DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Grass Clippings

Volume 32 Issue 4

October 2026—November 2026

Note from the President

By John Anderson, DBA President

Wow! So much to talk about! Summer is over and time to settle into our fall routines. Our Monday night Bluegrass Workshops have started back up and take place almost every Monday night from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church. If you haven't been, you should go. It is a great place to meet and play with other bluegrass fans and learn the basics of how bluegrass works. Look for it on the DBA Calendar. I hope to see you there. Click here for more info (https://desertbluegrass.org/workshops/).

Huge news on the festival front. Make sure you read Karen's article all about that on page 4. We are moving, kids! **Marana Pumpkin Patch,** here we come!

New Event!! Don't miss **DBA Days at Marana Pumpkin Patch on October 10th and 11th (Saturday & Sunday), 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm!!** Eight of our very own home grown bands will play on their beautiful main stage. It is a chance for us to get acquainted with our new venue. I think it will be a perfect new home for us as we grow into the future. Get yer Bluegrass farm fresh!

Don't miss DBA Days at Marana Pumpkin Patch on October10th and 11th (Saturday & Sunday), 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

President's Note continued on page 3

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OFFICERS

President: John Anderson	(916) 747-4564	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

Karen Dismachek	(831) 239-4617	karen_dismachek@yahoo.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, please 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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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 Note, continued from page 1

Your festival committee, hard at work :)

Guitar Raffle at the Patch. Wear your DBA shirt or hat and get a free raffle ticket for a chance to **win a guitar**! Let's show 'em the Desert Bluegrass Festival is coming to the Patch! Be sure to tell everyone you meet! This is their big fall festival the entire month of October. There are carnival rides for the kids, an amazing train ride that goes around the entire farm, a pick-your-own pumpkin patch, a potato cannon, a bakery, and more.

No pets and no large ice chests! But you can bring folding chairs and wagons.

To get tickets and learn more about the Marana Pumpkin patch click here: Marana Pumpkin Patch (https://maranapumpkinpatch.com/pages/pumpkin-patch#fall-attractions).

Our Patagonia Campout is coming up on October 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Three days of jamming and just hanging out together. I hope to see ya there.

Whew! I'm tired just writing about it all! The future looks bright ahead.

Oh, yeah, the Comanche Wells jam starts up again on October 29th,10:00 am to 12:00 noon. See ya there!

Keep pickin'!

John Anderson
President, Desert Bluegrass Association
desert.bluegrass.president@gmail.com

Welcome to Our New & Returning DBA Members!

Mary Buckley	Tucson
David Grant	Tucson
Jesse Nodora	San Diego, CA
April Peters	Flagstaff

Big Festival Announcement!

Hello everyone! There is a big change regarding our **Desert Bluegrass Festival**. We are moving to a new location! It will still be in Marana, but we will be at the **Marana Pumpkin Patch.** I'm sure a lot of you know it; perhaps you have taken your kids or your grandkids there in October for some fall pumpkin fun. Over the years they have mostly been open in October at the time of the pumpkin harvest, and they have lots of attractions for the kids like train rides, a playground, and inflated trampolines to jump on. They have good quality food and beverages there, and nice grounds and buildings that are going to work extremely well for our festival. They also have a very nice permanent stage for our bands to play on, and better accommodation for the green room, rather than just a tent. The nice buildings there will enable us to have some workshops and hold our contra dance inside.

Della Mae!

This year's festival will have a great band line-up; our headliner is **Della Mae**!! As we have done in past years, we will have craft vendors, workshops, and our merchandise and activity booths. Dry camping and tent camping will still be available.

October has always been the big month at the Marana Pumpkin Patch, but recently they have been branching out and hosting more music festivals. The possibility was brought to our attention by DBA member Chris Pendleton when he saw an ad for a music festival there. We were curious, so some of the committee went over there, looked the place over, and talked to management (Mayor John Post and his daughter Maggie). They answered all our questions, and we all agreed that it was a good idea. We presented the information to the DBA board and got a "yes" vote on the change. So, thank you, Chris, for getting the ball rolling!

Right: The Gazebo at Marana Pumpkin Patch

Continued on next page

Big Festival Announcement, continued from previous page

The Stage

The Pumpkin Patch is on a 70-acre farm, and they grow the pumpkins there for their fall activities. The place has a real farm atmosphere, with vintage farm equipment placed around the venue for that farm feeling. During our festival the train rides will be running, and kids will have access to the playground. The other attractions that are available during October will not be open during our festival, but there will be plenty of entertainment to keep everyone happy! You didn't really want to do the zip line, did you?

