

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message

From the VBA Board

As our concert and Open Stage/ Feature series comes to an end for this season – and as an exciting summer is just starting - we're looking back on a year filled with incredible concerts, fun jams, fulfilling workshops, and a veritable army of volunteers who help to keep the bluegrass community alive here in Victoria. And we're looking forward to much more!

Following the AGM, we now have a **new Board** for the 2010-2011 season. The Board has already planned Advanced Bluegrass Jams on Tuesday nights (in addition to our regular Tuesday night jams), as well as several fall concerts (see the listings on page 2 and 3). More workshops and concerts are in the works. We'd like to welcome new Board *Vice President* Al Planiden, and *Members at Large* Larry Stevens and Cluny MacPherson. Colleen O'Brien, David Simon, and Linda Henson are staying on as Secretary, Treasurer, and Member at Large, respectively, while Kelly Sherwin is now our illustrious Past President and Pharis Romero is now President. We'd like to say a huge thank you and tearful goodbye to last year's Board members who are moving on, Members at Large Judith E. Tharp and Kate Cino.

Our Board is made up of **volunteers**, but there are also other incredible volunteers working hard for the society. From setting up chairs to manning the kitchen to organizing nominees for the Board, we love our volunteers! Some very special mentions over this past year go to:

- Doug Van Dine for chairing this year's Board of Directors' nominations committee



New VBA Board for 2010/2011

- Marlene Bertrand for years of organizing the VBA kitchen on Tuesdays and at special concerts
- Stephanie Moneo for organizing the Tuesday night jam moderators
- Jeb Gordon for reviewing our financial statements
- Luann Burton for organizing the annual Pickin-ic
- Kate Bailey for coordinating the volunteers for the VBA booth at the Sooke Bluegrass Festival
- Colleen O'Brien for organizing the Sooke Bluegrass Festival slow pitch
- Scott Campbell for newsletter editing
- Katherine Dennison for newsletter design and layout

If you're interested in volunteering for the VBA, please contact Pharis Romero at president@victoriabluegrass.ca.

Membership is up from where it was at this time last year – thank you to all of you who continue to support the Association. If you haven't had a chance yet to **renew your membership** for 2010-2011, you can download a membership form from the website at www.victoriabluegrass.ca or come on a Tuesday night and pick up a form.

There are many benefits to being a member, including great deals on

ticket prices for special concerts, feature nights and merchandise.

Which brings us to new merch! We now have stickers and t-shirts printed with our **brand new logo** design. VBA members get a good deal on the t-shirts at \$20, and they will be available for the first time at the Sooke Bluegrass Festival, July 16 – 18. And stickers are only \$1, which means you can cover your instrument case with them

for less than the price of a night on the town.

Great jams, bands, summer festivals, concerts, teachers and a lot of passionate bluegrass aficionados mean that bluegrass is alive and well in our region! Come on out and support bluegrass events in your communities this summer.

And as always...

"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
Victoria, BC V8T 2A5

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION TUESDAY NIGHTS

VBA Board of Directors 2010/2011

President

Pharis Romero

Past President

Kelly Sherwin

Vice President

Al Planiden

Secretary

Colleen O'Brien

Treasurer

David Simon

Member at Large

Linda Henson

Member at Large

Larry Stevens

Member at Large

Cluny MacPherson

Newsletter Editor

Scott Campbell

Newsletter Design/Layout

Katherine Dennison

VBA Membership

\$ 25 single

\$ 40 couple

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Circle Jams - New Schedule

7:30 PM at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road.

Admission: \$2 members; \$3 non-members; listeners by donation.

Upstairs Jams: Every Tuesday throughout the summer.

