



Bay Area Bluegrass Association, Inc.  
 c/o Barbara Monroe  
 4327 Townes Forest Road  
 Friendswood, TX 77546-4254



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<u>BLUEGRASS RADIO WAVES &amp; INTERNET SITES</u>			
KNES - FM 99.1	Sun. 2-5 PM	Fairfield	<i>Carl Conkling</i>
KEOS - FM 89.1	Tues. 7-9 PM	College Station	<i>John Roths</i>
KPFT - FM 90.1	Sun. 4-6 PM	Houston	<i>Chris Hirsch</i>
KUT - FM 90.5	Sat. 8 AM-2 PM	Austin	<i>Don Foster/Ed Miller</i>
KVLU - FM 91.3	Sat. 7-9 PM	Beaumont	
KOOP - FM 91.7	Sun. 10-11 AM	Austin	<i>Keith Davis/Rod Moog</i>
KKUS - FM 104.1	Sat. 9-10 AM	Tyler	<i>Dave Rousseau</i>
KSHN - FM 99.9	Sat. 8:30-10:30 PM	Liberty	<i>Roy Bennett</i>
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**COMING TO BABA**

**March 17 - Sowell Family Pickers (show starts at 6:30 PM)**

**April 21 - Southern Style**

**May 19 - The Bluegrass Solution**

**See [www.bayareabluegrass.org](http://www.bayareabluegrass.org) for details**



# The BABA Bulletin



The Bay Area Bluegrass Association  
5820 Misty Meadow, League City, TX 77573

March 2012

“Twenty-five Years Strong”

Volume 25, Issue 9



The Bay Area Bluegrass Association, (**BABA**) was organized in 1986 and incorporated in 1987 under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The primary purpose of **BABA** is to preserve, encourage, and promote Bluegrass and Bluegrass Gospel music as an American art form. **BABA** promotes Bluegrass through being active in community events, fund raisers, festivals, and monthly shows.

The monthly show is free to the public and features Bluegrass from the local and national scene. The stage show begins at 7:00 p.m., but pickers are welcome to bring their instruments and come earlier. **BABA**'s kitchen provides tasty, inexpensive food and beverages (NO ALCOHOL). Prizes and donations are raffled off every show.

Proceeds from the kitchen, raffles/donations, and memberships from individuals and businesses are used to present the monthly shows; publish the newsletter; pay for sound equipment; promote Bluegrass and for minor incidental expenses.

Please help support Bluegrass. Join **BABA** today. Your membership will help us to meet our goals and objectives. See membership levels below. **BABA** is a 501(a) tax deductible organization. See any Director for information.

Howdy Bluegrass Fans,

Are you ready for some bluegrass? I know I am.



Last month **Orrin Star** and **The Laughing Lizards String Band** did a great job for us. I sure enjoyed the show. Had a great time playing with The **BABA** hall band on stage and Orrin came back on stage to play with us. It was a real treat for me.

This month we've run into some scheduling problems with two of the acts. The **Banjo Recital** and **Justified** both had problems with the date and had to cancel for this month but we'll get them both back in the near future. In April we'll have **Southern Style**, and **The Bluegrass Solution** in May and we'll get the **Banjo Recital** and **Justified** back on the schedule real soon.

Great news - tickets are on sale now for **Fire On The Strings! Chris Jones & the Night Drivers, Special C, James King**, regional & local bands Banjo & Guitar Championships, workshops, directed slow jams and more jams than ever before. Make your plans now. Check out the details on line.

I'd like to take a moment to thank all the volunteers who have helped keep **BABA** going this past year. Remember, it's your membership and generous donations that keep us going. Equipment repair and replacement, facility rent, security, storage, the cost of bands, the list goes on and on, just like everything else, keep going up. And we depend on you to keep **BABA** going. We are asking for your help to keep **BABA** the best family entertainment at the best price to be found anywhere.

