

Central

Texas Bluegrass

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The Parkbench

by Bob Vestal

Welcome to Spring! As they say just about everywhere around here, "About dang time!" Maybe you're one of those people who like the cold weather, but my old bones like it warm. However, I reserve the right to change my mind come August.

I read a short article the other day about that little music/interactive/film festival that comes to Austin about this time every year. Combine that event with the rodeo that came to town at the same time and you have a mess of folks dealing with crowded streets, increased traffic, and packed businesses. A fun time for all!

But, the crux of the article by Peter Blackstock on austin360.com is that "...if major corporations really want to funnel their SXSW budgets toward a worthy cause, look no further than the musicians who, more than anyone else, make SXSW what it is."

Couldn't agree more. Even though I don't play professionally or even on a casual basis for pay, I can totally understand this sentiment. You'd be surprised how many inquiries we get here at CTBA central from someone or some organization who's looking for us to supply them with a band for their *special event* that's coming to town next week. Oh, and they have no budget for the band but, "Just think of how much *exposure* they'll get." It's hard to buy groceries with all that exposure.

Of course, we point them to the CTBA list of bands on our website and hope they can come up with some money for the band but I can't help but wonder if they realize just what they're asking. If we asked them to do what they do professionally for free, would they do it for us? Some might.

But, we are blessed with many groups and musicians here in Central Texas, and many *are* struggling or just starting out so, that exposure could be beneficial. It's a hard call and an individual call.

Not much we can do about it...except think kindly on them the next time the tip jar floats by. What are your thoughts on the subject? E-mail me and we'll discuss. In the meantime, keep on pickin' - Bob Vestal, Editor.

Fiddler's Frolics - April 24th

by Adam Roberts

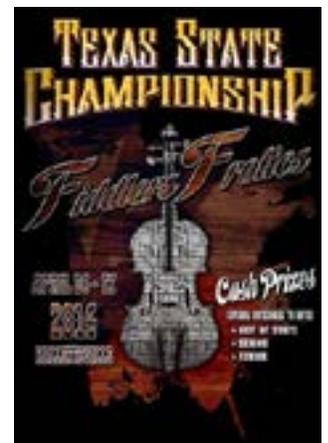
Texas Style Fiddling is a native form of Texas music that is unique to our state. While not considered bluegrass, it has influenced bluegrass musicians through the years and has had an impact on the way bluegrass fiddle is played.

Hallettsville, Texas, has the largest and arguably one of the most prestigious fiddle contests in the nation. **April 24th through the 27th** will mark the 45th year this contest has been held.

There's also BBQ contests on Saturday and Sunday, RV and tent camping, and plenty of opportunities to jam. It's easy to see why Fiddler's Frolics has been a favorite event over the years.

So, if you enjoy Texas style fiddling, good barbeque, and a good time, making the short drive to Hallettsville would be a great way to spend a spring weekend in central Texas, and who knows, you might pick up a new lick or tune that will fit right into your bluegrass playing.

For a complete schedule of events, activities, and directions see www.fiddlersfrolics.com.



Meet the Artists -

The Sieker Band

International artists **Rolf & Beate Sieker** created their own style of Bluegrass/Country Music. Critics call it spectacular and exciting - a vibrant collection of contemporary bluegrass. Around here, we just call it really good. Let's take a moment to learn a little more about some local folks who are doing it right - **The Sieker Band**.

Let's start with a little background on how you got started with both music and bluegrass.

Way back in Germany I ran into Earl Scruggs' Foggy Mountain Breakdown. In 1968 at the age of 14 I got a Framus banjo for Christmas. I wrote to Earl Scruggs if he could help me learn how to play it. After I received his book and record we stayed in regular contact throughout the years and I visited him at his house in Madison in 1981. During the same trip I got invited to stay at Bill Monroe's farm in Nashville for about a week.

Beate and I met at a Bluegrass Festival in northwest Germany. She was in love with the acoustic music Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt and others had developed at that time. Together we started creating our own sound and moved to Berlin to just focus on music. With our band Appaloosa and later the Sieker Band we toured all over Europe and recorded 4 albums and had a record contract with LP Records.

Tell us how you got to Austin from Berlin.

We actually did not come straight from Berlin to Austin. First we moved to Nashville in 1997 and lived there for 1 1/2 years. The main reason why we went to Nashville was Bobby Thompson. Shortly after I had discovered Earl Scruggs I heard Bobby on records. He was one of the most requested studio musicians in Nashville. My playing is highly influenced by Bobby's blues-melodic style and I received his Baldwin banjo in 1996. A few years later in 1999 Beate got Bobby's Martin D-18 guitar. Bobby was one of my best friends. Nashville was great and later we went back to record our latest album **The Siekers - Texas**.

