

Correspondence: NIBGA, 5034 Wapiti Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946 (260) 918-4790 NL@nibga.com

Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two with one mailing Published: 2nd Sunday, mailed 3rd Sunday monthly

Next jam: Noon - 6 PM 1/15/12 SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46809

PRESIDENTS CORNER:

We received two letters regarding electrical issues by the ball diamond at the track. During both 2011 festivals, there were a lot of campers in that area. In the fall the weather was very hot and that contributed to a high electric draw there and throughout the fairgrounds. The question in both letters was why cannot we have better power for the price NIBGA is paying the fairgrounds?



There is not a simple answer to this problem but let me explore the issue. The fairgrounds is fed power at several entrances. Each of these entrances have a large transformer mounted on the pole with a power drop down to a main circuit board with a circuit breaker.

The fairgrounds dates back to the 1880s. Over time, electric was added. Today there are over 5 entrances for power. Each has a different capacity and the wires from those transformers are of various ages. As power was added, there was not a need for service for campers. The electric was used to power the various barns.

In 1990, NIBGA held its first festival at the fairgrounds and overnight camping was encouraged. At that time, there were only two areas that had good power; just north of the gate and on the east side of the track. As the festival grew, NIBGA and the fairgrounds jointly funded new power along US 6 and later around the motel to the east. Additional drops were made along Fair street and at the track

although these were only 15 amp circuits with multiple drops designed just to provide lights for campers.

As the number of campers grew, the system became very overloaded. The overhead wire from the gate north and east along US 6 was aluminum wire with a number of junctions. Whenever it rained the junctions would often fail with exciting results. One year the load was so heavy that it destroyed a transformer because of overheating resulting in a lot of campers not having power.

This year that line, 1,500 feet long, was replaced with a larger gauge copper wire but the transformer and the circuit boxes were not. During the hot weather at the fair and our Labor Day event, the circuit boxes tripped several times. The lids to the boxes were opened and one of them had a fan blowing to cool it.

Upgrading the electric service at the fair grounds is not just adding a few more 30 amp outlets but involves sizing the input service power, the transformers, the power lines and the outlets. This costs a great deal of money that neither the fairgrounds nor NIBGA have to spend at this time.

To repeat what we said in two earlier newsletters, "Before you park your rig, make sure you are going to be satisfied with the power available."

If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll be finding an indoor concert. Support your bands this winter by attending their events!

Jim Winger - President

REQUEST FOR SUGGESTIONS:

The 2011 festivals are now behind us, and we've commenced planning for 2012. As we consider talent for 2012, I am not only reminded about the importance of staying within the expenditure budgets set by the board, but also mindful of the goal to find a band mix which appeals to all the membership (as well as other potential attendees).



The budgets are based on a realistic expectation of festival proceeds, and

they can't really be changed or exceeded if we are going to continue being good stewards of the club's assets.

The optimal mix of entertainment styles, on the other hand, is a bit harder to define. As our attendance has grown and changed over the last few years, it has also become a bit more diverse. In addition, the board recognizes that, to ensure the clubs existence in the future, we need to devote at least part of the concert to groups which will appeal to, and attract, a younger audience. These realities serve to underscore one of the board's primary concerns, which is to preserve a strong presence of traditional groups within the Tri-State lineup.

One lesson we have learned is that we need to devote the necessary resources to fielding a diverse lineup, while working within our

prescribed budget. We also need to consider the possibility of continuing an expanded workshop program.

This all leads to my request. Please let me, or one of the other board members or chairpersons, know if you have any input regarding potential bands for future festivals or ideas for special event offerings. We receive many requests, but we want to be sure that everyone's voice is heard so please keep them coming. Keep in mind we may not be able to act upon your suggestions immediately. The board wants to maintain a picking festival which dictates a low Tri-State ticket price. This somewhat limits our budget.

It may not be prudent to stay within our established budgets by focusing on one higher priced band while accepting a lower standard for the remaining lineup. It has been our approach, and I think time has proven it successful, to ensure a high level of entertainment value for the entire lineup, from the first show each day through the last.

I received a lot of input regarding band selection from the 2011 festivals, and most of it was very complimentary. Some, though, was more critical -- if you have suggestions, please know that we do, indeed, want to hear the critical comments as well as the compliments. That type of input is extremely valuable and considered strongly since we want to improve as necessary to keep our club and festival active and viable for many years to come. Please don't hold back suggestions for fear of offending me (or anyone else).

