

Central

# Texas Bluegrass

IBMA Member

Vol. 36 No. 2

February 1, 2014



## The Parkbench

How many times have you started over? I've started over so many times I've lost count. Like a lot of you, I started playing guitar when I was very young, got involved with what the youths now call a garage band, then drifted away. It's a common story that I'm sure most of you are familiar with, regardless of your instrument of choice.

I started out with a six-string electric, then went acoustic in college which, now that I think about it, seems to be the exact opposite of how things normally go. There must be an acoustic DNA strand buried deep down in there. Somewhere in the latter years of college and as a young married fellow, I wound up with a 12-string. That was during the late '60s and early '70s. There was a lot of good music coming out, or that I was just discovering, so I jumped on the folk/bluegrass bandwagon for a while.

But, then, the first child came along and a couple of years later the next one showed up (guess we forgot to spray for munchkins!) so, you know what happened to that guitar. Yup, it got put back in the case and stayed there for more years than I care to remember. Funny thing is, I still have that 12-string and you should see how bowed the face is. Probably should have released the tension on all those strings long ago.

Thirty-some-odd years later, after the kids are grown, gone, and hitched, I started over yet again, this time with a six-string and a full-steam of dedication.



Fiddler's Green Pickin' In The Park 2013

But, it turns out, I've heard that same story multiple times in the past few years. Lots of folks I've met along the bluegrass trail tell me the same thing: they played once, put it down for a while, and now they're back at it; starting over.

That's the bluegrass spirit. That's the American spirit. We may not finish up like we wanted to in the first place but, by golly, give us an opportunity to start over and we'll do our darnedest to make it right this time.

That's why you see such a diversity in the bluegrass crowds at concerts, jams, pickin' parks, or wherever we gather. You'll see young folks just starting out, seasoned professionals, skilled amateurs, and a bunch of us who are starting over. Like Winston Churchill and Jon Field have said, "Don't quit. Never give up." And, most of all, keep on pickin'. - Bob Vestal, Editor



## MIDWINTER TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL FEBRUARY 8th, 2014

The Austin Friends of Traditional Music (AFTM) will host its annual Midwinter Festival Saturday, February 8, 2014, at the **Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd.**, in Austin from 12:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Come join in the fun, meet old friends and new, hear some great music. Play some yourself. Jamming is welcomed. There will be workshops ranging from Jawharp to Gospel singing. This is a festival about making, learning, listening, and enjoying music for its own sake.

Long before record players and radio stations, people made music, learning the secrets of tradition over generations. Traditional music is a living thing, from different peoples the world over, each heritage distinct but holding in common the determination to see its treasures survive and grow. Where'd you get your music from?

The festival provides a showcase for musicians, some well-known, others who make music primarily for family and friends. "We believe our workshops will give participants a window into a variety of folk traditions," Tim Wooten, AFTM President, said. "We also hope to raise the funds to continue the concerts and workshops we sponsor throughout the year." There will be a silent auction as well as good eats! Suggested donations are \$25 for the general public and \$20 for AFTM members. Children 12 and under – Free.

For more information, see [www.aftm.us](http://www.aftm.us).

### Shows from 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm include:

**Silas Lowe Band** – *Bluegrass, Old-time, Cajun music*

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**Peter Keane** – *Finger style guitar artistry*

**Double Eagle Stringband** – *Old-time Fiddling and Singing*

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**Contact: Tim Wooten**

[duckwotan@yahoo.com](mailto:duckwotan@yahoo.com)

512-644-0212

[www.aftm.us](http://www.aftm.us)

Since 1974, Austin Friends of Traditional Music has shared acoustic artists and music with the community. For more information, please contact AFTM President Tim Wooten at [duckwotan@yahoo.com](mailto:duckwotan@yahoo.com) or 830-825 3108.

## Meet the Artists -

### Randy's Rangers

Best I can tell, there's no mask, no white horse, and no Tonto, but the dynamic duo who make up *Randy's Rangers* are the real deal when it comes to good ole, toe-tappin' bluegrass music. Based in Georgetown, Texas, Jon (Randy) and Sigi Field combine influences from Germany and Austin to produce their own blend of story-telling tunes. Here's an e-mail exchange I had with them recently that I hope will help us all get to know a nice couple in Georgetown known as *Randy's Rangers*.

How did you two meet and wind up married and settled in the Austin area?

Well, Bob, it's a long story. I worked on her computer at the Univ. of New Hampshire in 1979 and left her a secret love message. It must have worked since in 1994 after her divorce one year previously and my wife running off with my brother three days previously, she ambled into my computer store that Saturday morning. I asked to call her and the rest is history.

We came to New Braunfels to Nuke's Tennis Ranch January 3, 1998, for a week of tennis camp and a visit to the town where lives a fellow ham radio operator, who I met on the air two months previously. We looked at real estate in Georgetown (since New Hampshire's cold winters had kicked our backsides) and fell in love with our house in Serenada.



How did you both get started with music and specifically bluegrass?

