

Correspondence: NIBGA, 5034 Wapiti Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946 (260) 918-4790 NL@nibga.com
Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing Published 2nd Sunday, Mailed 3rd Sunday monthly
Next Jam: Noon-6 PM Jan. 17, 2016 SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner



While storing the trailer at the Merchants Building in Kendallville, we chatted with John Moorehouse, the Fair

board president. We agreed to sit down Nov. 15 and discuss terms for the next 5 years. We received a call awhile back from Rob Weaver of the Jay County fairgrounds offering us 1 year free rent and advertising money to move the festival to Portland, IN. It sounds like we are wanted!

I attended the Indiana Arts Council review of the club grant application October 29 in Indianapolis. The public was not allowed to participate. There were 23 grants reviewed that day in about 2.5 hours. There were six reviewers who had received the grants some time ago and this meeting was a quick summary of their key thoughts. Ours was number 21 and lasted 5 minutes or so.

The NIBGA grant was considered a "strong" proposal serving a niche market. The Thursday evening free show for the community was well regarded. They

raised a concern about the Sunday devotional. Were folks required to attend? Why doesn't the festival have corporate sponsors? The \$20 fee to attend on Saturday is a high hurdle for poor families. Again, I was not allowed to comment.

There are about 60 grant requests from museums, orchestras, community programs and arts associations. Those that receive a score of 75 or higher will be dividing the \$160,000 total grant money available from the state of Indiana. It is expected that results will be known in the December timeframe.

The holidays are upcoming. We hope you have family events planned. There are still a few upcoming concerts but as deep winter hits us there are few until late winter. Try to support those that are available.

This is the last newsletter this year. There is no December newsletter.

Happy holidays, if the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise.

Jim Winger
President

Dear Dr. Earl

Dear Dr. Earl,

Festival season is over, and I am bored. I was just getting stoked and feeling like I was getting the hang of playing bluegrass songs on the guitar, and now I'm in for months of winter. I want to keep making progress, what can I do? Bored in Ohio

Dear Bored,

I think the good Lord gave us the seasons of the year for good reason. Now that things are starting to click for you, maybe it is time to go back to the "woodshedding" phase and pick up some new techniques and ideas that you can use next year.

Some time with a private instructor may be in order. Or, there are lots of great instructional materials available, from terrific instructors like Steve Kaufman, Dan Miller, and Brad Davis. A lot of these are available on loan from libraries in many locations, check them out and learn.

I've found that the most important thing in the learning process is being willing to practice – we can all find ways to make our practice time more efficient, but even more important than planning your practice time is to committing to practice. That's easier to do in the winter.

Find something from a reputable instructor and spend some time with it, even if you are not sure where it is going to fit into your playing down the road. Try experimenting with variations on tunes you already know.

OK, I know what you're saying – "I can't do that all winter," and "what if I get started down the wrong path and learn something that isn't going to work."

Well, we are not exactly devoid of bluegrass events over the winter – there are jam sessions, indoor concerts, and even indoor festivals and workshops. You can find out about them by reading your NIBGA newsletter, or doing a search on

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It's that time of year again. When deciding on where to make donations, don't forget about your favorite 501(c)(3) organization, NIBGA! Check with your employer, too, because some businesses will match any charitable donations made to 501(c)(3) organizations. It is a win-win for everyone. You get a tax deduction and NIBGA gets needed funds to cover costs for things such as grants, educational workshops, and community concerts.



EVELYN GILLESPIE

Evelyn Gillespie died at London Health Sciences Centre on Friday, October 23, 2015. Evelyn was the devoted wife and best friend of long-time NIBGA member, Stephen Gillespie. Evelyn graduated from London Teacher's College in 1957, and taught school in Leamington, Riverside, Dorchester and London schools from 1954 to 1972. She and Stephen would park on the south side of the fairgrounds.

Correspondence

Thanks to Ben Crofoot and Rusty Beyer for helping Gary and me conduct the "Intermediate Jam" workshop. They are a critical part of this workshop's success. Thanks, guys! This was the first time we had to actually stop the workshop a couple times because of the WEATHER. The torrential rains that hit thundered on the roof; it was a good time for "individual practicing". Looking forward to seeing the pickers' growth in May. Maggie Bilby



BLUEGRASS JAM CAMPS

Taught by Maggie Bilby using the Wernick Method

2016 Camp Dates/Locations:

Jackson, MI – May 6, 7, & 8, 2016

Jackson, MI – Sept. 30/Oct. 1 & 2, 2016

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Jackson, MI

Check out DrBanjo.com for more info

Dr. Earl, continued



the internet. Of course, if you find out about an event online, you will want to check it out with a phone call or two to make sure the information is current and correct before driving long distances or making complicated arrangements.

Talk to your friends. Or find a jam session or two to attend and make new friends who can clue you in to bluegrass happenings that fit with your level and type of interest. If you are looking for a good place to start, how about the monthly NIBGA jam at the Conservation Club in Fort Wayne (more information in this newsletter and on the NIBGA web site)? The people there are all friendly, the food is good, and the folks love to help each other learn.

