Central Texas Bluegrass Association

Bluegrass Bulletin

Serving the Central Texas bluegrass community since 1978 Member IBMA

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Sunday, November 6: CTBA Annual Meeting at Hill's Cafe

The annual membership meeting for the CTBA will take place at Hill's Café (4700 South Congress Avenue, Austin 78745) from 2 PM to 6:30 PM on Sunday, November 6. There'll be a short business meeting followed by an open mike session. Eddie Collins will be the MC, with sound provided by Mike Stroup. The "Board Band" (consisting of members of the board of directors on various instruments) will perform, and board member Tim Towell has already lined up six or seven acts (including Burnt Orange Bluegrass, the UT bluegrass club). Each group will get 15 minutes each for 3 songs. And if the weather's accommodating, you can probably count on multiple jams scattered around the back yard. And of course, the necessities (food, drink, CTBA T-shirts) will be available.

Jam session at Fayetteville: Angie, Howdy, Steve, Lou Lou and Spencer under the trees, at the courthouse square during the September 2016 Fayetteville jam. Photo by K. Brown.

November birthdays: Tom Adams, James Bryan, Mike Bub, Roy Lee Centers, Larry Cordle, Pete Corum, Randy Howard, Peter McLaughlin, Allen Mills, Alan Munde, James Alan Shelton, Junior Sisk, Eddie Stubbs, Ernie Sykes, Tut Taylor, Randy Waller, Josh Williams, Gene Wooten.

November board meeting: a business meeting starts the CTBA annual meeting at 2 PM at Hill's Café, November 6.

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Jeff White, webmaster
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2016 Farmers Branch: The Best One Yet!

It's in the history books now. Save one, I've been to every one of the Farmers Branch festivals since it started, and I honestly think this may have been the best one yet. The weather was perfect, if a little hot, and there was bright blue sky and a blazing sun all weekend. I don't have any attendance figures, but I'm guessing this one might have set a record for attendance. It seems like every year I have to park a little farther away in the lot, and this year, even though I got there earlier than usual, I still had to park farther away. As usual, everything ran like clockwork. The shuttles ran on time, with a new one arriving at the pickup point every few minutes, proving you don't need Mussolini to make the bluegrass shuttle run on time. The trash got picked up on a regular basis. The sound crew did a good job. This festival gets a lot of support from the city of Farmers Branch, and the results are stellar.

For me, the high points were the Friday evening set by the **Gibson Brothers**, and of course the Saturday evening set by the **Earls of Leicester**. I don't know how they do it, but the Gibson Brothers just get better every year. Mike Barber and Clayton Campbell have been part of this band for many years, and Jesse Brock is one of the alltime mandolin giants. I think the low personnel turnover in this band tells you something about how well-run it is. Other high points included the Saturday set by **Tim O'Brien**, and the opportunity to hear a couple of groups I'd never heard before, **Sister Sadie** and **Texas and Tennessee** (with festival promoter Alan Tompkins on bass). And as for the Earls, I've got both their CDs, but I'd never heard them live before. I honestly think they do Flatt and Scruggs better than Flatt and Scruggs (purists, if you want to tar and feather me, you'll have to find me first). On Saturday afternoon, Jerry Douglas picked up a Bluegrass Star award (just how big is his trophy warehouse, I wonder?). On Saturday night, Jerry sat in with the Del McCoury band for a few tunes before running for the bus, and then **David Grisman** came out and reprised a long catalog of mostly Bill Monroe numbers with Del, just the two of them on stage. Check out the photo gallery on the following pages.

Above, the Earls of Leicester wind up the crowd to a fever pitch during the Saturday evening show. Yowza, this is how it's done! Below, *Sister Sadie* draws a big crowd for their afternoon set. Yes, it's hot, but nobody's leaving. The Nuevo Leon booth has cold beer. Photos by K. Brown.

Above, the Gibson Brothers on Friday evening (not shown, mando wizard Jesse Brock). *Below*, Rhonda Vincent and the Rage with guest Sally Berry, also on Friday night. Photos by K. Brown.

Above, Charlie Cushman, Jeff White, Johnny Warren, Barry Bales, Shawn Camp, and Jerry Douglas in the "Early" show. *Below*, the Del McCoury Band. Photos by K. Brown.

Above, Jerry Douglas sits in for a few numbers with the Del McCoury Band. *Below*, Tim O'Brien does his solo act. Photos by K. Brown.

Above, late night jam session at the vintage filling station in the historical park; *below*, Del McCoury and David Grisman reprise some Monroe tunes. Photos by K. Brown.