The festival dates are not changing; they will be **March 12,13, and 14, 2027** and as I said in the last newsletter, the volunteer sign-up will open around January 1. We are working hard on getting specific information about the festival on our website and on-line, and we'll announce it when available. So, **save the dates!** It's going to be a real great festival this year! What goes better with bluegrass than farms and trains!

The Marana Pumpkin Patch address is 14950 N Trico Rd, Marana, AZ. It's two exits north of Tangerine Rd.; you get off at Pinal Air Parkway and take a left at the farm tractor. It's very easy to access. More details about the Pumpkin Patch are available at **maranapumpkinpatch.com**

One more thing: Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11 are going to be **DBA days at the Pumpkin Patch**. See more details on that in the flyer on the next page and in John Anderson's write-up starting on page 1.

There are some pictures in this article, but if you want to peruse through John Anderson's collection here is a link: **https://photos.app.goo.gl/TwjmCFKXJsNtH1N46**

See ya at the patch!

Karen Dismachek
Festival Director

DBA DAYS AT MARANA PUMPKIN PATCH!!

Come see some local DBA bands pickin' at the Patch

Saturday and Sunday October 10 and 11 2026

1:00 to 5:00 PM both days

Wear your Bluegrass themed T-Shirt and get a free raffle ticket for a guitar

Marana Pumpkin Patch is located at 14950 N Trico Rd Marana, AZ 85653

Tickets are available at the Marana Pumpkin Patch website

MaranaPumpkinPatch.com

Presented by the Desert Bluegrass Association

DesertBluegrass.org

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DBA Bonus Workshops

The DBA bonus workshops, free to our members and $20 for non-members, are starting up again. Location and further details will be coming soon via email to our membership and on our website. Our first two workshops this season will be:

Guitar with Tom Carpenter	Saturday 10/17	1-3 pm	Location TBD
Banjo with Alvin Blaine	Saturday 11/7	1-3 pm	Location TBD

Other Local Workshops of Interest to our members (further details on our website)

Mandolin with Jim Richter Sat. 1/23/27 4 hours, $100
Location: DBA member's home near Tucson Blvd. & Glenn

Fiddler's Corner

Survival Bluegrass Fiddling

By Suzette Sommerer

If you've ever brought a fiddle to a bluegrass jam, or even just considered it, but didn't know what to do with it when you got there, this article is for you! Players of other instruments may be interested, and may even find some useful nuggets, but this one's going to be pretty fiddle centric.

All bluegrass players play backup most of the time. Bass players are the foundation of the rhythm section. Guitarists hold down the groove. Banjos give bluegrass its characteristic twang, filling out the sound with those hard-driving rolls and keeping the energy levels high. Mandolins drive the rhythm with those percussive off-beat chops. So, what's a fiddler to do?

Playing backup is first and foremost about the groove of the music. The simplest approach for a fiddler is to mimic the offbeat chops of the mandolin. The left hand mutes the strings. The right hand brings down the bow hard, thumb straight, bow rolled so the stick is toward you and hair is away from you (the opposite of what classical players are taught), skidding slightly away from the bridge, mostly in the inch of hair near the frog (yes that's really low in the bow – be careful not to hit your fiddle while you're getting the feel of it). You're looking for a hard, crunchy, crisp sound, not necessarily loud, but definitely audible. These chops should be on the offbeats (the "chuck" of the guitar boom-chuck), or (1) **2** (3) **4**, with rests on the numbers in parentheses. The beauty of this technique is that you don't think about pitch at all. It's especially useful during mandolin breaks when no one else is chopping. Check out Darol Anger or Casey Driessen if you want to explore more complex rhythms, but the simple chop alone is incredibly useful. I can't even count how many fabulous fiddlers I saw recently at Pickin' in the Pines using it.

Once you're comfortable with a dry chop, try playing some long notes. It helps to have some understanding of chords before you jump in. A major chord is a triad: the root, 3rd, and 5th notes of the scale for which the chord is named. G is the root of a G chord. In a G scale, the 3rd note is a B, and the 5th note is a D, so G, B, and D are your chord tones. For a D chord, the root is D, the 3rd is F$^{\#}$, and the 5th is A. So far, we're talking about the "degrees" of a scale, that is, the notes in a scale numbered from 1 to 7. The chord tones played separately are called an arpeggio.

