



FLAGSTAFF FRIENDS of TRADITIONAL MUSIC

August 2007

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Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass and Acoustic Music Festival

September 14-16, Flagstaff, AZ

By Bill Vernieu

Things are in full swing for our 2nd Annual Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass and Acoustic Music Festival, September 14-16, 2007 at the beautiful new Pine Mountain Amphitheater at Fort Tuthill County Park in Flagstaff, AZ. We hope you can make it again for another great weekend of fun and music in northern Arizona!

We have a fabulous lineup this year, including the David Grisman Bluegrass Experience, Kruger Brothers, Chatham County Line, Sweet Sunny South, True Blue, Burnett Family Bluegrass, Badly Bent, Boulder Acoustic Society, Fire Ridge, Heart Prairie, Mars Hillbillies, Muskelelunge Bluegrass and the Voluntary String Band. We're also hosting a big Saturday Night Barn Dance, featuring the calling of Albuquerque's Merri Rudd, with music by Sweet Sunny South.

We have the Pickin' in the Pines Band Contest scheduled, with \$1000.00 for the best acoustic band! Second prize is \$500; third place gets \$250. The top three contestants will play off on the main stage on Saturday afternoon. Rules and entry forms are available at www.pickininthepines.org.

Free workshops are scheduled throughout the weekend, offering intimate encounters with our top performers, local luthiers, and other musical experts. We've got lots for the kids to do. Chuck Chessman will be keeping the youngsters laughing, singing and dancing and Tony Norris will be casting his spell with his old yarns, stories, and sing-a-longs. Merri Rudd will be conducting a family dance on Saturday afternoon to get the kids and their parents up and dancing. And best of all, children 16 and under are admitted free. Bring the whole family!

Plenty of camping is available for both RVs and tent campers within a short walk from the Amphitheater. A free shuttle will be provided between the campground and the Amphitheater. Lodging is available nearby within a 2-mile drive. Your favorite beverage is available in the Pine Mountain Amphitheater. You'll find plenty of great food there too, or you can bring a small picnic basket.

Why not consider a trip to Flagstaff this September 14-16, for the 2nd Annual Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass and Acoustic Music Festival, a weekend full of workshops, children's activities, great music, camping and jammin' in the tall pines and vivid fall colors of northern Arizona? Advanced tickets are \$60; camping is \$15 per person for the entire weekend and children 16 and under are free. You can buy tickets and get all the details are at our web site, www.pickininthepines.org. Or, you can call (928) 525-1695 or e-mail PIPInfo@pickininthepines.org.



A LETTER FROM HOME

The Birth of a Song

By Tony Norris

My grandpa, Henry Newyears Norris, had to leave Illinois right after the civil war. He was headed to Texas. He began his journey by strapping on his skates and pumping his way down the frozen Illinois River for over 75 miles. His adventures included "borrowing" a horse in Arkansas, and a Comanche Indian raid the first night he spent with family who lived in Harmony, near Weatherford. I never knew my grandpa . He would have been 105 the year I was born. But the stories of his exciting exploits fueled my childhood games.

Four years ago on Superbowl Sunday we got the call telling us that our daughter-in-law had gone into labor almost eight weeks prematurely. Every day they could delay delivery would improve the baby's chances of survival so the doctors wanted her resting in a hospital bed under their care. But the great inertia of life was in motion. Ben was born that evening at only twenty-eight weeks. He weighed 2.3 pounds. He would spend the next two months in pediatric ICU. The threats to this small life seemed insurmountable. Each day his mom would sit by his incubator and lay him on her bare chest whispering to him to breathe and grow.

I have a photo of Ben's tiny fist grasping his dad's finger, his perfect little digits barely covering one knuckle. I was reminded of the stories Glenna Lewis told back in West Virginia about her premature birth. "I was so little they diapered me with a mans handkerchief. They would safety pin me to the pillowcase so I wouldn't get lost in the bed."

Little Ben soldiered on and ate and grew and ate and grew.....Last week he stayed with us while mom was taking a cruise with her mother and dad was pulling a four day stint playing music on the Grand Canyon Railway. He taught me how to sing The Bear Went Over The Mountain and asked several thousand questions. He showed off his puzzle solving skills and we went fishing in the pond. He was good company.

