



DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter



Grass Clippings

Volume 30 Issue 6

April 2025—May 2025

Message from the President

By Karen Dismachek, DBA President

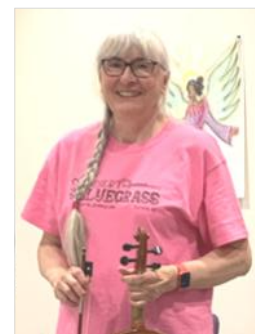
Happy Spring to all you Bluegrass aficionados! Wow it's Spring already — the year is moving by fast! Time to sign up for those spring, summer, and fall music camps!

Some Music Camps to consider:

Camp Blue Grass, Levelland, Texas, July 13 – 18 . Great instructors! It's a really fun camp and our own Dave Polston teaches and runs the slow jam there. Learn more on CampBluegrass.com.

There are several **Desert Night Acoustic Camps** in New Mexico taking place this year: Song-writing Camp, May 8 – 11; Summer Camp, August 13 – 17; Acoustic Music Camp, October 9 – 12 ; and Southwest Mandolin Camp, October 30 – November 2. These are run by our good friend Chris Saunders, a member of the Hard Road Trio and a wonderful musician in her own right. The camps are held at the beautiful and rustic Black Range Lodge in Kingston, New Mexico. See more info on their website at DNAmusiccamp.com. For some information on additional music camps, see the article by Doug McMaster on page 18. Doug has been to quite a few camps inside and outside of the Southwest and he gives us his impressions and reviews.

Desert Bluegrass Festival: The big story this issue is our festival. It was a wonderful festival. The weather mostly cooperated (except Friday), and the bands sounded absolutely great (due both to their skilled musicianship and Alvin's expertise with the sound)!



President's Letter continued on page 3

➔ **Also in this issue:** Chris Brashear Workshops, 5. Festival Recap, 7. Turquoise Award, 9. New Members, 9. Freezing Friday at the Festival, 10. More Festival Photos, 14. Music Camps, 18. Classifieds, 20. Calendar, 21. To Instructors and Bands, 23. Bands, 23. Instruction, 24. Great Websites, 24. Other Jams and Associations, 25.

OFFICERS

President: Karen Dismachek	(831) 239-4617	desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com
Vice President: Jennifer Johnson	(520) 971-2054	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.

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*DBA Members Free, Space Permitting

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President's Letter, continued from page 1

Hangin' with Becky Buller and Suzette Sommerer at the Festival!

We had a band contest this year; it went really well. We had a lot of sign-ups, so thanks to all who signed up and congrats to the winners! See more details on the contest in Suzette's article starting on page 10. Great big thank yous are in order to everyone on the festival committee, and all the volunteers, the sponsors, the vendors, the bands, the Town of Marana, and all who attended for helping us to make it a successful festival. Thanks also to the publications and radio stations that helped us to get the word out. Check out Dave Polston's festival recap on page 7, and lots more photos, too, throughout this issue!

Guest Instructor Workshops: In February, DeDe Wyland was in town and held a vocal workshop at 17th Street Music Club Room. My schedule was such that I couldn't attend. However, I heard a lot of great feedback about it. So if she comes around again and if you are interested, take the opportunity to sign up. Also in November last year, Steve Smith gave a workshop on groove on a Monday night, giving those that wanted to participate the opportunity to work with him. I heard many good things about his workshop as well. And in January, master fiddler Tristan Clarridge, supported by Chris and Betsy Krause, held a Monday evening workshop that gave all the fiddlers a lot to think about and work on. Where I'm going with this is that we are hoping and planning to do more guest instructor workshops during the coming year. One of the musicians to offer workshops currently is **Chris Brashear**. He is a wonderful and versatile musician and great to work with. See his workshop and contact information on page 5. Workshops are a great way to develop and deepen your skills.

Monday Night Workshop: Monday night workshop continues in the same location at St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, 4625 E River Rd., Tucson, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. All levels of players are welcome. Workshops will continue **through May 19**, and then we're off for the summer. However, we will have a few "jams" at the church on some Monday nights over the summer. So keep your eye on the calendar for those, and also the dates in September when the regular workshops resume. The DBA calendar is on our website at desertbluegrass.org.