Introduce us to the Sieker Band.

In 2000 we moved to Austin. Here we concentrate on playing live gigs. Since we toured so much in Europe we didn't want to do it here anymore and Austin is the *live music capitol of the world*. That doesn't mean we don't play out of town, just not on a regular basis. Our musicians are Vance Hazen, the finest upright bass player we ever played with, Andy Lentz, a great fiddle player and sometimes depending on the gig Jim Stringer, my favorite acoustic lead guitar player and Peggy Malec, whose harmony vocals blend perfectly with us.

Let's have a little history lesson. Can you give us some highlights of your work?

In 1975 I was the driver for Bill Monroe & His Bluegrass Boys in Europe. The same year I recorded the very first bluegrass album in Germany with my band *Bluegrass Express*.



The Sieker Band: Andy Lentz - fiddle, Rolf Sieker - banjo, Beate Sieker - guitar, Vance Hazen - bass



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In 1997 we received the keys to the city of Bryan/College Station. In 2001, I won the Texas State Banjo Championship.

In 2006 we recorded our 'The Sickers – Texas' album at 'Cinderella Studios', my favorite recording studio in Nashville with studio musicians Wayne Moss, Kenny Malone, and Stuart Duncan and Tony Rice.

In 2008 we were inducted into the Gatesville Country Music Hall Of Fame. 2008 and 2009 Bob Schneider's Texas Bluegrass Massacre was named 'Best Performing Bluegrass Band' at the Austin Music Awards.

I do a lot of studio work in Austin, Nashville, and San Antonio and played for a lot of artists. If you want to check them out please go to our web-page at www.siekerband.com.



Tell us about Bob Schneider's TX Bluegrass Massacre. How fun is that?

I've been a member of Bob Schneider's TXBM since 2006. It feels like a modern day Scruggs Revue. The band consists of seven musicians. I love to play banjo to the drums. Bob Schneider is an outstanding songwriter and a great guy.

We won the Austin Music Awards twice and last year they flew me into Los Angeles and Chicago for gigs. In January 2011 our Austin City Limits TV Show aired. We recorded a new album in 2013 which will be released this year. Also we recorded and played the Ozzy Osbourne song 'Crazy Train' for the TV series 'Revolution' which aired in fall of 2013.

Is there a new CD in the future and what plans do y'all have for 2014?

Right now we're in the process of recording a new CD. The great fiddler Bobby Hicks has already recorded two instrumentals with us. It will contain lots of original numbers.

For upcoming gigs and additional info, please go to our webpage www.siekerband.com and, if you're interested in purchasing our songs, you can go to CD Baby or itunes and punch in **The Sickers**. For banjo instruction and OME banjo sales, you can contact me directly at thebanjoshrink@aol.com. Also, please visit my other website www.banjoshrink.com. We hope 2014 will be a great year and we'd love to see y'all at the gigs.

Sounds like a great idea. Find 'em when you can then you can say that you, too, have heard the internationally known **The Sicker Band!**



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Grab the kids, pack Grandma in the back seat, and head to your nearest **KSBC Special Texas Country Back Roads Tour!**

- 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, or 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Tuning and Intonation

by Dave Trexler

In my last article we discussed setting up an acoustic, fretted instrument for optimal playability and sound. Now, we'll dig a bit deeper, starting with the often misunderstood concepts of tuning and intonation.

A stringed instrument should be evaluated for set up with the player's preferred strings accurately tuned to pitch. It must be re-tuned after any adjustment is made and before further evaluation or adjustments. These adjustments can improve intonation. So, what's the difference between tuning and intonation?

Tuning is matching a note to a reference pitch. Our modern Western standard is A440, which means that an *in tune* A note (the one above middle C) vibrates at 440 Hz, or cycles per second. This standard allows us to jam, and hopefully, sound good together. The reference pitch can be a tuning fork, an electronic tuner, or, if you have perfect pitch, your ear. Each string of a guitar, for example, is usually tuned to a reference pitch based on A440.

Intonation, on the other hand, refers to the instrument's ability to play in tune with itself. Once each string on our guitar is tuned to a reference pitch, are all the other notes, up and down the fretboard, also in tune? Here's where it gets complicated.

The ancients tended to use musical systems of *just temperament* or Pythagorean tuning, based on whole number ratios. This sounds good when playing in one key, but terrible when you modulate or change keys.