As I thought about this brave little feller's amazing journey I began to hum a tune. Before I knew it I'd written a couple of verses of tongue-in-cheek tribute to Mighty Ben. It goes like this.....

MIGHTY BEN

chorus

C F C G

Mighty Ben was a little acorn then

F C

Yes he was

Em Am

Mighty Ben was a little acorn

G D G

Way back when

C Em

He swam a mighty ocean

Am F

He crossed the desert in the rain

C F C G C

Mighty Ben was a little acorn then

F C

Yes he was

He skated down a frozen river
On the day that he was born

He bounced the full moon like a basketball
Then he sank it in a net of stars

He caught a fish the size of Texas
He roasted hotdawgs on the sun

In the darkest hour of morning
He sang his way back home

Tony raises racing chickens and grandkids in the cinderhills of Doney Park. Visit his website at www.tonymorris.com or view his smiling visage as he hosts FLAGNEWS@NOON the local video webcast that lives online at flgnews.com/ Just click on archives to see the previous shows. The host of the KIDSBEAT feature is his granddaughter, Kari Joy Thomas, eight.



Sharlot Hall Museum Folk Music Festival October 6 & 7, 2007

by Barbara Cook

I hope that you are saving the first weekend in October to spend with us at the 29th annual Sharlot Hall Museum Folk Music Festival. Those of you who have been here before know that this Festival is a kindred gathering of folk and acoustic musicians, singers, storytellers and dancers. It is a great and joyous weekend: we literally fill the historic buildings and beautiful gardens of the Sharlot Hall Museum with music. There are mini-concerts at the Gazebo and the outdoor amphitheater, workshops and tune swaps for songwriters and for fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar and other instruments, group singing, slow jams, old-time dancing, and cowboy lore. Over 150 of Arizona's finest folk and acoustic musicians will meet here and perform. It is one of the best places in Arizona to meet people who share your musical interests.

The Festival is still free to the public, although a donation will be requested from the public at the gates. All of the performers volunteer their talents. There are no stars and no headliners—just a lot of talented folks meeting enthusiastic and attentive audiences. The Festival runs from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7. There will be a musical instrument swap meet on Sunday morning at 9:00 on the Museum grounds.

If you can be here and are interested in performing and/or helping to lead workshops, please contact me for a Festival Registration form and return it by August 15. Each year we are close to having to turn away willing talent, so please try to send your response as soon as you can. We may have to hold to the postmark deadline of August 15 if there is more talent than can be accommodated. We will build the Festival schedule from your responses, so let me know if you have ideas for workshop sessions you would particularly like to see included or can help to teach. We will probably include these and other workshop sessions this year: Songwriters' Circle, Rare and Unusual Songs, sing-alongs, Bluegrass, old-time, Celtic, and slow jams, Gospel singing, storytelling, and instrumental styles on banjo,

guitar, fiddle, mandolin, dulcimer, folk harp, and jaw harp. Let me know if you would like to entertain in the children's area.

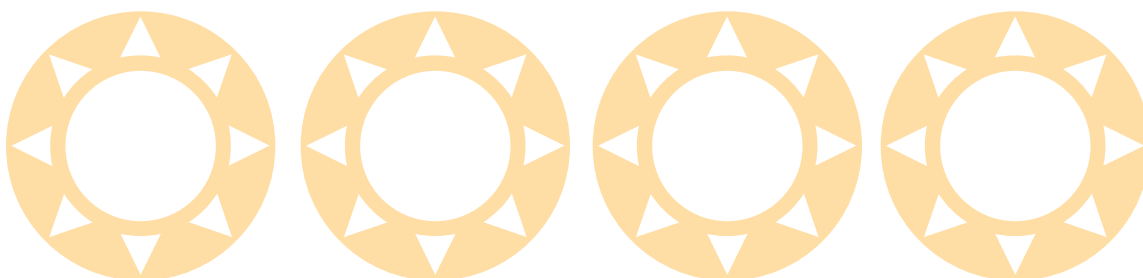
A fun Band Scramble contest is the only quasi-competitive element of the Festival. It will be open to band members and individuals who want to jump into an impromptu string band. The bands will perform Sunday afternoon after having a little time to work up some tunes and/or songs—winners will be awarded silly prizes. If that sounds like fun, plan on signing up at the Festival.

