association](#). There is a link on that page to access the sponsorship form. So ask your dentist, your car repair person, your plumber, your baker, your candlestick maker, whomever you can think of (oh, and don't forget yourself). :-)
- ◆ **Any questions, please feel free to contact me!**

Dede Wyland Vocal Workshop: Dede will be in Tucson for the month of February. She will be giving a vocal workshop at the **17th Street Music Club Room on Feb. 9** and is available for private lessons as well while she is in town. She is a well-known artist in the bluegrass world and a great vocalist. Remember the book I talked about in the June-July 2024, Vol. 30, Issue 1 newsletter, "Pretty Good for a Girl"?



President's Letter continued on page 3

➔ **Also in this issue:** Dede Wyland Comes to Tucson, 4. Alison Krauss & Union Station, 6. Membership Renewal and New Members, 7. Annual Membership Meeting, 8. Jamming at the Tucson Rodeo, 9. Festival Insert, 10. Festival Welcome & Info (including new Band Contest), 12. Band Bios, 13. Alison Krauss Ticket Raffle & Instrument Raffle, 17. New (Non-DBA) Events: Check Them Out! 19. Classifieds, 20. Calendar, 21. Bands, 23. Instruction & Great Websites, 24. Other Jams & Associations, 25.

OFFICERS

President: Karen Dismachek	(831) 239-4617	desert.blugrass.president@gmail.com
Vice President: Jennifer Johnson	(520) 529-8512	J4noreason@aol.com
Secretary: Mike Headrick	(520) 403-0168	mbheadrick@aol.com
Treasurer: Louise Courtney	(520) 904-9557	desert. bluegrass.treasurer@gmail.com

TRUSTEES

Richard Lane	(505)553-8973	stufftolearn@msn.com
Bonnie Lohman	(520) 349-4812	basslady78@comcast.net
Doug McMaster	(520) 404-7260	drdoug2682@gmail.com
Dave Polston	(520) 245-6126	davepolston@yahoo.com
Suzette Sommerer	(240) 463-1985	s.sommerer@icloud.com
Matt Teller	(520) 991-4888	mattbteller@gmail.com
Dale Lynne Vickroy	(520) 664-0340	DesertBluegrassWebmaster@gmail.com
Scott Warren	(520) 419-7556	scott@roadrunnerlock.com

Newsletter Editor: Cathy Larson. For information concerning letters to the editor, sending in reviews, contributing newsletter articles, or submitting Concert & Band Listing information for the newsletter, please send email to cathy_2545@yahoo.com, or call or text to (520) 342-9471.

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

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

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

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

The opinions expressed in the DBA newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the Desert Bluegrass Association, its staff, or its members. Reviews, concert listings, band announcements and advertising are for informational purposes only and do not constitute an endorsement by the Desert Bluegrass Association. In the event of an error, our liability is limited to printing a correction. Copyright 2013-2025. All Rights Reserved.

President's Letter, continued from page 1

Well, guess who has her very own chapter in there. :-) This is a great opportunity to work with a person who can really help you with your vocal skills. She is also great with harmony singing and can help bands with their harmony and vocal arrangements. See Marshall Vest's article on page 4, and Dede's flyer in this newsletter for details.

New DBA Jam: A new DBA sponsored jam has been added to our jam schedule, every 4th Thursday of the month at Comanche Wells Mobile Home Park, located at 775 W. Roger Rd. #227, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM. Gates open at 9:30 AM and the jam is in the clubhouse. The jam is friendly and open to all levels of players. For info, contact John Anderson by phone 916-747-4564 or by email at johna2u55@gmail.com, or Vicki Borders at 520-351-1644. **NOTE:** Anyone wanting to host a DBA jam in their neighborhood can just contact me and we can start the process! You need to be a DBA member, you need to be willing to be the contact person (or designate someone) for inquiries, and the jam should be open to all levels of players.

Monday Night Workshop: Monday night workshop continues in the same location St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, 4625 E River Rd., 6:30 – 8:30 PM. All levels of players are welcome. There are a few Monday nights that we take off due to holidays and other circumstances, so always check the DBA calendar on desertbluegrass.org for current information.