I played violin in elementary school orchestra in Houston in 1962 holding the first chair position for two years. In 1976 I bought a new string bass from the store owned by the bassist for the Boston Pops, who helped me get started in the beginning. I bought a bass book and pickup, built my bass amp from my own design and also started learning my buddy's all original jazz/pop material. We played out to mixed success. I also played in a rockabilly band to a packed house.

Sigi grew up in war-torn Germany so, in 1949 she cherished her little recorder, which she learned to play in school. In 2002 Georgetown had their bluegrass festival and I was prodded into fetching my bass, so I started playing bluegrass bass. I also started playing bluegrass fiddle, mando, and guitar. I needed a bass player and Sigi wanted to share in the music so I taught her to play string bass. I started to sing and Randy's Rangers was born.

Who would you say are your biggest musical influences?

50's Rock-n-Roll, Led Zepplin, Cream, Hot Lips Page, The Duke, The Count, Mingus, Parker, Manhattan Transfer, Ricky Skaggs, Garth Brooks, Bill Monroe, Stanley Brothers, Osborn Brothers, Jim & Jesse, Bob Wills, dang, too many to name everyone... Johnny Gimble... dang!!

Do you do mostly covers or original material?

I don't think of how I do other's material as covers, that would be an insult to the original artist. Most of my stuff is 50+ years old.

Who writes your original material and how that process works?

I've written two songs I perform, both were inspired and written by the hand of God. I woke up at 7:00 am in a strange mountain cabin in North Carolina, looked out the screen porch and just grabbed my guitar and a pencil and 15 minutes later I had Mountain Carolina Home. 15 minutes more and out came My Dog Scout.

Do you have a life outside of music? If so, what do you do?

I had a retail computer, factory authorized service center store. Now I'm retired and thankful just to be able to walk. Sigi has blossomed into a successful fine artist specializing in jazz greats and Chinese Ink Brush Painting. Sigi currently has several shows in the area and has developed great interest in the Ink works.

Tell us about the Georgetown bluegrass jam and how that got started?

After the Georgetown Bluegrass Festival I found the CTBA beginner jam and Dickie, with whom I started the Georgetown jam. After many ups and downs, and sometimes just me at the "jam" if Sigi was sick, we now have a monster banjo player who is serious about the music and the instrument and we welcome like-minded players.

What plans do y'all have for 2014 and beyond?

I will plan for my yearly farm gig, two weekends in October. If I'm physically able to, 2014 will be my 12th year. In 2003 the Elgin Christmas Tree Farm, a Christian/family farm, found Randy's Rangers listed in the CTBA band directory and hired us for one out of the four days of their annual Pumpkin Festival. They liked us so much we've been the sole festival band for 10 years now, playing for thousands of folks each day. So, thanks to the CTBA, I sell (as a hawkker) those sausage wraps and baked goodies, play three 1-hour sets a day of bluegrass and gospel music, and put on Dance Contests with my fiddle for all the little kiddies.

Any final thoughts?

Just as my knowledge of music and my instruments flourished I was crippled by physical deterioration and loss of playing ability. I've started playing jazz bass again, which I am able to play somewhat well (we got \$150 in tips the other night... dang!).

My body (hand and leg) has gotten so bad I can't play out anymore and I'm slowly erasing the band from existence. Too bad, but I still do what I can, I can sing and strum along, but it's hard to do the setup and tear down of a paid gig. But, I still play for the PALS Alzheimer support group at the United Methodist church. Sigi is down to playing her Fender Ashbury, the stand-up comes out only for money, she has to stand two hours and I have to carry it. She dreamed of playing a viola-bass, so we shopped all around, had to special order a hard case. Then when all was here, the dang thing weighed a ton! She couldn't carry it and with the strap it was too heavy on her shoulders.

Don't ever give up, but it's OK to take a break and recoup your life-energy.

Never give up - always good advice, especially when it comes wrapped in lives that have walked the walk and sung the song. You can take a listen to their song [Mountain Carolina Home](#) or check out their [website](#). Jon tells me the GT Bluegrass Jam on the Square seems to have fizzled out for now but you never know who might step up and get that started again. Anyone?



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<i>MECCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization that teaches music &amp; dance to adults and children. We provide ethnic/cultural/patriotic music and dance groups for civic, schools, churches, and club programs events.</i>	
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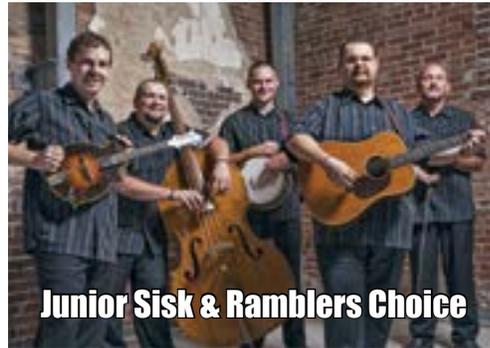
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Hours M-Th 11-7 pm, Fri 11-6 pm, Sat 12-5 pm 512-614-6491 <a href="http://themusicianswoodshed.com">themusicianswoodshed.com</a> Pickin' On The Porch acoustic jam first Wednesday of every month 7:00 - 11:00 pm

# Bluegrass Heritage Festival

**Friday & Saturday March 7-8, 2014**

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# Is Bluegrass Going...gasp!...Mainstream?

by James Reams

This article, written by CTBA band member James Reams, originally appeared on the California Bluegrass Association's webzine on December 19, 2013, and is available at <http://tinyurl.com/m4ktw5s>. When I first read it, I liked it and thought it was worth sharing with y'all. Many thanks to James for allowing us to reprint it here.