A Beginner/Intermediate Jam in Leander to be Sponsored by CTBA

At the Leander Bluegrass Festival back in September, we discovered that there was substantial interest among Leander and Cedar Park residents in establishing a "north" jam. At that festival, many pickers who had never been seen at Hill's Café showed up for the CTBA-sponsored jam. As a result of an inquiry from Meagan Pumphrey (Leander Recreation Director) and Priscilla Donovan (Leander Library Director) Bob Vestal gave a presentation on the prospect of establishing a new jam in Leander. After approval both from the library director and the CTBA board of directors, we've decided to sponsor this new jam on a trial basis. The first one will be held on **Sunday, December 4 at 2 PM**. The details are given below. Thanks to Bob Vestal for getting the specifics worked out.

CTBA Leander
Beginner/Intermediate Jam

First Sunday of each month*
2-4 PM

Leander Public Library Community Room
1011 South Bagdad Road
Leander, Texas 78641

Contact: Bob Vestal (512) 983-5031 bob@bobvestal.com

** Unless a holiday when the library is closed.*

Got a Craving to Edit Stuff?

Your hapless editor is hanging up the blue pencil at the end of this year. After producing this newsletter for two years, I notified the CTBA board of directors in September that the December issue would be my last one. We need a new editor beginning with the January, 2017 issue, and ideally, that candidate should get started on it early in December. So if you wish to wield the unrestricted, crushing power imbued by the vast CTBA media empire, here's your chance. For my part, I plan to spend more time behind a dobro and less in front of a computer. The position pays a small monthly stipend, if you choose to accept it. All you really need is Internet access, some basic photo editing software, and the ability to produce a PDF file. I use Microsoft Publisher for this publication, but you could probably just use MS Word. If you're interested, contact CTBA president Jamie Stubblefield: *president@centraltexasbluegrass.org*

How's That Sound?

by Bob Vestal

Sometimes it seems like you can hardly throw a pick in central Texas without hitting a recording studio. And, that's a good thing because it means more available options for those who want make a professional recording of themselves or their band. You gotta admit, that smartphone recording of y'all just doesn't do your band justice!

One of the latest players in the recording studio field is the new Sonic Ray studio located in Danny Ray's Music, www.dannyraysmusic.com, 12 Chisholm Trail Road, in Round Rock. The grand opening of the new studio was October 8, so I took that opportunity to visit with Kevin Chin, the Chief Engineer for the studio.

Kevin, shown here in the Sonic Ray control room, comes from the Chicago area with many years of music and recording training and experience. He started with classical piano when he was four and has been playing various types of music and instruments, including mandolin, drums, bass, and guitar for over 25 years. His current focus for composing and playing is the guitar. An excellent choice, if I do say so myself.

The new studio has all the equipment you would expect, including various instruments and some vintage recording equipment. Kevin says he can accommodate just about any size of band from a single person to a multi-member band. Recording with the industry-standard Pro Tools HD, he completes post-production at his home studio. The recording studio was recently reconfigured from some under-used space at the music store specifically to provide a superb recording environment. In fact, you can feel the acoustical change as you step from the hallway into the studio. Danny and Kevin have clearly paid close attention to the acoustic properties required for a high-quality recording room.

Kevin says he especially likes the location of the studio. Since there are not as many professional recording options in the North Austin area, this studio gives folks an option for high-quality recording and production that might be a bit closer to home. The facility has been tailored to support all types of musical genres so, bring it; Kevin can handle it. And, with his experience in the recording industry and in working with record labels, he knows the level of detail that cli-

ents are looking for in producing high-quality products, from the initial recording to the final, post-production, including the desired delivery medium.

So, if you or your band are looking for a more personalized and comfortable recording environment without having to drive so far away, check out the Sonic Ray studio in the Danny Ray Music complex in Round Rock. Give Kevin a call at (765) 714-2944, send an E-mail to kevin@northshoremediaproductions.com, or just stop by the studio for a chat. Oh, and send us a review CD when you're finished.

Kevin Chin (right) in the studio with David Lucas on drum kit.
Photos by Bob Vestal.

Briggs Pickin' and Grinnin'

Briggs Community Center
215 Loop 308
Briggs, Texas

For info: Crystal (512) 556-1471

Second Friday night, 7 PM (acoustic instruments)
Fourth Friday night (amplified instruments)

Jerry Douglas backstage at Farmers Branch, October 15, 2016. Photo by K. Brown.

Picking on the porch at Farmers Branch, October 15, 2016. Photo by K. Brown.

TEXAS Bluegrass MUSIC

Colee and David Littlefield
Festival Management/Promoters
Salmon Lake Park-Coushatte Recreational Ranch

26717 Bayou Tesch Dr.
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Just part of the afternoon crowd at the 2016 festival in Farmers Branch. Photo by K. Brown.

