



FLAGSTAFF FRIENDS of TRADITIONAL MUSIC

February 2006

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Good Wood

By Ken Clemmer, *The Back Porch Bandits*

(NOTE: For clarity, the Back Porch Bandits are Josh Tharp, banjo; Karl Maerz, dobro; Billy Parker, mandolin; Joel Dowling, bass; and my ownself on guitar)

A hotpickin' pal of mine once told me he lost all his "good wood" during his divorce. Eeek!

I was relieved to learn he spoke only of his Martins and Gibsons, sad enough but better than I imagined. He now plays a Seagull guitar, which sweetly and rapidly roars in his expert hands. Well-known name or not, despite its price, it is good wood. He makes it so.

So why do we play what we play? Our art is one of sound, so the only thing that should matter is how an instrument sounds, right? Absolutely.

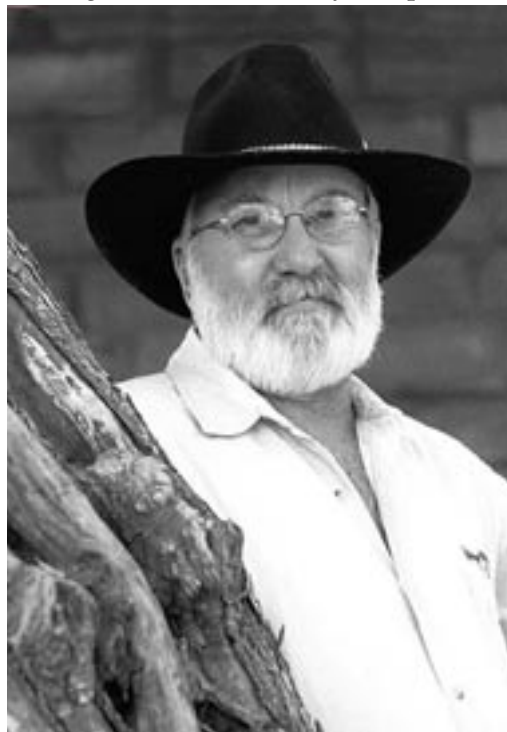
But we know superior sound is often a result of superior craftsmanship and materials, so the only thing that matters is choosing a brand known for its craft, right? Without a doubt.

But the FEEL of a favorite guitar or banjo or mando or such is critical – the action, the intonation, the neck size and shape – so shouldn't the instrument we should choose be that with the best setup? You betcha.

Except it rarely works that way, especially at first. We guitar players often start with cheap "beginner" guitars, thinking that if we like playing, we'll get better ones later. Sure, sure.

My first was a "Kentucky Blue" (so was John Prine's), a Sivertone ordered through the Sears catalog. It was beautiful to my young eye – f-holes, two-tone metallic blue/cream finish...and an action as high as Uncle Alton after a jar of shine. How was I going to like playing THAT?

I didn't. The guitar sickness didn't hit until I bought, at great sacrifice, a new Tama dreadnaught in 1978. It sounded big, showed brilliant craftsmanship, and had a lovely antique violin finish.



While I had gone through a Guild, a couple of Yamahas, a Goya, and some unnamed boxes, none had captured my fancy like that Tama – probably because Dave at the music store just picked the fire out of it.

It took another twenty years for me to get pick-serious, but the disease lingers. I have owned thirteen Tamas – seven still in residence, three with my sons, and three sold with retention of visitation rights. Each is unique, each is good, and still my original goes with me to virtually every gig.

None has magic by itself, of course. It takes a player to build a partnership in creating sweet music. I've partnered with other guitars – Yairis, Ibanez's, two Martin dreadnaughts, a couple of small-body Gibsons - all now gone, none without regret.

I retain a couple that I like about as much as my right eye. My dad's 1940 Ray Whitley Recording King gigs with me occasionally. I gave it to him, regained it when he died, and it is now mine until I go.