- 7:45 Beginner's jam featuring slow, simple songs or tunes which allow beginning musicians to participate. Intermediate players are welcome but their role is to support beginning players.
- 8:45 Break
- 9:00 Intermediate Jam (more up-tempo)

About the Jam: Most weeks these jams will be lead by a volunteer moderator. The jams are meant to be inclusive, so please consider your song or tune selection carefully when it's your turn to choose. Bluegrass "standards" played in the keys of A,C,D,E,or G work best in this context. If there is no moderator, be prepared to lead your song by communicating with the other musicians in the circle when it's their turn to take a solo.



Some hints to successful jamming:

- Keep yer head up, yer eyes and ears open so you can catch the cues.
- Listen to the room. We should be jamming as one.
- If you notice that you are out of sync with the rhythm, stop, feel the rhythm internally, then start again.
- Remember to inform the person to your left if you will not be taking a break.
- If you need to "practice" or work out your solo while someone else is either singing or taking their solo, please step well outside of the circle and turn away from the jam to do so. If you're not taking a solo, pay attention to the person who is.
- Check out the our website www.victoriabluegrass.ca for more tips on Jam Etiquette.

Downstairs Jams: Summer schedule: last Tuesday of each month - June 29, July 27, Aug 31

Fall/Winter schedule: every Tuesday

7:45 – 10:00 PM – Advanced Bluegrass Jam

About the Jam: Folks, this is an upper level bluegrass jam and etiquette is strictly enforced. Please park your egos at the door and decide honestly what your skill level is when you decide to join in the advanced jam. If you're not sure where your skill level is, come listen at one of the jams before joining in. If you have any questions about this jam, contact Larry Stevens _____

Please note: The VBA rents the hall until 10:00 pm. Please end the jams by then to allow the volunteers time to clean and secure the building by 10:15. Thank you.

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION UPCOMING EVENTS

VBA September Feature Act – The Clover Point Drifters – with a new CD!

September 28 @ 7:30, Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road

Admission: \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members.

Doors at 7:30pm.

7:45 – 8:45 pm – Open Stage

9:00 – 10:00 pm – Clover Point Drifters

The Clover Point Drifters

Together now for a decade, one of the region's best-loved acoustic bands has built a large following with top notch, fun-filled, picking and singing. They've performed with the likes of the Nitty Gritty Band - and almost stole the show, at Government House, twice, where they wowed thousands, including two Lieutenants Governor - and in Victoria to standing ovations. Freshly out of the recording studio, the Drifters will have a brand new CD at this show – their first release in over 6 years. www.cloverpointdrifters.com



9th Annual Pickin-nic

Saturday, July 17 @ 2-8 pm, Brethour Ave, Sidney BC (Luann Burton's house)



VBA members, family and friends are invited to the 9th annual Pickin-nic. Rain or shine, lots of pickin' places outdoors in the sunny yard (with shade tent), the raised deck or the stone patio (surrounded by garden). If the weather is uncooperative, we can move indoors to the living room. Potluck dinner around 5pm. BBQ available for those who

would like to cook what they bring. If you have 'young-uns' that like to romp, the Sidney

Elementary School is only a block away with a playground. Lots of parking on Resthaven Drive, 7th Street and Brethour Ave. Bring your instrument, a lawn chair and a potluck dish. Bring your own drinks. Plates, plastic utensils, and condiments will be provided. See you at the Pickin-nic!

Creaking Tree String Quartet – CD release show

Saturday, September 11, Orange Hall

Doors 7:30pm , Show 8:00pm

\$16.00 for VBA members

\$20.00 for non-members

Ticket locations TBA (keep checking our website)

VBA members can reserve ahead via email to kelly.sherwin@gmail.com (limited reservations)

Don't miss these four adept and accomplished musicians, dedicated to performing unique and exciting material that raises the bar for instrumental acoustic music! The Creaking Tree String Quartet have a deeply moving sound that's a true Canadian original:

guitar, fiddle, mandolin and bass form jazz sliding over a rootsy bluegrass base, with flashes of chamber music, reverence and avant-garde experimentation. Juno award nominees (and winners of too many other awards to mention), they'll be here in Victoria with a brand new album, *The Soundtrack*, produced in Nashville, and which has already won two Canadian Folk Music Awards. We love these guys and they always blow the walls off the house with their stunning shows!