My Last Year: Lastly, I want to announce that this will be my last year as DBA president. I am not going anywhere, just changing my position in the club. I will still be involved in DBA activities like the festival and workshops. It's time for new blood, as it were. So keep it in mind, if you are interested and want to consider serving as President. Or perhaps you know someone that is a good candidate and might be willing to step in. The DBA is a wonderful organization, and it is quite unique among Bluegrass organizations in the country.

President's Letter continued on next page

President's Letter, continued from previous page

We are becoming the place to contact for musicians and bands when they have questions about playing in Tucson. We are on the Bluegrass radar. :-) You have a while to consider as we will be electing our new officers as usual at our annual meeting in February 2026. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me. I'll be happy to talk with you about all aspects of this very rewarding position.

Sort of along these lines as well, we will begin planning on **Desert Bluegrass Festival 2026** over the summer and into the early fall. There are many, many moving parts to the festival. The committee we have now is really about half as big as it should be to shoulder all the responsibilities. So keep this under your consideration as well: we need more support for the festival as far as task management goes. The festival is our big thing as a club and it is really important to keep it going. We will call out for help in future newsletters, emails, and social media when the time comes and we have more details to offer.

Thanks to **all** you DBA members for being part of this organization that keeps spreading the love of Bluegrass!!!

Karen

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

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Play Nice!

New Weekly Workshops

Classic Bluegrass and Old-Time Country Music

Chris Brashear is offering weekly, two-hour workshops in classic bluegrass and old-time country music this April and May.

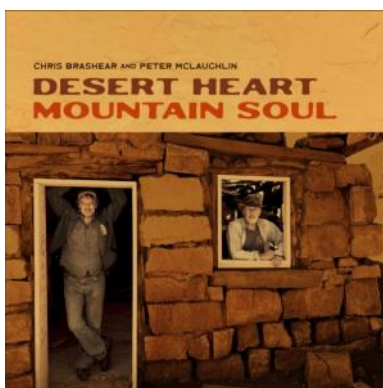
The focus of the workshops will be geared to song repertoire and singing, and all bluegrass instruments are welcome. Maximum class size is 10 people and cost is \$50/person.

Workshops will be held on Thursdays from 2:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. **First workshop is Thursday, April 3rd.** See how to sign up below.

Chris Brashear plays fiddle, mandolin, and guitar, and he is a singer with a wide vocal range and a clear, distinctive voice. He is also a songwriter. In the desert southwest and beyond, Chris continues to perform with long-time music partner Peter McLaughlin. Their latest CD release is titled *Desert Heart, Mountain Soul*. This duo also hosts the **Tucson Opry**, a seasonal variety show with local, regional, and national artists. And for fans of music and the outdoors, **Chris Brashear and Peter McLaughlin** host music and river trip excursions on the San Juan River in southern Utah and on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

Chris brings over thirty years of professional music experience as a performer, producer, teacher, and recording artist. He has taught at numerous camps and festival workshops across the country, including the Augusta Heritage Bluegrass Camp, the Joe Val Memorial Bluegrass Festival, Banjo and Mandolin Camps North, Walker Creek Music Camp, Roots & Boots Music Camp, Berea College Music Festival, the Berkeley Old

Time Music Convention, and Mars Hill Roots Music Camp. He has solo recordings produced by Jody Stecher and Jim Rooney. He is also a founding member of the Desert Bluegrass Association! More about Chris is available at [About Chris – Chris Brashear](#).



To sign up or to get specific location or other information, contact Chris directly at chrisbrashear2@gmail.com, or call or text him at 413-687-8350. Website: www.chrisbrashear.info.

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Desert Bluegrass Festival 2025

Recap from Dave Polston, Festival Committee Chair

Ten days prior to the festival, I must've checked the weather every 20 minutes!! It flip-flopped, and every time I checked, it was different. As the time drew closer, the weather was *not* on our side for the first couple of days. Thursday morning it was clear but with a definite chill in the air. Jeff Collins and I started setting up the campground while Doug McMaster oversaw the contractors who set up our large canopies and stage. Later in the afternoon, the winds picked up and hats off to the crew getting those 20 x 20 canopies up! By the end of the day, we had nearly 70 campers there ready for the weekend.

We awoke Friday morning to rain, but the forecast showed it would only be in the morning, so we postponed the rest of the set up to noon. The rain stopped, but the temperature didn't climb very high that day.

But we had a great Friday and you can read all about it in Suzette's article on page 10.



Hardy Tucsonans braving Friday's chill



Even *hardier* Tucsonans dancin' in the rain!

