

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message From the VBA Board

*'Couldn't leave the Purdy's chocolates and festive treats alone
The turkey, and the stuffing, and the fixings, they're all gone
Now my pants are feeling tighter, it's time for retribution
.....just one more 'Ferrer Rocher', then I'll start my resolution"*

A very Happy New Year to everyone as we enter 2011, and a new decade! This is the time of year when we feel a sense of renewal, and look forward to all the good things the New Year will offer. And what better way to kick off this new musical year than with a special concert by the Foghorn Trio this Friday, January 7th, 8:00 pm, at the Orange Hall. Tickets will be available at the hall - \$10 for members and \$12 for non, & doors open at 7:30 pm. Our feature act this month on Tuesday, January 25th will be Vancouver Island's own Skagway, and as usual, we will start off with an open mic set.

Just a heads up to our members, your memberships expire on March 31st, so now is a good time to start thinking about renewing yours, or joining the VBA if you haven't already. Membership has its privileges, including substantial discounts to concerts, deals on merchandise and a sense of belonging to the best darn bluegrass organization anywhere. And don't forget, anyone renewing or joining before the April feature act night is eligible for the early bird draw and could win his or her membership money back.

The Annual Holiday Potluck Jam Extravaganza and Band Scramble was a great success once again, and everyone had a lot of fun playing, eating and socializing. We had 5 scramble bands this year with names as diverse as the songs they chose for performing. A wonderful addition to this year's festivity was an auction held by our own Doug Van Dine to raise money for the Mustard Seed. Doug's salesmanship, coupled with Luann Burton's working of the crowd, drove the bidding on the donated items up to respectable levels, while buyers still went away happy with their purchases. Thanks to everyone that participated that night, brought food, and donated cash and goods for the Mustard Seed. In the end we were able to raise more than \$387 in cash and send a truckload of needed clothing and food items to them as well.

This month we unfortunately bid adieu to past president and director, Kelly Sherwin. Kelly has volunteered many hours of her time, and provided wonderful direction and support to the VBA for a long time, and the Board will sorely miss her service. Thank you Kelly for everything and we still hope to see you at the Orange Hall.

The Board is always looking for members that wish to help out with VBA functions and activities in any capacity. If you're interested, do let us know as it is greatly appreciated.

See you out there, and remember... **Keep on the Sunny Side!**

VBA Board of Directors



Skagway

Tuesday, Jan 25th, Orange Hall, 7:30



Foghorn Trio

Friday, Jan 7th, Orange Hall, 8:00



Victoria Bluegrass Association

c/o Old Town Strings
Repair Shop
1034 Hillside Avenue
Victoria, BC V8T 2A5

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

VBA Board of Directors 2010/2011

President

Al Planiden
president@victoriabluegrass.ca

Vice President

Victoria Pang
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Member at Large

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Newsletter Editor

Scott Campbell

Newsletter Design/Layout

Katherine Dennison

Website Orchestrator

Wendy Anthony

VBA Membership

\$ 25 single

\$ 40 couple

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jams

January 4, 11 and 18 @ 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

January Special Concert - Foghorn Trio

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

Members \$10, Non-members \$12. Tickets at the door.

The Foghorn Trio is Caleb Klauder, Stephen "Sammy" Lind and Nadine Landry. The Foghorn Trio have a style that emphasizes the music rather than the musician – good-time dance tunes and sing-alongs that have mixed English, Scottish, Irish, French, First Nations, and West African roots. Whether it's old-time, country, or Cajun music you love, come and join the fun!

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. All three members have instructed at the BC Bluegrass Workshop, becoming the camp's old-time favourites.

www.foghornstringband.com and www.calebklauder.com



Feature Act: Skagway

Tuesday January 25, 2011 @ 7:30 PM, Orange Hall

Open Stage first half of evening (7:30 - 9:00 pm) with the feature act after a short intermission. To sign up for the Open Stage, contact Jeb Gordon _____

Open Stage performers are exempt from the admission fee.

Members \$5, Non-members \$7.

Contact Larry Stevens for [info](#).

Skagway is a modern bluegrass band that is steeped in tradition. In the relatively short time the band has been together, they have become a mainstay of the Vancouver Island bluegrass and folk music scene.

Skagway is known for their powerful original songs and instrumentals, their fast picking, and their energetic stage presence. As the core of the band, Ira Pelletier and Tad Ruszel have a hard driving rhythm that they mix with their own brand of soulful harmony. Their first album "Wine in the Cupboard" is eagerly anticipated and is set to be released in early 2011.

This special performance for the VBA will include Archie Pateman (The Breakmen) on banjo and Phill Albert (Departures Jazz Quartet) on bass.



The Annual Holiday Potluck and Band Scramble

Our auctioneer Doug Van Dine is always collecting used instrument strings to donate to musicians in other countries that don't always have access to such things. If any VBA members or non-members are travelling to such locales and wish to take some used strings as gifts to the local musicians, please contact Doug

They would be doing their fellow musicians a great service, and it's a great way to meet locals!

A quote from someone delivering strings during a recent trip to Cuba:

"Doug, I gave the strings to a musician that we were staying with because I knew that he would have a good network of musicians to distribute them to. His response: a huge grin and the words: 'these are like gold to me'. Thanks for passing them onto me." signed Y.H.



The Scramble Bands



Dorothy and the Wizards



Stage Frights



Luann's Cookies

Reluctantly Out of the Closet



Valley Boys



Bluegrass Happenings

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

Ongoing

- Sundays** **Sunday Afternoon Hootennany** at *Logan's Tavern*, 1821 Cook St., 4:00 pm
Hosted by Carolyn Mark. Free admission. More info: 250-360-1832
- Bluegrass Night** at *Spinnaker's Pub*, 308 Catherine St., 8:00-10:30 pm.
Performers: James Whittall & Oliver Swain
- The Moonshiners** at *Swan's*, 506 Pandora Ave., 8-11 pm.
Performers: Miriam, Zev, Chris and Dennis
- 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
Tune List and Samples: 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: 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

- Thur. Jan 6** **Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra / The Stowaways**
Victoria Event Centre, 1415 Broad St. Victoria, BC. Doors open 8:30 pm.
Tickets \$12
www.myspace.com/tequilamock or www.myspace.com/windpoweredtour
- Sat. Jan 15** **Bowker Creek**
Jan 15: Sooke Folk, at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 1962 Murray Road, Sooke, 7:30 pm
Sat. Feb 5 Feb 5: Black Stilt Coffee Lounge (two sets), 1633 Hillside Avenue, 7:30 pm
- Sat. Jan 29** **Snowgrass** at the Port Angeles High School Auditorium, Port Angeles, WA
Tickets \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors, free for children 10 & under.
This year's line-up includes Abby Mae and the Homeschool Boys, Marilyn K. & Company, and Crescent Blue & The Finleys.
All proceeds benefit First Step Family Support Center (www.firststepfamily.org), a United Way agency.
Contact First Step at 360-457-8355 for more info.