It's getting so I can't turn on the TV or radio without hearing bluegrass music, or at least a banjo, within a few minutes! I've even seen traditional bluegrass music used for a political ad campaign, which probably had Bill Monroe turning over in his grave! To paraphrase a car insurance commercial, all this bluegrass popularity makes me happier than a bluegrass musician with a record deal! And it's not just the US that has been bitten by the bluegrass bug. I just saw an ad for a foreign film that's taking the European film festivals by storm – and it's about a bluegrass musician! Plus, crossover bands, like the UK's mega-popular Mumford & Sons, have helped sprinkle bluegrass seeds internationally.

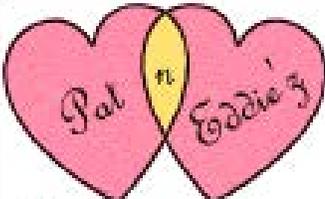
That got me to thinking (a dangerous thing for most musicians), "Why this apparently sudden popularity for all things bluegrass?" And, "Is anybody else wondering the same thing?"

Bluegrass has been enjoying increased interest by the general public pretty much since the epic "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack took home three Grammys and went octo-platinum. What was it about that album, and bluegrass music in particular, that struck listeners, causing them to shell out their hard-earned cash and, for some, to pick up an instrument and start playing bluegrass? So, to take a cue from a popular late night talk show host, here's my stab at the top 10 reasons (in no particular order) why bluegrass has taken off in popularity. I'm anxious to hear what you have to say as well, so e-mail me at [james@jamesreams.com](mailto:james@jamesreams.com) and give me your 2¢ worth.

- 1. It's real.** Bluegrass is not your fast food music, it's got that "baked from scratch" authenticity. No fancy reverb action, no remixing, no eardrum blasting, mind numbing licks or lyrics...it's comfort food for the soul. In an age when most of us have traded in our dining room tables for desks (or worse yet, car seats), bluegrass music sort of tantalizes us and draws us in for a hearty "sit down" meal with family and friends.
- 2. It's lasting.** Chasing 75 years and still going strong, bluegrass has sunk its' roots deep in Americana soil and it's not going anywhere. With its' solid foundation of traditional tunes, the sky's no longer limited to just "blue" either. Innovative bands have used bluegrass basics to open up whole new markets.
- 3. It's in our blood.** Now that it's trendy to do ancestry searches, many Americans are discovering that bluegrass music runs in their veins. It takes them back to dogtrot cabins and memories of grand-pap and friends picking on the front porch. Hey, nostalgia sells!
- 4. It's inexpensive.** You don't have to have a wad of dough to buy an instrument. Heck, the first



James Reams

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banjo was just a gourd, a stick, and some string. Many an underprivileged youngster got their introduction to music by playing a washtub bass or a “canjo,” that can be made for less than a cup of coffee at Starbucks®.

**5. It’s the work ethic.** Bluegrass songs relate the struggles of making a living. Coal miners, farmers, and truck drivers are just some of the “common folk” in our music. By association, bluegrass is seen as music for the working class, those unafraid of getting their hands dirty and putting in a hard day’s work. That’s the work ethic that made America — we’re proud of it, and rightly so.

**6. It’s the banjo.** Long associated with Americana, folk, and roots music, the banjo is now twanging it up in just about every musical genre: jazz, hardcore punk, classical, rock & roll, contemporary Christian, post-bop (or blu-bop), fusion, experimental new age, gospel, and, of course, country. Some critics hail the recent innovations in amplifying the banjo as the reason for its’ surge in popularity. Whatever the reason, the banjo is no longer taking a backseat to the electric guitar which ousted it from popular music back in the 1930s.

**7. It’s the Internet.** What bluegrass pioneer would have believed that by 2013 80% of the households in America would have at least one gizmo that connects to the Internet? Okay, well their first comment would probably have been “What’s the Internet?”, but you get my point. And that leads into my next three reasons which wouldn’t have been possible without the Internet.

**8. It’s YouTube.** Used to be that music teachers were as hard to find as a four leaf clover in the desert, especially for bluegrass instruments like the banjo, mandolin and dobro. But now, thanks to the popularity of YouTube, students of these instruments can learn to play in their own homes, on their own time schedules, and at their own pace. And that’s music to a future musician’s ears!

**9. It’s social media.** Everyone is so connected these days. E-mail, e-zines, Facebook, online groups, Twitter, etc., have made it possible to get the word out to all parts of the world about bluegrass music in general, news items, festivals, concerts, and more. Nowadays, even grandpaps and grandmas that live over the river and through the woods have e-mail addresses and Facebook pages — if they don’t, then they have grandkids who bring their iPads, laptops, iPhones, and glitzy gizmo-Googleing gadgets galore when they visit! (Did you get my 5G reference? It was a struggle.)