Lets all keep bluegrassing,

Rick Kirkland

The **BABA Bulletin** is published monthly by the Bay Area Bluegrass Association, and is available for \$35 a year with an **Individual Membership** or **\$50** a year **Family Membership** or \$100 a year **Gold Club Membership**, or \$350 **Lifetime Family Membership**, or \$1,000 **Endowment Gift** (Lifetime Membership). Portions of the **BABA Bulletin** may be reprinted with proper source citation. Articles are opinions of the writers alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the Board of Directors or members.

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# The EDITOR

would like feedback and Bluegrass articles from our readers. Tidbits or article(s) can be: an amusing quote; reviews of festivals or music conventions; behind the scenes reports of bands; technical; RV & campground reviews; or anything you feel would be of interest to Bluegrass enthusiasts. Articles may span more than one issue, and full credit will be given.

**BABA**  
Board of Directors



Join us at Fuddruckers, NASA Pkwy. on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of EVERY MONTH for dinner and JAM!! Turn in a BABA "coupon" and we will receive a percentage of your food and drink purchase price. See Barbara or Rick for coupon.

## ADVERTISING RATES

### Business Cards

\$50 per year  
\$5 per issue

### Quarter Page

\$75 per year  
\$10 per issue

### Half Page

\$150 per year  
\$15 per issue

### Full Page

\$300 per year  
\$30 per issue

Copy deadline is the 1st of each month

BABA is not liable for content or claims of advertisers.

No alcohol advertisements

Send all ads to the Editor

## DONATIONS FROM OUR FRIENDS

So many of you responded to our request for donations of door prizes or baked goods for the coffee table, and we thank you. Please continue to bring brownies, cookies or cakes, packaged in sandwich bags for sale at the shows, and don't forget to sign the form at the table so we can acknowledge your gift.



Thanks to the bands  
that entertained us at the  
February show.

Orrin Star  
The Laughing Lizards  
Chris Bagley & Friends

**PRESIDENT**  
Rick Kirkland  
**Vice-President**  
Laney Sims

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Judy Sturgeon

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Travis Posey  
tposey123@yahoo.  
com

**BABA**  
**INFORMATION**  
281-488-2244



## SLOW JAM AT EVERY MONTHLY SHOW

### In the Rec Room

Join us at 6:00 before each BABA show for the Slow Jam. Our leaders will give you pointers on jamming and will show you how to play all your bluegrass favorites

Help keep the Civic Center clean. Please put trash in the cans placed around the auditorium and hallway.

BABA presents a show the third Saturday of every month. Would you like to have your band perform on stage? Contact Rick Kirkland at 281-488-2244 to be added to the schedule.

# Gilderoy

Red Haired Boy in Am

Arr. by Steve Kaufman

Key of Am  
Am

Fiddle

1 Mandolin

Guitar

Am Am Dm Am

4

Em Am Am Dm

7

Am Em Am Em Am

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*Glideroy continued*

C Dm Am

10

Em Am Am Dm

13

Am Em Am Em Am

16

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# Talent Index

## **Austin Colony**

George Franklin 979-417-1280  
george.franklin.b33k@statefarm.com  
Lynn Holbrook 281-486-0657  
lhollbroo@cisco.com

## **Before Electricity**

Tom Roberts 713-863-7351

## **Brazos River Pickers**

Anna Beavers 281-344-0601  
anna@brazosriverpickers.com

## **Buffalo Nickel Bluegrass Band**

Laney Sims 281-242-2383  
lanesims@windstream.net

## **Cypress Creek**

Jimmy Pike 713-202-9441  
jpike1@msn.com

## **Cypress Ramblers**

Bill Sincler 713-481-1747  
bill77429@comcast.net

## **Greer Family Band**

Lawrence Greer 979-289-9936  
lfgreer@juno.com  
greerfamilyband.com

## **Greg English**

830-387-9156  
genglish43@gmail.com  
<https://sites.google.com/site/gregenglish43/>