Since about the Baroque era, our standard system has been *equal temperament*, which means that intervals (relationships of one note to another) are adjusted so you can play in any key, with all scales and intervals sounding good, but not *perfect*. This is the system employed by most modern instrument builders. (For the real nerds out there, and you know who you are, this system is based on the twelfth root of two, or 1.059463... But I digress.)

With equal temperament, differences are split, and some intervals are slightly less *perfect* than others. The variations are small, but detectable. This can be annoying if you have a really good ear. But, it allows bands and orchestras, with a startling diversity of instruments (even banjos), to play together and sound pretty darn good.

A couple of notable exceptions to this can be heard in a capella (unaccompanied) vocal groups or violin family (non-fretted) string ensembles. If these musicians are really talented, and have really good ears, they can, and tend to, lean toward the purer harmonies of just temperament. And it sounds awesome. This is simply not possible with fretted instruments, pianos, or groups of mixed instruments where equal temperament is necessary for a pleasing sound.

So, how does all this apply to setting up my acoustic guitar, mandolin or banjo? I'm glad you asked, and I'll attempt an answer in my next article. But, if your head hurts just about now, you're not alone. Some laid back pickin' should be just what the doctor ordered. And maybe don't try too hard to play *perfectly* in tune.



FARMGRASS FEST '14 - APRIL 6TH

Billed as “A beautiful day of bluegrass, food, and fun on a real working farm!”, **Farmgrass Fest '14** will take place on **Sunday, April 6th**, from 2:00 - 8:00 pm at Simmons Family Farms, a gorgeous real working farm in Niederwald, TX.

The all star bluegrass line-up is headlined by **MilkDrive** (milkdrive.com) and includes

- **The Lost Pines** (www.lostpinesband.com)
- **Bottom Dollar String Band** (bottomdollarstringband.com)
- **Fog & Bone** (www.facebook.com/fogandbone)
- **Silky Brisket Brothers** (guitarandyman.weebly.com/my-music.html)

Says Talia Bryce of Lost Pines, “When I proposed the idea of Farmgrass Fest '14 to farm owner Harry Simmons, he immediately thought of the Growers Alliance of Central Texas (Gro-ACT) and mentioned that they were interested in starting a Farmers Emergency Medical Fund. As I became connected with more local farmers and learned of the real need for a fund like this, I decided they would be the perfect recipient of our festival proceeds.

In November 2013 I attended a bonfire at Simmons Family Farms and inspiration struck! A large group of lovely people came to enjoy a beautiful evening of bluegrass music and delicious Thai food. For the last five years, Penel and I had been trying to figure out a way to get the Lost Pines out to play for one of their gatherings. While sitting under the setting sun, serenaded by the lovely sound of the **Show and Tellers** and devouring Thai papaya salad, I

decided we needed to do this again.... on a bigger scale. If all those folks came out for one band, just think how many would come if we had five bands and we donated ticket proceeds to a wonderful cause?”

The Growers Alliance of Central Texas is a grassroots farmer organization founded in 2010 by organic and sustainable farmers in order to provide a more unified and powerful voice in guiding issues that impact growers in Central Texas.

Members of GroACT often have no medical insurance and/or high deductible insurance. In recent years, various fundraising efforts have been organized for farmers suffering from debilitating illnesses, diseases, and accidents, but the need for a Farmers Medical Emergency Fund is critical. Ticket proceeds from Farmgrass will go toward this fund.

For complete information about Farmgrass, GroACT, the bands, food, location, and tickets, see the Farmgrass Fest '14 website at www.farmgrassfest.com. And, if you're so inclined, there's even an opportunity for you to become a sponsor. Check out the website, then check out the food, fun, fellowship, and fantastic music of Farmgrass Fest '14 in Niederwald. You'll be glad you did!



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Practicing the Correct Way

by David Jakubiak

Born in Detroit, Michigan in 1960, David Jakubiak has been involved in music all of his life, beginning as a concert band clarinet player at age 7 and turning his attention to stringed instruments at 9 years old, as a banjo, guitar, and mandolin player. David is the founder of www.fretmentor.com, based in Jupiter, FL, where he offers a unique instructional program for the guitar, mandolin, and banjo. Many thanks to David for allowing us to re-publish his original blog post.

To be successful at playing music, one must have patience and be dedicated to practicing each and every day. A student should practice an hour a day to develop finger strength and follow their instructor's advice regarding the instructional materials.

Learning an instrument takes time, patience, and a sense of commitment. Getting good at that instrument is not something that occurs overnight. It requires hard work and dedication to learn and improve. Over the years, I have seen good musicians come and go. The real professionals are the instrumentalists who know that in order to perfect their skills, they must be driven to achieve success. This mindset to be successful requires significant practice.

