

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Bringing people together for the preservation, enjoyment and advancement of bluegrass and related acoustic music.

Message From the VBA Board

*'Twas the night before Christmas,
and all through the house
Could be heard the sweet voices,
of Skaggs and of Krauss
The Carols sang out,
there were gifts under the tree
Maybe a Martin guitar, one just for me?"*

Season's Greetings everyone! Christmas times a comin', and you know that means food, merriment, music, and even more goodwill amongst us bluegrassers. So take special note and **circle December 14th** on your calendars for the **Annual Holiday Potluck Jam Extravaganza and Band Scramble**. If you've taken part before, you know what a good time this event is, and if you haven't been, then do come out and celebrate the festive season with your friends. The band scramble is a blast, and people have been known to leave with a smile on their face that lasted for days. See page 2 for info on what a band scramble is, and make sure to arrive in plenty of time in order to get involved! (But please, not too early because though our VBA Tuesday activities start at 7:30pm, due to our hall rental agreement we can't let people in more than 5 or 10 minutes prior to kick-off). In addition to your instrument, please bring a finger food plate for the party (especially savory items, as there's usually no shortage of holiday sweets), and a food and/or cash donation for the Mustard Seed Food Bank. Articles of clothing such as warm coats, socks, boots, etc. are also needed for the colder weather, and are graciously accepted by the Mustard Seed. Thanks in advance to Art and Marlene Bertrand for delivering everything once again.



The Foghorn Trio

ATTENTION WANNABE CAMPERS: The VBA is currently accepting applications for its annual youth music scholarship. The recipient receives a one-week registration bursary for the British Columbia Bluegrass Workshop, www.musicworkshops.ca. For 2011 registration, send a letter to president@victoriabluegrass.ca by December 31, 2010, and tell us why you'd like to be considered for selection. To be eligible, you must be 25 years or younger and a VBA member.

Our November Feature Act, Cluny Macpherson and Garrett Tompson (aka Skaggs and Rice) did a great tribute, and rendered up some favourite old tunes. In the words of Ricky, "It was a pleasure having us here tonight." This month, the "Feature Act" will in fact be the participants in the band scramble on the 14th. Other than being closed on the 28th, the Orange Hall will remain open for the usual Tuesday evening jams during December.

Next month, we are very pleased to present **The Foghorn Trio**, 3 multi-talented performers who will bring their musical stylings to the hall on January 7th.

The VBA is a volunteer organization committed to maintaining and promoting bluegrass and acoustic music on the Island. The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members for their participation and support throughout the

year – you truly contribute to what we are, and every dollar and every volunteer effort goes towards fostering a growing musical community. Have a very Merry Christmas and remember...

"Keep on the Sunny Side!"

- The VBA Board of Directors

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Victoria Bluegrass Association
c/o Old Town Strings Repair Shop
1034 Hillside Avenue
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VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

VBA Board of Directors 2010/2011

President

Al Planiden
president@victoriabluegrass.ca

Past President

Kelly Sherwin

Vice President

Victoria Pang
vice_president@victoriabluegrass.ca

Secretary

Colleen O'Brien

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Linda Henson

Member at Large

Larry Stevens

Member at Large

Cluny Macpherson

Newsletter Editor

Scott Campbell

Newsletter Design/Layout

Katherine Dennison

Website Orchestrator

Wendy Anthony

VBA Membership

\$ 25 single
\$ 40 couple

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jams

December 7, 21 (closed December 28) @ 7:30 PM, Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road

Slow Pitch, Moderated Circle and Festival Bluegrass Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Players \$2 members; \$3 non-members; listeners by donation. Contact Al Planiden, president@victoriabluegrass.ca

Annual Holiday Potluck Jam Extravaganza and Band Scramble

December 14 @ 7:30 PM, Orange Hall

The Scramble is an activity where people who want to participate enter their name and instrument (guitar, mandolin, bass, dobro, vocals, fiddle....and banjo) in a 'hat' with others of the same instrument. Bands are then formed by picking names out of each hat. The pairings are made and those musicians have to meet and work out a song in 15 minutes in some corner of the Orange Hall. They must also come up with a name for their new band. They then put their band names in a hat, and are called to the stage on-the-fly by someone picking out of the hat. Each new band then performs to the delight of those in attendance.

Come for the whole evening and enjoy snacks and festivities with friends new and old!



January Special Concert - The Foghorn Trio

Friday January 7, 2011 @ 8 PM, Orange Hall (Doors 7:30pm)

Members \$10, Non-members \$12

Reservation list available at VBA events and at the door. Call or email Kelly Sherwin for ticket reservations

The Foghorn Trio is Caleb Klauder, Stephen "Sammy" Lind and Nadine Landry. Caleb and Stephen have been playing together since 2000 with the Foghorn Stringband and many other musical endeavors. The Foghorn Trio features these two friends trading off on vocals, guitar, mandolin, fiddle and banjo with Nadine on vocals, guitar and upright bass.