## **Laughing Lizards String Band**

Steve Bing 832-433-7914  
stevebingmusic@aol.com  
www.laughinglizardsband.com

## **LoneStar Bluegrass Band**

Chris Hirsch 281-491-1680  
chirsch@alltel.net  
www.lonestarbluegrassband.com

## **Manchaca All Stars**

Buck Buchanan 512-282-2756  
Cara Cooke 512-280-9104 manchacaallstars@email.com

## **Pine Island Station**

Gary Carter 936-520-2952  
j9carter01@gmail.com  
www.pineislandstation.com

## **Hallie Reeves**

Solo Fiddle & Violin Performances  
or with Accompaniment  
713-477-2730  
hallie.reeves@yahoo.com

## **Pet Rooster**

Jay Richardson 979-297-2709  
Jay@petrooster.com  
www.petrooster.com

## **Shadetree Bluegrass Band**

Ken MacDonnell 281-693-0391

## **Southern Style**

Rick Kirkland 281-488-2244  
crk5820@msn.com  
Arvin Holland 713-305-5957  
aholland@texasairservices.com

## **Texas Harmony**

Becky Goodwin 281-787-1124  
bluegrassbecky1@aol.com

## **The Bluegrass Solution**

Richard Henry 713-937-4253  
Michael Fuller 713-880-2188  
mike@fullersguitar.com  
www.thebluegrasssolution.com

## **White Dove**

Glen Beaubouef 832-289-7895  
www.wdgospel.com

## **Buddy & Tina Wright Group**

Pat Wright  
buddyandtina@earthlink.net  
www.buddyandtina.com



**List your band in the BABA Talent Index. At least one band member must be a BABA member. Your annual \$35 membership includes a subscription to the BABA BULLETIN and supports BABA and bluegrass.**

**Listings have proven to get bands paid gigs!**

We are proud to have these fine bands as members of the

**BAY AREA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION**



## Monthly Jams & Shows

**Note - Please send additions, deletions or corrections to the editor.**

### Mondays

**Cypress, TX** - St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 13131 Fry Road, 7-9:30 PM, toynema@earthlink.net, 281-373-1777

### Thursdays

**Spring, TX** - Ron Hayden's house, 22703 Bayleaf Drive, 5:30PM, rhayden7@gmail.com, 281-353-3531

**Groves, TX** - Allie Morvent's House, 7119 Howe, 7PM, (409) 962-5236

### Fridays

**Manchaca, TX** - Fire Hall, FM 1626 (1 Mi. W. of Manchaca Rd), 7PM Show (512) 282-3600.

**Dickinson, TX**, - Dickinson BBQ, 2111 FM 517 E, 7-9PM, (281) 534-2500

### Sundays

**Austin, TX** - Artz Ribhouse, 2330 S. Lamar 2-5 PM. (512) 442-8283, or 272-9673.

### 1st Tuesdays

**Nassau Bay, TX** - Jam at Fuddrucker's, 2040 NASA Pkwy. (281) 993-1620

### 1st Friday

**Carthage, TX** - Town Square, 6:30PM (903) 678-3857

### Saturdays

**Alvin, TX** - Texas Opry, 1720 Sealy. Admission charged. (281) 432- 2942

**Mauriceville, TX** - Tuffy's, Bayou Country Grass, 6:30 - 8:30PM

### 1st Saturday

**Henderson, TX** - Odd Fellows Hall, 6PM (903) 889-2783 or 566-6650

**Needville, TX** - Brazos River Pickers puts on a free concert from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at Brazos Bend State Park in the amphitheater. Usual State Park entry fees apply. (281) 344-0601, www.brazosriverpickers.com

**Pearl, TX** - 15 miles west of Gatesville, 7 miles south of US 84 on FM183, pearlbluegrass.com

**Montgomery, TX** - Downtown Montgomery, 10 AM - 2pm, 936-597-5002

### 2nd Saturday

**Tomball, TX** - Oklahoma Community Ctr., Conroe-Huffsmith Rd. off FM 2978, 4 PM Jam/6 PM Show, (281) 850-1413

**Houston, TX** - West University Community Building, 6104 Auden. 7:30 PM Admission, not always bluegrass, Houston Folklore Society (281) 347-3235

**Huntington, TX** - Volunteer Fire Dept, Main & Pecan. 5 PM Food and Jam & 6 PM Show (409) 422-3562 or 632-5393, or 897-3109.