There is a difference between practicing and playing around. To practice effectively, you must be willing to perform the somewhat mundane and monotonous tasks required to develop and improve your basic skills.

A student must be willing to play rolls, scales, or left hand techniques such as bends, pull-offs, hammer-ons and slides. Students must also be willing to practice and play scales in order to develop their lead playing abilities. When the practice session includes time productively used on developing basic technique, then a student should also feel free to play some song for the mere fun of playing the instrument.

Many beginners want to play as many songs as they can learn and they want to do it quickly. After all, it is important that a student enjoys playing the instrument and has something to show for all those hours devoted to practicing. A good teacher will ensure that the student learns songs but balances his or her practice time with learning the fundamentals needed to play in the future.

One banjo student I was teaching mentioned that a banjo workshop that she attended consisted of a number of accomplished and skilled musicians who played the lead melodies to various songs. However, when the topic turned to playing back-up and chords, a number of those players were not prepared and didn't effectively back up other instrumentalists. My student felt comfortable with playing back-up and fit in quite well because I emphasized the importance of learning the chord structure first to any particular song that she was learning. In other words, place an equal emphasis on playing rhythm and you do playing the lead melody to a song. One will quickly recognize that 3/4ths of an instrumentalist's time is spent playing behind another musician.

While learning a particular song, you will need to dissect it measure by measure and commit the song to memory. After playing awhile, you will quickly learn that the basic right hand technique (such as a roll, strum, or riff) is combined with your left hand technique (such as a chord or melody line arising out of a scale pattern).

So, it is important that you devote time towards developing the right hand, sometimes prior to developing the left hand.

Next month we'll take a look at The Practice Session - developing good practicing habits.



The Swallow's Nest

The Dancing Master Dromey's Fancy

Arr. by Steve Kaufman

Key of Am

The musical score is arranged for three instruments: Fiddle, Mandolin, and Guitar. It is written in the key of A minor (one sharp, F#) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble clef staff for the melody and two bass clef staves for the accompaniment. Chord diagrams are placed above the melody staff at the beginning of each measure. Fret numbers are indicated by small numbers below the notes on the bass staves. The piece consists of 18 measures, ending with a double bar line. The first system (measures 1-4) has chords Am, Am, G, and G. The second system (measures 5-8) has chords Am, Am, F, Em, G, and Am. The third system (measures 9-12) has chords Am, Am, Am, D, G, and Am. The fourth system (measures 13-18) has chords Am, D, Em, G, Am, and Am. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and repeat signs.

Steve Kaufman's Acoustic Kamps

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Old Time and Traditional Week - June 8-14: Flatpicking: Dan Crary, Roy Curry, Roberto Della Vecchia, Jim Hurst and Steve Kaufman, **Fingerpicking:** Clive Carrol, Todd Hallawell, Pat Kirtley; **Old Time Fiddle:** Brad Leftwich and Stacy Phillips; **Hammered Dulcimer:** Linda Thomas, **Old Time Singing:** Evie Laden; **Mountain Dulcimer:** Joe Collins; **Old Time Banjo:** Jim Pankey

Bluegrass Week - June 15-21: Flatpicking: Mitch Corbin, Mark Cosgrove, Mike Dowling, Chris Jones, David Keenan, Chris Newman, Wayne Taylor, Doug Yeomans; **Mandolin:** Carlo Aonzo, Bruce Graybill, Barry Mitterhoff, Steve Smith, Roland White, Radim Zenkl; **Bluegrass Banjo:** Gary Davis, Eddie Collins, Murphy Henry, Ned Luberecki; **Songwriting:** Kate Campbell; **Dobro™:** Stacy Phillips, Jimmy Heffernan; **Bass:** Rusty Holloway, Missy Raines, and Steve Roy; **Bluegrass Fiddle:** Becky Buller, Josh Goforth, Annie Staninec; **Bluegrass Singing Class:** Sally Jones, Don Rigsby; **Jam Instructors Both Weeks:** Keith Yoder, Annie Savage, Tony Anthonisen

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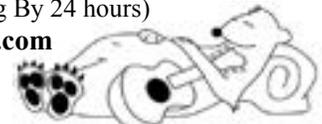
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The Wimberley Bunch

Marilyn Lumia 512-557-2112

Third Rail

Susannah Armstrong
936-870-7819
thirdrailbluegrass@gmail.com

Upham Family Band

Tracie Upham
uphambluegrass@gmail.com

White Dove

Angie Beaubouef
glen_angieb@yahoo.com

Wires and Wood

David Dyer 210-680-1889
wiresandwood.net
daviddyer@satx.rr.com

Woodstreet Bloodhounds

Robert Becker (Oak Park, IL)
708-714-7206
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, April 10th, 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.