**10. It’s online sales.** Wow! I can’t think of anything that has made it easier for musicians to get their music into the hands of listeners across the world than the advent of online sales. And now, with the option to download individual songs/tunes as well as purchase the entire album, there are even more opportunities for bluegrass to be heard any time and anywhere.

You tell me, am I just more sensitive to bluegrass’ presence in the media because I’m a musician? Or have any of you noticed that it seems to be everywhere you turn lately? How do you feel about bluegrass going mainstream?

(Or, as I like to think, is mainstream finally going bluegrass? Thanks to James for his insight on this wonderful music we love. Find out all things James on his website at [jamesreams.com](http://jamesreams.com). - Editor.)



James Reams & the Barnstormers:  
Tyler James, Dan Meyer, James, & Billy Parker



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- Saturday April 5th, Tom Bean, Texas**, Chrystal Opry House at Melody Ranch. KSBC's Special Texas Country Back Roads Tour. For more info contact 903-546-6893, [chrystalopryhouse.com](http://chrystalopryhouse.com), or [www.karlshiflett.com](http://www.karlshiflett.com).
- Tuesday April 8th, Prairie Lea, Texas**, Prairie Lea High School Auditorium, presented by the Tri-Community Volunteer Fire department. For Information contact 512-488-2329, 512-455-9232, or [www.karlshiflett.com](http://www.karlshiflett.com).
- Thursday April 10th, Lexington, Texas**, Lexington Elementary School, presented by the Lexington EMS Service. For information contact 512-844-2267, 512-455-9232, or [www.karlshiflett.com](http://www.karlshiflett.com).
- Friday April 11th, Freeport, Texas**, Brazos Port High School Auditorium, presented by the Gulf Coast Emergency Rescue Squad Proudly. For information contact 979-849-5882, 512-455-9232, or [www.karlshiflett.com](http://www.karlshiflett.com).
- Saturday April 12th, Eustace, Texas**, Eustace High School Auditorium, presented by the Eustace Volunteer Fire Department. For information contact 903-288-4018, 512-455-9232, or [www.karlshiflett.com](http://www.karlshiflett.com).

# Temperature, Humidity, & Your Acoustic Instrument

by Dave Trexler

As an Austin-area luthier, I see every day how seasonal and daily changes in temperature and humidity can adversely affect your acoustic instrument. Wood parts expand and contract as they gain or lose moisture. Glues soften and release in extreme heat, and finishes suffer in extreme cold.\

Resulting damage is rarely covered by warranties, can be permanent, often requires expensive repairs, and can affect sound, playability, and cosmetics. Higher-end instruments can be more sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity since they tend to be made of thinner, solid (not laminated) woods and have thinner finishes.

First, the basics. Your instrument is happiest at comfortable room temperature, 68° – 75° F, and moderate relative humidity, about 45 – 50%. It doesn't like extremes, rapid changes, or prolonged exposure outside its comfort zone, where really bad things can happen. Keep your instrument happy and healthy by monitoring and managing its environment.

Relative humidity can be a confusing concept. What's important is the relative humidity where the instrument is, not the weather report. Relative humidity is "relative" because it varies with temperature. Heating and cooling our homes can drastically affect indoor relative humidity.

One extreme is a cold winter day with low humidity outdoors. Heating that same air indoors further lowers relative humidity and cracks your guitar's top. Theoretically, cooling a given volume of air will raise relative humidity. But, air conditioners cool by removing moisture from the air, so a hot, dry summer day in an air-conditioned home is also dangerous.



Here's what you can do: Pay attention to your instrument! Learn the symptoms of over-humidification – increased "belly" on a guitar, higher action, and poor sound; and under-humidification – decreased "belly" and lower action with more buzzes. Please consult the resources cited below for more detailed information.

Get a hygrometer to monitor humidity levels. Reasonably priced weather stations are available that show both indoor and outdoor temperature and humidity. These can be inaccurate, so use more than one if possible and continue to pay attention to your instrument. If the relative humidity where your instrument lives is consistently outside the safe range, consider a room humidifier or dehumidifier. (Don't allow mist from humidifiers to get directly on your instrument, though!) Small fluctuations over a short period are OK, while larger variances over a few days or more can be bad.

Get, and use, a good quality hard shell case. This will buffer the effects of short-term temperature and humidity variations. (Exception: in times of excessive humidity, avoid confining your instrument in an over-humidified case with no air circulation.) Several types of in-case humidifiers are available. Used correctly they can be safe and helpful in dry weather.

Most importantly, never, ever leave you instrument in a car trunk, or even in the interior of a car as temperatures can quickly climb to 150° or more and your instrument can literally deconstruct. Remember what glue does in extreme heat?

Take the time to find more information about the effects of temperature and humidity on fine instrument builders' websites. Collings and Larivee have particularly good and detailed discussions. Check them out. Happy pickin'!



# *Bluegrass Night in League City*

*Saturday, February 15th, 2014*

*Featuring:*

## *The Hard Road Trio*

*Also appearing: Prairie Fire  
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Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center, 300 West Walker, League City, Tx

Guitar & Bass workshops start at 6:00 p.m.