**Deer Park, TX**, - Troy's Music Shop, 4005 Center St., 11 AM - 3 PM

**Fayetteville, TX** - info@texaspickinpark.com, www.texaspickinpark.com, 6PM

### 3rd Saturday

**Harwood, TX** - Community Center, 2 PM Jam/5:30 PM Pot Luck Supper (512) 648-4728

**Houston, TX** - Woodland Christian Church, 607 Rogers, North Harris County Dulcimer Society. 3 - 6 PM.

**League City** - Civic Center, 300 Walker. **BAY AREA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION**. 5 PM Jam/7 PM Show, (713) 249-2986

**Marshall, TX** - Lions Community Center, Poplar St. 7 PM Show, (903) 935-7023

**Minden, TX** - Community Center, 5:30 PM, (903) 657-3320

**Sulpher Springs, TX**. (Oct - March) - 400 Como St. (903) 885-4078 or 885-7063

### 4th Saturday

**Beaumont, TX** - Rosedale Baptist Church, 7110 Concord, (409) 866-0848, SE Texas Dulcimer Friends

**Sacul, TX** - Opry House, Hwy. 204 (25 mi. SE of Jacksonville), 6:30 PM, (903) 586-8484 or (409) 326-4544

**Bellville, TX** - Coushate RV Ranch, Spring Creek Bluegrass Club, 4 PM Jam/6 PM Show (Jan. thru Sept. (979) 865-5250

**Whitewright, TX** - Opry House, 7 PM, (903) 364-2539

**Walker, LA** - Old South Jamboree, U.S. Hwy. 190, (504) 664-3630

**Deer Park, TX** - Troy's Music Shop, 4005 Center St., 11 AM - 3 PM

**Cypress/Tomball Area** - Bluegrass Jam, Kleb Woods Nature Center, Mueschke & Draper Rd., (281) 373-1777, m.blugrassjam@earthlink.net

### 5th Saturday

**Huntington, TX** - Volunteer Fire Dept., Main & Pecan, 6 PM Show (409) 897-3109 or 632-5393 or 422-3562

### 3rd Sunday

**Grapevine, TX** - Founders Building, 701 S. Main St., 12-5:00 PM, (817) 275-3104

## Keep Those Receipts A'Coming

Don't forget to bring your receipts from any League City establishment at which you shop or eat the day of a **BABA** show. Your shopping in League City helps promote **BABA**.

Just bring any receipt you have from any League City business. The date on the receipt must be the date of any **BABA** show. If you make a purchase on the way home, bring the receipt to the next show you attend. Print your name and zip code on the back of the receipt and drop it in the jar at the **BABA** table.

We know that many of you eat at local restaurants before or after the show. Some of you buy gas or snacks for the ride home. Just start hanging on to those receipts and bring them to the next show you attend. Thanks for supporting **BABA!**

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# February 2012



## BABA Volunteers

February 2012

**Kitchen Operations:** Ken Kendall, Jim Sanders

**Coffee Table Donations:** Lee Ann Fau

**BABA Table Volunteers:** Judy Sturgeon, Shannon Sims, Sharon Stafford

**Membership Table,** Barbara Monroe

**Donation Jar Passers:** Judy Sturgeon, Sharon Stafford

**Drawing Donations:** none

**Set-Up & Clean-Up:** Roger Ecklund, Mark Kishbaugh, Pat Patterson

**Sound Technicians:** Roger Ecklund, Mark Kishbaugh, Jordan Kishbaugh, Chris Bagley, Travis Posey, O.K. Stafford

**M.C.:** Ron Hayden

**BABA Bulletin:** Barbara Monroe

**Slow Jam:** Laney Sims

**Member Drawing Winner:** Lee Dickerson

**Receipt Drawing Winner:** Jerry Miller

**Welcome New Members:** Bill Brooks, Wayne Carson

**Welcome Back Renewal Members:** Sam Moore, Chuck Fau, Arvin & Sheryl Holland, Jerry Miller, Brian Berlin, Rich Ostrem, Gerry & Kim Herman, Debbie Hall, Richard Geary, Rick & Shirley Kirkland, Cal & Glenda Perry, Sandy & Jackie Jones