Saturday and Sunday the weather was beautiful! Saturday morning we opened with Tucson's own Permafrost Road, followed by two Phoenix bands, North of Lonesome and Cisco and the Racecars. Becky Buller and her band were supposed to do the workshops Saturday, but their flight had some problems and they didn't get into Tucson 'til the wee hours of the morning. The band Never Come Down stepped up and did the workshops, and I heard lots of positive comments from all the attendees. That afternoon, we also had great talent from the Country Gentlemen Show, the Blue Canyon Boys, and Never Come Down, and ended the day with Becky Buller and her band. That afternoon saw the Turquoise Award presented to Karen Dismachek. Karen has stepped up the past few years as our President and running the workshop rebuilding after Covid. She has also done an outstanding job this year working with the town of Marana preparing for the festival! Saturday evening saw lots of jamming going on in the campgrounds.

Continued on next page

Festival Recap continued from previous page

Sunday we started with our open mic gospel. We had two hours of individual and group performers singing and playing some Sunday morning inspiration music! I'd have to say the highlight was the Blooming Desert Band, with the Notorious No-Gig Girl Band as back-up singers, doing Spirit in the Sky. Everyone loved it!! Good job! Following the gospel, we had Jam Pak back this year to start off our Sunday morning. It was awesome having them back and they brought along their petting zoo for everyone to enjoy. Our four headliners again provided outstanding sets on this beautiful, sunny, warm Sunday afternoon. All the bands and performers sounded awesome because of our own Alvin Blaine providing the sound. He always does an outstanding job!

Thank you to all the committee members who prepared and planned for the festival. Thank you to all the volunteers who filled the positions during the weekend to make sure we had a successful festival. Thank you to all that came to the festival, and who camped. We hope you had a wonderful time! Thank you to Mark Jukich and Ky Burt who helped out with the emcee duties over the weekend. Thank you to our sponsors and vendors and a big thank you to a couple of anonymous donors who really helped us bring in a couple of top-notch bands. We will be having a recap meeting soon and encourage any of you that would like to help out by being part of the committee to attend. We will send out a notification to all the members as to when it will be so that you may attend.

Mark your calendars for March 13, 14, and 15, 2026. It's right around the corner!



Above, left: The No-Gigs dominate in tie-dye. *Above, right:* Snow-capped peaks dominate the festival's Friday back-drop. Brrrr!



Above: A rowdy, maybe even raucous, Gospel Mic, continuing the tie-dye theme!

Desert Bluegrass Association's Turquoise Award

Each year, the DBA gives the Turquoise Award “in recognition of contributions to the Desert Bluegrass Association and dedication to the preservation and promotion of bluegrass music in Southern Arizona.” The Turquoise Award for 2025 was awarded to Karen Dismachek at this year’s Desert Bluegrass Festival. Karen, with her husband Dennis, joined the DBA in 2018. In early 2021, the DBA was searching for a new President. Karen stepped up; she is now serving her fourth year as President of the DBA. In that time she has done many things for the Association. She is a leader in the Monday Night Workshop. She has monitored our Desert Bluegrass discussion group on Facebook, keeping the spammers at bay. She has taken over the DBA merchandise and updated our inventory. During Karen’s tenure as President, the DBA membership has increased by 22%. Whenever something needs doing, she steps up. The Turquoise Award is a fine way of recognizing her many contributions.

—Contributed by Mike Headrick



Top: Karen receives her award.

Bottom: Karen with 5 prior Turquoise Award Winners. Left to right they are Jeff Collins, Dave Polston, Bonnie Lohman, Mike Headrick, Carole Wothe, and Karen Dismachek.

Welcome to Our New & Returning Members!

Alan Atlas	Tucson
Nick Coventry	Tucson
David Cunningham	Paradise Valley
Judith Daniel	Tucson
Andrew Hinds	Tucson
Cody Hudman	Tucson
Mike Karr	Sierra Vista
Margaret Kurzius-Spencer	Tucson
Larry Morgan	Sierra Vista
Wayde Olson	Tucson
Pickering Consulting Group	Tucson
David Roark	Tucson
Jason Schneider	Tucson
Kathleen Schwartzman	Tucson
Tabor Tollefson	Tucson
Aaron Vest	Tucson



Freezing Friday at the Festival

By Suzette Sommerer



AS Dave reported in his festival article, Friday started with a hold on setup until the rain finally let up, and ended with snow flurries mixed with rain. The temperature never rose above 62° F, was mostly in the 50s during the afternoon and evening festivities, with the dampness adding an extra frisson of chill. It was a test of the true dedication of our hard-working festival staff and the many wonderful folks who turned out to participate and to spectate.