The Instrument Swap Meet is a great chance to do some quality swapping—bring that old fiddle, or the banjo that was fine to learn on (and will be for another beginner) but doesn't satisfy your critical taste anymore. Pass it on to someone who will cherish it and play it. We will provide table space Sunday morning for individuals wanting to display instruments and paraphernalia to sell or swap. The Museum does not ask for a commission, but donations are always welcome. We can't take any responsibility for instruments—you have to supervise them while they are on display.

I hope you can join us. Your talents are valued here—and I think I can guarantee that you will enjoy the Festival. I would love to hear any ideas you have for enhancing the Festival—write me a note on the back of the Registration form, or call me at Sharlot Hall Museum, 928.445.3122, or email me at barbaracook@sharlot.org.

The Festival will operate a Consignment Sales Area (and charge a 20% fee) for CDs and tapes of performing musicians. If you would like to consign items for sale, please check that box on the Response Form.

If you haven't received an invitation in the mail, please print out your Response Form and return by mail to Barbara Cook, Sharlot Hall Museum, 415 W. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ, 86301. Also, please make any address or phone number corrections on the back of the response form.



Contra Update

By Kari Usher

The 3rd Sunday dance has moved to the rooftop at the Mad Italian on South San Francisco. It still happens at 5-7:30pm. It is a splendid location to see storms roll around town and the sunsets have been spectacular lately. Hope to see you on the roof!

- August 4th Saturday at Ashurst will have Becky Nankevill from Tucson calling to our own Just Desserts.
- August 19th Sunday on the rooftop at the Mad Italian.
- September 1st Saturday will have ClusterFolk from Phoenix playing.
- September 15th Pickin in the Pines at the County Fairgrounds will have Sweet Sunny South playing with Merri Rudd from New Mexico calling. She is a hoot and you won't want to miss this one. There will be a family

dance that afternoon between 2-3 pm at the Fairgrounds for those who want more.

- September 16th Sunday. Perhaps we will get Merri to do some calling for us on the roof at the Mad Italian.
- October we dance the second Saturday, 13th; Peg Hestley will come up from Phoenix to call to Just Desserts at Ashurst Hall.

The Ashurst Hall dances have a teaching session at 7:30 with dancing until 11 pm. The rooftop dances at the Mad Italian go from 5-7:30pm. For more info call Kris 526-3020.

The Cottonwood dances are going thru the summer on the third Saturday of the month. Call Deb for more info 774-5936.

See you on the dance floor.

Photo of the Month



The USGS float in the July 4th Parade included music by Bill Vernieu (guitar), Matt Robinson (banjo), Mike Falk (mandolin), and Joe Sorren (bass). Photo by Dave Rudakewich.

FFOTM's Summer Campout

by Michael Falk

This year our campout is being held in conjunction with the Diablo Trust Annual Campout Under The Stars, which also coincides with their Artists' Day On The Land. We will be camping at "their place," Ashurst Run up on the Flying M Ranch, instead our usual spot. (Precise directions to Ashurst Run appear below.) We have long had an informal connection with these folks, and when they invited us to do this together, we thought it might make for a fun time. To find out more about Diablo Trust, visit their website www.diablotrust.org/. There'll be some new faces around, but we'll be doing our thing just like always, making music from dawn to way past dusk. We're working on putting together a small contra dance, too.

As always, there will be a potluck dinner Saturday night, with the main dish provided, and pancake breakfast Sunday. Otherwise come self-contained and prepared for a weekend of dry camping. Donations to help FFOTM and Diablo Trust cover the cost of food and porta-johns will be solicited and much appreciated. Diablo Trust will be selling some cool t-shirts (designed by David Grandon) as a fundraiser for their activities, and we'll have Pickin' in the Pines raffle tickets and festival passes available for those interested.