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**LET'S KEEP BABA GROWING**

## Gold Club Members

Don & Jan Clark, Mike & Pat Conwell, Ed & Ann Fitchard, J.B. & Nancy Graham, Ron & Anne Hayden, Gerry & Kim Herman, Rick & Shirley Kirkland, Darryl & Tina O'Bryant, Laney & Shannon Sims

**Membership in the Gold Club is payable annually. We thank you for your "extra" support.**

**BABA Lifetime Members:** Dave Aldrich, Scott & Diana Armstrong, Doris Arnett, Chris Bagley, Hubert & Shirley Brasseaux, Cara Cooke, Eric & Kim Corgey, Paul & Dana Cutts, Phil & Fern Deans, Robert & Debi Duke, Bill & Joni Dusenbury, Harry Edwards, Ruth Evans, George Franklin, Ed & Becky Fryday, Mike Fuller, John & Jean Gardner, Bill & Geri Gatlin, J.B. & Nancy Graham, Jim & Sharon Greenlee, Doris Grigg, Chuck & Mary Pat Gunn, Robert & Elizabeth Hasserd, Arvin & Sheryl Holland, Sammy & Oattie Holloway, Jim & Carolyn Johnston, Stan Jones, Paul & Linda Kerr, Pat Lomas, Ken and Wanda MacDonnell, Phil & Cecile Mathers, Paul & Madeline McKneely, Faber & Sandy McMullen, Patrick Milligan, Charles & Ellen Orsburn, Mike Pettitt, Bill & Glenna Pierpont, Norman Ponder, Billy Potts, Tony & Nema Redding, Karl Reid, Jack & Carol Ritter, Tom & Sandy Roberts, Jonathan & Kristine Samuell, Billy & Terry Schmidt, Jerry & Monica Scribner, Gordon Spaulding, O.K. & Sharon Stafford, Bob & Marilyn Taylor, James & Laura Taylor, Scott Teven, Don & Charlene Threlkeld, David Towery, Helen Vinson, Viola Wakefield, Larry Wenner

**Lifetime Members' names are in alphabetical order**

**Endowment Gift Members:**

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website: [www.springcreekbluegrass.com](http://www.springcreekbluegrass.com)



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**Would you like to promote your business?  
Perhaps your employer would like people to know about his firm, factory, store, company or shop.**

**BABA people like to deal with other BABA people.**

**See advertising rates on page 4 of this newsletter.  
It pays to advertise!**

My Name is Kevin Dooley and I am a Banjo Player in New Mexico, well kind of a Banjo Player, I have been playing for just over a year. I already have three Banjo's, maybe more of a collector at this point. I love it. I own a Photography studio and a Safari business in Albuquerque New Mexico, have had the Studio for just over 30 years.

The main reason I am writing is to see if you can help me pass the word, in promoting our November Banjo Safari in Africa. This Safari will be an incredible experience for anyone, however we have a little added twist. A mid Day Banjo workshop that will take place each day over the seven day African Safari. The mornings and late afternoons will be spent out in the African Bush finding and observing the wildlife of Africa, the evenings in an upscale Safari lodge, with great food and a few other activities such as village visits and relaxing. It is a first class Safari. However we have it priced to be very affordable.

We are only taking eight guests and have reserved 4 of the 8 , however we still have 4 spots available, the bookings we have so far consist of two banjo players, a Mandolin Player and one spouse who is just coming along on the safari part but not partaking in the Workshop. Our Banjo teacher is Ross Nickerson of [www.Banjoteacher.com](http://www.Banjoteacher.com)

The Safari Website is [www.idubephotosafaris.com](http://www.idubephotosafaris.com)

The Dates are November 1st -November 9th .

We will take care of everything from Airport pick up to Airport return .

Thanks so much, we have just started to advertise the Safari in Banjo Hangout and the Banjo Newsletter, however I want to get the word out.