You might start with just a single root note (the note for which the chord is named), or more musically pleasing, you could find a chord tone that's common to two chords and just stay on it, for example playing a D for both a G chord and a D chord. If there's a third chord in the song, then you'll likely need to change notes for that chord, but it's best to choose one close to where you were rather than making big jumps in pitch.

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Fiddler's Corner, continued from previous page

If you used D over the G and D chords, and the song includes a C chord, then you might move to either a C or an E, both adjacent to D.

When you're ready to move on to chords, and therefore double stops, here are some things to think about. For a double-stopped chord, you'll choose two of the three notes in the triad. I generally use the lowest two strings (G & D) because that keeps me out of the range of most singers. Useful rhythm patterns include short chords on the offbeats, continuous eighth notes with offbeats accented, and the simple (or single) shuffle (quarter note downbow, 2 eighth notes, quarter note upbow, 2 eighth notes (long, short-short, long, short-short)). These patterns are shown in notation for a G chord at the bottom of Figure 1 (on p. 10).

Now let's make things really confusing and talk about the Nashville numbering system. The Nashville numbers represent entire chords rather than individual notes, and that is the system that's used in the DBA Workshop Session books. This approach makes it easy for a musician who knows the system to play the chords to a song in any key, and that's important because different singers need different keys. The chord represented by a number in this system is the chord with its root on that scale tone. In the key of G major, the 1 chord, or root is the G major chord (G, B, and D). The 4 chord is the chord with its root on the 4^{th} scale tone of G (the key we're in), which is a C chord (C, E, G). The 5 chord has its root on the 5^{th} scale tone of G, so a D chord (D, $F^{\#}$, A). The 1, 4, and 5 chords are the most common chords used in bluegrass. Others that come up pretty often are the 2 minor (2_m) and 6 minor (6_m). A minor chord is very similar to the major chords we've already looked at, except that the 3^{rd} is flatted, or lowered by a half-step (for a G chord, that would then be G, B_b, D).

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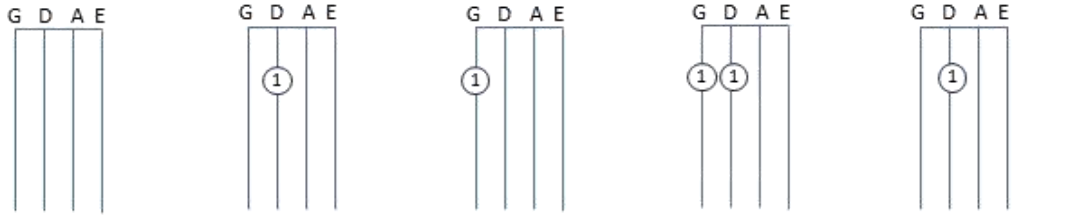
Fiddler's Corner, continued from previous page

Simple chords on Fiddle, lower 2 strings only

Key of G:

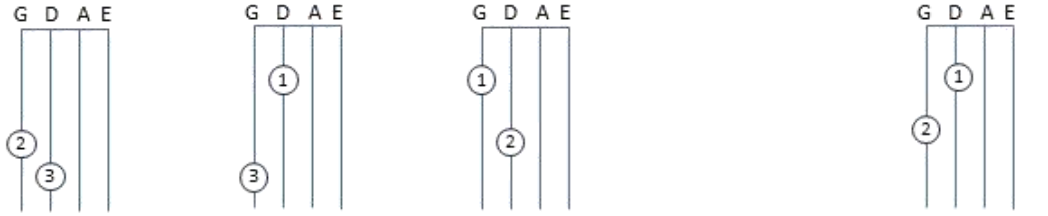
(Scroll end, 1st position)



1: G Chord	4: C Chord	5: D Chord	2_m: A_m Chord	6_m: E_m Chord
(G,B,D)	(C,E,G)	(D,F#,A)	(A,C,E)	(E,G,B)
Open G & D strings	Open G, E on D	A on G, open D	A on G, E on D	Open G, E on D, Same 2 notes as C