DBA Annual Meeting February 3: Our organization's annual meeting will take place Monday, February 3 at 6:00 PM before the workshop, at St. Francis in the Foothills, address listed in the paragraph above and on our calendar. We determine the officers and board members for the year and announce additional vital information related to the organization. All members are welcome to attend and can vote, should there be an election for any officers or board members. Hope to see you there!

On-Line learning aids for Bluegrass, Our Resources: Don't forget, our website has a page on great websites. Here is the link to that page: [Great Websites – Desert Bluegrass Association](#). We also have great learning resources on our workshop resource page; check them out: here is the link to those: [Workshop Resource Page – Desert Bluegrass Association](#). Also, there are some great backing tracks for the bluegrass chord progressions for the songs in our workshop sessions. On the workshop page, they are at the bottom of the page: [Workshops – Desert Bluegrass Association](#).

Looking for On-Line Lesson Materials Sites: In addition to these tools, I will be exploring what's currently out there and I'm planning write an article about it for a summer issue of this newsletter. So I would love to hear from anyone that has found a great app or website for learning bluegrass skills: anything applicable for any bluegrass instrument or vocal. I'll be primarily looking for free stuff, but if someone has a good on-line tutoring site that charges tuition, I would still like to know. Perhaps we can contact them and they would like to purchase an ad in our newsletter. :-)

Thanks to you all for your support. It is appreciated and I hope to see you at the Desert Bluegrass Festival!

Karen

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

Dede Wyland



By Marshall Vest

“Unlock your potential and help make singing the dynamic and fun experience that it’s meant to be.” – *Dede Wyland*

Dede Wyland is a celebrated bluegrass and Americana singer whose career spans decades. A true trailblazer for women in bluegrass, Dede has paved the way for future generations in a genre long dominated by men. Her emotive voice, technical precision, and heartfelt delivery have earned her numerous accolades and the admiration of fans and peers alike.

Early in her career, Dede served as the lead singer for Skyline, a progressive bluegrass band featuring standout musicians Tony Trischka on banjo and Darol Anger on fiddle. Later, she collaborated with other luminaries in the bluegrass and Americana scenes, including Pete Wernick and members of the Johnson Mountain Boys.

Today, Dede performs with two groups that showcase her versatility:

- ☆ **Big Howdy’s Bluegrass Band:** A progressive bluegrass group based in Washington, D.C., featuring virtuosos Randy Barrett, Ira Gitlin, and Tom McLaughlin.
- ☆ **Dede & the Do-Rights:** A band blending bluegrass with roots and country influences.

Beyond performing, Dede is deeply committed to music education. She teaches vocal techniques and bluegrass harmony in private lessons, workshops, and camps nationwide, including the beloved **Camp Bluegrass** at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas. Many of our members (myself included) have had the privilege of taking her classes there!

Dede also reaches students online through her **School of Voice** platform and her Peghead Nation course, *Fundamentals of Good Singing*.

Dede Returns to Tucson!

Dede Wyland is no stranger to Tucson. A few years ago, she hosted a vocal workshop here that drew over 30 eager participants, leaving everyone inspired. We are thrilled to welcome her back for an encore on **Sunday, February 9th**, at the **17th Street Music Club Room** (see flyer on the next page for details).

Yes, it’s Super Bowl Sunday, but the workshop will wrap up before the 6:30 p.m. ET kickoff of the big game!

Dede’s time in Tucson doesn’t end with the workshop. She’ll be in town throughout February and is available for private lessons or band coaching sessions. I can personally vouch for her expertise—Dede once helped my band perfect those close bluegrass harmonies, and the results were amazing.

Don’t miss this chance to learn from a true master. Email her today to schedule your session and take your singing to the next level!

Sunday, Feb 9th, 2025
A VOCAL WORKSHOP with
DEDE WYLAND



2:00 – 4:30pm
Location: 830 E. 17th Street, Tucson

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 Reservations and more information contact: dedewyland@gmail.com

Workshop Fee: \$55 (Venmo, Paypal or Zelle in advance, cash or checks at the door).