Each person has their own idea of what exactly is included in the genre of "bluegrass." This topic has been debated many, many times on the IBMA message board but all seem to agree without hesitation that it includes (and is based upon) the classic Monroe, Stanley, and Flatt and Scruggs sounds. That will continue to be the basis of the festival, but we receive and give consideration to many suggestions which are varying distances from that classic style.

Our objective is to make everyone happy, an impossible task, yet keep the festival serving all the area bluegrass pickers, listeners and enthusiasts. So, while you can be assured that your suggestions are heard, and we will do our best to hire your favorites, we also have to give the same consideration to others which means there may be a band or two in the lineup that doesn't exactly sync up to your ideal bluegrass sound. As someone once told us, "if there are one or two bands that are not their style, it is a good time to take a short walk."

So, in summary, please voice your opinions and suggestions so NIBGA can continue serving the bluegrass community in the best way possible.

Joe Steiner - VP bands@nibga.com

NEXT WINTER JAM:

The next NIBGA jam and meeting will be Jan. 15, 2012. There is no Dec. meeting nor is there a newsletter mailed in Dec. Meetings are from noon until 6p at the Southwest Conservation Club in Fort Wayne, IN. Come early, enjoy breakfast for a very reasonable cost.

LETTERS & E-MAILS:

Can anyone help me find a bluegrass duo or trio to play our outdoor summer 2012 wedding in Auburn? Amateurs welcome. Please reply to christinewest3@gmail.com Thank you

#####

Joe Creech has been diagnosed with stage four cancer. He has a substantially large tumor in his stomach. There is a spot on the lungs, liver and in the pelvic area.

With traditional radiation and chemo the best the doctors could offer was maybe 9 months and without treatment 3 to 5 months.

He has looked into alternative cancer



treatments. As of today he was excepted at the Burzynski Clinic in Houston Texas. He starts his treatment on November 21, 2011.

The cost of the treatments are approximately \$30,000.00. Joe tells us he has 1/2 that amount, which is enough to get him started with the treatments.

The treatments are very expensive and not covered by insurance. Any and all donations to his cause would be greatly appreciated by Joe. You can send your check to Hester VanDacarr, 27737 Newcastle, Romulus, MI 48174, phone 313-292-9383.

Hester is Kathrine's sister. She and Joe have a joint account together. So it is safe.

Vicky Morse

#####

Hi Jim:

It was a pleasure chatting with you a few minutes ago. My name is Dan Mazer. Using the stage name "BanjerDan," I'm a banjo player/multi-instrumentalist based in Washington, DC. My music is an Americana mix, rooted in straight-ahead bluegrass and branching out to include folk, country, blues, oldies, and other styles. I've performed all over the U.S. and internationally, as a solo artist, as a member of bands, and in theatrical productions and orchestras. I've received some notoriety of late as a member of *J.B. Beverley & The Wayward Drifters*.

I'm planning a tour which will take me to Ft. Wayne on Tuesday, January 10, 2012., and hope you'll be able to find a venue for my solo acoustic, mostly-banjo show. I could also do a banjo workshop or a children's program.

Please visit my websites to learn about my background and to hear and see what I do:

<http://www.youtube.com/banjerdan>

<http://www.facebook.com/banjerdan>

BanjerDan (Dan Mazer)

#####

On Nov. 7, 2011, I checked out a very reasonably priced Kay bass for sale in Wixom, MI (NW suburbs/Detroit metro area). There's always a bluegrass'er somewhere looking for a Kay, so I'm spreading the word.

The firm \$1200 price includes 1966 Concert Model Kay bass, electric pickup, a decent German bow, and a well-worn but serviceable gig bag. It plays and sounds good with a new sound post. The bridge is straight. Structurally solid with no observed seam separation or delamination issues.

Even the presumed original neck appears never to have been cracked or broken. This Kay does come complete with finish blemishes, scratches, abrasions and edge wear consistent with a very active-duty history. It still maintains a presentable original finish. E-mail me for three pictures I have.

I'm neither the seller nor his agent. Friends are welcome to contact me regarding my take on the bass, but the purchase must be transacted directly with seller, Jim: jagrant248@gmail.com

Larry O'Brien - larryobass@comcast.net

THE GREAT DEBATE: VIOLIN OR FIDDLE?