And I have a small-body Tharp arriving soon. Josh Tharp is that uncommon blend of master musician and master woodworker, so what he builds will be an expert's tool. Trying to live up to the guitar's potential will make me better. So will trying to show off for Joshua.

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Deadwood Revival

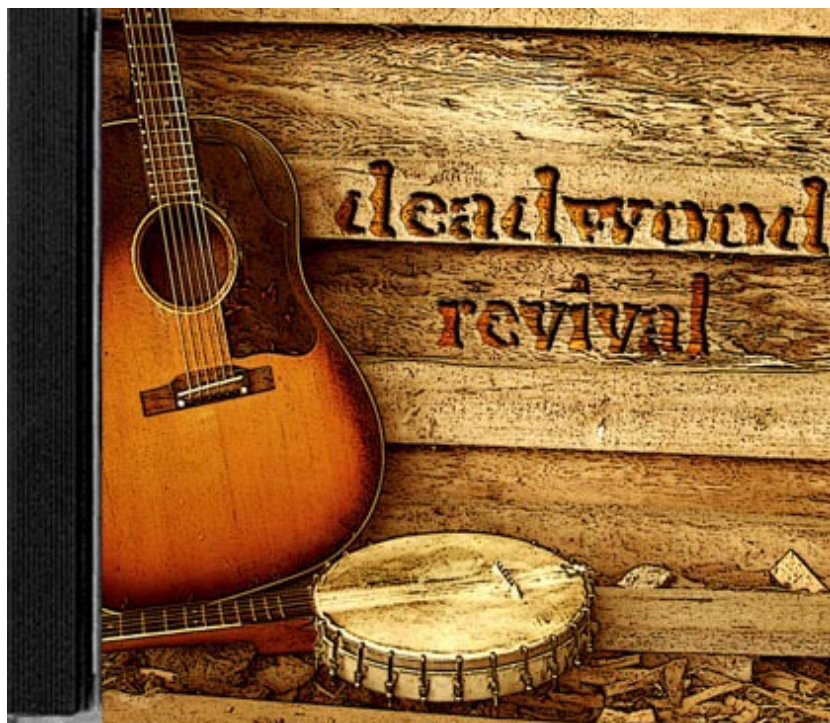
by Jessica Pope

Saturday, January 21 several folks from Flagstaff made the trek to Camp Verde to check out an old time duo from Port Angeles Washington. Deadwood Revival has been making a name for themselves across the Pacific Northwest playing a mix of traditional and original tunes with Kim Trenerry on guitar and Jason Mogi on clawhammer banjo. Last year they took first place at the Northwest String Summit. Their debut CD, *Deadwood Revival*, brings to mind the energy, writing style and old time verve of the Reeltime Travelers. Of the 13 tracks on the CD, 3 are traditional tunes and 10 are original. Their lyrics are up beat and simple reflecting a passion for natural living, life, love and adventure. It's a fun ride for sure. The tour through Arizona came right after a trip to North Carolina where Jason worked with Frank Lee of the Freight Hoppers recoding a CD of gourd and tack-head banjos. During the show in Camp Verde Jason pulled out a fretless gourd banjo. The deep primitive sound of that instrument was a highlight of the concert. The Salt Mine Celler was packed two nights in a row with an appreciative mix of young and old. Those of us that went are looking forward to hearing them play in Flagstaff next time they come through Arizona.



Kim and Jason of Deadwood Revival

From the bio page on their website:



"From his interest in the Grateful Dead and Jerry Garcia in particular, Jason was led to the pure, rustic sounds of old-time music and claw-hammer style banjo while Kim explored bass and old country-style rhythm guitar. With the discovery of contemporary old-time influenced artists like Gillian Welch, Old Crow Medicine Show, Be Good Tanyas, and The Reeltime Travelers, Kim and Jason were inspired in a new direction and Deadwood Revival was born.

