



# DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter



## Grass Clippings

Volume 31 Issue 6

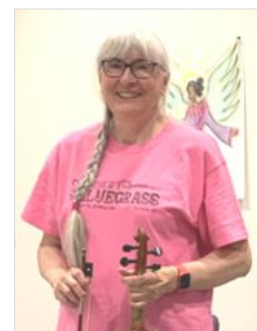
February 2026—March 2026

### Message from the President

*By Karen Dismachek, DBA President*

**Hello and Happy New Year to all you bluegrass lovers!** I hope it is a year filled with good music and friendship! It has and will continue to be a busy first quarter for the DBA.

But before I get into all the fun activities, I would like to say that this will be my last message to you as president as I am stepping down. I will still be around, involved in the Festival and on the Board, but it has been four years (hard to believe!) and it is time for new blood, as it were. A new president will be elected at our annual meeting on February 2. I wish them the best of luck and I will be there to support them in any way I can. It has been an honor to be in the position of president for such a wonderful organization. I keep hearing from people how it has enriched and actually changed their lives for the better since they have become involved. It warms the cockles of my heart every time I hear it. :-) Ok, time to put the tissues away and get to the fun stuff! **(P.S. Don't miss the part about the Tim O'Brien Concert Raffle!)**



**DBA activities: Workshops and Jams continue.** Check our website on the jams page for that schedule and the DBA calendar for the latest jam/workshop schedules and locations at <https://desertbluegrass.org/>

**Report on the Del McCoury Pickin' Party:** A large group of DBA members showed their appreciation to Dave Polston's many contributions to the club and sent him to the Del McCoury Pickin' Party up in the Phoenix area. There were some real heavy hitters there in bluegrass teaching and playing. Read Dave's article starting on page 14 about his experiences there.

*President's Letter continued on page 3*

➔ **Also in this issue:** Membership Renewal, 8. New Members, 8. Upcoming Instrument Workshops, 10. Rodeo Jams and Sign-up Info, 12. Del McCoury Pickin' Party, 14. Classifieds, 20. Calendar, 21. Bands, 23. Instruction & Great Websites, 24. Other Jams & Associations, 25.

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**Webmaster: Dale Lynne Vickroy.** See the DBA website at [www.desertbluegrass.org](http://www.desertbluegrass.org). For information about the website, contact the webmaster at [DesertBluegrassWebmaster@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cathy_2545@yahoo.com).

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

\*DBA Members Free, Space Permitting

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**President's Letter, continued from page 1****In February:**

**Annual Meeting:** Our annual meeting will take place on **Monday February 2** at 6:00 pm before the workshop. It will be in the workshop location at St. Francis in the Foothills, 4625 E. River Rd. All members are welcome to attend. We report on the status of the organization and elect any new board members and/or officers that are required.

**Tucson Fiddle Contest:** The Tucson Fiddle Contest takes place on **February 21** at the Southern Arizona Dance Center, 4801 E. 29<sup>th</sup> St., Tucson. Fiddlers, give it a try if you haven't already. It's loads of fun! Or just come and observe; there is no admission charge. It goes for most of the day starting at 9:00 am., and the senior division will compete at about 11:00 am. Come if you want to see quite few of your DBA friends competing. See the flyer on page 13 and the entire schedule and rules at [tucsonfiddlecontest.org](http://tucsonfiddlecontest.org)

*Continued on page 4*

Rhythm and Roots Welcomes

# AJ LEE & BLUE SUMMIT



**Their act is a  
must see!**  
--Twangville

**Though rooted in  
traditional  
bluegrass, Lee fuses  
Americana, folk and  
jazz to bring new  
energy and youth to  
the culture.**

**AWARD-WINNING ENERGETIC & TECHNICALLY JAW-DROPPING BAND**

**FEB. 11, 2026 ★ 7:30 ★ LA ROSA ★ 800 N COUNTRY CLUB**

**Tickets and info: [www.rhythmandroots.org](http://www.rhythmandroots.org)**

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

**Tucson Rodeo Booth Jams:** The Tucson Rodeo starts this year on **February 21**. Doug McMaster is organizing jam booths there to promote the DBA and our festival. And also for just plain fun! Check out his write-up with all the details on page 12 in this newsletter.

**Tim O'Brien Concert and Raffle:** Tim O'Brien and his wife Jan Fabricius will be performing at the Javarita Coffeehouse in Sahuarita on Tuesday, **February 24**. Tim is a very well-known bluegrass and country artist, and it is a treat for us that he is performing this close to Tucson. **I have a pair of tickets to raffle off to a member.** If you are interested in going and you want to be in the drawing, email me at [desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com](mailto:desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com) and I'll put you in the drawing. We'll choose and announce the winner on February 20. Good luck!! Hope to see you there!! **For more info or to buy tickets,** go to <http://www.thegoodshepherducc.org/javarita-coffeehouse>.

