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

The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake member

IBMA International Bluegrass Music Association MEMBER

MEMBER SPBGMA SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BLUEGRASS MUSIC OF AMERICA

BLUEGRASS RADIO WAVES & INTERNET SITES

KNES - FM 99.1	Sun. 2-5 PM	Fairfield	*Carl Conkling*
KEOS - FM 89.1	Tues. 7-9 PM	College Station	*John Roths*
KPFT - FM 90.1	Sun. 4-6 PM	Houston	*Chris Hirsch*
KUT - FM 90.5	Sat. 8 AM-2 PM	Austin	Don Foster/Ed Miller
KVLU - FM 91.3	Sat. 7-9 PM	Beaumont	
KOOP - FM 91.7	Sun. 10-11 AM	Austin	*Keith Davis/Rod Moog*
KKUS - FM 104.1	Sat. 9-10 AM	Tyler	*Dave Rousseau*
KSHN - FM 99.9	Sat. 8:30-10:30 PM	Liberty	*Roy Bennett*
KSYM-FM 90.1	Sun. Noon-2 PM	San Antonio	*Hank Harrison*
KJIC-FM 90.5	Sat.&Sun. 6AM & 6 PM	Houston	*Believers Bluegrass*
KAMU-FM 90.9	Sat. 7-8PM	College Station	*Dave Higgs (Nashville)*

www.wiredin.cc

COMING TO BABA

April 21 - Southern Style, Texas Olde Tyme Bluegrass Band

May 19 - The Bluegrass Solution, Tribute to Earl Scruggs

See www.bayareabluegrass.org for details

The BABA Bulletin

The Bay Area Bluegrass Association

5820 Misty Meadow, League City, TX 77573

April 2012 **"Twenty-five Years Strong"** **Volume 25, Issue 10**

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.

The May 19th show for **BABA** is one you will not want to miss. The featured band will be "**The Bluegrass Solution**". This is a great band that sings original songs written by Hall of Fame song writer Richard Henry. There be a selection of Gospel and Bluegrass songs that will get your toes to tappin. Be sure to get there early to get a good seat.

In addition to **The Bluegrass Solution** band, there will be a tribute to **Earl Scruggs**. Some of the best pickers in southeast Texas will be on stage, playing Earl's signature instrumentals and singing classic songs from the Flatt & Scruggs Martha White TV shows from the 1960's. There will be a representation of the **Foggy Mountain Boys**, with Fiddle, Dobro, Guitar, Bass and Mandolin and some of our best Banjo players. Some of guys will channel **Lester Flatt** in classic vocals, and the banjo pickers will rip it up just like Earl.

A collection of our best musicians will be on stage remembering the greatest picker of them all. This is definitely a show you will not want to miss.

Texas Olde Tyme Bluegrass Band

Appearing on the BABA stage April 21

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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FOR ALL YOUR BLUEGRASS NEEDS

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.

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 March show.

Almost Heaven
The Sowell Family Pickers
Justified - Modified

BABA Board of Directors

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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