**ALISON KRAUSS
& UNION STATION**
FEATURING **JERRY DOUGLAS**



WITH SPECIAL GUEST **WILLIE WATSON**

FRI. JULY
11

**ARIZONA FINANCIAL
THEATRE**

LIVE NATION

WWW.ALISONKRAUSS.COM

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 253 members, 153 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!

Keith Brighton	Tucson	Nancy Jean Henry	Tucson
Judy & Mark Calderhead	Tucson	Linda McMullen	Tucson
Bryan Camp	Lubbock, TX	Craig Rolle	Tucson
Alicia Foley	Tucson	Tina Rucker	Clarkdale
Janet Gething	Tucson	Jose Varela	Tucson
Annie Gort	Oro Valley	Ellie Wanger	Mesa
Susan Hendix	Tucson		

Attention: Members



Annual Meeting
Monday February 3
St Francis in the Foothills UMC
4625 E River Rd.
6:00 PM
(before the workshop)



Dan Levenson

Appalachian Fiddle
Clawhammer Banjo

Arizona Master Artist Awardee

- Lessons
- Concerts
- Workshops
- Books
- Recordings
- DVDs



Play Nice!

<https://clawdan.com>
clawdan1@gmail.com
(412) 551-0933 mobile

Follow Dan online
Patreon.com @danlevensonoldtimemusic
Facebook @Dan Levenson Old Time Music

Jamming at the

Jamming at the

Tucson Rodeo 2025

Once again we are seeking players for the Tucson Rodeo, taking advantage of the rodeo offering us a free booth with our non-profit status. Last year we had a great response, obtained several new members, got significant “contributions,” AND had several rodeo attendees join us, one leading several songs! If you have “regular” jamming buddies, OR are in a band and can help create the core for the day, I encourage you to talk it up, and let me know what day(s) you can be there.

Dates:

Saturday and Sunday

February 15, and 16

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

February 20, 21, 22, 23

To help get a good spectrum of instrumentalists, I have created a sign up sheet, and will have it present on the Monday night workshops. ***If you do not attend the workshops, please call me, or respond by email, and I will place your names on date(s) you can join.***

Doug McMaster

(520) 404-7260

drdoug2682@gmail.com

D'Addario

When you know you know

Special

Festival

Insert



Desert Bluegrass Festival

March 7, 8, 9, 2025

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

Becky Buller Band

Never Come Down

Blue Canyon Boys

The Country Gentlemen Show

Cisco and the Racecars

North of Lonesome

FRESH APPLES

Permafrost Road

Jam Pak Blues & Bluegrass



Three wonderful days filled with great bluegrass music, workshops, kid's activities, food, crafts, jamming, dancing, band scramble, band contest. Great fun for the whole family!

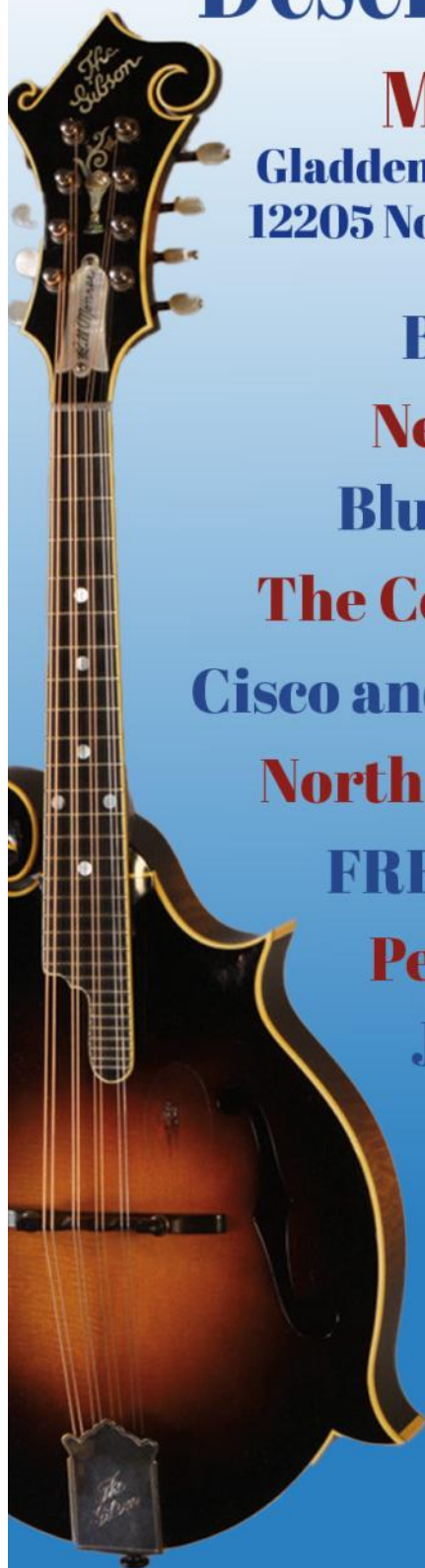
Buy Festival Tickets at: desertbluegrass.org/tickets-2/

