

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message From the VBA Board

As spring gradually warms up the town, there is a flurry of activity in the bluegrass/oldtime community. Here are some of the upcoming events that should push you out of the house towards that crazy banjo sound.

On March 16, the Young Old-time Music and Dance Association (YOMADA) is having a Nearly Saint Patrick's Day Dance at Kirk Hall. Squares and some Swing on the menu. Good energy and cheap beer.

Two weeks later, on March 30, the VBA teams up with the Sooke River Bluegrass Festival to put on an all-star celebration of bluegrass in Victoria, featuring The Sweet Lowdown, Clover Point Drifters, The Moonshiners and Riverside Trio. This is your big chance to see our top local talent in a theatre setting - not to be missed.

And then, two weeks after that on April 12, Portland's Foghorn Stringband will be in town for a concert, followed by a dance the next night. This band is one of the best old-time combos on the planet. If you like hot instrumentals, classic country or Cajun gumbo, this is a rare chance for you to catch world-travelling performers right here in your home town. Those who can't get enough of the band (and those who just want to figure out how they do all that stuff) can catch them leading workshops on Saturday afternoon.

Looking forward to the summer, the big news is that the Sooke River Bluegrass Festival has been revived, thanks in large part to the relentless efforts of Phil Shaver. He has managed to assemble a team, including the VBA, to rekindle this much-loved event. You should all give him a big hug. The VBA, for its part, is supplying and managing the dozens of volunteers needed to make sure the show is the best it can be. Please consider becoming a volunteer - there are some rewards, but the main benefit is being a partner in building a stronger music community.

We should also mention our VBA workshops. They have been very popular, with full classes for fiddle, banjo and harmony singing. We've got more coming up, so you have no excuse for showing up to a jam this summer without callouses (physical or mental). Register early to avoid disappointment.

Check out the website for full details of these and other events. With all these choices and all this music, I'm sure we'll meet around town.

Kick it off Miriam . . . with a dadada-duh-duh WRRangggg !



Workshop: Dobro with Chris Herbst

Students will learn to visualize several different patterns that will allow them to play in both major and minor keys up and down the neck, some useful ways of using the open strings even when we are not in the key of G or capoed and explore some of those pesky slant chords that everybody loves.

This workshop will be tailored for all levels of player.

Fees: \$25 general, \$20 for VBA members

To Register: phone Alan Law at 250-388-4520 or email workshops@victoriabluegrass.ca

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\$25 single or \$40 couple



Victoria Bluegrass Association

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Special Concert: All Star Bluegrass Celebration

The Sooke Bluegrass Festival has been reborn, and to celebrate, the Sooke River Festival Society has teamed up with the VBA to produce this gala event. Victoria's finest bluegrass bands are on the bill and it's sure to be a great show.

Featuring :

- Clover Point Drifters
- The Sweet Lowdown
- Riverside Trio
- The Moonshiners

Tickets: \$20 general, at McPherson box office and Oak Bay United Church. SPECIAL PRICE OF \$15 FOR VBA MEMBERS, available at VBA events or by reservation only. To Reserve: call Colleen at 250-388-4520 or email tickets@victoriabluegrass.ca

VBA All Open Stage Night on March 26, 2013, 7:45pm

Since there is no feature show for the last Tuesday of the month, we are holding an all night open stage. Get your bluegrass/old time band together and work up a few songs to play for the appreciative crowd. Solos, Duets, Trio, and full bands welcome--we'd like to see something from everyone.

Admission by donation for all players and viewers (we have to contribute to the rent somehow!) Sign up by calling Jeb Gordon at 778.678.4570 or email openstage@vicbluegrass.ca

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Afternoon Hootenanny at <i>Logan's Tavern</i> 1821 Cook St., 4:00pm Hosted by Carolyn Mark. Free admission More info: 250-360-1832</p>	<p>Spiral Grove: Old-Time String Music Jam at <i>Spiral Cafe</i> 418 Craigflower Rd., 7-9:30pm</p>	<p>Victoria Bluegrass Association Jam at the <i>Church of Christ Scientist</i> 1205 Pandora Ave. (7:45-10pm), Slow Pitch and Circle Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Admission: players \$2 (non-members \$3), listeners by donation. More info: Alan Law or www.victoriabluegrass.ca</p>	<p>Cornerstone Bluegrass Jam at <i>Cornerstone Cafe & Resource Centre</i> Fernwood at Gladstone 7:30-10pm. Featuring premier acoustic string band musicians. Organized by the Fernwood Bluegrass Coalition, a group of local business/promoters/musicians. More info: Larry Stevens at larrystevens@shaw.ca</p>	<p>Bluegrass Brunch with the <i>Stowaways</i> at <i>Logan's Tavern</i> 1821 Cook St., 1:00 - 4:00pm every Saturday. Admission Free. More info: 250-360-1832 Brunch begins at 11:00. Great food, music and friends.</p>
<p>Sooke Legion Bluegrass and Acoustic Jam 6726 Eustace Rd., Sooke 1st and 3rd Sunday 2:30-5:00pm Contact: Al Planiden, 250-642-3395</p>		<p>The Sweet Lowdown at <i>The Fernwood Inn</i> 302 Gladstone Ave., 8-11pm. Amanda Blied, Shanti Bremer, Miriam Sonstenes. More info: www.myspace.com/the.sweet.lowdown</p>	<p>Old Time Jam at the <i>Solstice Cafe</i> 529 Pandora Street, 7-10pm Admission is free, but please buy something to eat and/or drink.</p>	
<p>Bluegrass / Old Time Jam at <i>Ocean Island Backpackers Inn</i> 791 Pandora Ave., 8pm-10pm, all ages Hosted by YOMADA. Bring an instrument along and be part of the fun!</p>		<p>Capital City Syncopators at <i>Swan's Pub</i> 506 Pandora Ave, 9:00pm</p>	<p>Sidney Acoustic Jam at <i>Beacon Community Services, SHOAL Activity Centre</i> 10030 Resthaven Drive, 6:45pm</p>	
<p>The Moonshiners at <i>Swan's</i> 506 Pandora Ave., 8:30-11pm. Performers: Tad Ruszel, Miriam Sonstenes, Chris Herbst, Mike Brooks and Cluny McPherson</p>				