By Diane Haggart Northern Ill. Assoc.

What is the difference between a "violin" and a "fiddle"? There are many jokes on the subject (example: "the difference between a violinist and a fiddler is \$100 a night and a tuxedo"). All joking aside, the truth is that in general, a violin is a fiddle and a fiddle is a violin. Both instrument names are believed to originate from "Vitula," the Latin name for the Roman goddess of joy.

Some fiddlers make a few modifications to their instruments (e.g. flattening the bridge and using steel strings). However, the main differences come from the style and method of music played, not the instrument itself.

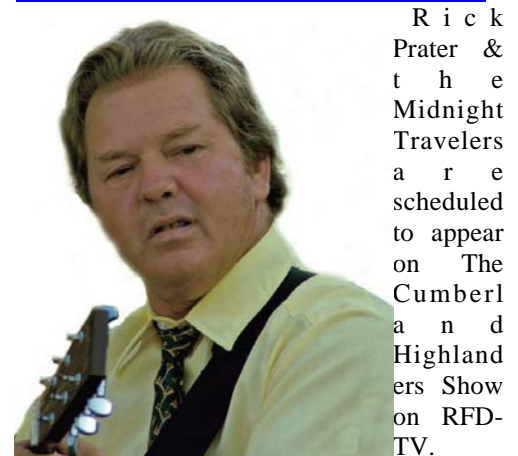
Violinists are associated with classical music, and fiddlers tend to play various types of folk music. As far as playing style, violinists use a lot of vibrato (the finger-rocking effect which emphasizes longer notes) and shy away from sliding up to a note or using the kind of double-stops (playing two strings at once) which are so often used in bluegrass.

While violinists are taught to hold the instrument and bow a certain way, fiddlers are free to hold their instrument however is most comfortable for them. In addition, violinists tend to have formal musical training, while this is optional for fiddlers. Many fiddlers learn "by ear," and are at liberty to improvise solos and fills in a song.

So there you have it, folks. There's no hard and fast rule that makes a violin a fiddle, or vice-versa. The "fiddle" I play now is the same instrument that I have played as a "violin" for many years. One of my favorite quotes summarizes my thoughts on the subject:

"The violin sings, the fiddle dances."

R. PRATER ON RFD-TV:



R i c k
Prater &
t h e
Midnight
Travelers
a r e
scheduled
to appear
on The
Cumberl
a n d
Highland
ers Show
on RFD-
TV.

RFD-TV is available on DISH Network at channel 231 and on DirectTV at channel 345. RFD-TV can also be found on many cable systems throughout the US.

The show is scheduled to air at:

- DEC 12 2:30 PM
- DEC 13 12:30 AM
- DEC 17 9:30 PM

OVER JORDON:

Eldon "Whitey" Leitch 69, died in August. Whitey enjoyed bluegrass music and playing his guitar and bass. He attended and participated in the Bluegrass



Festival in Kendallville.

Preferred memorials were to NIBGA. NIBGA is grateful for the monies received and will reserve it for the Kids Korner.

12/17 Diamond Hill Station, Little Grantville Bluegrass Jamboree, Bedford IN

2012

01/06-07 Special Consensus, 8PM - \$15, Front Porch Music, 505 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383 8 PM 219-464-4700

01/12 Dry Branch Fire Squad,, Rooster's Music Hall, 129 South Broadway, Butler, IN 46721 \$10 advance \$12 door; 419-258-0109

01/13 Sam Bush Band; The Palladium, 355 City Center Drive, Carmel, IN

01/13 Dry Branch Fire Squad, \$20, 7p LVD's at the Old Bag Factory, 1100 Chicago Ave., Goshen, IN 46528

02/25 Diamond Hill Station, Hedgehog Music Showcase, 101 West Main St., Arcadia IN 46030 317-984-3560 8p

BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN MICHIGAN

12/02 Kati Penn & Newtown \$8; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

12/02 April Verch, \$15, 8p, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800

12/03 Bill Bynum & Co.; Zellie's Opry House, P. O. Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 zelliesopryhouse@gmail.com 616-260-3032 \$5

12/09 North & South Connection \$8; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

12/16 Eddie Adkins & the Southerners \$7; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