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

RV dry camping: \$50 weekend

16 and under free

Friday free





Welcome to . . .

The 2025 Desert Bluegrass Festival

Hey, Pickers and Grinners, the festival is just about five short weeks away! Three days of fun and great music will be had at **Gladden Farms Park, March 7, 8 and 9.** For you pickers, we are introducing a Band Contest this year on Friday afternoon, in addition to our usual Friday band scramble and, on Sunday, we will hold our gospel open mic! See the [Festival Schedule](#) for time and other important information. For you grinners, there will be lots of music to enjoy and a contra dance with FRESH APPLES on Friday evening. See the band bios on the next pages and look forward to some GREAT MUSIC!!!

We will have an instrument raffle as well as raffle tickets to see Alison Krauss in Phoenix in July (see flyer on page 6). There will be an array of food trucks as well as craft vendors: support our local vendors and help support Bluegrass Music in Tucson! 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 again offer a golf cart shuttle this year from the parking lot to the event; VIP parking near the soccer fields is also available for a minimal cost. More info on parking, including handicapped parking, is available on the website.

Help publicize the festival! Suzette Sommerer will have beautifully printed glossy posters available at the workshop and is looking for people to cover specific poster routes. You can also print the festival poster on the previous page and put it up in all your 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 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 7-9, 2025

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

Friday (Free!):

- ♦ **Band Contest (NEW!)**
- ♦ **Band Scramble**
- ♦ **Fresh Apples**
- ♦ **Contra Dancing**
- ♦ **And more!**

Headliners:

- ♦ **Becky Buller Band**
- ♦ **Never Come Down**
- ♦ **Blue Canyon Boys**

Also Featured:

- ♦ **The Country Gentlemen Show**
- ♦ **Cisco and the Racecars**
- ♦ **North of Lonesome**
- ♦ **Fresh Apples**
- ♦ **Permafrost Road**
- ♦ **Jam Pak Blues 'N' Bluegrass**

Festival Raffles:

- ♦ **Instrument Raffle**
- ♦ **3 pairs of tickets to see Alison Krauss & Union Station**

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

Band Bios



Becky Buller Band. [Becky Buller](#) has written songs for Grammy award-winning albums by Molly Tuttle, the Infamous Stringdusters and the Travelin' McCourys. She has also written songs for Ricky Skaggs, Rhonda Vincent, Special Consensus, Doyle Lawson, Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out, Kenny & Amanda Smith, Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen, and many more.

She is the winner of TEN IBMA awards, including the 2020 IBMA Collaborative Recording and Song of the Year for "The Barber's Fiddle" and "Chicago Barn Dance," respectively; the 2018 Gospel Recorded Performance of the Year for "Speakin' to that Mountain"; and the 2016 IBMA awards for Fiddler and Female

Vocalist of the Year (the first person ever in IBMA award history to win in both instrumental AND vocal categories as well as the first woman to win Fiddler of the Year).