CURBFEELER'S BLUEGRASS SUPPLIES

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CTBA Artists and Bands

Cole Anderson
(Fayetteville, Arkansas)
acbluegrill@aol.com

Better Late Than Never
Duane Calvin (512) 835-0342
BLTNbluegrass@gmail.com

Black Diamond
Chuck Middleton
(512) 203-4574
clydemiddleton68@gmail.com

Blazing Bows
Cara Cooke (512) 280-9104
caracooke@gmail.com

Blue Country Grass
Ben Buchanan (512) 263-7193

Blue Creek Bluegrass Gospel Band
Bing Rice (830) 253-7708
bluecreekbg.com
bluecreekbing@cs.com

Bottom Dollar String Band
John Ohlinger (512) 431-5150
bottomdollarstringband
@gmail.com

David & Barbara Brown
(361) 985-9902
ddbrown@grandecom.net

Carper Family Band
Jenn Miori
carperfamilyband@gmail.com

Chasing Blue
(512) 963-7515
suzoleson@aol.com
www.chasingblueband.com

Christy & the Plowboys
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dan@fostersplace.com

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Eddie Collins
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tuneman@austin.rr.com

Concho Grass
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https://www.facebook.com/ConchoGrass

David Diers & #910 Train (512) 814-5145
daviddiersbooking@gmail.com

Four Fights Per Pint
Jay Littleton (512) 848-1634
bluegrassman@usa.com

High Plains Jamboree
Brennen Leigh
brennenleigh@zoho.com
highplainsjamboree.com

Hill Country Harmonizers
Elise Bright (817) 501-1172
musicgirl3205@gmail.com

Kid on a Pony
Don Douglas (512) 608-3859
kidonapony@gmail.com

Lone Star Swing
Gary Hartman (979) 378-2753
gh08@txstate.edu

Los Bluegrass Vatos
Danny Santos
danny_santos@hotmail.com

The Lost Pines
Talia Bryce (512) 814-5134
thelostpines@gmail.com
www.lostpinesband.com

Missing Tradition
Diana & Dan Ost
(512) 850-4362
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Rod Moag & Texas Grass
(512) 467-6825
rodmoag@texas.net

Alan Munde
banjonbass@outlook.com

One Eye Open
Max Zimmet (512) 924-0505
www.OneEyeOpenBand.com

Out of the Blue
Jamie Stubblefield
(512) 923-4288
jamie5011@aol.com
www.outoftheblue.ws

Pearl and the Polka Dots Rachel Bates
(817) 2239-5624
batesincowtown@aol.com

The Pickin' Ranch Ramblers
Richie Mintz
Ritchie@ritchiemintz.com

Pine Island Station
Gary & Janine Carter
(936) 520-2952
pineislandstation@gmail.com
www.pineislandstation.com

The Piney Grove Ramblers
Wayne Brooks (512) 699-8282
(877) 899-8269
www.pgramblers.com

The Prime Time Ramblers
Jacob Roberts
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James Reams & the Barnstormers
(718) 374-1086
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www.jamesreams.com

Redfire String Band
Molly Johnson
molly@integratedmotion-studio.com

Rusty Razors
Patrick Davis (512) 802-7438
https://
rustyrazors.bandcamp.com

Shawn Spiars
(512) 627-3921
sspiars@gmail.com

The Sieker Band
Rolf & Beate Sieker
(512) 733-2857
www.siekerband.com
thesiekers@aol.com

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Bob Cartwright (512) 415-8080
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(512) 924-0505

CTBA Area Jams and Events

AUSTIN AREA
Every Sunday, 3 PM-??, CTBA Sunday jam at Hill's Café, 4700 S. Congress; (512) 851-9300.

2nd and 4th Saturday, 3-5 PM, beg./int. jam at Wildflower Terrace, 3801 Berkman Drive; Steve Mangold (512) 345-6155.

1st and 3rd Thursday, 7-9 PM, beg./int. jam, Northwest Hills area; Steve Mangold (512) 345-6155.

Every Thursday, 6-9 PM, beg./int. jam, Texican Café, 11940 Manchaca Road; Dave Stritzinger, (512) 689-4433.

2nd Thursday, bluegrass jam at Texas Barber Services, 2301 E. Riverside Dr, #400A; Kurt Phillips (512) 330-4895.

Every Tuesday, 8-10 PM, Texas Old Time Fiddling, Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto; (512) 474-1958.