Described as "pure, honest, passionate, and refreshing" DwR's performances sound much fuller than one would expect from a duo and include foot-stomping hoe-downs... imaginative, cleverly arranged covers... and original tunes that embody Kim and Jason's impeccable vocal blend and old-time simplicity wedded to their undeniable influences nurtured by 20th century American radio."

If you are looking for a fun, upbeat edition to your Old-timey CD collection pick up their CD at www.deadwoodrevival.com.

To order go to www.deadwoodrevival.com

Irish bands Danu and Solas Coming to NAU

Danu In Concert

Friday, March 3, 2006 at 8:00pm
Cline Library Auditorium

Living Traditions Presentations is proud to bring you Danu in concert. Danu are an Irish traditional music group based in an Rinn/Ring, Co. Waterford, Ireland, made up of seven traditional musicians, hailing from counties Waterford, Dublin, Kerry and Donegal. The group has a strong ethos of loyalty to the tradition from which their music comes and yet still bring a fresh, inspiring approach to their performances. A wonderfully lively group on stage, a DANÚ concert is a unique experience, never to be forgotten.

Danu have been through Flagstaff on two other occasions and wowed audiences with their energetic tunes, soulful songs, and wonderful stage presence. Attending this concert will be a wonderful way to start off your St. Patrick's Day and enjoy a night out! This concert is sponsored by Northern Arizona Irish Foundation and part of the proceeds will be donated to this non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Irish culture within the community of Flagstaff.

Danu will perform at the NAU Cline Library Auditorium on Friday, March 3, 2006 at 8:00pm. The doors will open at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$20 with a \$2 discount to members of Northern Arizona Irish Foundation, Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society, Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music, students, seniors, and NAU faculty & staff.

Tickets are available at NAU Central Ticketing, Cedar Music, Jitters Coffee, and ticketmaster.com. For ticketing information, call 928-523-5661. For more information, contact Kari Barton at 928-600-1365 or email: Kari@LivingTraditionsPresentations.com.

Solas in Concert

Friday, March 31, 2006 at 8:00pm
Cline Library Auditorium



Danu

also performed at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, and the chamber music summer series at Steamboat Springs, Colorado. These names are just a taste of where Solas has performed.



Solas

Living Traditions Presentations is proud to present Solas in concert on Friday, March 31, 2006. Solas is a "five-piece Irish-American band of startling instrumental and vocal firepower" says the LA Times. Solas formed in 1996 and since then, they have been proclaimed as the most popular, influential, and exciting Celtic band to ever emerge from the United States. They have performed at all the major Celtic and Folk festivals, including Philadelphia, Edmonton, the National Folk Festival, and Milwaukee's Irish Fest; but have also performed at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, and the chamber music summer series at Steamboat Springs, Colorado. These names are just a taste of where Solas has performed.

Flagstaff is lucky to have this legendary band come for a performance in the end of March. Solas has been through once before and impressed audiences by their musicality, energetic sets of tunes, and breathtaking songs. This band should not be missed!! This concert is sponsored by Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society and part of the proceeds will be donated to this non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting all things Celtic.

Solas will delight audiences on Friday, March 31, 2006 at 8:00pm at the Cline Library Auditorium. Doors will open at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$20 with a \$2 discount to members of Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society, Northern Arizona Irish Foundation, Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music, students, seniors, and NAU faculty & staff. Tickets are available at NAU Central Ticketing, Cedar Music, Jitters Coffee, and ticketmaster.com. For ticketing information, call 928-523-5661. For more information call Kari Barton at 928-600-1365 or email: Kari@LivingTraditionsPresentations.com.

"Good Wood", continued from page 1

At bottom line, I think inspiration is what it's all about. We might buy a big-name brand because we look good holding it, or because a personal hero picks one. But we won't OWN an instrument, whatever its logo, until we are its partners in the making of the music we love.

Remember Dane Bailey's song, The Touch of the Master's Hand, regarding the auction of a battered and scarred violin:

From the back of the crowd a gray haired man,
Came forward and picked up the bow.