Her new album, Jubilee, debuted at #1 on the Billboard Bluegrass Chart in June of 2024. She is surrounded by an amazing group of pickers and singers, including Ned Luberecki, 2023 IBMA Broadcaster and 2018 IBMA Banjo Player Of The Year. Ned is being inducted into the Banjo Hall Of Fame in October of 2024. Becky hails from St. James, MN, originally, and is a member of the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. She now resides in Manchester, TN.

Never Come Down. Formed in 2017, [Never Come Down](#) was born from the vibrant if not occasionally overlooked music scene of Portland, Oregon. Much like the city that inspired them, they're a smart, charming, off-beat amalgam of varied backgrounds and tastes. In today's paradoxical world where honoring tradition is often pitted against exploration and innovation, the band confidently walks the line between the modern and the tried-and-true. They've gained a loyal following and continue to win over audiences everywhere from Reykjavik's Iceland Airwaves to San Francisco's acclaimed Hardly Strictly Bluegrass. They've gained the attention of industry veterans, and toured in support of notable acts such as Yonder Mountain String Band and The Travelin' McCourys, among others. Never Come Down's live performance never disappoints—with showmanship, originality, songwriting and musical prowess far beyond their years.

Never Come Down is a Portland, Oregon-based 5-piece composed of Joe Suskind (guitar), Crystal Lariza (vocals), Brian Alley (banjo), Kaden Hurst (mandolin), and Ben Ticknor (bass). Their dedication to thoughtful songwriting and dynamic arrangements highlight polished technical skills and a commitment to listening to each other.



Continued on next page

SPECIAL FESTIVAL INSERT 2025

The Blue Canyon Boys. The [Blue Canyon Boys](#) are equal parts purists and innovators when it comes to Bluegrass: they stay true to the form's roots while constantly reimagining their relationship to tradition. Never settling for the same-old-same-old nor comfortable sitting back and going through the motions, the Blue Canyon Boys continuously quest for the song and the sound that drives their collective bluegrass spirit. The result is a toe-tapping mix of haunting standards, genre-bending arrangements, and catchy original numbers—all built on the bedrock of their collective bluegrass mastery.

Ever since founding members Jason Hicks and Gary Dark launched the Blue Canyon Boys in 2003, the Blue Canyon Boys have raised the bar for bluegrass bands. They bring it all: seamless brother-duet style, crisp instrumentation, unvarnished lyrics and subversive humor. After winning first place in the 2008 Telluride Bluegrass festival band contest, the Blue Canyon Boys went off at full tilt, taking the bluegrass circuit by storm, performing in illustrious venues across the country as well as internationally. The seasoned quartet features Gary Dark on mandolin, Jason Hicks on guitar, Drew Garrett on bass, and Chris Roszell on banjo. Their latest album, aptly titled "7", is perhaps their most polished and poignant yet. Classic bluegrass, clean and raw, blends effortlessly with the band's home-grown compositions, then peppered with a judicious cover or two, such as the band's riveting take on Warren Zevon's "Carmelita".



The Country Gentlemen Show. Few names in the bluegrass world are as celebrated as The Country Gentlemen. Their harmonious blend of traditional and contemporary styles has made a lasting impact on the genre. Today, [The Country Gentlemen Show](#), composed of talented musicians, carries the legacy of honoring the original band's music and spirit.

This band is not just a cover band; they are a tribute in the truest sense. They don't merely replicate the songs; they breathe new life into them. With

members like Mike Phipps on vocals and guitar, Lynwood Lunsford on banjo and vocals, Dave Propst on mandolin and vocals, Darren Beachley on Dobro and vocals and Taylor Parks on bass and vocals, the band brings a wealth of experience and passion to the stage.

While the band honors the past, it also looks to the future. Their latest album "Yesterday and Tomorrow" is a testament to this, featuring new, original material that stays true to the style of the original Country Gentlemen. This project, especially poignant following Bill Yates's passing, shows the band's commitment to evolving while respecting the roots from which they grew.