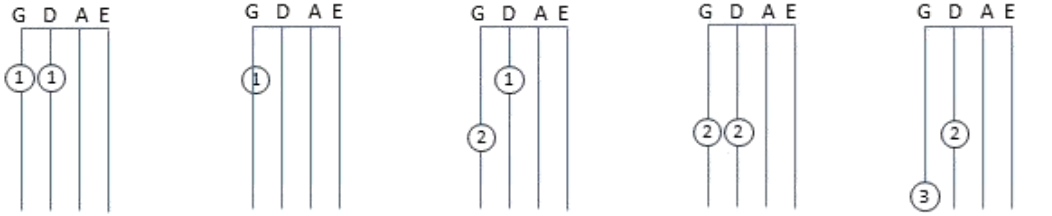
Slightly more complex versions – you might like sound better in some situations

(Scroll end, 1st position)



1: G Chord	4: C Chord	5: D Chord	6_m: E_m Chord
(G,B,D)	(C,E,G)	(D,F#,A)	(E,G,B)
B & G	C & E	A & F#	B & E

Key of A



1: A Chord	4: D Chord	5: E Chord	2_m: B_m Chord	6_m: $F^{\#}{}_m$ Chord
(A,C#,E)	(D,F#,A)	(E, G#, B)	(B,D,F#)	(F#,A, C#)
A & E	A & D	B & E	B & F#	C# & F#

Rhythmic patterns for accompaniment:

- Dead chop - mute strings with fingers, no tone, strike on offbeats (aka survival accompaniment)
- Chorded chop - finger a chord as above, short bow, offbeats
- 8th notes – accent offbeats
- Simple shuffle (long, short-short, long, short-short)
- Long notes, root or , chords or

Continued on next page

Fiddler's Corner, continued from previous page

The 1, 4, and 5 chords are the most common chords used in bluegrass. Others that come up pretty often are the 2 minor (2_m) and 6 minor (6_m). A minor chord is very similar to the major chords we've already looked at, except that the 3rd is flatted, or lowered by a half-step (for a G chord, that would then be G, B_b, D).

Figure 1 shows my approach to simple chords on the lower strings for the keys of G and A, two of the most common in bluegrass. I've shown the fingerings and the note names, all in first position (no shifting). If I've done as I hoped, Figure 1 should enable you to play most of the chords you'll encounter in these two keys. And if you want to play a G chord or a D chord that's called for in some other key, it's the same no matter what key you're in. So the key of D should be easy too, because you now already have D (root), G (4), and A (5) chords.

There's one last little trick I'd like to introduce, shown in Figure 2, below. For the key of A, if you substitute a slightly more complex D chord, all of the chords are in "closed" positions, that is, no open strings. In the first position A chord shown, your 1st finger is on A & E. If you shift your whole hand up, your first finger is now on B & F# (up a whole step), and instead of playing the A chord you're playing a B chord. The great thing is that you can use exactly these shapes with your hand in 2nd position to play 1, 4, 5, 2_m, and 6_m in B without having to learn any new chord shapes. You could theoretically move your hand to where your 1st finger on the lower string is on the root note for any key, and play all your chords without having to think about flats and sharps. And guess what, it works on all the adjacent pairs of strings, if you want chords on higher strings.