Then he wiped the dust from the old violin,
And tightened up the strings;
And played a melody pure and sweet,
Sweet as the angels sing.

You know what happened. From a three-dollar bid at first to thousands after the Master let the music out.

Now I gotta go. I hear a partner hollering, so it must be time to let the music out.

The First Wednesday Vintage Series

the Wineloft presents Tony Norris and Friends

For over twenty years Tony Norris has been a strong presence on the Flagstaff music scene. On the concert stage, in the public schools and on the airways he tells stories, sings songs and teaches the folklore of working people from West Virginia moonshiners to Southwest cowboys. Tony, a founder of The Flagstaff Friends Of Traditional Music, has always delighted in providing a warm and supportive environment for performers of all ages.

Beginning February 1st at the Wineloft, Tony will showcase the talents of some of Flagstaff's brightest acoustic lights in a relaxed livingroom atmosphere. February's guests will be Bill Burke and Dr Henry Poore and mountain music will be the order of the night. March 1st, Tony's guests will be The Arroyo Seco Ramblers playing Western-swing tunes, folk and cowboy.

There's no cover and the music starts at 8pm. Call 779 -9463 or 526-6684 for information.



Tony Norris and Bill Burke

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**FFOTM MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ new \_\_\_\_\_ renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone - Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership - \$12.00 per year

Family Membership - \$15.00 per year

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership \$12

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership \$15

Make checks payable to FFOTM  
and mail to:

FFOTM  
P.O. Box 23366  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002  
FFOTM Membership Form

# WinterFest Contra Time

by Kari Usher

WinterFest is upon us even though it does not feel much like winter. Contra on February 4th ought to be great fun with Peg Hesley. That zany and fashionably dressed caller from Phoenix will be calling to our own Just Desserts. So bring your friends, bring your coworkers, bring the folks you live with and dance the evening away starting at 7:30pm.

If that is not enough, there will be a dance in Cottonwood on February 18th at the Cottonwood Community Center. No potluck this time and the dancing starts at 6:30 with Hot Dish as your band. For more info call 774-5936.

March 4th will have us dancing to Ron and Kari Barton playing great tunes to Kari Usher calling. April 1st Sherman Jensen will come from Prescott to call to Just Desserts.

Mark your calendars. No partner needed. Just bring your sense of humor and friendly smile.

Just in case you wonder - "Who do I call for ....."  
For volunteering at the Flagstaff dances - call Judy at 214-7017. For helping with refreshments - call Kris 526-3020. For offering your talents as a caller or band - call Kari 525-2513. For publicity - call Laura 556-8739

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# Whale Foundation Wing Ding

*Calling the Grand Canyon guiding community - young and old, far and wide! Your presence is requested at the 4th Annual WF WingDing!*

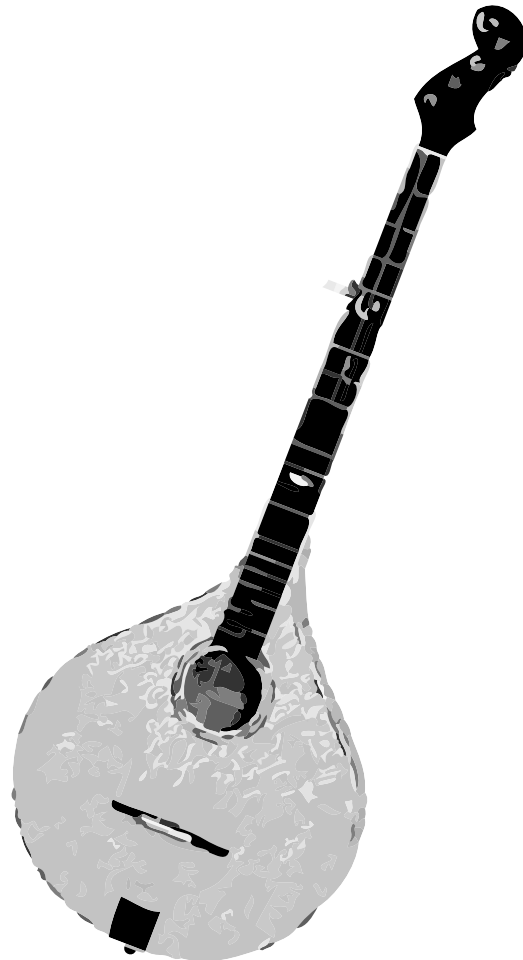
What's the WingDing? It's a party! A fundraiser!  
A celebration of the GC river community!