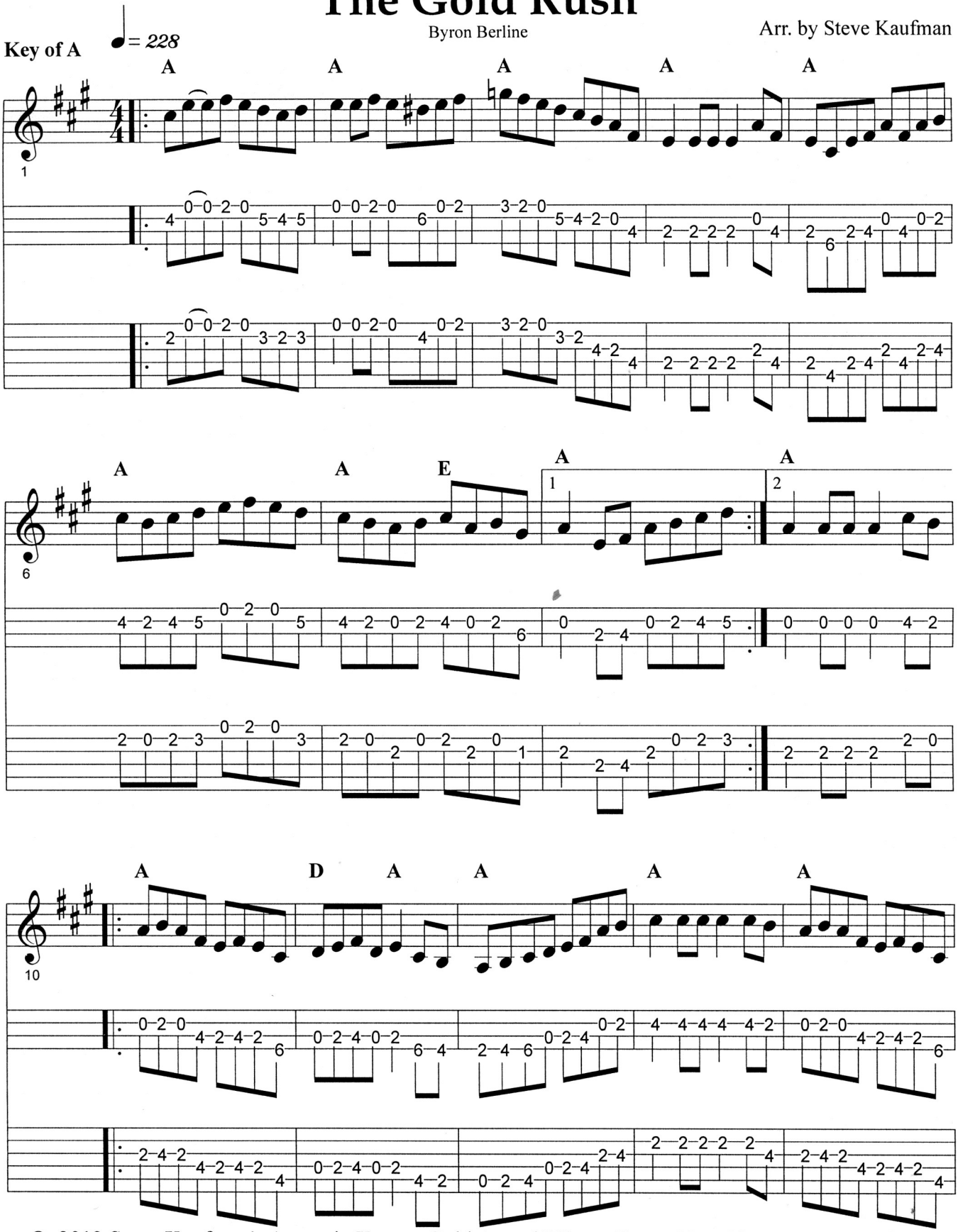
Help keep the Civic Center clean. Please put trash in the cans placed around the auditorium and hallway.

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.