Tim O'Brien and Jan Fabricius  
Presented by Javarita Coffeehouse  
February 24, 2026



The Good Shepherd UCC  
17750 S. La Cañada Dr.  
Sahuarita, AZ 85629

**Tucson Irish Music Showcase:** Ok, so it's not bluegrass. But this event is a fundraiser for our friends at TKMA to benefit their folk festival, and there is quite a bit of musician overlap between the two genres in Tucson (and let's not forget all the Celtic DNA in bluegrass music). So it's possible you might see people you know there participating. It will take place on **February 27 and 28** at the Berger Performing Arts Center, 1200 W. Speedway Blvd., Tucson. There is a dance on Friday night, workshops on Saturday during the day, and a concert Saturday night. See the flyer on page 9. Buy tickets and find all the details at <http://tucsonirishmusicshowcase.com/>

### **In March:**

#### **Desert Bluegrass Festival Promo Show at Comanche Wells:**

Come and enjoy some live bluegrass music by two of the DBA's own home-grown bands, The Notorious Woodpickers (a partial combo of the Wild Woodpickers and the Notorious No-Gig Girl Band) and The Ranch Dogs. This will take place **March 1<sup>st</sup>**, 2:00 pm, in the clubhouse at Comanche Wells Mobile Home Park, 775 W. Roger Rd., Tucson.



**Above: The Ranch Dogs**

Admission is by donation only. The proceeds support the venue, which is where we also hold our monthly DBA Thursday jams. Lunch will be available by the Comanche Wells Recreation Committee. We'll be promoting our 2026 Desert Bluegrass Festival at this event, so tell all your friends!! :-)



**Above: The Notorious Woodpickers**

**Continued on next page**

**President's Letter, continued from page 4**

**Desert Bluegrass Festival:** It's getting close!! **March 13-15** at Gladden Farms Community Park in Marana. Camping opens on Thursday, March 12. Everything is progressing very nicely!

**Bands:** We have a great band line up with a lot of local talent, such as Sonoran Dogs, Greg and Randall Morton, Nick McBlaine and Logtrain, Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band, and Monsoon Sky. Also, other great bands from a bit farther away: Ten Dollar Wedding, Forest Thurman and Friends, Mohavi Soul, Crying Uncle (it's great to see such young talent playing such awesome bluegrass!), and Chicken Wire



**Above: The 2025 Desert Bluegrass Festival**

Empire (I saw these guys at Pickin' in the Pines and they are amazing!). And of course the musicians from our friends at Jam Pak. If you're not familiar with some of the bands, you can find out all about them on our website festival/band page at <https://desertbluegrass.org/2026-bands/>.

**Activities:** We start Friday with a Band Contest, then a Band Scramble. After that, Monsoon Sky

performs followed by a contra dance. OK, so it was a cold and rainy Friday night last year, but I put in orders for better weather this year, so we'll see what happens. But you know weather notwithstanding, everyone had a total blast at the dance last year.



**Above: Folks enjoying the 2025 Festival**

On Saturday we'll have instrument workshops taught by some of the festival performers. For those not participating in the workshops, we'll have a DBA band showcase featuring three home-grown DBA bands: The

Ranch Dogs, the G,C,Ds, and the Wild Woodpickers.

We have a great selection of food vendors lined up and some very interesting craft vendors this year. There will be the usual other booth activities such as the instrument raffle, merchandise booths, silent auction, and kid's zone. And of course, there is lots of jamming in the evening for those camping out, or staying nearby. Lots of fun!

**Continued on next page**

**President's Letter, continued from page 5**

**Festival Volunteering:** We still need volunteers! One 4-hour shift gets you a weekend pass (camping not included). As of this writing, of the 73 slots available, 40 slots have been filled (55%), so there are lots more slots to fill. Sign up and get your free pass!! Thanks so much to all who have already signed up!! If you have any questions about volunteering, email me or text Jennifer Johnson at 520-971-2054. You can get the link to sign up on our website at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4CAEA72BA0F85-61468728-desert#/>


**Tickets and camping:** You can purchase tickets and camping on our web page here: <https://desertbluegrass.org/tickets-2/> Festival tickets and VIP Parking can also be purchased at the gate, and camping passes can also be purchased at the campground.

Lastly, thanks so much to all of you on the festival committee who are doing such a great job making this happen!

Talk it up with all your friends!!! See y'all there!