The Country Gentlemen Show is more than just a musical act; they are the custodians of a rich musical heritage. They ensure that the music of The Country Gentlemen continues to resonate with current fans and reaches new ones. If you're a bluegrass fan or just discovering the genre, following The Country Gentlemen Show is a journey through the heart of American musical tradition. Their music is a bridge between the past and the future and a ride worth taking.

Continued on next page



Cisco and the Racecars. [Cisco and The Racecars](#)

specializes in bluegrass, folk, and old time Americana music. Their energetic style and diverse arrangements and instrumentation create a unique blend of old and new. Under the management and vision of Francisco Briseno, Cisco & The Racecars has taken its place as one of the premier bluegrass bands in the Southwest.

The band is composed of Francisco Briseno on banjo, Mark Hickler on guitar, Giselle Lee on fiddle, Chester Carmer on mandolin, Katie Carmer on cello, and Joelle Tambe-Ebot on bass. Francisco, an Arizona State Banjo Champion, has gathered his band members over many years and together they've formed a highly unique and authentic sound. Although their roots are bluegrass, and they remain true to that tradition, they

also play popular, country, and old-time music. The band plays festivals, special events, parties, weddings, and members also arranged and played 35 performances for the world premier theater production of "Burning in the Night".

In addition to performing, Cisco & the Racecars mentors the young players of the [Jam Pak Blues 'N' Grass Neighborhood Band](#), a local after school music program that gave several of the band's members their start.

In summer 2018, the band had the opportunity to tour Ukraine, playing concerts in villages and towns across the country. This musical diplomacy trip was arranged by the Peace Corps and generously funded by the Trust for Mutual Understanding and the American Embassy in Kiev.. Cisco & the Racecars returned to Ukraine in summer 2019 for a second tour. They look forward to future opportunities to travel the world, share their music, and promote international understanding.

North of Lonesome. [North of Lonesome](#)

is an Arizona-based bluegrass band with deep roots in traditional bluegrass music. They've also been known to veer off into grassed-up soft rock and blues, to the edge of folk and old-time music—but always with that bluegrass vibe.

You'll find yourself humming and swaying to the growing list of songs they've written for themselves. So wax up your mustache, grab your sweetie, and be ready to dance.

You'll hear Scott Lewis on resonator guitar, Alan Lister on guitar and vocals, Kate Fox on bass and vocals, Mike Seymour on mandolin, and Luke Stucklein on banjo.



Continued on next page

SPECIAL FESTIVAL INSERT 2025

Fresh Apples. [FRESH APPLES](#)' toe-tapping feel-good music features the tight vocal harmonies of guitarist Meryl Brown and Doc Rolland, an Arizona State Fiddle champion & 3X National Certified Division fiddle champion. Two of Arizona's most talented bluegrass musicians, Billy Parker (mandolin) and Tyler James (banjo), join Doc & Meryl for the 2025 Desert Bluegrass Festival show, turning FRESH APPLES into a dynamic and "fresh" sounding bluegrass quartet.

FRESH APPLES will perform an eclectic mix of originals and fresh arrangements of bluegrass and old-time music. Doc and Meryl's playful synergy, good old-fashioned humor, lively audience participation and just plain having fun make each FRESH APPLES performance special!



*** with special guests ***



Tyler James

Billy Parker

Permafrost Road. Permafrost Road was originally started by three former Alaskans who wound up in Tucson. Permafrost Road features Billy Paul on banjo, Jon Kinnaman on mandolin and guitar, Ken Brown on guitar and dobro, Dan Mullin on upright bass, 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 in November of 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.



Continued on next page

Jam Pak Blues 'N' Grass Neighborhood Band. The [Jam Pak Blues 'N' Grass Neighborhood Band](#) is comprised mostly of children and has been on the scene since 1994. The band played their first festival at Pioneer Bluegrass Festival, actually held at Cow Town, AZ in 1998, with banjos and a washtub bass. They've been on stage here at the Desert Bluegrass Festival almost every year starting in 2001. Coming from Chandler, it's their great pleasure to play for all the people to make them happy with bluegrass music.