Kevin Dooley  
[www.Idubephotosafaris.com](http://www.Idubephotosafaris.com)  
[www.kevinsphotography.net](http://www.kevinsphotography.net)  
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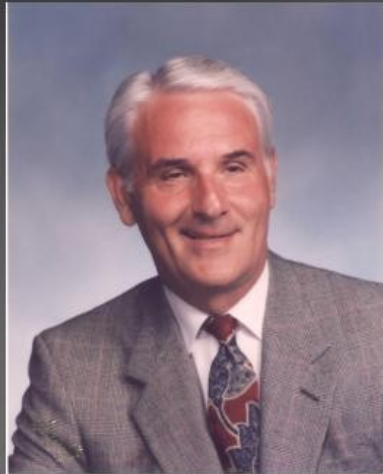
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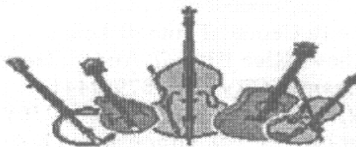
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Do you find yourself standing around a pickin' session wishing you could join in, but don't know how to play? The music studio of Kerry Jones can help. We offer day and evening lessons for children & adults, ranging from beginners to advanced, on banjo and guitar.

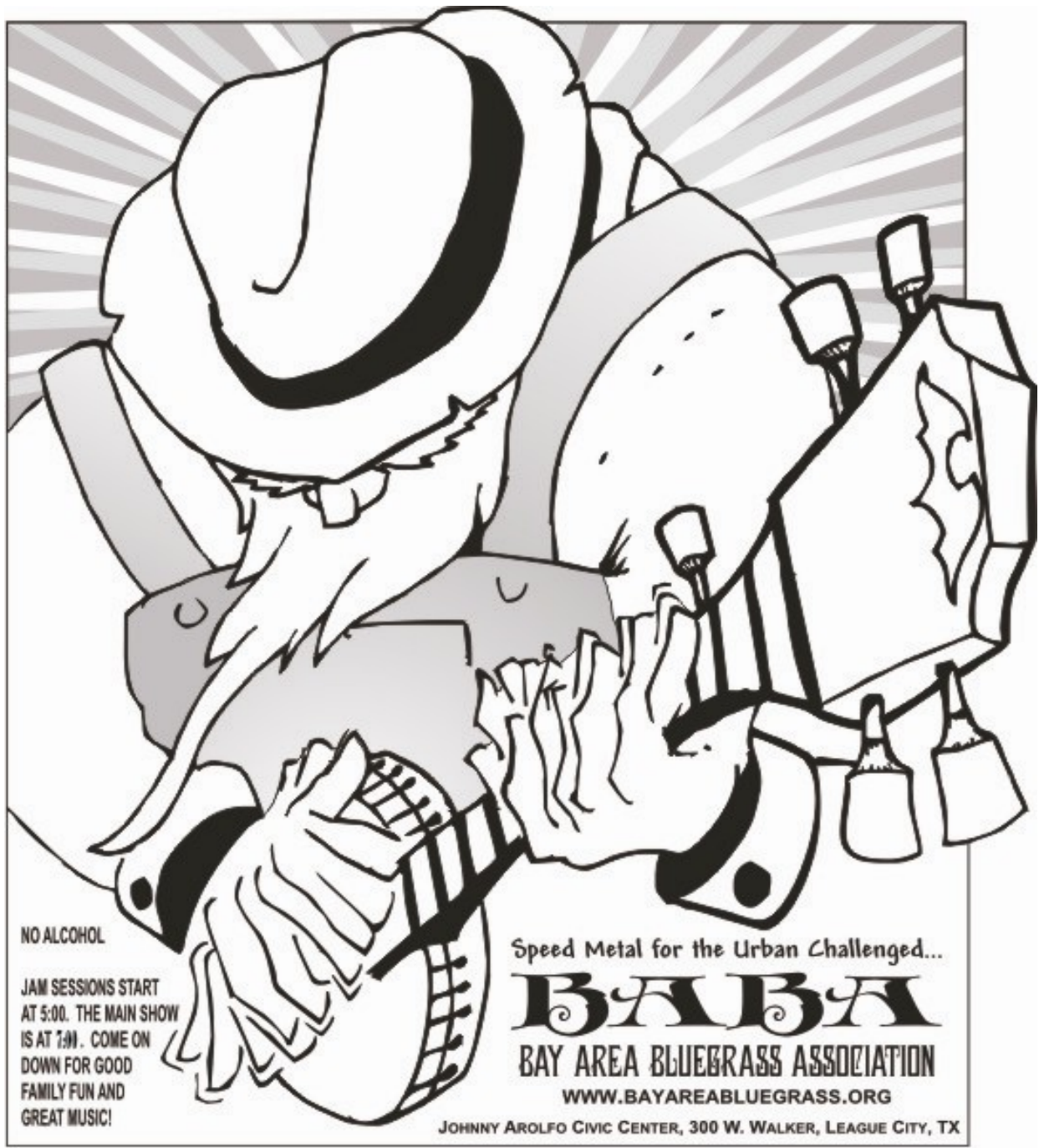
Kerry has a Music Performance degree and over twenty years experience. He has been instructing individuals for the last ten years. You've loved Kerry as the wierded out leader and banjo player in Classical Grass. Now get to know him as your instructor and friend.