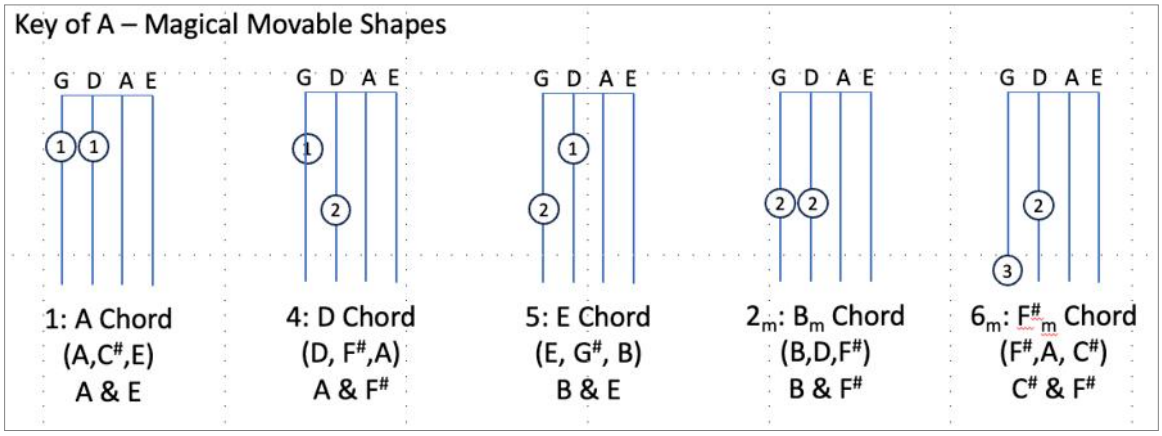


Figure 2. Movable chord shapes

Now that you've got some ideas about how to play rhythm, it's time to think about another role that's typical for a bluegrass fiddle, which is playing fills. Fills are little bits of music that get added after a vocal phrase to keep the music flowing while the singer breathes. They might be a bit of the vocal line, a "lick" that fits with the chords, or just something that you think sounds nice in that space. Pick a few favorite bluegrass songs by bands with good fiddlers, and see what you like. You don't have to be fancy – one technique I like is to take a lick that you enjoy from another player and simplify it to something you can actually play. As long as your timing is good and your notes sound right with the chords, it works. Remember, the fills should start when the singing stops.

Continued on next page

Fiddler's Corner, continued from previous page

Finally, we come to breaks. Fiddlers are often more comfortable playing melodies, and the vocal melody is a great thing to play for a break. You can decorate it a bit, change the rhythm a little, play a harmony, or even just play something that fits well over the chords. And of course, you can always pass on a break for now, and just concentrate on improving your backup skills. You will use those at every single jam!

BLUEGRASS HEAVEN

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(520) 531-1900 (Office) | (520) 531-1900
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CALPORTLAND®

Kayleigh Mathews

One of our own

Story and photos compiled by Cathy Honea
Intro by John Anderson

A few weeks ago I had a chance to see a beautiful young country singer at The Mt. Lemmon Lodge. Marshall Vest was there and proceeded to tell me her story and connection to the DBA. Even though this all happened before my time here, it made me so proud to be a part of such an amazing organization and to do my part to help keep it going and do good in the world through the sharing of music. Here is Kayleigh's story in her own words.

Be sure to root for Kayleigh on *The Voice* this season as well!

Kayleigh and Claire Lynch

Kayleigh's story

In her own words

My musical journey began in Tucson at just five years old, performing with Kids Unlimited. But it was at 15, when my Dad bought me my first guitar, that music truly began to take shape in my life. Soon after, he had read about the Desert Bluegrass Association and we found ourselves hooked. We'd drive across town every Monday night for bluegrass and In-N-Out for dinner afterwards. Memories made that I deeply cherish, and so many amazing members that helped shape my musical foundation.

At 16, the DBA gave me an amazing opportunity to attend Camp Bluegrass in Levelland, Texas, and that experience changed everything. It was where I really began writing my own songs and discovering the songwriter I wanted to become. I spent my teenage years playing jams around Tucson, learning from the incredible musicians in our community. Some of those same DBA members even joined us for my high school choir concert, and the Austin's playing with my brother and I for the Arizona Opry show at the Gaslight Oro Valley Music Hall.

In 2012, my Dad (my biggest fan) was able to snag a last minute spot at Nashcamp in Nashville, TN, where I had the opportunity to work with guitarist Tim May and Claire Lynch. That experience sparked my love for Nashville, and performing at the legendary Station Inn at the end of the trip left a lasting impression on me. I knew I wanted to find my way back and make music my life.

Continued on next page

Kayleigh Mathews, continued from previous page

In March of 2018, I moved to Nashville and got an incredible opportunity to work at the Grand Ole Opry House. For my work orientation I got to watch Ricky Skaggs play his mandolin and I was smitten! In 2022, I became a full-time musician, and my husband and I have now spent six years actively touring across the country, playing stages, festivals, honky-tonks, and venues from coast to coast. In 2023, we drove 80,000 miles together and played over 180 shows. Since then, I've been fortunate to see music take me places I once only dreamed of, from radio play in the U.S. and U.K., and Josie Music Awards nominations to singing the National Anthem at Cheyenne Frontier Days, and venues and festivals across the country.

When I look back, I can see how much of my journey began right here in Tucson and with the Desert Bluegrass Association.

When I look back, I can see how much of my journey began right here in Tucson and with the Desert Bluegrass Association. The encouragement, friendships, jams, and opportunities I found through this community helped give me the confidence to pick up a guitar, write my own songs, and eventually chase music as a career.