Announcing the 2025 Raffles . . .

- Alison Krauss Ticket Raffle -

This year, we have a Special Raffle in conjunction with our Festival: we will raffle off three pairs of tickets to see Alison Krauss and Union Station at their July 11, 2025 performance at the Arizona Financial Theatre in Phoenix!!

- Instrument Raffle -

THREE great instruments will be raffled off this year:

Gibson Bowtie Banjo
Takamine Acoustic Guitar
Celtic Mandola



COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

We imagine an Arizona where everyone can participate in and experience the arts

An agency of the State of Arizona



Residential
Commercial
ROC 186873

Scott Warren
President/CEO

Safes
Sales
Service
Installation

(520) 326-5111 24 hours
(520) 326-7109 fax

5001 E. Speedway • Tucson, AZ 85712 • RoadrunnerLock.com

BLUEGRASS JUST FOR FUN:

The Kitchen Table Traditional Bluegrass Jam!

Kitchen Table Traditional Bluegrass Jam every Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. South Sierra Vista off Highway 92. Mile Post 327. Traditional bluegrass instruments only. No electrics, no strats, no drums, no country, and please no kazoos. Calls only, no text. Call Larry at 520-255-0853 for info, leave a message if I miss your call.

Bluegrass just for fun 😊



LIVE MUSIC * WORKSHOPS * FOOD TRUCKS * RAFFLES * OPEN MIC

HOSTED BY

MUSICIANS AND MUSIC ENTHUSIASTS WANTED!
Bluegrass, Old-Time, Country Gospel, Classic Country, Country Blues, Cowboy Songs, Folk, and all other traditional acoustic music genres

ALL DAY JAMMING

FEB 14-16 2025
Friday

At The Graham County Fairgrounds
527 E Armory Road Safford, AZ

3 DAYS OF LIVE MUSIC

FREE EVENT FOR ALL

Saturday
Fundraiser Breakfast 8-10AM
WORKSHOPS ALL DAY
Kids and Pros Band Scramble vendors
JAM PAK JAMMING TENT
Square Dance 1PM
Forest Thurman & Friends Concert 7-10PM

Sunday
Eastern Arizona Old-Time Fiddlers Gospel Sing 9AM
Blue Zeal
OPEN MIC 11-1PM

Support our mission
Matheson Music Foundation membership starting at \$30/yr
mathesonmusicfestival.com

visit Mathesonmusicfestival.com and become a member of The Matheson Music Foundation - help us in supporting music education and opportunities for young musicians
To get involved contact Brianna DeRusha 928-651-1648 - mathesonmusicfoundation@gmail.com

REALTY EXECUTIVES
ARIZONA TERRITORY

Colleen McDonald
3rd Generation Realtor
Associate Broker

8760 N Oracle RD #130
Tucson AZ 85704

Cell: 520-907-5300

colleen@colleenmcdonald.com

prisma
message to market

Your full-service, local Tucson source for:
Printing | Mailing | Marketing

poweredbyprisma.com | 520-571-1114

CLASSIFIEDS

Instruments

2003 Martin HD-28 Guitar with LR Baggs Dual Source Pickup. Very good condition. Hardshell case included. \$2,100. Tom Carpenter 520-488-8185.

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 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 // 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).

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

Annuity Solutions

Unhappy with the renewal rate on your fixed annuity?

Trapped in an Indexed annuity with a low cap or participation rate?

Consider locking in a better rate now while interest rates are high.

We only work with A or A+ A.M. Best Companies.

Call us a (520) 881-2523
Let us go to work for you!

LAURENCE L OF FINANCIAL ADVISORS
FINANCIAL LIFE PLANNING



tofadvors.com

Fixed and Indexed Annuities are offered through Laurence L of Financial Advisors. Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor. Cambridge does not offer tax or legal advice. Cambridge and Laurence L of Financial Advisors, LLC are not affiliated.
Laurence L of Financial Advisors, LLC 4757 F. Camp Lowell Drive Tucson, AZ 85712

PEACE OF MIND TO PURSUE YOUR DREAMS.