#### **First Timer's Lesson Package (for banjo & guitar)**

When you sign up for eight weeks of lessons, Kerry will provide you with a beginner's level instrument to take home and practice with. This allows you to try your hand at music without forking over a large amount of money for an instrument.

For lessons, call Kerry Jones at

**Class Acts (832) 545-7261**  
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# BABA

BAY AREA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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**FREE BLUEGRASS SHOW** *Featuring*

<p><b>Sowell Family Pickers</b></p>	<p><b>with</b></p>	<p>also playing: <b>Banjo Recital at 6:30 PM</b> and <b>Justified March 17, 2012</b></p>
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# Steve Kaufman's Acoustic Kamps

June 10-16: Old Time Banjo, Mt. Dulcimer, Bass,  
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June 17-23: Flatpicking, Bluegrass Banjo, Mandolin,  
Bluegrass Fiddle, Singing, Dobro™, Bass and Kid's Kamp

**Old Time and Traditional Week - June 10-16:** Flatpicking: Rolly Brown, Mark Cosgrove, Dan Crary, Steve Kaufman, Chris Newman, Eric Thompson; Fingerpicking: Pat Kirtley, Harvey Reid, Richard Smith; Bass: Rusty Holloway; Old Time Fiddle: Brad Leftwich, Suze Thompson; Mountain Dulcimer: Joe Collins; Old Time Banjo: Evie Ladin; Songwriting: Steve Spurgin; Celtic Harp: Máire Ni Chathasaigh

**Bluegrass Week - June 17-23:** Flatpicking: John Carlini, Beppe Gambetta, Adam Granger, Andy Hatfield, Jeff Jenkins, Chris Jones, Wayne Taylor; Mandolin: Bruce Graybill, Emory Lester, John Moore, Don Rigsy, Roland White, Radim Zenkl; Bluegrass Banjo: Gary Davis, Murphy Henry, Alan Munde, Jeff Scroggins;

**Dobro™:** Ivan Rosenberg, Mike Witcher; Bass: Rusty Holloway, Missy Raines; **Bluegrass Fiddle:**

Dennis Caplinger, Bobby Hicks; **Singing Class:** Sally Jones; **Kid's Kamp:** Marcy Marxer;

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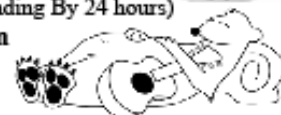
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## Last of the Breed: The Dave Evans Story

Traditional bluegrass fans have long recognized Dave Evans for what he is: a living legend. Dave is one of the few true triple threats in the genre - a talented singer, instrumentalist, and songwriter.