**Karen**

Karen Dismachek  
President, Desert Bluegrass Association  
[desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com](mailto:desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com), 831-239-4617



**Dan Levenson**  
Arizona Master Artist Awardee

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*Play Nice!*

# Desert Bluegrass Festival

## March 13, 14, 15, 2026

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



**Sonoran Dogs**

**Chicken Wire Empire**

**Crying Uncle**

**Greg & Randal Morton**

**Nick McBlaine & Logtrain**

**Ten Dollar Wedding**

**MohaviSoul**

**Forest Thurman & Friends**

**Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band**

**Monsoon Sky**

**Jam Pak Blues 'N' Grass**

More info + festival tickets at [desertbluegrass.org](http://desertbluegrass.org)

Weekend: \$50

Sat or Sun: \$30

Camping Thu-Sun RV dry : \$60

Tent: \$20

16 and under free

Friday free





## 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 1<sup>st</sup>. This allows us to focus on membership renewals once per year.

Of our 273 members, 167 of the memberships expire on March 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 our website at [www.desertbluegrass.org](http://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 DBA Members!

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| David Dalton       | Tucson         |
| Jackie Davidson    | Oro Valley     |
| Skip and Sue Heath | Greenville, WV |
| Ron Pandy          | Tucson         |

ANNOUNCING THE 3RD ANNUAL



February 27-28, 2026



at the

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PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

1200 West Speedway



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SATURDAY / IRISH MUSIC WORKSHOPS AT THE BERGER / 10AM-3PM, \$10  
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\$17 ADVANCE / \$20 AT THE DOOR

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PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE 41ST ANNUAL TUCSON FOLK FESTIVAL



# Upcoming Instrument Workshops

By Suzette Sommerer

**Bass players and banjo pickers**, it's time to level up your skills! Our next two bonus workshops, paid for entirely by the DBA and free to DBA members, are coming up soon. Attendance will be limited according to the size of the spaces, so you will need to sign up if you'd like to attend.



Steve Smith teaching recent guitar workshop

Steve Smith conducted our first two workshops in this series in beginner-to-intermediate guitar and mandolin classes in early January. Both were well attended, and the participants were very enthusiastic! Everyone came away feeling like they had learned a lot. All seemed eager to put their new skills into action.

Anne Luna, of Hard Road Trio fame, will be teaching a two-hour bass workshop on Saturday, February 28, 2-4 pm. The workshop will be at a private home near Broadway and Camino Seco.



Anne Luna

Anne has extensive performance, recording, songwriting, and teaching experience, and has mastered a variety of styles. Her clean, elegant playing is all about the groove. She currently plays with Acoustic Gap, The Southwest Bluegrass All-Stars, The Whereabouts, Hondo Coyote, The High Desert Playboys, and Mandology. This year she will be teaching at Camp Bluegrass, Colorado Roots Music Camp, and the Desert Nights Acoustic Music Camps among others. Her [YouTube channel](#) features instructional videos called "Bass Bites." Read more about Anne on her [website](#).

Tyler James, well-known to DBA members as the hard driving banjo picker in Sonoran Dogs, is the 2008 Rockygrass Banjo Champion, 2008 Arizona Banjo Champion, 2010 Huck Finn Festival banjo champion and a 2012 Winfield National Banjo top 5 finalist. He comes from a musical family and has been playing since childhood, experimenting with different instruments until he found his destiny with a banjo he received for his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Continued on next page*

**Upcoming Workshops, continued from page 10**

Tyler is a master of his instrument, and always brings an exciting energy to whatever he plays. He will be teaching a banjo workshop for DBA members on Saturday, April 4 in the afternoon at a private home near Sabino Canyon and River Road. He will be performing with the Sonoran Dogs that same evening at Monterey Court.

To sign up for the workshops, contact [Suzette Sommerer](#). Addresses will be provided to attendees a few days before the workshops. We will accommodate as many students as possible, but are keeping the class sizes small to ensure enough room and to allow for more individualized instruction. Non-DBA members are welcome, but they will be asked to either join or to make a \$20 contribution.

| <b>Bonus Instrument Workshops</b>   |
|---|
| Bass – Saturday, February 28<br>Anne Luna<br>2-4 pm<br>Limit - 8 students   |
| Banjo – Saturday, April 4<br>Tyler James<br>Time TBD<br>Limit – 16 students |



**Tyler James**



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

*An agency of the State of Arizona*



## ♪ 2026 Rodeo Jams ♪

**The Desert Bluegrass Association is pleased to announce that sign-ups are now open for the 2026 Tucson Rodeo Jams.** Thanks to our nonprofit status, DBA has once again been invited to host a free jam booth at the rodeo. Now in its fourth year, this outreach has become one of our most visible and enjoyable events, drawing in listeners and encouraging rodeo attendees to step up, borrow an instrument, and lead a tune.