If you use the winter months to expand your repertory and fill up your "toolbox", you will be ready to roll when Spring festival season starts.



Dear Dr. Earl,

My husband has B.A.D. bad. This "banjo acquisition disorder" makes me pretty sad and M.A.D. "monstrously annoyed, dang-nab-it" He spends all of his spare time researching, buying, talking about, and playing banjos.

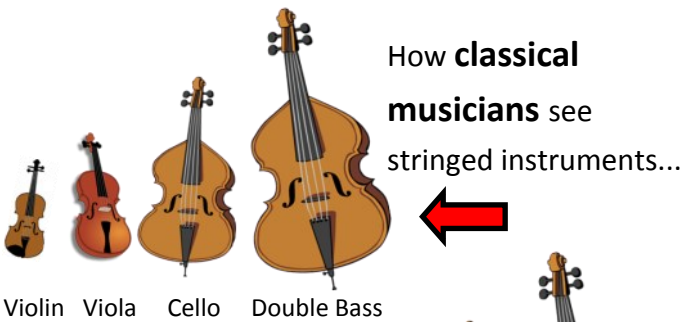
We started out with one banjo in a corner of the den -- we now have a banjo corner in the library, a banjo corner in the hallway, a banjo corner in the guest room, and a banjo corner in the dining room. I put my foot down when the magazine rack in the corner of the guest bathroom became an instrument stand. I think he keeps them scattered among the rooms so I won't know how many there really are. If I saw them all together he knows I would faint.

He promised he wouldn't bring any more home, but every once in a while I see a strange case sitting around. And he claims he just moved it from another room.

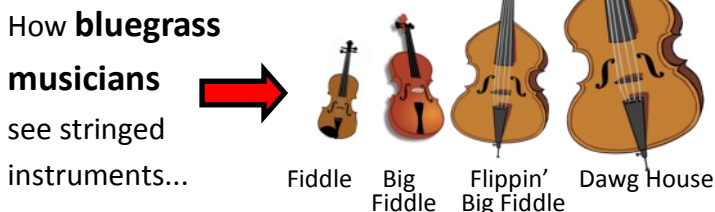
Most people buy a car based on the comfort, style, or horsepower. He bought his car based on how many banjos you can store in the trunk. By the way, hard cases stack better than gig bags (darn it). I don't mind so much that he can't remember our anniversary, but I am getting tired of celebrating the day Joe Sweeney added the fifth string to the banjo.

Thank goodness we named the kids Stella, Harmony, Vega, and Gibson or he probably wouldn't remember their names.

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How classical musicians see stringed instruments...



How bluegrass musicians see stringed instruments...

Upcoming Events

Illinois

- 11/21** David Davis; Chicago Bluegrass, American Legion, 1030 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201 8p
- 12/05** Dr. Ralph Stanley; Old Town School of Folk Music. 4544 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL 60625 773-728-6000 8p \$40
- 12/05** Gibson Brothers; Chicago Bluegrass, American Legion, 1030 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201 8p
- 12/12** Detour; Chicago Bluegrass, American Legion, 1030 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201 8p

Indiana

- 1st Thurs.** Wakarusa Jamboree, Northwood Middle School, 301 N. Elkhart St., Wakarusa, IN 46573 6:30-9p (Sept. - May)
- 1st & 3rd Fri.** Bluegrass jam, Bacon's Rhythm & Brews, 7954 S Wayne St., Hamilton, IN 46742 7pm 260-488-4001
- 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Tues.** Jam 6:30-8:30 Old Jail Museum jam, 121 N Indiana St., Warsaw, IN 46580 Come to back door. 260-403-5067
- 2nd Wed.** Jam, CrossRoads Inn, 5975 S SR 9, Columbia City, IN 46725 260-396-2144 6:30-8:30p
- 3rd Fri.** Bluegrass, Country, Gospel Jam 7-9pm SR 14, Community Center, North Akron, IN 46910
- 3rd Sat.** Eagle Quest Church Acoustic Open Mic Jam, 1120 N SR 109, Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5955 6p Bluegrass Gospel Folk Old Country, One mic for vocals, no amps except bass. Out of respect for Eagle Quest please no cheating or drinking songs Raymond Desrosiers, rjd@locateus.com
- 3rd Sun** jam; Sheridan Public Library 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan, IN 46069 1-5p
- 11/21** Sunny Side Up Bluegrass (Colby Maddox, Mike Church, Aaron Smith, Pete Smith); Front Porch Music, 505 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383 219-464-4700 8p \$15
- 11/28** Shotgun Holler; Roberts Park, Connersville, IN 47331 7p
- 12/04** Wildwood Valley Boys; Roberts Park, Connersville, IN 47331 7p