(Free for BABA members, \$35 non-members)

Jam Sessions start @ 5:00 p.m., Stage shows @ 7:00 p.m.

Admission is free, but donations are welcomed.

No alcohol, but great music and family entertainment.

Details available at [www.bayareabluegrass.org](http://www.bayareabluegrass.org)



*Bay Area Bluegrass Association*

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www.the145smusic.com

## **Air Cargo**

Ray Cargo  
info@aircargomusic.com

## **Alan Munde Gazette**

Bill Honker 214-693-1620  
bhonker@gmail.com

## **Allen Hurt & The Mountain Showmen**

Allen Hurt (Sherman, TX)  
www.allenhurt.com

## **Bee Creek Boys**

Jim Umbarger  
512-922-5786  
info@beecreekboys.com

## **Better Late Than Never**

Duane Calvin  
512-835-0342  
BLTNbluegrass@gmail.com

## **Blacktop Bend**

George Rios 512-619-8536  
blacktopbend@yahoo.com

## **Blazing Bows**

Cara Cooke 512-280-9104  
caracooke@gmail.com

## **Bluebonnet Pickers**

Brooks Blake 830-798-1087  
ranchdoc@zeecon.com

## **Blue Creek Bluegrass Gospel**

Bing Rice 830-253-7708  
bluecreekgb.com  
bluecreekbing@cs.com

## **Blue Creek String Band**

Thomas Chapmond 512-791-3411  
tchapmond@gmail.com

## **Blue Skyz Band**

Mike Lester 210-913-9597  
www.blueskyzband.com

## **Bottom Dollar String Band**

John Ohlinger 512-431-5150  
bottomdollarstringband@gmail.com

## **Buffalo Grass**

Don Inbody 512-923-0704  
don@inbody.net  
buffalograssmusic.com

## **Carper Family Band**

Jenn Miori  
carperfamilyband@gmail.com

## **Chasing Blue**

512-963-7515  
suzoleson@aol.com  
chasingblueband.com

## **Christy & the Plowboys**

Dan Foster 512-452-6071  
dan@fostersplace.com

## **David & Barbara Brown**

361-985-9902 (Corpus Christi)  
ddbrown@grandecom.net

## **David Diers Band**

david.diers@gmail.com

## **Dueling Hearts**

Wil Wilson 254-214-5473  
duelinghearts@att.net  
www.dueling-hearts.com

## **Eddie Collins**

512-873-7803  
www.eddiecollins.biz  
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## **Grazmatics**

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john.hood.tx@sbcglobal.net

## **James Reams & The Barnstormers**

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james@jamesreams.com  
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## **Joe Sundell & the Show & Tellers**

Rebecca Patek 262-617-4152  
rebeccapatek@gmail.com  
www.joesundell.com

## **Karen Abrahams Band**

512-484-0751  
karen@karenabrahams.com  
www.karenabrahams.com

## **Lone Star Swing**

Gary Hartman 979-378-2753  
gh08@txstate.edu

## **Los Bluegrass Vatos**

Danny Santos  
danny\_santos@hotmail.com

## **Manchaca All-Stars**

Buck Buchanan 512-282-2756  
manchacaallstars@ email.com

## **Missing Tradition**

Diana & Dan Ost  
512-850-4362  
missingtradition@gmail.com

## **Out of the Blue**

Jamie Stubblefield  
512-923-4288  
jamie5011@aol.com

## **Piney Grove Ramblers**

Wayne Brooks  
512-699-8282  
www.pgramblers.com

## **Ragged Union**

Geoff Union 512-563-9821  
geoffu@geoffunion.com

## **Randy's Rangers**

Sigi Field 512-869-8076  
www.jrfnet.net/rr  
sigi@sigi.us

## **Robertson County Line**

Jeff Robertson 512-629-5742  
jaydubya7@yahoo.com

## **Rod Moag Band & Texas Grass**

Rod Moag 512-467-6825  
rodmoag@texas.net

## **Sabine Bluegrass**

Gerald Block  
editor@sabinebluegrass.com

## **Shawn Spiars**

512-627-3921 sspiars@gmail.com  
www.banjohangout.org/my/sspiars

## **Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass**

**Band**, Dave Walser, davewalser.com, dave@davewalser.com

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## **The Austin Steamers**

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## **The Ledbetters**

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## **The Pickin' Ranch Ramblers**

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ritchie@ritchiemintz.com

## **The Prime Time Ramblers**

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## **The Showmen Bluegrass Band**

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bbuchanan6@austin.rr.com

## **The Sieker Band**

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## **The Stray Bullets**

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www.facebook.com/thestraybullets  
www.reverbNation.com/thestray-bullets

## **The Wimberley Bunch**

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## **Third Rail**

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## **Upham Family Band**

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## **Woodstreet Bloodhounds**

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robertbecker1755@sbcglobal.net

## **Yellowgrass**

Brett Morgan 512-745-0671  
morganpiper@yahoo.com

# Burnt Ends

Not the main meal but just some tasty bits



The official CTBA-sponsored, **Sunday afternoon, all-comers bluegrass jam** takes place at **Hill's Cafe, 4700 S. Congress Ave**, starting at **2:00 pm**.