The Rodeo Jams run across **six days** and require **advance sign-up** so we can curate balanced groups, manage space, and maintain the relaxed, high-quality jam experience that's made this booth such a success.

**Participation is not drop-in.** If you'd like to take part—whether as an individual player, a small group, or a band willing to serve as the “core”—please contact me directly to sign up. See sign-up info below.



### ***Advanced Sign-up Required!***

***Contact Doug McMaster  
To Sign Up for the  
2026 Tucson Rodeo Jam  
Doug McMaster  
drdoug2682@gmail.com  
(520)404-7260***

### **Dates:**

**Saturday, Feb. 21**  
**Sunday, Feb. 22**  
**Monday, Feb. 26 (Parade Day)**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 27**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 28**  
**Thursday, March 1**



# 84th Annual Tucson Fiddle Contest 2026

*Fiddlers Of All  
Ages From Across  
Arizona And The  
United States*



*Free Admission To  
The Public For Arizona's  
Longest Running  
Fiddle Contest*

**7 AGE DIVISIONS**  
**TWIN FIDDLES                      TRICK & FANCY**  
**ARKANSAS TRAVELER**  
**February 21, 2026**  
**9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**  
**Southern Arizona Dance Center**  
**4801 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Tucson, Arizona**

Website: [www.tucsonfiddlecontest.org](http://www.tucsonfiddlecontest.org)

Sorry..... there is no RV camping at the contest site. There are several RV campsites located within reasonable distance.

**Crooks Mandolins**

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# *Del McCoury* Pickin' Party

By Dave Polston

**For 20 years now** I have been playing music, mainly banjo. I found the Desert Bluegrass Association a year or so after I started playing. I was searching Google for bluegrass in Tucson. I didn't expect much, but to my surprise there was an organization: here in the heart of the Sonoran Desert was Bluegrass! The workshop was much smaller then than it is today and was held in a pottery class room at Udall Center. There were only about 6 or 7 people that attended. It was hard!! Songs were fast, there were so many different chord progressions, and I was trying to roll fast enough to keep up and figure out the melody. It was all very intimidating. I understand why so many quit. I felt that way, but I wanted to be a banjo player, so I kept going. Over the next few years, I met many people who were encouraging and helpful in my pursuit of banjo greatness (hopefully to be achieved some day). The workshop and jams allowed me to grow as a musician and obtain a level where I could play with others. I am extremely grateful for that experience and teaching. It changed my life.

Over the years, I became more involved in the workshop, first with Paul Simpson when he ran it. Later, I was asked to help run the Wednesday night workshop in Marana. I wanted everyone to share the experience I had, of going from total beginner, to being able to jam and even play in bands. Bluegrass became my life and teaching became my new purpose in life. Over the past 10+ years, I have volunteered as President, workshop leader, and festival chairman. I did this to give back to the organization that has given me so much. For this I have been greatly rewarded.

I met Jarrod Lash around four years ago when he came to the workshop to pick up the acoustic bass he had won at our festival's raffle. Since then, we have become not just friends, but musical brothers. He headed up a surprise DBA drive to collect funds to send me to the Del McCoury Pickin' Party.

Thank you to all who contributed to this. I am forever grateful to have had this experience. I will recap the experience below, but I know that on my death bed, of all my life's moments flashing before my eyes, my favorite will be of when I was playing on stage with the Traveling McCourys!!



Here I am with Jarrod (the tall fellow in the middle), Omar, and Rob McCoury and his son

*Continued on next page*

***Pickin' Party, continued from page 14***

The Pickin' Party started on Friday afternoon, January 2nd, with check-in at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park (West Phoenix). It is a beautiful resort with casita-type rooms. During check-in time, I met with fellow Tucsonans Jarrod Lash, Jason Schneider, and Mike "Omar" Smith along with their lovely wives. My good friend and pickin' buddy George Doty was also there. Doris Schatz from Green Valley also attended. The evening started with an orientation and welcome from Del McCoury, Jerry Douglas, and the other unbelievably talented group of musicians gathered for this PARTY! After dinner there were two concerts: Sara Watkins (Nickle Creek) and friends, then the Jerry Douglas Band. Following the concert was Bluegrass Karaoke with the Traveling McCourys. How cool is that!! Jason, Jarrod, George, and myself signed up early to make sure we got to play. I, of course, did "Georgia on a Fast Train"!! It was the greatest experience ever!!