Ashurst Run, which is private Flying M land and one of the prettiest places in northern Arizona, is very easy to get to. From Flagstaff, take Lake Mary Road East, about 30 miles, to Forest Road 125 (Kinnickinnick Road). It's near the south end of Mormon Lake. Turn left, go two miles, then left through the polegate, and you're there. Come on out and enjoy the last weekend of summer camping in the high country forest, making music and art!

Did You Know?

by Barry Harrison

- Flagstaff songwriter Chuck Cheesman's cd 'Campfire' was reviewed in the Spring, 2007 issue of Sing Out! Magazine.
- Former-Flagstaff musician, Dom Flemons' band The Carolina Chocolate Drops had their cd 'Dona Got a Ramblin' Mind' reviewed in the June/July 2007 issue of Dirty Linen magazine with a color photo of the trio.

Membership Update

by Judy Henzler

We had 5 new and 11 renewing memberships last month, bringing our total membership to 284. Please take the time to check your mailing label to see if you need to renew your membership; you can use the form inside. Thanks to those supporting Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music by keeping their membership up to date. If you want more information about Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music, you can always contact me at 928-214-7017 or e-mail to jhenzler@netzero.com

New and Renewing Members:

Ron/Glo Auler

Mary Bianco

Cheryl/Bill Blume

Bart Brush

Carol/William Doane

Bonnie Groth

Jeremiah/Katie Hampton

Jane Jackson

Henry/Martha Kaldenbaugh

Birgit Loewenstein

Deb Noel

Palmer Bruce/Nancy

Robby Roberson

Nancy Robertson

Janie Schindler

Steve/Rachel Wilson

- I'll be playing the new cd 'Cloudy Day Navigation' by the Irish group Grada; they play at Cline Library Auditorium, Friday, August 24. Check out the live stream at www.radioflagstaff.com 'a day late and a dollar short', Barry Harrison Saturday Folk Radio kvna.

Local and Regional Events

For the latest updates on these and other new events please check the website at www.ffotm.net.

AOTFA Summer Campout

August 3, 4 & 5

Flagstaff, AZ, Willard Springs Exit, Lots of music, games and especially, FUN in the Pines - Fire danger permitting - For more info call Noreen at 928-853-3577

The Back Porch Bandits

Friday, August 17, 2007 - 8 p.m. 'til midnight.

Javelina Crossing Saloon, Black Canyon City.
623-374-9593.

White Mountain Bluegrass Festival

August, 11 & 12

Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ - Hon Dah Resort & Conference Center. For more info email spreston@pinetoplakesidechamber.com or call Susan at 928-367-4290

Grada

Friday, August 24

Cline Library Auditorium, NAU Campus, Flagstaff.

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September 14-16, 2007, Pine Mountain Amphitheater

www.pickininthepines.org/

Fiddlers Contest

September 22, Sierra Vista, AZ, Veteran's Memorial Park. For

more info call David at 520-220-1166 or check out www.dkmusicstudio.com/fiddlecontest

Vertilee Floyd Memorial Fiddle Contest

September 29 & 30

Payson, AZ - State Championship

For more information go to www.paysonfiddlers.com

Railroad Earth with Hot Buttered Rum

October 2, 2007

Orpheum Theater, Doors at 7pm/Show at 8pm, \$15/\$18

Tucson Bluegrass Festival

October 27 & 28

Tucson, AZ, Desert Diamond Casino, Interstate 19 @ Pima Road Exit. For more info email basslady78@comcast.net

FLAGSTAFF FRIENDS *of* TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Ongoing Events

Every Tues 8:30 pm – midnight Charlys Open Mic hosted by Larry Peterson 699-7068. Start calling at noon on Tuesday to get a slot on the line-up.

Every 2nd and 4th Monday, 7-9 pm

FFOTM Fiddle Tunes Jam, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 510 N. Leroux.

Host: Larry Peterson 699-7068

Every first Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

Tony Norris - First Wednesday Vintage Series

The Wine Loft, 17 North San Francisco, Flagstaff.

Call 779-9463 or 526-6684 for information.

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. 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 Wednesday 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm

The Mars Hillbillies at the Wine Loft

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 Kris 526-3020 or Judy 214-7017.