Hill's is a great place for a meal or snack for the entire family in an iconic Austin setting. It's an "all-come" jam so, no matter what your skill level, you're welcome to come play or just hang out.

The bluegrass **open mic at the New World Deli** continues this month. The event has been held on the second Thursday of each month for the past four and a half years so, put Thursday, February 13th, on your calendar. Come have a sandwich, pick a tune, or just enjoy the diversity of talent that always shows up. We get started around 6:30 pm.



Tickets are already on sale for the **Old Settler's Music Festival** coming up Thursday through Sunday, **April 10-13, 2014**, in Driftwood. For more info, see [www.oldsettlersmusicfest.org](http://www.oldsettlersmusicfest.org) or call them at 888-512-SHOW.

You can hear **Strictly Bluegrass**, with hosts Sharon Sandomirsky and Ted Branson, Sunday mornings from 10:00 am to noon on KOOP radio, 91.7 FM, or anytime at [koop.org](http://koop.org). Strictly Bluegrass is one of the first programs on KOOP radio and the only radio program dedicated to playing Bluegrass music in Central Texas.



Bluegrass Unlimited ([bluegrassmusic.com](http://bluegrassmusic.com)) wrote a good review of a new **Scott Hopkins** CD. Scott is an outstanding banjo player based in Albany, NY. Yeah, NY. But, his self-titled CD contains 11 mostly original songs recorded with some mighty fine pickers. You can hear a sample of his work at [www.scotthopkinsmusic.com/store](http://www.scotthopkinsmusic.com/store). He's definitely enjoyable to listen to and will certainly be a bluegrass artist to track.

What do James King, The Boxcars, Della Mae, Del McCoury Band, and Dailey & Vincent have in common? Well, besides their wild success in bluegrass, they are all nominated for Bluegrass Album of the Year for the 2014 Grammy Awards! [Find out who else is nominated](#) in bluegrass and bluegrass-related areas and to tune in January 26th on CBS to see who wins!



# BLUEGRASS JAMS!!!

**NOTICE:** Be sure to contact the venue and/or host to ensure the jam/show is still active. The only info we have about each of these is what was sent to us. If you find a problem with any venue or need to change your information, drop us a line at [ctba@centralbluegrass.org](mailto:ctba@centralbluegrass.org).

## AUSTIN

2nd & 4th Saturday, CTBA Sponsored beginner-intermediate jam, 3801 Berkman Drive, 78723, 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Call Steve Mangold 512-345-6155 for info on all Austin jams.

1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:00 pm at Bruce Mansbridge's home

Every Sunday, Hill's Cafe, 4700 S. Congress Ave, Austin 78745, 2:00 pm

Every Tuesday, Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam, 8:00-10:00 pm, Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 78701. Info: Tom Lindsey [lindseytg@aol.com](mailto:lindseytg@aol.com) or 512-301-3856.

## BANDERA

4th Friday, 6:30 pm, Silver Sage Corral, east of Bandera. Info: 830-796-4969 (No jam on Good Friday)

## BELLVILLE

4th Saturday, Jam & Show (Spring Creek Club Sponsored), Jan-Sep, Jam @ 4:00 pm, Show @ 6:30, Coughatte RV Ranch, 979-865-5250, [bluegrass221@peoplepc.com](mailto:bluegrass221@peoplepc.com), [www.springcreekbluegrass.com](http://www.springcreekbluegrass.com)

## Carrollton

Jam info at: [www.meetup.com/bluegrass-142](http://www.meetup.com/bluegrass-142)

**Clear Lake** - First Tuesday, 7-9 at Fuddruckers, 2040 NASA Pkwy, Houston, 77058, Info: [http://www.bayareabluegrass.org/Jam\\_Stacks.html](http://www.bayareabluegrass.org/Jam_Stacks.html)

## Corpus Christi

2nd Sunday, 2:00 pm, Heritage Park, Corpus Christi, South Texas Bluegrass Association, Info: Bill Davis 361-387-4552

## Dallas

1st Tue., Bluegrass Heritage Foundation jam, 7:00 pm, Charley's Guitar Shop, 2720 Royal Lane, [www.charleysguitar.com](http://www.charleysguitar.com), 972-243-4187

**Dickinson** - Every Friday, 7-9 pm, Dickinson BBQ and Steakhouse, 2111 FM 517 East, 77539, Info: [http://www.bayareabluegrass.org/Jam\\_Stacks.html](http://www.bayareabluegrass.org/Jam_Stacks.html)

## FAYETTEVILLE

2nd weekend, April - November, starts at 6:00 pm, Courthouse Square, info: [www.texaspickinpark.com](http://www.texaspickinpark.com), Tom Duplissey at 512-415-3177

## FIELD CREEK

1st Sat, Field Creek Music, 6:00 pm, Field Creek is between Llano and Brady on Hwy 71. Info: Bill Tuckness 325-247-3223

## Garland

Bluegrass on the Square between Main & State Streets at 6th from 7:30 - 1:00 AM. Contact: Jim Miller 972-276-3197.

## Georgetown

Every Thursday at Dickey's BBQ Pit, 723 W. University Ave, 78626, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, 512-869-8076 or [signi@signi.us](mailto:signi@signi.us).