**Wigwam Resort**

The next three days were scheduled instrument instruction in the morning after

**Dobro Masters Rob Ickes, Jerry Douglas and Justin Moses**

breakfast, with two classes offered for each instrument. The event was limited to 150 participants and was sold out. I attended Dobro class the first day with 40 other dobro players in there. No doubt Jerry Douglas and Rob Ickes being there drew a lot of interest. Justin Moses and Rob Ickes taught Dobro. Bryan Sutton and Cody Kilby were guitar instructors. Ronnie McCoury and Sierra Hull taught mandolin. Rob McCoury and Kristen Scott Benson led the banjo classes. Christian Ward (who replaced Jason Carter in the McCoury bands) was on fiddle. Alan Bartman

ran the bass classes, and Sara Watkins led a fiddle and vocal class. Mixed reviews on the actual instruction parts of the event. When there are large classes with all levels of players, it is hard to have a constructive session. There are lots of questions and it's hard to stay focused on topic, but others had well-planned-out objectives and syllabi for the classes.

The rest of the day there were three general classes along with group discussions and music with various stars of the bluegrass world. Here were the nine classes:

- ♦ Strings and Slides: Molly Tuttle and Jerry Douglas
- ♦ Beyond Bluegrass with the Jerry Douglas Band

***Continued on next page***

***Pickin' Party, continued from page 15***

- ♦ Masters of Tradition — Del McCoury and Marty Stuart
- ♦ Guitar Summit with Molly Tuttle, Bryan Sutton, Cody Kilby, Mike Seal, and Heaven McCoury (3rd generation McCourys were all there beginning their bluegrass careers)
- ♦ Pure Bluegrass: Del McCoury and Jerry Douglas with the Traveling McCourys
- ♦ Mandolin Summit with Marty Stuart, Ronnie McCoury, Sierra Hull, and David Grisman
- ♦ 50 years of Dawg Music: David Grisman, Bryan Sutton, Jerry Douglas, and Marty Stuart
- ♦ Dobro Summit with Jerry Douglas, Rob Ickes, and Justin Moses
- ♦ The Legend of Tony Rice with Jerry Douglas, Bryan Sutton, The McCourys, and David Grisman

Each of those three nights also had two concerts:

- ♦ Saturday: 1) Molly Tuttle & Friends; 2) Marty Stuart and The Traveling McCourys
- ♦ Sunday: 1) Sierra Hull and Justin Moses; 2) David Grisman and Friends
- ♦ Monday: 1) Bryan Sutton and Rob Ickes; 2) Weekend Closer, The Del McCoury Band

They continued Bluegrass Karaoke with different line-ups of faculty as the back-up band. Each night there were also several jams scheduled by the event. They had a slow jam, song writers jam room, Jerry Douglas band jam (Jerry was there the first night and most of the dobro players were there). We jammed there one night and again: such a great experience jamming with such high caliber players!! By the last night most of us barely had the energy to make it through the final concerts. It was bluegrass non-stop!!!!

There are so many more stories I could tell but I don't think they will all fit in this newsletter. But here are a few more pictures that hopefully tell some stories. Thank you to Jarrod, George, Trish, and all those who helped send me on the trip of a lifetime!!!!

*Continued on next page*

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# D'Áddarío

## When you know you know



**Molly Tuttle and Jerry Douglas,  
Slides and Strings**



**The Jerry Douglas Band**



**The boys with Kristen Scott Benson, banjo player  
for The Grascals**



**Molly Tuttle performing with her dad**



**Mandolin aficionados Sierra Hull,  
Ronnie McCoury, David "Dawg"  
Grisman and Marty Stuart**

*Continued on next page*



Happy Hour before the nightly concert



Del McCoury carving his signature in Marty Stuart's mandolin with a pocket knife



The Del McCoury Band





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**REALTY EXECUTIVES**  
ARIZONA TERRITORY

**Colleen McDonald**  
3rd Generation Realtor  
Associate Broker

6780 N Oracle RD #130  
Tucson AZ 85704

Cell: 520-907-5300

[colleen@colleermcdonald.com](mailto:colleen@colleermcdonald.com)

# CLASSIFIEDS

## *Instruments*

**2015 Santa Cruz Orchestra Model Guitar.** \$4400. This 2015 Orchestra Model is what makes the Pre-War models from Santa Cruz Guitar Company so beloved. Condition is excellent with next to zero playwear in the finish or frets. The "Pre-War" model means that this hand built (in Santa Cruz, CA) guitar was built like a 1930's original OM guitar would be built, with similar top thickness, bridge plate, braces, neck, tuners, etc. Contact Brett Dodd, 509-216-1002 or [Brettd1@msn.com](mailto:Brettd1@msn.com).