*Info on this year's event:*

Saturday February 4, 2006, 6-11 PM  
Coconino Center for the Arts  
2300 Ft. Valley Road  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

The inspiration for the WingDing came from our desire to honor the deep connection of love members of the GC river community feel for one another. A while back, we asked ourselves the question: why do we wait for a memorial service - or a meeting on some political issue - to bring us together? Why not create a specific event to celebrate being alive and being members of this amazing community? And we could use the event as an opportunity to showcase our artists' works - and raise some money for our outreach programs like the Kenton Grua Memorial Scholarships, the upcoming Health Fair, the website and our counseling programs!

Well, that was the idea - and the first WingDing, held in February 2003, was so much fun, we're doing it again! There will be a sit down dinner, live music, dancing, a live auction, silent auction, raffle and door prizes. The amazing Martha Clark and Mosey's Mobile Kitchen will cater the affair. We will ask for a dinner donation and there will be a cash bar, but otherwise - it's free!



# Local and Regional Events

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## **Wednesday, February 1st**

First Wednesday Vintage Series with Tony Norris and Friends at the Wine Loft. See article on page 4.

## **Thursday February 2 - Sunday February 5.**

Old Time Fiddle Contest ~ Ajo, AZ ~ Ajo Country Club, 77 Mead Road ~ Fiddlers Show Thursday ~ Dances Friday & Saturday ~ Contest Saturday & Sunday ~ Gospel Sing Sunday ~ Meals all weekend Email: ajo@arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org or 928-859-4621

## **Saturday February 4, at 7:30 PM**

FFOTM Contra Dance at Ashurst Hall on the NAU campus. Come on out for the 7:30 pre-dance lesson.

## **Saturday • February 4 • 7:30 P.M.**

Orooni 4-piece band from Colorado. Orooni's sound contains a balance of mind, heart, and soul. They draw from multiple influences that range from the Beatles and Kerouac to Mahavishnu Orchestra and Stephen King. Admission \$7 Advance • \$10 DAY OF SHOW. Future Studios Live Performance Venue, 30 Hozoni Drive, Sedona. P.O. Box 4779 (86340). (928) 282-9139.

## **Wednesday, February 8, at 7:30 PM**

Adrian Legg—Guitar Virtuoso from the UK. Voted "Guitarist of the Decade" by Guitarist magazine and Guitar Player's Reader's Poll Winner for Best Acoustic Fingerstyle Guitarist for 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996. Adults: \$13 Advance \$16 DAY OF SHOW. Future Studios Live Performance Venue, 30 Hozoni Drive, Sedona. (928) 282-9139.

## **Thursday • February 9 • 7:30 P.M.**

Jah Levi and the Higher Reasoning 7-piece ROOTS REGGAE band from Oregon. Roots-Reggae music with a mission of love and peace to spread the message of oneness and divine unity for all beings. Admission \$15 advance / \$18 day of show. Future Studios Live Performance Venue, 30 Hozoni Drive, Sedona. (928) 282-9139.

## **Friday • February 10 • 7:30 P.M.**

Celia from the Midwest with opening act Lil' Rev from Milwaukee. Red-headed Renaissance woman, Celia is a singer-songwriter, musician, actress, storyteller and dancer. Admission \$12 advance / \$15 day of show. Future Studios Live Performance Venue, 30 Hozoni Drive, Sedona. (928) 282-9139.