Don't forget the **Youth Talent Competition** takes place as part of the **Old Settler's Music Festival** in April. It's a great program that encourages a new generation of Americana roots musicians by offering performance opportunities and exposure at the festival. Musicians 18 years old and younger are eligible, band, local groups (maximum of five members per group), or solo act. Only acoustic instruments are permitted — no amplifiers, electronics or drum sets. Complete guidelines and instructions for entering are located on the Old Settlers website at oldsettlersmusicfest.org/youth-talent. Hurry: **Entry deadline is April 1st!**

The **Bluegrass Heritage Foundation** is excited to share an evening with a great bluegrass band coming through DFW called **Red Wine**, from Italy, on Thursday night **April 10**. See our website at www.bluegrassheritage.org/Events.php for more information.



The **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. 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.



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.

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 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, Coushatte RV Ranch, 979-865-5250, bluegrass221@peoplepc.com, www.springcreekbluegrass.com

Carrollton

Jam info at: 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

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, 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

Fayetteville

2nd weekend, April - November, starts at 6:00 pm, Courthouse Square, info: 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 sign@sign.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

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

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

Wed., 5:30-8:00 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

Pearl

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

Round rock

3rd Sat., 2-5 pm, Danny Ray's Music, 12 Chisholm Trail, 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

Utopia

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



You might be interested in attending the **April 13th Austin Friends of Traditional Music (AFTM)** meeting and jam. It starts at 12:30 and the jam starts at 2:00 pm. The meeting is open to the public and all skill levels are welcome to the Old-Time Jam. It takes place at El Mercado, 1302 South 1st., Street, Austin. Then, later in the month on **April 27th**, AFTM holds its **Hope Farmers Market square dance** at 1:00 pm at 412 Comal Street with The Barn Owls & Sharon Isaac playing.

If you're up that way, you might want to check out the **Enchanted Mountain Music Festival**, a three-day bluegrass and roots music festival April 11-13, featuring concerts, singing, instrument workshops, jamming, and relaxing at the Holiday Valley Resort in the Enchanted Mountains of western New York. There's more information at tinyurl.com/oulus2l.



You'll always find some good listening at Daren Appelt's **Ham Jam House concerts**. It's an intimate, friendly place to hear some fine acoustic music by some outstanding artists. This month you'll be able to hear:

- 04/11/2014: Scott Fant Concert -7:00 PM
- 04/26/2014: Dana Cooper Concert -7:00 PM
- 04/30/2014: Milk Drive Concert -7:00 PM

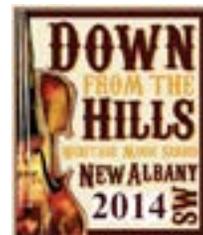
Find the schedule for this month and the rest of the year at www.fire-eye.com/concerts.htm.

Got a sad note from Doyal Stephens that the **Big Sandy Bluegrass Show** has had to close down. Doyal says, "...we appreciate the support we've had from all of you for the last two years with the bluegrass show. But we've just never got the kind of turn out we needed to continue. The time has come that we can no longer continue with the show, so all shows and bookings are canceled beginning immediately. But we look forward to seeing all of you down the road sometime."



The **Bay Area Bluegrass Association** (www.bayareabluegrass.org) has a fine lineup for their **April 19th** show at the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center in League City, TX. *Pine Island Station* starts it off at 7:00 pm, followed by the *Sabine River Bend Band* at 8:00 pm. Finishing up the show is the *Sowell Family Band* at 9:00 pm. Their jam starts around 5:00 pm.

Mark your calendars for the **2014 State of Mississippi Bluegrass Championships**, Down from the Hills Bluegrass Festival, on **May 17**, beginning at 10:00 am at the Union County Fairgrounds in New Albany, MS. More than \$8,000.00 will be given in youth and adult categories of fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, dobro, and bluegrass band. Go to www.mississippifiddlers.com for more information or call 662-538-0014.





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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. Send payment to:

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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'!

Mark These Two Dates on Your Calendar

- **May 24-25**, 3rd Annual Llano Blue Bell and Bluegrass Festival, see llanochamber.org/civicrm/event/info?id=330 for info
- **July 6**, Annual CTBA Garage Sale and Band Scramble. More details to come

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.

You can also request the form from your local store.