## GLEN ROSE

3rd Sat., Oakdale Park, Paluxy River Bluegrass Assn. Jam @ 2:00 pm, free stage show @ 6:00 pm, Friday night camping encouraged, John Scott 817-525-0558

## HARWOOD

3rd Sat., 2-9 pm, JAM & Stage Show, 9 mi. E. of Luling, Hwy 90, Info: Tony Conyers 512-601-1510 or 512-940-3731

## HONDO

1st Friday, Hondo Hootenanny, starts at 11 am, Hondo Community Center, 1014 18th st, Hondo, TX Info 830-426-2831

## LEAGUE CITY

3rd Sat., (Jan-Nov) Jam 4:30pm (BABA Sponsored) Show at 7:00 pm, Info: Rick Kirkland 281-488-2244, [www.bayareabluegrass.org](http://www.bayareabluegrass.org)

## LIBERTY HILL

4th Sat., Jam, 1-6 pm, Hwy 29 West, Info: Paula at 512-778-5410

## LLANO

4th Sat. (Jan. - Oct.), Bluegrass in the Hill Country Jam, 5:30-10:30 pm, at The Badu House, Info: [info@BluegrassInTheHillCountry.org](mailto:info@BluegrassInTheHillCountry.org)

2nd & 4th Thursday, Beginner/Intermediate, 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Info: Jeff White 325-248-4114

1st Sat., Field Creek Fiddle Jam, 6-9 pm, Field Creek is between Llano and Brady on Hwy 71, Info: Bill Tuckness 325-247-3223

3rd Sat., Pontotoc Fiddle Jam, 6-9 PM, Pontotoc is between Llano and Brady on Hwy 71, Info: Bill Tuckness 325-247-3223

## MANCHACA

Thur., 6:30-9:00 pm, Manchaca Railroad Bar-B-Q, FM 1626, Info: Dave 512-680-4433

## MEDINA

2nd Tue., All Gospel Jam 6: pm, First Baptist Church, Info: Linda Barton 830-589-2486

## MONTGOMERY

1st Sat., Jam, 10 am-2 pm, downtown historical District, Discount coupons at local KOA, Info: Mike Davis [mld@consolidated.net](mailto:mld@consolidated.net)

## PEARL

1st Sat, Pearl Bluegrass Jam & Show, 10 am, Pearl Community Center, FM 183 (not US 183) 7 mi South of Purlmela, RV hookups available, Info: Ronald Medart 254-865-6013, [www.pearlbluegrass.com](http://www.pearlbluegrass.com)

## ROUND ROCK

3rd Sat., 2-5 pm, Danny Ray's Music, 12 Chisholm Trail, [www.dannyraymusic.com](http://www.dannyraymusic.com), 512-671-8663

**San Antonio** - Mondays, The Barbecue Station, 1610 N.E. Loop 410, Harry Wurzbach exit, 6:30pm, 210-824-9191

## SHULENBURG

1st & 3rd Tue., RV Park Clubhouse, 6:30-9:00 pm, Contact: Loretta Baumgarten 979-743-4388 or [Camp@SchulenburgRVPark.com](mailto:Camp@SchulenburgRVPark.com)

## UTOPIA

3rd Friday, Jam, 7:00 pm, Senior Citizens Center, Info: Skip Doerr 830-966-6362



**BYOB: BRING YOUR OWN BLUEGRASS (band)! - Saturday, May 31**, Dallas Heritage Village, 1515 S. Harwood Street, Dallas, Texas 75215. We are busy working on plans for our first-ever BLUEGRASS BAND CONTEST AND SHOW at the beautiful Dallas Heritage Village, a shady, tree-lined 20-acre park with authentic 19th-century pioneer and Victorian homes and commercial buildings. The band contest will run from about 4:00 - 7:00 pm then about 7:30 pm we'll sit back and enjoy a performance of Beatles hits done in acoustic style by the

incredible **Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band!** Each paid admission will receive a ballot to vote for their favorite bluegrass band. The winners of the band contest will go away with nice prizes! Mark your calendar and watch for details at [bluegrassheritage.org/Events.php](http://bluegrassheritage.org/Events.php).

**Spring Creek Bluegrass Club** will hold its next free monthly show and jam on **Saturday, February 22**. The event takes place in the Stage Room at Coushatta Recreation Ranch - **Bellville, Texas**. Come and join us for an evening of good ole bluegrass music. Family event no alcohol allowed. For information contact Buddy or Carolyn Brockett 979-877-9526, 877-9865, or by e-mail at [bluegrass221@peoplepc.com](mailto:bluegrass221@peoplepc.com). We are looking forward to seeing you and please bring a friend along. Thanks for supporting bluegrass music.



**Concho Valley Bluegrass Festival** will be held in the air-conditioned Wells Fargo Pavilion, **San Angelo, TX**, Friday, April 11, 4:30-9:30 and Saturday, April 12, 11:00-9:30 benefiting the Concho Valley Home for Girls. Free pancake supper Thursday April 10 at 6:00 pm. No alcoholic beverages allowed. For more information, contact Ricky Rogers 325-650-8934 or Sammye Ruppeck 325-655-3821. Tickets \$10-25, children under 14 get in free with adult. Members of armed forces admitted free with military id.