The Gold Rush

Byron Berline

Arr. by Steve Kaufman



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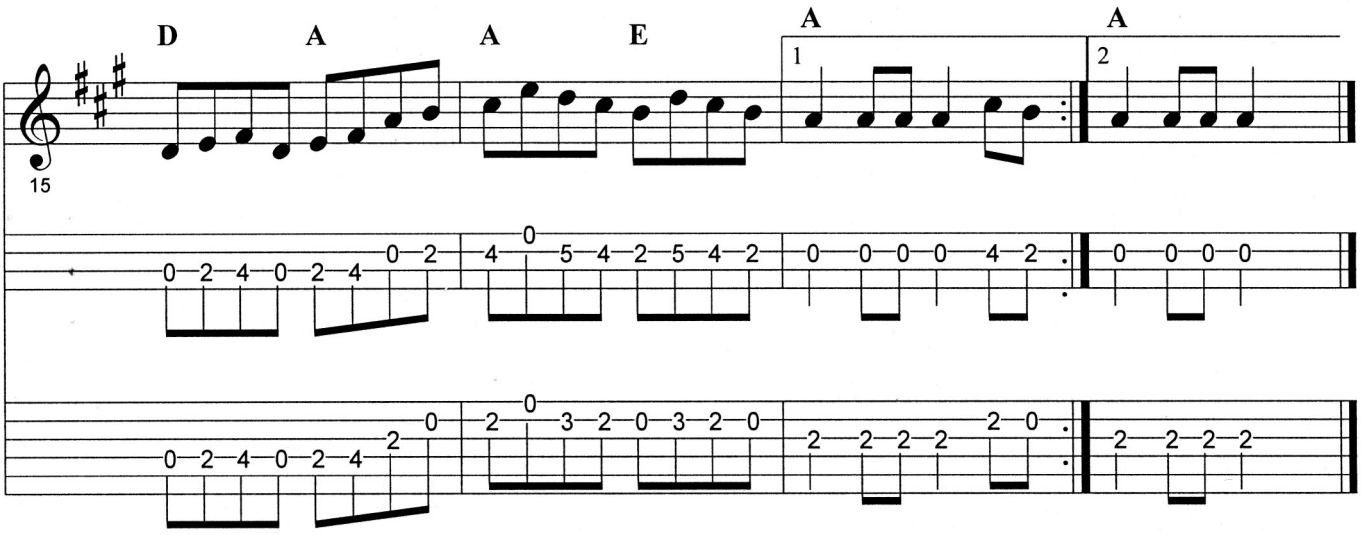
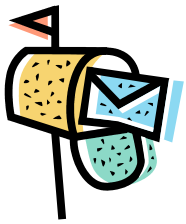


Smoky Mountain Banjo Academy

The seventh annual Smoky Mountain Banjo Academy features three days of classes from Beginner to Advanced, three-finger and old time styles, classical, jazz, and minstrel technique...plus ongoing jamming, mini-concerts, a Banjo Contest with Gold Tone travel banjo as first prize, Guaranteed private lesson with a pro.

Everybody is under the same roof in a large lodge facility. Dine, jam hang out with your banjo heros! The instructors: Kristin Scott-Benson, Dave Ball, Gary Davis, Wayne Erbsen, Jack Hatfield, James McKinney, Tom Nechville, Ross Nickerson, Don Wayne Reno, Jason Skinner, Marc Smith, Sonny Smith, Ron Stewart and Leroy Troy.

The dates are May 4th-6th, at Wa-Floy Mountain Retreat near Gatlinburg, TN. of attractions and outdoor activities for the family: Dollywood, Splash Country, 0utlet malls, golfing, trout and lake fishing, horseback riding, hiking, rafting, over 40 variety theaters. Single day and "no-lodging" rates available. Camping onsite. Cabins available for groups and families. Group discounts. SMBA is BEGINNER FRIENDLY! go to hatfieldmusic.com or call 865-428-8063 to learn more. Sponsored by Nechville Musical Products.



Hello,

I am a bluegrass banjo and mandolin player in Nova Scotia. After struggling with the fiddle for many years, I found a "fretted" fiddle worked for me.

As fretted violins are expensive, I came up with a self adhesive strip that sticks to the fingerboard and converts a regular violin to a fretted violin. It's not for all but for some.

I was wondering if any of your members would be interested. My family and I make this device by hand and offer it on my website www.frettedfiddle.com

thanks for your time,

Peter & Susan Stoney
Tel (902) 792-1459

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ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

April 21 - League City, TX, **BABA**, 5PM jam, 7:00 stage show, 281-488-2244, www.bayareablegrass.org**, Southern Style**
April 22 - Spring, TX, BG concert featuring David Davis & The Warrior River Boys, Hyde's Café, 26608 Keith St, 281-350-8530
April 25-28, Tom Bean, TX (near Sherman, TX) - After Easter Gospel Festival, Chrystal Opry House Melody Ranch, 903-546-6893, www.chrystalopryhouse.com
May 4-5 - Grapeland, TX, Fun Weekend, jamming on & off stage, Pot Luck Saturday 12 Noon, 936-687-2594, info@salmonlakepark.com
May 11-12, Nacogdoches, TX, Sandyland Bluegrass Reunion, 936569-1179, www.sandylandbluegrass.com
May 24-June 10 - Kerrville, TX, Folk Festival, http://www.kerrville-music.com
May 25-27 - Grapeland, TX, 15th Annual Bluegrass Gospel Festival, Salmon Lake Park, 936-687-2594,www.salmomlakepark.com
May 30 - Tom Bean, TX (near Sherman, TX) - 6th Annual Chrystal Opry Melody Ranch Bluegrass Festival, 1/2 mile South of Hwy 902 on White Mound Road, 903-546-6893, www.chrystalopryhouse.com