Adria Coleman
Adria Coleman Agency

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

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

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: **Workshop are held every Monday** at St. Francis in the Foothills through Dec. 16. See time and location details below and online; check the online calendar before heading out for holidays and other schedule changes.

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 @ 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.
 - ◆ Fourth Thursdays: Jam @ Comanche Wells Mobile Home Park, 10 am – 12 pm.

Locations

- **17th Street Music Club**, 830 E. 17th St., Tucson. Use the entrance at the wheelchair ramp under the Tucson Party Rentals awning.
- **Comanche Wells Mobile Home Park**, 775 W Roger Rd #227, Tucson. Gates open at 9:30 am. The jam is in the clubhouse. This is a beginner-friendly jam for all levels of players.
- **St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church**, 4625 E. River Rd, Tucson. 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.
- **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.)

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 2025



<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sat-Sun	Feb 1-2	See ABA website	ABA Bluegrass Roundup continues	See ABA website
Sunday	Feb 2	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Feb 3	6:00 – 6:30 pm	Annual Meeting @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Monday	Feb 3	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Sunday	Feb 9	1:00 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ 17th Street Music Club	Marshall banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com
Monday	Feb 10	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Sunday	Feb 16	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Feb 17	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Feb 20	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	Feb 23	4:00 – 6:00 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Feb 24	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Feb 27	10 am – 12 pm	Jam @ Comanche Wells NEW	John Anderson (520) 261-5645 or Vicki Borders 520-351-1644



March 2025



<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	Mar 2	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Mar 3	- -	NO WORKSHOP	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Fri – Sun	Mar 7 – 9	See Festival website	Our Bluegrass Festival	See lineup and events on website
Sunday	Mar 9	- -	NO 17th ST JAM	Marshall banjoGR8MJV@gmail.com
Monday	Mar 10	- -	NO WORKSHOP	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Sunday	Mar 16	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Mar 17	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Mar 20	2 – 4 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	Mar 23	4:00 – 6:00 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Mar 24	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Mar 27	10 am – 12 pm	Jam @ Comanche Wells	John Anderson (520) 261-5645 or Vicki Borders 520-351-1644
Monday	Mar 31	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com

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 ? 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

FRESH APPLES

Doc & Meryl: 602-618-6285
theFRESHAPPLESband@gmail.com
www.theFRESHAPPLESband.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
tradbanjo@comcast.net

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)

North of Lonesome

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

Ocotillo Rain

Jeff Collins 520-403-4062
 Holly Tripp 520-241-8421
Ocotillorain.blogspot.com

Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band

Reid Griffin 520-349-4321
manzanitabluegrass@comcast.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
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

String Creek

Janet Dodd 509-701-0901
Jdoutback2@gmail.com
 Brett Dodd 509-216-1002
Brettd1@msn.com
 Rick Chandler 616-540-9066
rchan7954@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/BrettandJanetDoddDuo/

Ten Dollar Wedding

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

Way Out West

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



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

INSTRUCTION

Chris Brashear

413-687-8350

www.chrisbrashear.info**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
412-551-0933www.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**Marc Rennard**Fiddle, mandolin, and guitar
314-313-0318
cramdranner@yahoo.com
Expert repairs – Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Fretted
Instruments – and Bow Repair

GREAT WEBSITES

Desert Bluegrass Associationwww.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.orgwww.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.

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

Southern AZ Old Time Fiddlers Association

Unitarian Universalist Church

4831 E 22nd St, Tucson

Tuesday 6:30—8:30pm

Info: Wilbur 520-743-7086

Sierra Vista, Kitchen Table Traditional Bluegrass Jam,

Every Tuesday from 6:00 pm to
8:00 pm. South Sierra Vista off
Highway 92. Mile Post 327.

Traditional bluegrass instru-
ments only. No electrics, no
strats, no drums, no country,
and please no kazoos. Calls
only, no text. Call Larry at 520-
255-0853 for info, leave a
message if I miss your call.
Bluegrass just for fun!

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

February 2025—March 2025

Volume 30 Issue 5



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