**Instruments For Sale:** Knilling Fiddle 4/4 size -with hsc - \$450; The Loar Mandolin (modern) w/ semi hard case - \$450; Mandolin - Breedlove Crossover with hsc - \$550. All in like new condition. Call or text Dan Levenson at 412-551-0933, or email [Clawdan1@gmail.com](mailto:Clawdan1@gmail.com).

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

## *Services, Instruction, and More*

**Video photography of your band.** I provide videos of your band performance, so that you can advertise your group for applying to festivals and shows. I charge \$150/hour for non-members and \$75/hour for DBA members, which includes the full video and song cuts. I have been providing band videos from the DBA festivals in Marana for the past few years and indoor performances by request. I will be offering special rates at the up-and-coming March 13-15, 2026 festival. Dennis Dismachek, [ddismachek@hotmail.com](mailto:ddismachek@hotmail.com), 520-729-0806

**Hey Pickers,** After being in Montana and Albuquerque for quite a while, I am back in the great state of Arizona. If any of you are interested in lessons on banjo, guitar, dobro, or mandolin, give me a shout at [davepolston@yahoo.com](mailto:davepolston@yahoo.com) or call me at 520-245-6126.

### **Tucson Manual and Movement Therapy**

**Specializing in** back, neck, shoulder, and hip pain. Said services are excellent for reducing pain, improving joint mobility, and calming the central nervous system. Owned and operated by Jarrod Lash since 1999. [Descendingdragoncommunity.com](http://Descendingdragoncommunity.com) // 520-404-4869

**El Rio Violino** Repair of violin-family instruments, bow rehairing, violins for sale. Call Marc Rennard, 314-313-0318 (located on west side of Tucson).

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### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING PRICES

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

\*DBA Members Free, Space Permitting

Contact Cathy at [cathy\\_2545@yahoo.com](mailto:cathy_2545@yahoo.com)

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## DBA Calendar for Jams & Workshops

For the most current information and last-minute schedule changes to the DBA's jams etc., check the online calendar at: [https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=nqkrtso1l4nrj6glt1uth4ifl4@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Phoenix)

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

### Notes

- Monday Workshops are in full swing. Check the calendar for changes due to holidays and other events.
- Some events change due to holidays or switch to winter hours. Check the [calendar](#)!

### General Schedule and Location Info

#### SUNDAYS

- ◆ First and third Sundays, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, Jam @ **Morris K. Udall Regional Park**, 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson. Outside the Udall Rec Center.
- ◆ Second Sundays: 1:00 – 3:30 pm, Jam @ **17th St. Music Club**. 830 E. 17th St., Tucson. Use the entrance at the wheelchair ramp under the Tucson Party Rentals awning.
- ◆ Fourth Sundays, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Jam @ **Thirsty's** Neighborhood Bar & Grill, 2422 N. Pantano Rd, Tucson.

#### MONDAYS

- ◆ Mondays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Workshop @ **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. **Note: Annual DBA Membership meeting 6:00—6:30 pm on Monday, Feb. 2.**

#### THURSDAYS

- ◆ Third Thursdays: 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Jam @ **Trail Dust Town**. 6541 E. Tanque Verde Rd, Tucson. Meet by the gazebo at Trail Dust Town.
- ◆ Fourth Thursdays: 10 am – 12noon, Jam @ **Comanche Wells**. 775 W. Roger Rd., #227, Tucson. The gates will open at 9:30 am. The jam is in the Clubhouse. This is a beginner friendly jam for all levels of players.

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See the next page for the DBA's day-by-day calendar of jams and workshops.

But be sure to check the **DBA online calendar** for last-minute changes!

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## DBA Calendar, *continued*