Go to http://www.bluegrassdog.com/links.pdf to see a list of festival web sites.

Bands, send date, location and contact phone number for your gigs to: bmonroe0409@sbcglobal.net for inclusion in the calendar.

TO ALL FUDDRUCKER'S JAMMERS

If you enjoy the jams at Fuddrucker's but have not been receiving the monthly reminders, let me know. Send an email to me at: bmonroe0409@sbcglobal.net to request that your name be added to the Fuddrucker's Reminder list.

Barbara

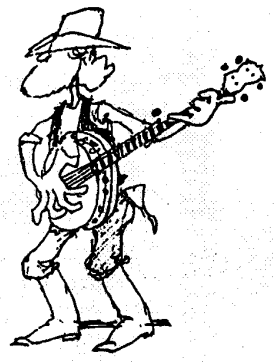
Anton "Tony" Ullrich

is celebrating 34 years of teaching Bluegrass style banjo

to folks in the greater Houston area.

Your private banjo lessons begin with an introduction to BanjerTab's unique approach to creating syncopation (that "ahead of the beat" bounce) that you hear in the recordings of the first generation greats, who had no other form of learning than creating their banjo style "as they went".

Once you are familiar with BanjerTab, choose the area of playing you want to focus on: Scrugg's style, full-chord back-up, mid-neck / high-neck picking, melodic style (fiddle tunes / back-up), or specific songs you have always wanted to play.



The expertise gained through 47 years of playing and 34 years of teaching is available to you now. Choose private lessons in Houston, by calling 281-807-6355, or come to the website for lessons by video.

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anton@banjerproductions.com

www.5stringbanjer.com

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
laneysims@windstream.net

Cypress Creek
Jimmy Pike 713-202-9441
jlpike1@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/

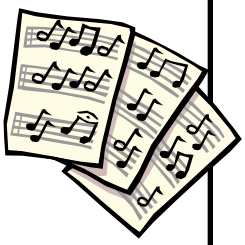
Laughing Lizards String Band
Steve Bing 832-433-7914
stevebingmusic@aol.com
www.laughinglizardsband.com

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, tonynema@earthlink.net, 281-373-1777*

Thursdays

Spring, TX - *Ron Hayden's house, 22703 Bayleaf Drive, 5:30PM, rhayden7@gmailcom, 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 Fuddruckers,* *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.brazosriverpickes.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 - *Coushatte 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, tn.blugrasjam@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**!

February

BABA Volunteers

March 2012

Coffee Table Donations: Lee Ann Fau

BABA Table Volunteers: Judy Sturgeon, Shannon Sims, Sharon Stafford, Becky Fryday