Continued on next page

AZ COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

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

An agency of the State of Arizona

az.gov STATE OF ARIZONA

Kayleigh Mathews, continued from previous page

I think the biggest influences I had at DBA were:

Doc & Marlene and Nancy
Reid Griffin
Arlene (she played upright bass)
Marshall & his son Aaron
Monte (played Dobro)
Jeff Collins who helped put on the Marana meetings
Jim & JoAnn Sanchez
And Brad & Stephanie Austin

I'm incredibly grateful that a little girl from Tucson with her first guitar got to grow up, follow that dream, and make a life out of music. The DBA will always be such a special part of that story.

Follow Keyleigh's journey on The Voice *at https://www.kayleighmathews.com/.*

Kayleigh today

CLASSIFIEDS

Instruments

91 Gibson for Sale: I have a banjo I would like to sell. It's a 91 Gibson RB-75 J. D. Crowe signature model. $3500 Contact Bob at banjobobnm@gmail.com

J Bovier F5T Mandolin. VG condition. Solid Engelmann spruce top & North American maple back & sides. Ebony fingerboard and bridge. Hardshell case. $800. Contact AJ Knnaman, 603-387-0811.

For Sale: 5-string banjo. Bart Reiter Professional Model, open back. Excellent. Photos posted on Banjo Hangout. $1500. Don Domkowski, 520-235-1518.

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.

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

Services, Instruction, and More

Hello DBA members. My name is James Ippolitto, formerly a Tucson resident and DBA member. I am a player and lover of Bluegrass music looking for a room, camper or some type of lodging to rent or share rent with other like-minded musicians. Does not have to be fancy. I love to jam and connect with other players. If anyone has availability, please text or call me at 309-361-5826.

Video photography of your band. I provide videos of your band's performance so that you can advertise your group when applying to festivals or 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. Dennis Dismachek, ddismachek@hotmail.com, 520-729-0806.

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

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 // 520-404-4869.

Ready to jump into the Bluegrass scene or take your playing to the next level? With over 12 years of teaching experience, this skilled instructor officers lessons in Bluegrass jamming, jam etiquette, and individual instruction on Guitar, Mandolin, Dobro, and Banjo. Whether you're brand new or already picking, all ages and skill levels are welcome. Learn how to confidently join a jam, play with others, and truly enjoy the music. Flexible scheduling available, and travel can be arranged if needed. Call or text 520-245-6126 or email Davepolston@yahoo.com to get started.

DBA Calendar for Jams & Workshops

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

Notes

- Some events may change due to holidays or switch to new hours. **Check the calendar**!
- Note our upcoming DBA special events: Friday-Sunday, Oct. 2-4, "Camp-out at Patagonia Lake State Park": picknicking and lots of jamming. And on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10-11, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, "DBA Days at Marana Pumpkin Patch," located at 14950 N Trico Rd, Marana, AZ. Get your tickets online at The Marana Pumpkin Patch website. Great bluegrass music all afternoon! Also: new bonus workshops in October & November!

General Schedule and Location Info

SUNDAYS

- Fourth Sundays, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Jam @ **Thirsty's** Neighborhood Bar & Grill, 2422 N. Pantano Rd, Tucson.

MONDAYS

- Most Mondays, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Workshop @ **St. Francis Church,** 4625 E. River Rd, Tucson. Turn right as you nter the property from River Road to find the Community Room. See signs. NOTE: No workshop on Nov. 23.

THURSDAYS

- **Comanche Wells jams** start up on Thursday, Oct. 29, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, 699 W Pelaar Dr, Tucson, AZ 85705. They will generally continue on the **third Thursday** of the month thereafter, but holidays affect the schedule, so always check the online DBA calendar before heading out!
- 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.
- Most Thursdays: 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Performance & Jam @ **Button Brewhouse**, 6800 North Camino Martin Suite 160, Tucson. Special Guest Bluegrass bands on stage 6-7 pm. Bring your instruments to jam 7-8 pm. "Unbuttoned Bluegrass" (open mic) takes place on 4th Thursdays. See the online DBA Calendar for details on who's playing.

SATURDAYS

- First and Third Saturdays, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Jam @ Morris K. **Udall Regional Park**, 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson. Inside the Recreation Center. Check the online DBA Calendar for last minute changes or cancellations, or contact Mike Headrick at 520-403-0168 before heading out.
- DBA Bonus Workshops are also being offered October 17 (guitar, with Tom Carpenter), and November 7 (banjo, with Alvin Blaine). See page 7 of this newsletter for details and the online DBA calendar for location updates!

See the next page for the day-by-day calendar of jams and workshops.
But be sure to check the **DBA online calendar** for last-minute changes!