This year's festival included a band contest for the first time in quite a while. It was open to any band playing acoustic instruments with 3-7 players other than those from bands we hired to play at this year's festival. We had eight bands participating, and they provided some great entertainment on Friday afternoon.

The weather did not cooperate – those who attended will remember that it was really cold, making it very difficult to play the instruments and to sing without shivering. Our long-suffering judges, Peter Rolland, Meryl Brown, and Billy Parker of Fresh Apples were incredibly patient, as they were freezing too. Nonetheless, they provided detailed scores and comments to the musicians who came out to play. These comments can be so helpful to bands as they strive to improve, and we very much appreciate our judges making the effort to be so thorough.

The scoring turned out to be more interesting than we had imagined. We provided fairly minimal guidance based on what we'd seen from other festivals' band contests – basically one score for each band made up of 30% material selection, 30% instrumental performance, 30% vocal performance, and 10% stage presence. Due to a more structured approach in fiddle contests, our judges arrived with their own score sheets divided into the four categories for each piece, so a total of 12 scores per band per judge. Total points for any band were the totals of all three judges' scores. As you can imagine, that was a lot of arithmetic that had to be performed and checked – sincere thanks to Doug McMaster who stepped in at the last moment and spent an hour with me tallying and double-checking scores!

Freezing Friday continued on next page

 A business card for Colleen McDonald. On the left is a headshot of a woman with blonde hair wearing a light blue shirt. To the right of the photo, the text reads:

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 An advertisement for Prisma. The top left features the Prisma logo, which consists of the word "prisma" in a sans-serif font next to a colorful geometric shape, with the tagline "message to market" below it. To the right is a large graphic of overlapping blue and white triangles. The main text reads:

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 At the bottom, it says "poweredbyprisma.com | 520-571-1114" with a yellow horizontal bar underneath.

Freezing Friday, continued from previous page



Congratulations and thank you to all the bands that participated, and of course special thanks to all our judges. Your fortitude in carrying on despite the difficult conditions was impressive! The Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band (Reid Griffin, Bob Frankot, and Steve Reed) of Tucson took first place; the Dust Devils (David Van Gelder, Leslie Ritter, Mike O'Connor, and George Doty), also of Tucson, came in second; and the MoonCats (Jordan Eslinger, Sky Froelich, and Danny Harildstad) of Pick City, North Dakota, took third.

Left: The Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band



Above: Dust Devils.



Left: MoonCats.

Next up on the schedule was the ever-popular band scramble. Each band, thrown together by random selection (i.e., names pulled out of buckets by instrument), was given about five minutes to come up with a name and a couple of songs. Then they were thrust onto the stage to perform for the crowd. I am always amazed at how well these groups do, demonstrating that amazing ability of bluegrassers to create beautiful music without much preparation and no rehearsal. I'm particularly impressed with how well the more skilled musicians support their less experienced bandmates, and with the bravery that those with less experience show in getting up onstage and sharing their music. This year, the weather challenges had everyone bundled up and still shivering, but that didn't stop all these wonderful musicians from making us smile with their enthusiastic and remarkably beautiful songs. The scramble was judged by Dale Vickroy, Trish Beals, and Ky Burt. First prize was awarded to Cold Rain and Snow, second to Cold Feet, and third to Tucson Twisters. Thanks to everyone who participated and showed us once again what bluegrass is all about!

Freezing Friday continued on next page

Freezing Friday, continued from previous page



Clockwise from top left: Band Scrambler winners: Cold Rain and Snow (1st place); Cold Feet (2nd), and Tucson Twisters (3rd). Congratulations — fortune favors the brave, and it took true bravery to be out there on Freezing Friday!



After suffering two hours sitting still in the cold and damp judging the band contest, FRESH APPLES played an engaging set that really had the crowd going. FRESH APPLES duo Doc Rolland on fiddle and vocals and Meryl Brown on guitar and vocals, were

joined by Billy Parker on mandolin and Tyler James on banjo, demonstrating the dedication of true professionals as they quickly thawed their fingers (as best they could) and launched into an energetic and entertaining set of bluegrass tunes, masterfully executed, whetting all our appetites for the very fine bluegrass bands to follow. What a great opener!