### ♥ February 2026 ♥

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u>     | <u>Event &amp; Location</u>   | <u>Contact</u>   |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|---|--|
| Sunday     | Feb 1       | 1:30 – 3:30 pm  | Jam @ Udall Park  | Mike 520-403-0168  |
| Monday     | Feb 2       | 6:00* – 8:30 pm | Meeting & Wkshop, St. Francis<br>* Membership meeting starts at 6:00 pm | <a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>           |
| Sunday     | Feb 8       | 1:00 – 3:30 pm  | Jam @ 17th Street Music Club  | Greg Morton 520-979-7048<br><a href="mailto:gmorton43@yahoo.com">gmorton43@yahoo.com</a> |
| Monday     | Feb 9       | 6:30 – 8:30 pm  | Workshop @ St. Francis  | <a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>           |
| Sunday     | Feb 15      | 1:30 – 3:30 pm  | Jam @ Udall Park  | Mike 520-403-0168  |
| Monday     | Feb 16      | 6:30 – 8:30 pm  | Workshop @ St. Francis  | <a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>           |
| Thursday   | Feb 19      | 2:00 – 4:00 pm  | Jam @ Trail Dust Town   | Bonnie (520) 349-4812  |
| Sunday     | Feb 22      | 4:00 – 6:00 pm  | Jam @ Thirsty's   | Bonnie (520) 349-4812  |
| Monday     | Feb 23      | 6:30 – 8:30 pm  | Workshop @ St. Francis  | <a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a>           |
| Thursday   | Feb 26      | 10 am – 12 noon | Jam @ Comanche Wells  | John 520-261-5645 or<br>Vicki 520-351-1644   |

### ☀ March 2026 ☀

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u>     | <u>Event &amp; Location</u>           | <u>Contact</u>   |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday     | Mar 1       | 1:30 – 3:30 pm  | Jam @ Udall Park                      | Mike 520-403-0168  |
| Monday     | Mar 2       | 6:30 – 8:30 pm  | Workshop @ St. Francis                | <a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a> |
| Sunday     | Mar 8       | 1:00 – 3:30 pm  | Jam @ 17th Street Music Club          | Greg Morton 520-979-7048   |
| Monday     | Mar 9       | 6:30 – 8:30 pm  | Workshop @ St. Francis                | <a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a> |
| Fri-Sun    | Mar 13-15   |                 | <b>*** Our Bluegrass Festival ***</b> |  |
| Sunday     | Mar 15      | 1:30 – 3:30 pm  | Jam @ Udall Park                      | Mike 520-403-0168  |
| Monday     | Mar 16      | 6:30 – 8:30 pm  | <b>No workshop</b>                    | <a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a> |
| Thursday   | Mar 19      | 2:00 – 4:00 pm  | Jam @ Trail Dust Town                 | Bonnie (520) 349-4812  |
| Sunday     | Mar 22      | 4:00 – 6:00 pm  | Jam @ Thirsty's                       | Bonnie (520) 349-4812  |
| Monday     | Mar 23      | 6:30 – 8:30 pm  | Workshop @ St. Francis                | <a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a> |
| Thursday   | Mar 26      | 10 am – 12 noon | Jam @ Comanche Wells                  | John 520-261-5645 or<br>Vicki 520-351-1644                                     |
| Monday     | Mar 30      | 6:30 – 8:30 pm  | Workshop @ St. Francis                | <a href="mailto:DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com">DBAmondaysworkshop@gmail.com</a> |



Udall Jam in September 2023



Trail Dust Town jam

## TO INSTRUCTORS & BANDS



Would you like your services, band, and/or concerts listed on our website, at [www.desertbluegrass.org](http://www.desertbluegrass.org) ? Current DBA members can be listed by sending their contact information to Dale Lynne Vickroy at [DesertBluegrassWebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:DesertBluegrassWebmaster@gmail.com). Refer to the "Links" tab on the homepage to view current band and instructor information. We have added a second calendar to the website for other (non-DBA sponsored) concerts and events. If you are a member of a band, and have a gig scheduled that you would like added to that calendar, send me the date, time, address and band contact info. You may also include a link to your band's website or to a special event flyer.

## BANDS

### Cabin John Bluegrass

Bookings: Anni Beach 480-963-6811  
[annibeach1@gmail.com](mailto:annibeach1@gmail.com)  
 Web: Howard Anderson 480-897-7425  
[handy31@mindspring.com](mailto:handy31@mindspring.com)  
[www.cabinjohnbluegrass.com](http://www.cabinjohnbluegrass.com)

### Cisco and the Racecars

Francisco Briseno 520-251-7183  
[liscisco92@gmail.com](mailto:liscisco92@gmail.com)

### Dan Levenson and The Cat Mountain Rounders

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

### FRESH APPLES

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

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

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

### Just Plain Folk

Rob Wright 520-370-4843  
[tradbanjo@comcast.net](mailto:tradbanjo@comcast.net)

### 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](mailto:alister377@gmail.com)  
[www.NorthofLonesome.com](http://www.NorthofLonesome.com)  
 Facebook: North of Lonesome Bluegrass

### Ocotillo Rain

Jeff Collins 520-403-4062  
 Holly Tripp 520-241-8421  
[Ocotillorain.blogspot.com](http://Ocotillorain.blogspot.com)