He has shared the stage with greats such as Larry Sparks and Ralph Stanley. Alison Krauss has cited him as one of her biggest inspirations. But while his contemporaries have seen crossover success with more mainstream audiences on the heels of *O Brother Where Art Thou?* and the growth of the IBMA, Dave remains largely unknown to wider listeners.

Generally it's hard to say why some musicians win recognition and fortune while many others linger in obscurity, but with Dave it's clear that a 6 year incarceration during his prime years has deprived him of these rewards.

The Last of the Breed is a not-for-profit film that tells Dave's amazing story of music, hardship, freedom, civil rights, redemption, and destiny. In association with The Kanawha Gateway Heritage Area and Fractured Atlas, Red Line Studios is reaching out to the bluegrass community for financial support. As every dollar counts we have set no minimum donation amount. And as a token of our thanks we will be giving away exclusive gifts to supporters of the film. Every donation is also eligible for a tax deduction because of our non-profit status.

A fundraising goal of \$30,000 has been set to film The Last of the Breed: The Dave Evans Story. Monies raised will help cover basic expenses such as travel, equipment rentals, archival research and lodgings for the professional film crew who is donating their services for this creative initiative.

So if you've ever been moved by the profound soulfulness of Dave's music or if you're just someone who roots for the underdog, please join us to make his story heard.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about this film. To donate, or learn more about our project, please follow this [link](#). You can also follow us on [Facebook](#).



## **“Jamming is fun and fundamental”: Dr. Banjo getting traction with The Wernick Method**

Pete Wernick’s latest project can’t be faulted for being not ambitious enough. His goal? “We want to change how bluegrass music is taught.” Wernick, known for four decades as “Dr. Banjo”, a driving force behind the legendary Hot Rize band, and the creator of bluegrass books and videos with sales over half a million, has taken on his share of challenges.

Starting in the 1990s he developed what is now known as The Wernick Method, changing his established “banjo camps” over to “bluegrass jam camps” for all instruments. The Method helps people learn to jam and build ensemble skills. In 2010, with over 150 camps behind him, he began training and certifying instructors to teach jam classes -- now in over half of the 50 states.

The business has grown fast, with over 30 teachers including instrumental aces Jim Hurst (Kentucky) and Craig Korth (British Columbia), and 700 students as of early March. Pete cites students’ evaluations proudly. “After the classes we ask them to rate their classes from 1 to 5 in satisfaction, value, fun, and learning. We’ve received 70% 5s, and 25% 4s. The surveys are answered anonymously, so we trust them and use the stats in our advertising.”

What’s unique about the Wernick Method? “For years,” he says, “key aspects of bluegrass have been ignored in typical teaching... Most methods show students to play lead parts by rote, and not the skills they need to jam. We teach ear skills, how to follow and lead a song, learn chords quickly, fake simple solos on the fly, all sorts of stuff. The students learn hands-on, playing in small groups while we coach them.”

Wernick knows how to read music and tablature but rarely does, and points out that the founding bluegrass greats such as Bill Monroe, Earl Scruggs, and Jimmy Martin were essentially “musical illiterates”. “They had great success going by ear and listening hard, through years of playing with others. We start people on that same path. We get them together and they jam in their very first session. Some of them are amazed. They’ve been struggling for months or years as ‘closet players’ and wondered if they’d ever learn to jam. They find out -- it’s not that hard. We show them what they need, and it’s not written music.”

The by-ear, hands-on approach can start in the first week of playing, says Pete. “Our requirement is pretty simple: Four chords. Bluegrass is built mostly on three-chord patterns, so once you can recognize a few guitar chords and play chords with a boom/chick beat, you can participate and start having fun. When you jam with other people, you get motivated, since what you’re practicing now has a context to fit into.”

This spring and summer Pete will conduct his established jam camps in Colorado and at festivals in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New York. The growing schedule of Wernick Method classes, and Pete’s camps, can accessed on [www.BGjam.com](http://www.BGjam.com).

###

*More high-res downloadable color &/or black & white photos of Pete: <http://drbanjo.com/downloads/default.htm>*

***New! Photos of Wernick Method Classes: <http://new.drbanjo.com/photos>***