BANDERA
4th Friday of each month except Good Friday, November, and December at Silver Sage Corral – east of Bandera. Starts at 6 PM. For more info call (830) 796-4969
silversagecorral.org

BELLVILLE
Texas Bluegrass Music jam/show Jan. through September, **4th Sat**; 4pm jam, 6:30 pm show. Coushatte Recreation Ranch, 2812 Nelius Rd.
(936) 697-5949 coleebiller@aol.net
www.TXBluegrassMusic.com
Plenty of RV camping, restrooms, showers.

BLANCO
First Saturday, 2-5 PM at Buggy Barn Museum, 1915 Hwy 281 N; contact Deanna Dosser, (830) 554-0006

CUERO
First and 3rd Thursday, 5-8 PM, acoustic jam at The Emporium, 417 E. Newman St.; Darrell Ferguson (256) 714-0766

DRIPPING SPRINGS
Last Saturday of each month, 3 PM, jam at Hudsons on Mercer St.; contact Cliff at (701) 770-8962 or telecliff@hotmail.com

FAYETTEVILLE:
2nd Saturday, Fayetteville Picking Park jam Jan.-Nov. beginning at 1 PM on the courthouse square. Acoustic instruments only.
For info: banjobooklady@yahoo.com

GARLAND
Bluegrass on the Square: **Every Saturday**, March- November between Main and State Sts. At 6th, 7:30 PM to 1 AM

GLEN ROSE
3rd Saturday, Oakdale Park, Paluxy River Bluegrass Association, free stage show and jam; potluck and jam Friday night before. Jim Chapman (469) 231-6616.
http://www.paluxybluegrass.com

HOUSTON
1st Tuesday, Fuddruckers, 2040 NASA Rd 1
(281) 333-1598

JOHNSON CITY
3rd Saturday except in December, 2-6 PM, jam at The Dome, 706 W. Main St., Hwy 290 W; Charlene Crump, (512) 632-5999.

LEAGUE CITY (BABA)
3rd Saturday: Jam 5 PM, Stage show 6:30 PM Jan- Nov., League City Civic Center, 300 W. Walker St. (281) 636-9419. Sponsored by Bay Area Bluegrass Association.

LILLIAN
2nd Saturday, 4 PM jam, 7 PM show, First Baptist Church, $4; contact Dale Brawner (972 935-4525.

LLANO
2nd Monday, 7 PM, jam at Fuel Coffee House, 106 East Main St.; (325) 247-5272; www.fuelcoffeehouse.org

MEDINA
2nd Tuesday, all gospel jam, 6 PM at First Baptist Church; contact Linda Barton (830) 589-2486.
2nd Friday, jam at 6 PM, Masonic Lodge; contact Maude Arnold (830) 796-8422.

PEARL
1st Saturday: Jam all day/night, stage show, 12:15 PM-6:15 PM; food and RV hookups available. Pearl Community Center, on FM 183, 7 mi. south of Purmela; contact info@pearlbluegrass.com. Check web site for show schedule: www.pearlbluegrass.com

ROUND ROCK
3rd Saturday, 2-5 PM except November and December, jam at Danny Ray's Music, 12 Chisholm Trail; (512) 671-8663.
www.dannyraysmusic.com

SAN ANTONIO
Every Monday, 6:30-8:30 PM, at The Barbecue Station, 1610 NE Loop 410 at Harry Wurzbach exit; (210) 824-9191.

SCHULENBERG
1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6 PM, jam at Schulenberg RV Park Community Center, 65 N. Kessler Ave. Laretta Baumgarten (979) 743-4388; camp@schulenbergrvpark.com

TOMBALL
4th Saturday, 4 PM, bluegrass jam at Kleb Woods Nature Center and Preserve, 20303 Draper Road, Tomball. (281) 373-1777 or (281) 910-4396.

Curbfeeler's Sundries.

Emu jerky, live crawdads, bear traps, jawbreakers, milled flooring, cane fishing poles, pickled eggs, overalls, shotgun shells, sorghum molasses, lottery tickets, barbed wire, cattle guards, beans, kerosene, outboard motor oil, inboard motor oil, harness and tack of all kinds, pecans, chilipetins, japaleeno candy, gingham curtains, lag bolts, carriage bolts, gravel by the cubic yard, weedeater line, surfcasting weights, flaxseed poltices.

Rufus Curbfeeler, Prop.
Catwater, Texas

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Band	$35
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Merchandise

Compilation CD of member bands, vol 2	$10
CTBA logo T-shirt (black, white, orange)	$15
Earl Scruggs design T-shirt	$20
Mona Lisa design T-shirt	$20

Pine Island Station

*Janine Carter, mandolin * Gary Carter, bass * Brian Meadors, guitar *
* Scott Sylvester, banjo * Ken Brown, dobro *

www.pineislandstation.com