### Old Pueblo Bluegrass Band

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

### Permafrost Road

Ken Brown  
 801 W. Limberlost, Unit P  
 Tucson, AZ 85705  
 (907) 378-6542  
[kenbrown44444@gmail.com](mailto:kenbrown44444@gmail.com)

### Peter McLaughlin

520-247-1027  
[www.petermclaughlin.info](http://www.petermclaughlin.info)

### The Sonoran Dogs

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

### String Creek

Janet Dodd 509-701-0901  
[Jdoutback2@gmail.com](mailto:Jdoutback2@gmail.com)  
 Brett Dodd 509-216-1002  
[Brettd1@msn.com](mailto:Brettd1@msn.com)  
 Rick Chandler 616-540-9066  
[rchan7954@gmail.com](mailto:rchan7954@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/BrettandJanetDoddDuo/](https://www.facebook.com/BrettandJanetDoddDuo/)

### Ten Dollar Wedding

Chris Doyle 602-315-0615  
[chris.doyle@cox.net](mailto:chris.doyle@cox.net)  
[www.facebook.com/tendollarwedding](https://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](http://www.bluebhikku.com/WayOutWest.htm)



Learn to play and come to the DBA jams! Or, start your own band, like these folks did!!  
 From left: Monsoon Sky, Notorious No-Gig Girl Band, Ocotillo Rain

## INSTRUCTION

### Chris Brashear

413-687-8350  
[www.chrisbrashear.info](http://www.chrisbrashear.info)

### Nick Coventry

Fiddle, mandolin, guitar, ukulele  
 805-252-1851  
[ncoventry@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Clawdan1@gmail.com)  
 412-551-0933  
[www.Clawdan.com](http://www.Clawdan.com)

### Andy McCune

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

### Peter McLaughlin

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

### Dave Polston

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

### Marc Rennard

Fiddle, mandolin, and guitar  
 314-313-0318  
[cramdranner@yahoo.com](mailto:cramdranner@yahoo.com)  
 Expert repairs – Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Fretted  
 Instruments – and Bow Repair

## GREAT WEBSITES

### Desert Bluegrass Association

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

### Arizona Bluegrass Association

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

### Bluegrass Arizona Blog

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

### Bluegrass Backing Tracks (Free)

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

### Bluegrass Lyrics

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

### Bluegrass Tablature

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

### Daily Dose of Bluegrass

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

#### Banjo:

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

#### Bass:

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

#### Dobro:

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

#### Fiddle:

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

#### Guitar:

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

#### Mandolin:

[www.mandohangout.com/](http://www.mandohangout.com/)  
[www.mandolincafe.com/](http://www.mandolincafe.com/)

## OTHER JAMS & OPEN MICS

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

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

### **Casa Grande Airport Jam**

1st & 3rd Saturday, 12:00 pm.  
Casa Grande Municipal Airport, 3225 N Lear Ave. Casa Grande Az. Acoustic stringed instruments only, NO Amps, Bluegrass songs preferred. Contact Steve Hartwell [steve@arizonabluegrass.com](mailto:steve@arizonabluegrass.com)

### **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 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!

## ASSOCIATIONS

### **Arizona Bluegrass Association**

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

### **International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA)**

4206 Gallatin Pk.  
Nashville, TN 37216  
Phone 615-256-3222 | Toll Free 1-888-438-4262  
Email [info@ibma.org](mailto:info@ibma.org) | <https://ibma.org/>

### **Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum**

311 West Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42301  
270-926-7891  
888-MY BANJO (toll-free)  
[www.bluegrasshall.org/](http://www.bluegrasshall.org/)

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

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

### **Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association, Southern Arizona Chapter**

3020 W. Avenida Cresta  
Tucson, AZ 85745  
Info: Wilbur 520-743-7086

### **Southwest Old Time String Band Association**

[swotgathering.com/](http://swotgathering.com/)  
**Tucson Friends of Traditional Music**  
[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063583240762](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063583240762)  
[tucsoncontradancers.org/](http://tucsoncontradancers.org/)

### **Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association**

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

# Desert Bluegrass Association

February 2026—March 2026

Volume 31 Issue 6



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

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Membership dues for the Desert Bluegrass Association are \$20 annually per family and are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Members joining after September 1 of any year will have their memberships extended through the next year. Those joining before September 1 must renew the following March 1<sup>st</sup>.

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to be included in the Membership Directory? (Check one)      YES      NO

What instruments do you play?      BANJO      BASS      FIDDLE      GUITAR      MANDOLIN

RESONATOR GUITAR      OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form then mail it, along with your personal check or money order payable to Desert Bluegrass Association to:

Mike Headrick (DBA Membership Secretary)  
13308 E Placita el Algodon  
Tucson, AZ 85749