12/16 Don Loomis & Bluegrass Revival Gospel; Zellie's Opry House, P. O. Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 zelliesopryhouse@gmail.com 616-260-3032 \$5

12/17 7:15pm: Luke Lenhart Family, 8:15pm: Steam Powered Grass WMBMA Membership Mtg & Hotbands Fundraiser, Zellie's Opry House, P. O. Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 zelliesopryhouse@gmail.com 616-260-3032 \$5

12/31 New Years Eve Party with Waco Band, \$35 includes Buffet & Beer; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

2012

01/05 Bobby Hutch & Grand Ole Country \$7 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

01/13 Remington Ryde \$8 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

01/20 Company of Strangers \$8 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

01/22 Lonesome County & Goldmine Pickers, 7:30p \$15, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800

01/27 Rock Island Plow Company \$8 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

02/10 Newfound Road, 8p, \$15, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800

BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN OHIO

11/25 Echo Valley, VFW 111 N. Shannon St. Van Wert, OH 7-10pm \$5 call VFW - 419-238-9600; Echo Valley - 260-693-9449

11/26 Opry with Appalachian Grass; \$10 7-10:30p, Famous Old Time Music Company, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 419-568-1220 \$10

12/01 Bluegrass Café' \$5 7-9p Famous Old Time Music Company, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 419-568-1220 \$5

12/02 Little Roy Lewis and Lizzy Long; Licking Valley Elementary School, 1510 Licking Valley Road, Hanover, OH show 7:30pm doors 6p 740 763 3680.

12/02 The Gibson Brothers and Southbound Express Pennyroyal Opera House Exit 198 off I-70, Fairview, OH doors 5 pm show 7 pm 740-695-6291

12/03 Kati Penn & NewTown; Bluegrass Opry Barn 9461 State Route 66, Oakwood, OH 7p 419-594-2816

12/08 Bluegrass Café' \$5 7-9p Famous Old Time Music Company, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 419-568-1220 \$5

12/09 The Grascals, The Tharp Brothers Pennyroyal Opera House Exit 198 off I-70, Fairview, OH doors 5 pm show 7 pm 740-695-6291

12/10 Missy Werner, Frosty Morning \$10, Buckeye Valley Bluegrass Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, OH 43025 5p

12/10 Appalachian Grass, Lonesome Meadow Famous Old Time Music Company, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 419-568-1220 4p \$10

12/11 Skaggs Family Christmas with Ricky Skaggs and his family, Niswonger Performing Arts Center of Northwest Ohio, 10700 State Route 118 South, Van Wert, OH 45891 419-238-6722 Tickets: \$30, \$35, \$40, \$45 & \$50

INTERNET FEATURES:

NIBGA chat room: tinyurl.com/yh3ew5t

NIBGA Facebook:

<http://tinyurl.com/3ce7v8w>

NIBGA Blog: nibga.blogspot.com

NIBGA web page: BluegrassUSA.net has links to the above and includes all the events in the newsletter plus additions between newsletters.

BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN INDIANA

11/26 Diamond Hill Station; NCBAMA, Moench Hall, Rose Hulman Inst. of Tech., 3m E. Terre Haute, IN on US 40, 7-11p, Michael White, President, 812-236-7184 free

12/03 Bobby Davis, Kenny Stone & their Circle of Friends Christmas Concert, 7-9p Wheatfield Municipal Building, 170 S. Grace St., Wheatfield, IN 46392 \$10 advance, \$12 door, 219-869-8864

12/04 Diamond Hill Station, Hedgehog Music Showcase, 101 West Main St., Arcadia IN 46030 317-984-3560 2p

12/09 Special Consensus, Fiddler's Hearth is South Bend's local public house -- a gathering place for Celtic artists and the public at large, regular weekly jams, acoustic and Irish. 127 North Main Street, South Bend, IN 46601 574-232-2853

12/10 Skaggs Family Christmas with Ricky Skaggs and his family, 7:30p Honeywell Center in the Ford Theater, 275 W. Market Street, Wabash, IN 46992 tickets: \$25, \$35, \$45, \$75 260-563-1102

12/12, 13, 17 Rick Prater & the Midnight Travelers are scheduled to appear on The Cumberland Highlanders Show on RFD-TV. RFD-TV is available on DISH Network at channel 231 and on DirectTV at channel 345. RFD-TV can also be found on many cable systems throughout the US.