Membership Table, Barbara Monroe

Donation Jar Passers: Judy Sturgeon, Sharon Stafford

Drawing Donations: Sharon Stafford, Judy Sturgeon, Barbara Monroe

Set-Up & Clean-Up: Roger Ecklund, Mark Kishbaugh, Pat Patterson, O.K. Stafford

Sound Technicians: Roger Ecklund, Mark Kishbaugh, Pat Patterson

M.C.: Ron Hayden

BABA Bulletin: Barbara Monroe

Slow Jam: Laney Sims

Member Drawing Winner: Pat Patterson

Receipt Drawing Winner: Lia Patterson

Welcome New Members: Wilbur Huckabay

Welcome Back Renewal Members: Chris Jones

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

LET'S KEEP BABA GROWING

Gold Club Members

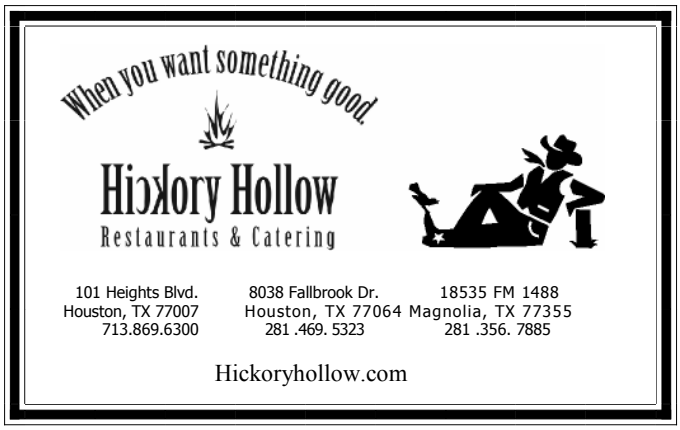
Don & Jan Clark, Mike & Pat Conwell, Ed & Ann Fitchard, J.B. & Nancy Graham, Ron & Anne Hayden, Gerry & Kim Herman, Rick & Shirley Kirkland, Darryl & Tina O'Bryant, Laney & Shannon Sims

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 & Ottie 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 Petitt, 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:
Phil & Fern Deans, Lisa Maranto



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!

Hello Bluegrass Fans,

By now you all are aware of the upcoming Hickory Hill Bluegrass cruise out of Galveston next March. If not or if you have forgotten, a flyer is attached with the details. At the bottom of the flyer is the phone number of Preston Lewis our cruise director. Preston has all of the answers and is the one to call to join out cruise group. One question I can answer is YES! We will be able to jam on the cruise so bring your instruments!

I was visiting with Preston last night and he asked me to let you all know that the prices shown on the attached flyer will probably start going up in May. As more people book cabins for this sailing and the fewer cabins are available the inevitable price increase will follow. So, now is the time to sign up!

I know that some of you already have and I thank you for that. Some of you know you can't go and we will miss you. All of you know others who may be interested and we'd appreciate it if you'd forward this info to them.

I know many of you are thinking you can't make a commitment a year in advance but maybe you can. What you need to do to lock in these prices is to simply call Preston Lewis at 713-818-1538 and put up a $25 per person deposit and tell him which type of cabin you want. That locks in the price for you and gives you several options for paying the remained of the deposit and the cruise cost.

Now here is the good news. For those who are not sure about committing this far in advance, all payments are refundable for almost a full year from now. If you decide in December you can't go you can get a refund!

There is a payment plan available if you like which Preston can set up for you which will bill your credit card each month in advance of the cruise so that all or part of your charges are paid in advance. Just tell Preston you are interested in payments and how much you'd like to pay and he'll set it up for you.

Remember, we are going to be seeing price increases soon so don't wait. Call Preston now. Then, tell your bluegrass buddies where ever they may be so you can share the fun with them!

Hope to see you all on board!

Ed Fryday

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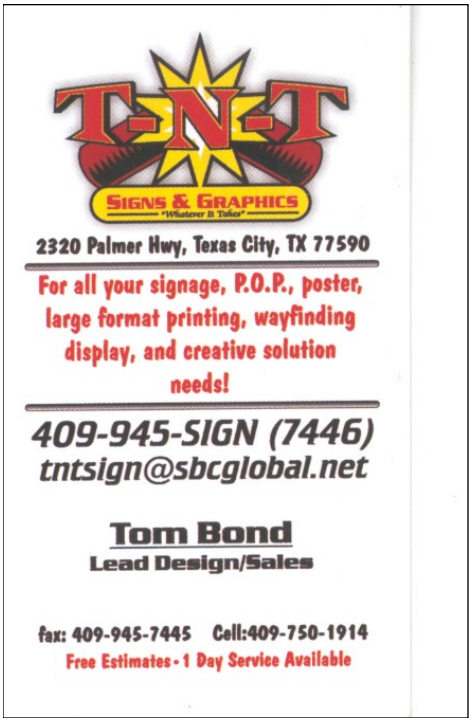
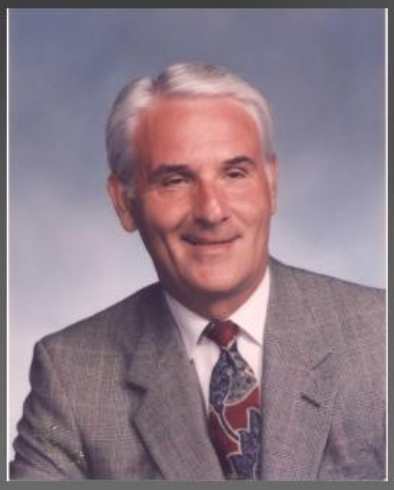