The Foghorn Trio comes to Victoria on the heels of their most recent tour that took them to the Austin Stringband Festival and Louisiana Blackpot Festival where they recorded a CD with Cajun musicians Jesse Lége and Joel Savoy the day before the Honky Tonk Cajun Extravaganza. Hopefully it will be ready in time for the BC tour. Caleb Klauder's original country album "Western Country" recently hit No. 2 on the Freeform American Roots Chart, alongside other American greats like Bob Dylan and Robert Plant.

All three members have instructed at the BC Bluegrass Workshop, becoming the camp's old-time favourites. Sammy has developed two instructional old-time fiddle DVD's that will be available alongside new CD's from Sammy and Nadine, and Caleb Klauder's Country Band.

www.foghornstringband.com

www.calebklauder.com

The Worldwide Appeal of Bluegrass Music



Not being much of a world traveler myself, I tended to regard Bluegrass music as being somewhat limited to the US and Canada. There's no denying that the music was developed by the likes of Bill Monroe ("The Father of Bluegrass") from the State of Kentucky, and others, from places 'down there' that just look like they should be playing that kind of music.

What you forget is that the origins of bluegrass actually came from various styles of music coming from the British Isles and even West Africa, and that this form of music has now evolved and been exported all over the world, and reached an even wider range of audiences. Think back to when the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band brought the bluegrass tune "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" to pop music fans everywhere, and how the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" made bluegrass pretty cool (OK, so George Clooney helped a bit too).

Anyhow, this was just a little pre-amble to a small, yet significant thing that happened to me while Kathy and I were on a month long trip to Europe recently. While in Amsterdam, I stumbled across a wonderful little music store, and had about 20 minutes to myself before needing to re-join our tour group. To my delight, I found a few guitars there with brand names that I'd never seen before, and proceeded to test drive one as I knew there would be little opportunity to find another store in the weeks ahead.

I no sooner finished laying down a few chords and a "G" run, when a young guy came over to me and asked "Is that bluegrass you're playing?" "Uh, sort of I guess," I replied, since I was really just horsing around. In about 30 seconds, he rounded up another guitar, and a buddy who dragged over a stand up bass from the corner, and asked if we could play "Wagon Wheel" together. So here I was in Holland, playing bluegrass with a couple of young lads I didn't know, and sort of wishing I didn't have to leave in a few minutes to go on that 'damn' tour of the red light district!

Isn't that just the way it is with this music though? It's got a universal acoustic appeal, and it's like a calling card for friendship. Unfortunately, it was the last guitar I held on my trip, and now I'm still working on building up the calluses on my fingers again – darn it anyhow!

- Al Planiden

Stickers and Shirts

This holiday gift-giving season, why not give your loved ones a stylish VBA t-shirt?

VBA members \$20.00 (plus shipping if needed) or \$25 for non-members.

We also have VBA stickers, 3 for \$2.

E-mail

vice_president@victoriabluegrass.ca or come see us at the Orange Hall on a Tuesday night!



Bluegrass Happenings

In British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest
(all events in Victoria BC, unless otherwise indicated)

Ongoing

- Sundays** **The Moonshiners** (Miriam, Zev, Chris, Dennis) at **Swan's**, 506 Pandora Ave., 8-11 pm.
- Bluegrass Night** at **Spinnaker's Pub**, 308 Catherine St., 8:00-10:30 pm. James Whittall & Oliver Swain perform live.
- Sunday Afternoon Hootennany** at **Logan's Tavern**, 1821 Cook St., 4 pm
Hosted by Carolyn Mark. Free admission. More info: 250-360-1832
- Bluegrass Sunday** at **Ocean Island Backpackers Inn**, 791 Pandora Ave., 8 pm-12 am. Hosted by Doosie and Decker. Bring an instrument along and be part of the fun!
- Mondays** **Old-Time String Music Jam** at **Spiral Cafe**, 418 Craigflower Rd., 7-9:30 pm
More info: www.myspace.com/thespiraloldtimegroove
- Tuesdays** **VBA Bluegrass Jam** at the **Orange Hall**, 1620 Fernwood Rd., 7:30-10 pm
Slow Pitch, Intermediate & Advanced Circle Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Admission: players \$2 (non-members \$3), listeners free. More info: Al Planiden, apache@shaw.ca
- The Sweet Lowdown** at **The Fernwood Inn**, 302 Gladstone Ave., 8-11 pm.
More info: www.myspace.com/the.sweet.lowdown
- Wednesdays** **Cornerstone Bluegrass Jam** at Cornerstone Cafe & Resource Centre, Fernwood at Gladstone. Featuring premier acoustic string band musicians. Enjoy some hot coffee or chocolate while listening [for free] to local top acoustic roots musicians jam it out with each other, organized by the Fernwood Bluegrass Coalition [FBC], a group of local business/promoters/musicians.

Other Happenings

- Sat. Jan 29** **Snowgrass** at the Port Angeles High School Auditorium, Port Angeles, WA, First Step Family Support Center (www.firststepfamily.org), a United Way agency, is excited to announce SNOWGRASS 2011. Tickets \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors, free for children 10 & under.