Every first Friday 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

FFOTM's Applesauce Jam

Applesauce Tea House, 213 S. San Francisco

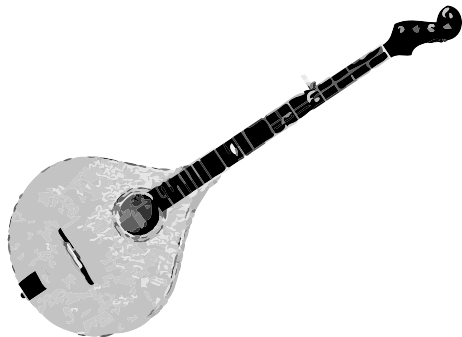
Contact: Rusty Tweed at 928-774-5760

Every second and fourth Tuesday at 8:00 pm:

The Voluntary String Band at the Wine Loft.

Every last Thursday at 9:00 pm:

The Voluntary String Band at the Flagstaff Brewing Co. 16 E. Rte. 66, Flagstaff.



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. Now streaming live at radioflagstaff.com.

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.

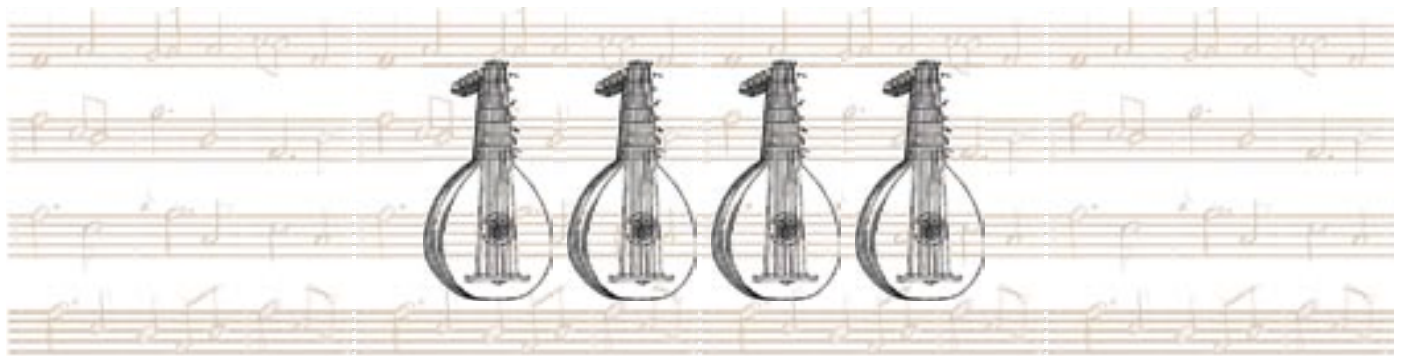
Bluegrass Radio! 24/7 Listener supported bluegrass music stream at: WWW.BLUEGRASSRADIO.ORG. New and old, lots of bands we see at festivals or concerts, no commercials or donation requests... just music!

KJZA, 89.5 FM, Flagstaff. Dave McNabb is providing Northern Arizona with a much needed Celtic music outlet. His Celtic Corner supplements his activities in the concert and Ceilidh areas. Saturday evenings 6-7pm. Sunday mornings 7-8am (replay). 928-771-1218

The Folk Sessions, Live! Saturdays, 7-9pm, repeated at midnight. 89.5 fm KJZA hosted by Tom Agostino & Alexa MacDonald For more info: info@folksessions.com or call Alexa at 541-0736 for more info. <http://www.folksessions.com>

Prescription Bluegrass Auditory Therapy for those who suffer from "Bluegrass Fever", Program Host Brian McNeal presents just what the doctor ordered Saturday Nights from 9-10 (repeats Sunday 6-7am) KJZA-89.5 FM Prescription Bluegrass has been on the air for over 1 year now.

O God Where Art Thou Sunday Mornings from 11-Noon, Brian McNeal presents Bluegrass Gospel down from the mountain. Traditional Bluegrass Gospel Classics and those that soon will be. KJZA-89.5 FM





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

www.ffotm.net



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P.O. Box 23366
Flagstaff, AZ 86002