- 12/31** Dailey & Vincent ; Blue Gate Theatre, 175 N Van Buren St, Shipshewana, IN 46565 888-447-4725 2p & 9p
- 01/01/2016** Kevin Prater Band; Roberts Park, Connersville, IN 47331 7P

Michigan

- Every Tues.** Jam/dance, Scotts Community Center, 8450 36th St S, Scotts, MI 49088 6-9p 269-388-3839 free
- Every Tues.** jam; Senior Center, Main St., E. Jordan, MI 49727 6-10p 231-434-9153
- 2nd Tues.** slow jam, Public Library, 6260 92nd St., Caledonia, MI 49316 616-891-8825
- 12/08, 01/12/16 or 2nd Tues** Jam ; 3rd Floor Van Deusen Room, Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo, MI 7-8:30pm
- 3rd Thur** jam; Elderly, 1100 N Washington, Lansing, MI 48906 517-372-7880 7-8:30p
- 3rd Fri** Jam/Dance, Ostemo Grange Hall, 3234 North 3rd Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009 6:30-9p 269-388-3839 free
- 3rd Sun** Dec 20, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15 Mid-Michigan jams, Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, MI 48917 517-482-2382 \$4 donation
- Last Mon.** Slow jam, Public Library, 3943 W. River Dr., Comstock Park, MI 49321 616-272-8815
- Last Tues.** thru 03/29 Boatyard Brewing, 432 E. Paterson, Kalamazoo, MI 269-226-0300 7-9p
- 11/20** Harbourtown; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$10
- 11/21** Old Fashion Opry Show; Zellie's Opry House, 111 Lincoln St, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 matinee doors 1p \$12
- 11/21** Dick Dieterle Corn Crib Fundraiser feat. The RFD Boys & Friends; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800 8p
- 11/22** The Steel Wheels, St. Cecilia Music Center, 24 Ransom Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 \$20/25 7:30p
- 12/04** Waynewood Boys;; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd.,

- Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 12/04** Billy Strings & Don Julin; Seven Stipes Up, 116 S Jackson St, Spring Lake, MI 49456 616-678-3618
- 12/05** Michigan Mafia String Band; Zellie's Opry House, 111 Lincoln St, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 doors 6p \$10
- 12/18** Grass Kickers Band; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 12/18** Billy Strings & Don Julin; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2108 734-761-1800 \$20
- 12/26** Billy Strings & Don Julin; Freshwater Concerts, 217 S Lake St, Boyne City, MI 49712 231-582-2588
- 12/27** Holiday Jam; Zellie's Opry House, 111 Lincoln St, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 1-7p
- 12/30 & 31** Greensky Bluegrass w/ Nicki Bluhm & The Gramblers; Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W 4th St, Royal Oak, MI 48067 8:00 pm, \$25 advance (2-night tickets \$50) 248-399-2980
- 01/09/2016** Gospel Sing; Zellie's Opry House, 111 Lincoln St, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 2p
- 01/15/2016** Dragon Wagon; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2108 734-761-1800 8:00 pm \$15
- 01/23/2016** Mountain Heart; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2108 734-761-1800 \$35

Ohio

- 1st Sat** - Traditional, bluegrass, country music with acoustic instruments - Three rooms of jammin' for your musical pleasure. Nettle Lake United Brethren Church, 18560 County Road 5-75, Montpelier, OH 43543 6p 517-270-2870 or 419-485-4112 (11/07 & 12/05)
- 11/21** Tommy Webb; Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 ST RT 66, Oakwood, OH 45873 7PM 419-594-2816
- 11/28** Klein Family, Hambden Grange Bluegrass Jamboree, 9778 Old State Road, Chardon, OH 44024 7p 330-240-1904
- 11/28** The Wayfarers; Village Inn, 115 N. Water St., Coshocton, OH 7p jam 9:30p 740-498-8456

12/12 Ottawa County Bluegrass; Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 ST RT 66, Oakwood, **OH** 45873
7PM 419-594-2816

12/26 Cedar Hill, Christmas party; Village Inn, 115 N. Water St., Coshocton, **OH**
7p jam 9:30p 740-498-8456

Other States

12/11 Detour; Stoughton Opera House, 381 E Main St., Stoughton, **WI**
53589 7:30-10p



Dr Earl, (finished, finally, I promise!)

And I swear, how can a man that remembers the chord progression of every tune played by Doc Watson not remember to fill the ice cube trays when he empties them? And I'll bet you we have the only refrigerator in the world that plays Dueling Banjos when you open the freezer.

Signed, Mrs. Earl

Dear (ahem) Mrs. Earl,

Not funny! When did you figure out the password on my computer? By the way, IS there a problem here? I didn't see it!

BanjoConfucius
says:



Things that make you go "hmmmm"

Somebody just gave me a shower radio. Thanks a lot. Do you really want music in the shower? I guess there's no better place to dance than a slick surface next to a glass door.
~Jerry Seinfeld

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Address Service Requested



Vol 40, Issue 08 Dec/Jan 2016

Next NIBGA Jam - Jan 17, 2016