## **Friday February 10 - Sunday February 12**

Sixth Annual Bullhead-Laughlin Colorado River Bluegrass Festival, Davis Camp near the Laughlin Bridge, Bullhead City, AZ. Rhonda Vincent (11th), Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver (12th), Open Road, Cherryholmes, Rarely Herd, Cedar Hill, James King Band, Larry Ste-

phenson, Lost & Found, Nothing Fancy, Pine Mountain Railroad, Redliners. ADULTS (18+): \$13 AGES 7-17: \$5 AGES 6 AND UNDER \$FREE\$. Camping opens Feb 8th. For information, call Randy Gray at (928) 768-5819 or (928) 201-5819.

## **Saturday February 11 at 11:00 AM**

FFOTM Young Jammers Workshop - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Coconino Center for the Arts, 2300 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff. or information, 928-522-9269

## **Saturday, February 11, 7:30 PM**

D-Squared, Don Charles, Deb Gessner at The Sharlot Hall Museum's Blue Rose Theater, 415 W. Gurley St., Prescott. "An intimate evening of love songs & chocolate for Valentine's Day". Come join us for a celebration of the lovers' holiday in one of our favorite rooms to play. It's the old Exhibit Hall in the main building at the Museum, the new and improved home of the Blue Rose Theater. Tickets are \$15 and available at the Museum Store or by calling (928) 445-3122 or via their website, www.sharlot.org

## **Thursday February 16th 8:30**

The Wailers, The Orpheum Theater \$20/\$23

## **Sunday, February 19, - 7:30**

Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum opening for Ralph Stanley Reserved tickets are \$35. General Admission tickets are \$27/\$30/\$35 - The Orpheum Theater - 15 W. Aspen St Flagstaff, AZ 86001 - (928) 556-1580

## **Wednesday February 22 8:00pm**

Hot Buttered Rum String Band, The Orpheum Theater. \$7 at the door.

## **Wednesday February 22 8:00**

Earl Brothers, Charly's. Oldtime Bluegrass

## **Wednesday, February 22 8:00**

Bill Vernieu and Bill Hudson at the Wine Loft

## **Thursday, February 23, 9:00 PM**

The Earl Brothers at the NIMBUS BREWING CO in Tucson, AZ. The Earl Brothers play Old Time bluegrass straight from the stillhouse over San Francisco way! They're all over XM radio and web streams.

## **Thursday, February 23 - Sunday, February 26.**

2nd Annual Rice Ranch Bluegrass Festival in Quartzite, AZ. Lost Highway, Chris Stuart & Backcountry, Hurricane Creek, Flinthill Special, Virtual Strangers, Colorado River Boys, Bost Family Traditions, Silhouette Ridge, Grass Backwards, Red Mountain Boys, Copper River, Southwest Ramblers and free preview performances on Thursday. Visit [www.traditionalbluegrass.us/quartzite/](http://www.traditionalbluegrass.us/quartzite/) for all the info.

**Friday, February 24**

12th Annual: A Cowboy Campfire at The Zane Grey Ballroom at The Weatherford Hotel with Bill Vernieu and Tony Norris. See article on page 8.

**Friday, February 24, 9:00 PM**

The Earl Brothers at the Yucca Tap Room in Tempe, AZ. The Earl Brothers play Old Time bluegrass straight from the stillhouse over San Francisco way!

**Friday February 24 7:00pm**

UU Coffee House, Mike McReynolds, contact Larry Peterson for more information 699-7068

**Sunday February 26 7:00 P.M.**

Victor Wooten, The Orpheum Theater, Flagstaff \$20/\$23

Victor Wooten redefines the word musician. Regaled as the most influential bassist since Jaco Pastorius, Victor is known for his solo recordings and tours, and as a member of the Grammy-winning supergroup, Béla Fleck & The Flecktones. He is an innovator on the bass guitar, as well as a talented composer, arranger, producer, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist. But those gifts only begin to tell the tale of this Tennessee titan.