Storm clouds gather behind festival opener FRESH APPLES

Freezing Friday continued on next page

Freezing Friday, continued from previous page

FRESH APPLES were then joined onstage by Abbie Song, one of Tucson's finest contra dance callers. She gently taught us the steps, and in no time, had us all dancing as FRESH APPLES launched into a set of fast and rollicking fiddle tunes. After two dances, the thin drizzle picked up to the point where instruments and sound equipment were getting wet, and we had to end the festivities a little early. Swirling snow added a little extra excitement as sound man supreme Alvin Blaine started breaking down for the night.



Dancing up a storm, so to speak

For anyone who enjoyed getting a taste of contra dancing, I highly recommend checking out the [Tucson Contra Dancers website](#) sponsored by Tucson Friends of Traditional Music. They organize two to three contra dances a month at a cost of only \$10 per person, provide a beginner lesson at the start of each evening, and always have live music. Great fun for everyone!

Thanks to everyone who participated and persisted through Friday's challenging conditions: the indomitable setup crew and other volunteers, the dedicated band contestants, the up-for-anything band scramblers, our long-suffering judges, fantastic opening act FRESH APPLES, our contra dance caller Abbie Song, and perhaps most especially, to our devoted audience, without whom there could be no festival.

More Festival Photos



Sunny headliner Becky Buller and her band captivate attendees



The Festival remains dog friendly!



You find only friendly folks at our Festival



Never Come Down exhibits their tight harmonies



The Blue Canyon Boys display their chops



This Sunday morning balloon arrived just a little too early for the Gospel Mic

More festival photos on next page

Festival Photos, continued from previous page



The Country Gentlemen Show are true to their traditions in both their music and their attire



FRESH APPLES demonstrate why they have wide appeal



Perennial crowd favorite Jam Pak. Thank you, Anni Beach!

More festival photos on next page

D'Addario

When you know you know

Festival Photos, continued from previous page



The bluegrass vibe of North of Lonesome comes through loud and clear



Tucson's own Permafrost Road



Cisco and the Racecars' display their signature style



The always popular Guitar Workshop squeezes in as many participants as possible



Bundled up for Friday's play date. Again, brrr!



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Music Camps

By Doug McMaster

Over the past few years I have been fortunate to attend several music camps. If you have the time and desire to explore a bit, I have some suggestions to consider.

Without a doubt, my absolute favorite music camp is the **Puget Sound Guitar Workshop**, which I have attended for eight years. This camp has been run for about 50 years, and now spans four weeks in Port Orchard, Washington, in a beautiful, evergreen tree setting, along a nice, small, quiet lake. The organizers also run the California Music Camp, but I have only been to the camp in Port Orchard, WA. The WA camp is truly a joy and experience that is absolutely wonderful. It covers guitar, voice, music writing, stage presence, and sometimes bass and ukelele. One reason I enjoy this camp so much is that on the first day, all the teachers get up and discuss what they will be teaching and give a demonstration of what will be covered. We then have ample time after to meet with them one-on-one and describe ourselves, our playing levels, our skills, and whether or not it is a good fit. There are two class sessions in the morning and one in the afternoon, making the decision tough! In contrast, I have been to multiple camps where the teachers have no agenda and ask on day one, "So, what do you want to learn?" Not here. This is educational, well designed, and well run.



I could go on and on about this, but to keep it brief, contact me if you would like to know more. They have about 15 teachers and about 120 "students" each week. Lodging: cabins and tenting. Website: <https://www.pugetsoundguitarworkshop.org/camps>

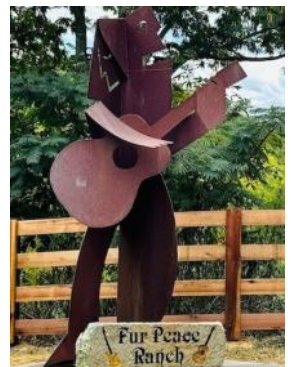


Voice Works, in Port Townsend, WA, is another great camp, and although I have attended only one time, it was fantastic. I thought it had been designed and run by the same people as PSGW . . . absolutely stellar! Again, the same first day teacher introduction, and they all had agendas for the week. Lodging: dorms.

Website: <https://centrum.org/program/voice-works/>

NOTE: Both of these WA camps have transportation figured out from the SeaTac airport.