The show is scheduled to air at:

- DEC 12 2:30 PM
- DEC 13 12:30 AM
- DEC 17 9:30 PM

12/15 Bluegrass Café' \$5 7-9p Famous Old Time Music Company, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 419-568-1220 \$5

12/16 Rarely Herd, Timberline; Pennyroyal Opera House Exit 198 off I-70, Fairview, **OH** doors 5 pm show 7 pm 740-695-6291

12/17 Caney Creek, The Kentucky String Quintet \$10, Buckeye Valley Bluegrass Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, **OH** 43025 5p

12/17 Opry with Appalachian Grass; \$10 7-10:30p, Famous Old Time Music Company, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 419-568-1220

Quarters, 10630 Fremont Pike, Perrysburg, **OH** advance tickets before 12/15

01/14 Ernie Evans & The Florida State Bluegrass Band; Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 State Route 66, Oakwood, **OH** 7p 419-594-2816

01/14 Dailey & Vincent; Renaissance Theater 138 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, **OH** Doors open at 7. Music starts at 8pm. 419-522-2726

01/14-15 Dry Branch Fire Squad, Rick and Hillary Wagner; Canal Street Tavern, 308 First Street, Dayton, **OH** Saturday show begins at 9 p.m., doors open at 8 p.m. Sunday show begins at 8 p.m., doors open at 7p

ville, **OH**. Meetings are held in the cafeteria. Jam gets underway at 5. Bands 6p

02/11 New Outlook, Tommy Hall & The Sunlighters; ABH Bluegrass Hideaway 850 Fitchville River Road, New London, **OH** (SR13 and 25-30 mi north of Mansfield). Doors open at 5. Music at 6p 440-225-5863

02/18 Black Diamond Bluegrass Band, Open Highway; Maranatha Community Fellowship Center, 6240 Lucas Pike, Plain City, **OH** - from Columbus, 12 miles west I-70 to US RT 42 North, 4 miles on right corner of 42 and Lucas Pike 5p. Info: Dallas Meyers, 937-707-5574

12/17 Kentucky Border; Bluegrass Opry Barn 9461 State Route 66, Oakwood, **OH** 7p 419-594-2816

12/22 Bluegrass Café' \$5 7-9p Famous Old Time Music Company, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 419-568-1220 \$5

12/31 Dixie Ryders, Evan Lanier; Phillipsburg Community Center, 10868 Brookville-Phillipsburg Rd. 6p-1a \$20 couple, \$15 single; food & champagne included 937-771-0857

2012

01/12-13 Little Roy & Lizzy, Rhonda Vincent, Bluegrass Brothers, Dean Osborne, David Parmley, Bluegrass Mountaineers, Remington Ryde, Ernie Evans, more; Bluegrass in Super Class, Holiday Inn French

01/21 Black Diamond Bluegrass Band, New Outlook; Maranatha Community Fellowship Center, 6240 Lucas Pike, Plain City, **OH** - from Columbus, 12 miles west I-70 to US RT 42 North, 4 miles on right corner of 42 and Lucas Pike 5pm. Dallas Meyers, 937-707-5574

01/21 Beyond Calvary, The Blanton Family, The Whitaker Brothers; ABH Bluegrass Hideaway 850 Fitchville River Road, New London, **OH** (SR13 and 25-30 mi north of Mansfield). Doors open at 5. Music at 6pm. 440-225-5863

02/04 New Grass Station, Almost Famous; Central Ohio Bluegrass Associations monthly meeting at Westerville Genoa Middle School 5948 S. Old 3-C Highway, Wester-

BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN ILLINOIS

12/09-10 Frankfort, **IL** 7:30 PM The Hillbenders Down Home Guitars, 11 South White Street. 815-469-6321

12/10 Larry Stephenson; American Legion, 1030 Central St., Evanston, **IL** 60202 \$20 (cash only) at the door, \$15 seniors/children

12/10 NIBA Holiday Party & Chili Cook Off. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Sugar Grove Community Center, 141 Main St., Sugar Grove, **IL** Dinner from 5:00 PM—6:00 PM, Chili cook-off judged at 4:30 PM free to NIBA members \$15 other

Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association
5034 Wapiti Court
Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946

Address Service Requested



Next winter jam
Jan. 15, 2012