**Saturday. February 25, 7:30**

J.D. CROWE & THE NEW SOUTH at Central Arizona College in Coolidge, AZ. J.D. Crowe, the award winning bluegrass banjo player, and his band, The New South, perform both traditional and bold innovative bluegrass. When it comes to J.D. Crowe & The New South, this is a 'legend' not to be missed! TICKETS \$20 Adults | \$10 Youth. Call 520-426-4223.

**Friday, March 3, 2006 - 8:00pm**

Danu in Concert. See article on page 4.

**Friday, March 31, 2006 - 8:00pm**

Solas in concert. See article on page 4.

## Ongoing Events

**Every Monday - 7:00 pm:**

FFOTM Fiddle Tunes Jam Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 510 N. Leroux. Host Larry Peterson 699-7068.

**Every first Tuesday – 6:00-9:00 pm:** FFOTM jam session at the Coconino Center for the Arts.

**Every Tuesday, Friday & Saturday night -7:00 pm:** The Collins Irish Band plays at Collins Irish Pub in downtown Flagstaff.

**Every Thursday – 7:00 pm:**

FFOTM Just Desserts contra dance band rehearsal. Open to anyone who wants to play or listen to contra dance music. Any instrument and playing ability is welcome. Rehearsal starts at 7:00pm at the home of Deb Comly and Mike Reddig, 1457 W. Meade. For more information call 774-5936.

**Every second Friday – 7:00-9:00 pm:**

FFOTM jam session at Bookman's Used Books. For information, call Christina Boyd at 928-522-9269.

**Every last Friday – 7:30 pm:** UU Coffee House Night at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, located at 510 N. Leroux Flagstaff, AZ. Call Larry Peterson at 699-7068 for more information.

**Every first Saturday – 7:30 pm:** FFOTM Contra Dance at Ashurst Hall on the NAU campus. Come on out for the 7:30 pre-dance lesson. For more information call Laura at 556-8739 or email her at: laurashearin@hotmail.com

## Radio Programs

**Saturday Folk hosted by Barry Harrison** Four-hour show, Saturday mornings 6-10am on KVNA AM 600. A wide range of folk, blues, Celtic and bluegrass.

**Thistle and Shamrock, National Public Radio's Celtic music show, hosted by Fiona Richie** Saturday evenings at 8:00pm on KNAU, 88.7/91.7 FM. 523-2334.

**Celtic Connection, featuring music from the evolving traditions of Ireland, Scotland, North America, and beyond** Saturday evenings on KNAU, FM 88.7/91.7 FM. 523-2334.

**Under Western Skies, a radio program about Western music and cowboy poetry** hosted by Peter Bruce every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on 92.9 KAFF FM and AM 930 Country Classics. For more information contact Peter at 773-1346.

**Bluegrass Radio! 24/7 Listener supported bluegrass music stream at: WWW.BLUEGRASSRADIO.ORG.**

New and old, lots of bands we see at festivals or concerts, no commercials or donation requests... just music!

# 12th Annual: A Cowboy Campfire

*Feb 24, 2006, 7:30pm, The Weatherford Hotel*

February 24th marks the 12th annual Cowboy Campfire. Come on down to The Zane Grey Ballroom at The Weatherford Hotel and sit by a crackling fire as Tony Norris, Bill Vernieu and friends celebrate as only cowboys know how: singing sad songs, telling lies and reciting poems about their favorite horse.

This lively Western event has become a Winterfest favorite and sometimes there's a scramble for tickets as seating is limited. Tickets are 15\$ general admission and 12\$ child and FFOTM. Available at The Weatherford and from Bill Vernieu 525-3001 or Tony Norris 526-6684.



*Bill Vernieu and Tony Norris*

www.ffotm.net



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