FRED L. POOL, REALTOR
RE/MAX GRAND REALTY



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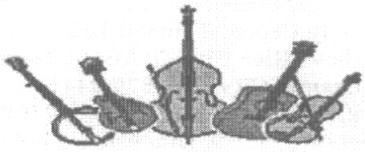

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June 17-23: Flatpicking, Bluegrass Banjo, Mandolin, Bluegrass Fiddle, Singing, Dobro ™, Bass and Kid's Kamp

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 Ní 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; **Jam Instructors Both Weeks**: Keith Yoder, Tony Anthonisen; **101 Instructor:** Cindy Gray

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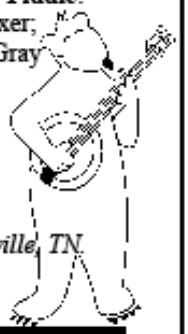

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Remembering Earl

Earl Scruggs has had countless profound influences on many of us.
How many of us have bought or made expensive banjos to capture Earl's "Pre-war Master-tone" sound?
Banjo sales because of Earl's distinctive sound has easily been a multimillion dollar business, around the world.
In the 70's, 80's and 90's countless commercials used hard driving banjo breaks to pick up sales. All thanks to Earl Scruggs.
Do you know that right, now as we speak, the popular country music group, "Rascal Flatts" has a hit song simply titled "Banjo". That song would never have been written had it not been for the popularity of Earl's playing.
Have you ever read the bio of a nationally acclaimed successful banjo player that has not listed Earl as their main influence and reason for picking up the banjo. They all give credit to Earl.
And so it is true that many of us less talented mortals have been driven to play banjo because of Earl:

As a 7 or 8 year old in West Virginia, many of my Sunday afternoons were spent at Camden Amusement park across the highway from where we lived. I guess we were too poor to afford the rides but what we did, was watch the stage show. I'm quite sure that "Flatt and Scruggs" was the only performers we went to see. To be honest, at that age I was more impressed with the antics and comedy of Josh Graves than Earl and his banjo. But you know, that music and the banjo must have stuck in my subconscious for years. We moved away from West Virginia later that year and I never heard that music again until the movie "Bonnie and Clyde". There were many old car chase scenes throughout the movie in which the sound track was Earl playing the original version of Foggy Mountain Break Down. That banjo sound in the movie somehow revived that music down inside me from so many years before. Immediately the next day I went out and bought the only Flatt and Scruggs record I could get my hands on.

Now, fast forward about six years. I had just moved to Houston, and had read that the "Earl Scruggs Revue" was coming to town. I was not sure exactly what the "Earl Scruggs Review" was, but I went anyway. The show was split with the Michael Martin Murphy band being the first act. They were pretty good and the audience seemed pretty responsive and I totally assumed Michael Murphy was the main act. But when Earl took the stage with his sons, Wow. What an incredible sound. The crowd was cheering and going crazy. It was standing ovations and encore after encore. It was unbelievable that the sophisticated city people of Houston, Texas would love Earl so much. I remember it well.

One more thing to ponder about Earl's influences. Not to take anything away from Bill Monroe, the father of Bluegrass, but just try to imagine what the popularity of Bluegrass would be like without the influences Earl's banjo playing.

Thank you Earl, your contributions and inspirations to us all have been many.

Chuck Taylor