DBA Calendar, *continued*

October 2026

Day	Date	Time	Event & Location	Contact
Thursday	Oct. 1	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Perf. & Jam @ Button Brewhouse	John (916) 747-4564
Fri-Sun	Oct. 2-4	Check times	Camp-out @ Patagonia Lake St. Park	John (916) 747-4564
Saturday	Oct. 3	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Oct. 5	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Jam @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Oct. 8	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Perf. & Jam @ Button Brewhouse	John (916) 747-4564
Saturday	Oct. 10	1:00 – 5:00 pm	DBA Days @ Marana Pumpkin Patch	See flyer on page 6
Sunday	Oct. 11	1:00 – 5:00 pm	DBA Days @ Marana Pumpkin Patch	See flyer on page 6
Monday	Oct. 12	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Jam @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Oct. 15	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Thursday	Oct. 15	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Perf. & Jam @ Button Brewhouse	John (916) 747-4564
Saturday	Oct. 17	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Bonus guitar workshop w/Tom Carpenter	Suzette s.sommerer@icloud.com
Saturday	Oct. 17	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Oct. 19	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Jam @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Oct. 22	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Perf. & Jam @ Button Brewhouse	John (916) 747-4564
Sunday	Oct. 25	4:00 – 6:00 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Oct. 26	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Jam @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Oct. 29	10:00a – 12:00n	Jam @ Comanche Wells	John (916) 747-4564 or Vicki 520-351-1644
Thursday	Oct. 29	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Perf. & Jam @ Button Brewhouse	John (916) 747-4564

November 2026

Day	Date	Time	Event & Location	Contact
Monday	Nov. 2	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Nov. 5	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Perf. & Jam @ Button Brewhouse	John (916) 747-4564
Saturday	Nov. 7	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Bonus banjo workshop w/Alvin Blaine	Suzette s.sommerer@icloud.com
Saturday	Nov. 7	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Monday	Nov. 9	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Nov. 12	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Perf. & Jam @ Button Brewhouse	John (916) 747-4564
Monday	Nov. 16	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Thursday	Nov. 19	10:00a – 12:00n	Jam @ Comanche Wells	John (916) 747-4564 or Vicki 520-351-1644
Thursday	Nov. 19	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Jam @ Trail Dust Town	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Thursday	Nov. 19	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Perf. & Jam @ Button Brewhouse	John (916) 747-4564
Saturday	Nov. 21	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Jam @ Udall Park	Mike 520-403-0168
Sunday	Nov. 22	4:00 – 6:00 pm	Jam @ Thirsty's	Bonnie (520) 349-4812
Monday	Nov. 23	—	NO WORKSHOP TONIGHT	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com
Monday	Nov. 30	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Workshop @ St. Francis	DBAmondayworkshop@gmail.com

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

The Badly Bent
Mark Epstein 970-946-6345 (voice and text) or (970) 385-7998 (voice)
banjo@thebadlybent.com
https://www.thebadlybent.com/

Cabin John Bluegrass
Bookings: Anni Beach 480-963-6811
annibeach1@gmail.com
Web: Howard Anderson 480-897-7425
handy31@mindspring.com
www.cabinjohnbluegrass.com

Cisco and the Racecars
Francisco Briseno 520-251-7183
lilcisco92@gmail.com

Dan Levenson and The Cat Mountain Rounders
Dan Levenson 412-551-0933
clawdan1@gmail.com
www.ClawDan.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

Linda Lou & The Desert Drifters
Linda Lou 520-444-9897
Facebook.com/desertdrifters

Monsoon Sky
Contact: Dave Polston
davepolston@yahoo.com
520-245-6126
www.facebook.com/p/Monsoon-Sky-100089523503035/

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/theoldpuebloblue grassband/

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

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

Way Out West
Emmy Creigh 520-323-0704
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

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

Reid Griffin
Guitar instruction
All levels and styles
(520) 349-4321

John Kinnaman
Guitar and mandolin
603-387-0811
jkinnaman@gmail.com

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
petersmclaughlin@gmail.com

Dave Polston
Banjo, guitar, and dobro lessons
davepolston@yahoo.com
520-245-6126

Mike Purdy
Guitar, mandolin & banjo
520-977-9780

Marc Rennard
Fiddle, mandolin, and guitar
314-313-0318
cramdranner@yahoo.com
Expert repairs – Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Fretted Instruments – and Bow Rehair

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.fbbts.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 Airport, 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 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
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

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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