**Midwest Banjo Camp 2014** is scheduled for **June 6-8 at Olivet College in Olivet, MI**.

**Old-time Banjo Instructors:** Cathy Barton Para, Riley Baugus, Bob Carlin, Adam Hurt, Michael Miles, Bruce Molsky, Joe Newberry, and Ken Perlman. **Bluegrass Banjo Instructors:** Janet Beazley, Charlie Cushman, Bill Evans, Ned Luberecki, Bill Keith, James McKinney, Alan Munde, Tony Trischka, and Pete Wernick.

At MBC, you can study old-time or bluegrass banjo with some of today's best players and teachers in both styles as well as study for bass, dobro, fiddle, guitar, and mandolin with top players and teachers. Contact MBC at [info@midwestbanjocamp.com](mailto:info@midwestbanjocamp.com). You can find more information, instructor bios, registration forms etc., on the web site at [www.midwestbanjocamp.com](http://www.midwestbanjocamp.com).



2014 World of Bluegrass showcase applications are now being accepted. This year IBMA is using an on-line option for showcase submissions. The deadline to apply for an official showcase is February 28th.

Applicants can apply online at [ibma.populr.me/bluegrassramble](http://ibma.populr.me/bluegrassramble). IBMA can still take submissions by snail mail if necessary. Please call the IBMA office for more information of submitting hard copies. Applicants can read more about showcasing and the application process at

[ibma.org/files/Showcase%20Submissions.pdf](http://ibma.org/files/Showcase%20Submissions.pdf). If you have any questions, please e-mail Joe Lurgio at [joe@ibma.org](mailto:joe@ibma.org) or call the office at 615-256-3222. They're excited about this new and easy process and look forward to another rockin' Bluegrass Ramble!/?

## Visit Llano

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

Ann Matlack  
P. O. Box 711  
Llano, TX 78643



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CTBA's Volume 2, \$10.00, (includes shipping to anywhere in the United States).

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CTBA has 100% pre-shrunk cotton, high-quality t-shirts with CTBA's logo on the front, available in Black and White in S, M, L, XL, and XXL for only \$15.00. The new Mona Lisa and Earl Scruggs t-shirts are \$20.00.

Take \$5.00 off the advertising rates if you are already a business member. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month. Publication is on or about the 1st day of the each month. Send electronic notices to: [ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org](mailto:ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org). Send payment to:

Central Texas Bluegrass Association  
 Attention: Editor  
 PO BOX 9816  
 Austin, TX 78766

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If you would like CTBA to review CDs or would like us to include promo material for artists performing in Texas, please send to our e-mail at [ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org](mailto:ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org) or snail mail to the PO Box listed above.

Please Join CTBA: <http://www.centraltexasbluegrass.org/join.html>

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THE CENTRAL TEXAS BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROMOTE BLUEGRASS MUSIC IN CENTRAL TEXAS.

Our members range from listeners and lovers of bluegrass music to world-class professional musicians who all have the same desire: to promote the music.

CTBA provides a link between clubs, restaurants, and other venues and Central Texas Bluegrass musicians.

CTBA sponsors jams, workshops, provides scholarships to needy musicians, donates to other non-profit organizations, supports radio stations that promote bluegrass music & musicians, and provides festival venues for our readers and fans of bluegrass music to enjoy.  
 KEEP ON PICKIN'!

## WIRES AND WOOD

**Wires & Wood** has two shows in February.

- Saturday, February 8th, 6:0-8:00 pm at Heart's Home Acoustic, 109 Oak Park Dr, Boerne, 78006.
- Tuesday, February 11th, 6:00-8:00 pm, Boerne Public Library, 451 N Main Street, Boerne.

As always, be sure to check their website at [wiresandwood.net/schedule.html](http://wiresandwood.net/schedule.html) for more information or schedule changes.



The **Big Sandy Bluegrass Show** is February 8th, 204 South Tyler, Big Sandy, TX. The show features **East Mountain Bluegrass**. Doors open at 4:00 pm for jam session, show starts at 7:00 pm and is over at 9:00 pm. Admission is \$7.00. It is a smoke free, no alcohol, family atmosphere and everyone is invited. Call 903-738-3216 for information.



## We're Listening!

- Got an idea for a newsletter article?
- Need to vent on a particular issue?
- Want to make a contribution to keep CTBA going?

You can contact us in a couple of ways:

Send snail mail to:

Central Texas Bluegrass Association  
P. O. BOX 9816  
Austin, TX 78766

Send us an e-mail at:

[ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org](mailto:ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org)

## Randall's Good Neighbor Program

The process to get this started is a bit of a pain, but it makes donating to CTBA, your local schools, or your favorite non-profit organizations very, very easy. Just go to the link below, print the form and fill it out, enter CTBA's code 9735, and take to your local Randall's store:

[http://shop.safeway.com/corporate/randalls/gn\\_houston\\_austin.pdf](http://shop.safeway.com/corporate/randalls/gn_houston_austin.pdf)

You can also request the form from your local store.