Bluegrass Happenings:

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

Ongoing

- Sundays** **James Whittall & The Pickits** at **Swans' Brew Pub**, 506 Pandora St., 8:30-11:30 pm
Sunday Afternoon Hootennany at **Logan's Tavern**, 1821 Cook St., 4 pm
Hosted by Carolyn Mark. Free admission. More info: 250-360-1832
- Mondays** **Old-Time String Music Jam** at **Spiral Cafe**, 418 Craigflower Rd., 7-9:30 pm
More info: www.myspace.com/thespiraloldtimegroove.com
Tune Lists & Samples: www.spiraloldtime.googlepages.com
- 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: Kelly Sherwin
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- Wednesdays** **Sidney Wednesday Night Jam** at **St. Paul's United Church, Office Entrance, Sidney, 7-10 pm**
Stringed acoustic instruments only, players of all levels welcome. 1st week: Country; 2nd week: Folk; 3rd week: Bluegrass; 4th week: Fiddle Jam; 5th week (when applicable): Open Stage. Admission: \$2 players, \$1 listeners. Come with at least 2 favourite songs, photocopied (words, chords, chord charts) to build a songbook. More info: Jim

Summer Events

- June 16 – 18** **Sooke River Bluegrass Festival**, Sooke, B.C. www.sookebluegrass.com.
- July 19** **Flash in the Pan** at **Butchart Gardens**, 8:00 pm. Tickets at www.butchartgardens.com, or check out www.myspace.com/finthep
- July 21** **Flash in the Pan and the Breakmen** team up for a fun night of bluegrass at the **Victoria Event Centre**, 1415 Broad St., \$16 advance (e-mail finthep@gmail.com), \$20 at the door, www.thebreakmen.com, www.myspace.com/finthep,
- July 22** The Sooke Fine Arts Show presents **John Reishman** and **John Miller**. Billed as the Purchaser's Preview Night. Tickets are \$25 each at the Sooke Fine Arts office, 250-642-7256. This is rare opportunity to catch these two together, and enjoy their beautiful Latin, jazz, bluegrass and other wonderful flavours. Ticket price includes full access to all the artwork accepted into the show, gift shop, and bistro. On this evening, no jeans please.
- July 25** Saltair City Limits and the Dancing Bean Cafe present: **Saltair City Strings** at **The Saltair Pub**, 10519 Knight Road in Saltair (10 minutes north of Chemainus on the Old Island Highway), Tickets \$10. On the lawn beside the beautiful Saltair Pub. Food and refreshments are available; bring your own chair and settle in for a great afternoon of music featuring roots, old time and bluegrass from some of the Island's (and the VBA's) best. An impromptu jam might well occur after the performances! Featuring: Slim Pickins; Bob McKechnie and Friends; Tamara Little; Bryon Clayton Thomas and Don; The Sweet Lowdown; Pharis and Jason Romero; and the Clover Point Drifters.
- July 30 – Aug 1** **Coombs Bluegrass Festival**, Coombs, B.C. www.coombsbluegrass.com.
- Aug 22-Sept 6** **British Columbia Bluegrass Workshops**, Sorrento BC, www.musicworkshops.ca
- Sept 3-6** **Chilliwack Bluegrass Festival**, Chilliwack BC, www.chilliwackartscouncil.com/index.php?id=50

Hey VBA Members! Got a recording you're looking to sell?

The VBA will have a table at both weeks of the B.C. Bluegrass Workshop this summer and will be selling recordings there. If you're a VBA member and have a recording you'd like to sell (one that has YOU on it) contact Kelly Sherwin or Pharis Romero to get some copies to them – _____
Please get in touch before August 20th.