Fur Peace Ranch, located in Ohio, hosted an "On the Road" program one year in San Diego. They still do San Diego as well as the East Coast. This is run by Jorma Kaukonen, an amazing guitarist, once with the Jefferson Airplane. Spencer Bohren was my teacher, covering blues and, at the time, it was a bit over my head, but I have retained one song, which I still play! The teacher concert was phenomenal. About 40 students. Lodging: conference hotel. Website: <https://furpeaceranch.com/about/>



Music Camps continued on next page

Music Camps, continued from previous page

Jenny Lester Hillbilly Choir is a 3-day vocal workshop preceding the Coombs Rodeo Grounds Bluegrass Festival, on Vancouver Island. She makes it fun, and it is easy to participate. I will be doing this again this summer, and let me tell you, the climate on Vancouver Island in mid summer is SO NICE . . . and, as many of you know, I need all the help I can get in this department! In conjunction with the weekend bluegrass festival, it fits in well. Website: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/coombs-hillbilly-bluegrass-workshop-july-29-31-2025-sign-up-registration-1244102597359>



Camp Bluegrass, a long-time Tucson favorite, is located on a community college campus in Levelland, Texas. It is a week-long event, with teachers in most, if not all, of the bluegrass instruments. There is a wonderful auditorium which hosts the teacher concert as well as a student concert later in the week. In the evenings, jams break out in the dorms in various locations, and in both years I have attended, I have always seen a nicely done “slow jam” for those just getting their feet wet. Lodging: dorm. Website: <https://campbluegrass.com/>



Rocky Mountain Guitar Camp was held in Estes Park, CO, and I attended it one year. It included some well-known performers for sure, including John Knowles and Richard Smith (house concerts by Suzette). Much of this camp was about the style of Chet Atkins and Tommy Emmanuel. While I love this type of guitar playing, I did not find it suitable for myself as I was a complete novice with that style, and I have yet to pursue it. Lodging: Resort rooms. Website: <https://rockymountainguitarcamp.org/home>

Root and Boots was held outside of Flagstaff in 2023, way up high on a mountain. A nice cool escape from Tucson, I met some nice people and played jams in the evening. This was a nice mixture of genres which also included bluegrass. Classes were held among the cool pines, with some nice hiking nearby. Lodging: tent camping in the area surrounding the main building. Website: <https://rootsandbootsmusiccamp.com/>



Doug McMaster
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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).

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Adria Coleman Agency

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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

- Workshops: **Workshop are held every Monday** at St. Francis in the Foothills through **May 19**. See time and location details below and online; check the online calendar before heading out for holidays and other schedule changes.
- Some events change to summer hours. Check the calendar!

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; 7– 9 pm starting May .
 - ◆ 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*

April 2025

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	Apr 6	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Apr 7	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Sunday	Apr 13	1:00 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ 17th Street Music Club	Marshall banjo GR8MJV@gmail.com
Monday	Apr 14	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Apr 17	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	Apr 20	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Apr 21	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Apr 24	10 am – 12 pm	Jam @ Comanche Wells	John Anderson (520) 261-5645 or Vicki Borders 520-351-1644
Sunday	Apr 27	4:00 – 6:00 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Apr 28	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com

May 2025

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday	May 4	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	May 5	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Sunday	May 11	1:00 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ 17th Street Music Club	Marshall banjo GR8MJV@gmail.com
Monday	May 12	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	May 15	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Sunday	May 18	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	May 19	6:30 – 8:30 pm	FINAL Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	May 22	10 am – 12 pm	Jam @ Comanche Wells	John Anderson (520) 261-5645 or Vicki Borders 520-351-1644
Sunday	May 25	4:00 – 6:00 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812

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

David VanGelder
dustdevilsinfo@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/dustdevilbluegrasstucson>

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
kenbrown44444@gmail.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! Or, start your own band!

INSTRUCTION

Chris Brashear

413-687-8350
www.chrisbrashear.info

Nick Coventry

Fiddle, mandolin, guitar, ukulele
 805-252-1851
ncoventry@gmail.com

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

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 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.bluegrassonthetube.com

Banjo:

www.banjohangout.org

Bass:

www.bluegrassbassplace.com

Dobro:

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

Fiddle:

www.fiddlehangout.com

Guitar:

www.bluegrassguitar.com/

Mandolin:

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

OTHER JAMS & OPEN MICS

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

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

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

April 2025—May 2025

Volume 30 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