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Next Jam: Noon-6 PM Date TBD SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner



We caught two music venues since the last newsletter. One was a house party with Frank Lee and Allie Bur-

brink performing. You might remember them from the Labor Day event.

The second was at a local pub featuring the old time music of the Matchsellers, a pair that are travelling nationally. If you check our web site or our Facebook page you'll see a short video of them playing.

There are a number of shows listed in this newsletter. Generally, the newsletter lists gigs for the next 6 weeks. The NIBGA web page has a longer view of upcoming gigs. Also, on the web page, there are easy-to-complete forms so you can submit events that you are aware of that are not listed.

Shopping for holiday gifts? If you shop on Amazon, consider using Amazon Smile with Northern Indiana Bluegrass selected as your non-profit selection. Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our club.

A heartfelt thanks goes to those members who made donations to the club this year. Some of you donated your time while others preferred to donate in other ways. Your support helps keep the festival going. It is greatly appreciated.

The major year-end holidays are just around the corner. The music scene slows down until next year as many families celebrate the holidays. This newsletter covers both December and January as there is no newsletter mailed next month. The next newsletter will be mailed around January 16, 2017.

The home of our winter meetings, the Southwest Conservation club, is progressing with the rebuilding. At this time we cannot say if it will be ready for our January 15 meeting and jam. Check the NIBGA web site or Facebook pages for the latest word on the January meeting.

If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll be back next year!

Jim Winger

VP Musings

In last month's newsletter, I mentioned several recipients of the IBMA's 2016 International Bluegrass Music Awards. In conjunction with the International Bluegrass Music Awards, the IBMA also has a Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame ceremony, during which industry greats are recognized by induction. One of this year's inductees was Clarence White, a pioneer of bluegrass guitar.

Clarence performed with his brother Roland in the Kentucky Colonels during the early 1960s. Although extremely popular by bluegrass standards, the Kentucky Colonels were having difficulty making a living in the mid-1960s, and the group met its demise when Bill Monroe offered Clarence a job with his Bluegrass Boys. Although Clarence declined, he recommended his brother Roland who accepted the offer of steadier employment.

From that point, Clarence went on to national mainstream stardom as his music gained recognition beyond the bluegrass world. Although he helped record a Flying Burrito Brothers demo, he did not wind up a permanent member of that group. Instead, he joined Roger McGuinn and the Byrds following the unexpected departure of Gram Parsons.

In the early 1970s, Clarence returned to bluegrass as a member of the trendsetting group, Muleskinner, and also with brothers Roland and Eric as The White Brothers (with Alan Munde on banjo). In July 1973, Clarence's music was silenced forever when he was hit by a drunk driver while packing up after a gig in California. One can't help but wonder what notes were left unplayed in Clarence's guitar.

As I reflect on Clarence's career and untimely death, I am struck by the timelessness of his music. During his lifetime, his playing was truly "cutting edge," and today, over 40 years after his death, it still is. His recordings still serve as inspiration to many young artists.

Reminder: The November 20 jam is canceled.

Your board will be meeting at 2p at the Richards Restaurant, 252 Frontage Rd, Columbia City, IN 46725. They have set aside a small area for us. You are welcome to attend the meeting or contact us to have items discussed at these meetings.



VP Musings - continued

I also can't help but think how Clarence's music would be viewed by the bluegrass music world if he were still around today. In his day, he was considered too far out of the bluegrass mainstream by many, but I don't think that would be the case today.

Today, artists are still spreading their wings and finding outlets for their creativity, just as Clarence did, and just as a young Bill Monroe did back in the 1940s and 1950s. But 40 years of music have changed the landscape, such that innovations like those of Bill Monroe and Clarence White don't seem as radical.

I don't think innovation is really perceived as a stretching of the boundaries today, so much as audiences have accepted a blurring of the boundaries. As we consider groups like the Freight Hoppers and The Hog Slop String Band on one end of the spectrum, and The Hillbenders and Mumford and Sons on the other, we have not only mainstream bluegrass like Danny Paisley in between, but many others, like The Matchsellers, all using their own brand of creativity to forge their craft.

As the NIBGA board considers our 2017 festivals, one thing that will be discussed is the lineup. Options for the overall balance of the lineup have never been as plentiful, which is both exciting and challenging. There is a true renaissance of artistic offerings available, all firmly founded in the music that we know as bluegrass. As always, any comments are welcomed and appreciated!

OK, so how did we get here from the Clarence White Bluegrass Hall of Fame induction? One of the benefits of being the column's writer is you get to decide where it goes and how it gets there!

And, I would like to add a quick footnote on those notes left in Clarence White's guitar. One of Clarence's main axes was a pre-war herringbone D-28 which he sold in the mid-1960s. Although we will never know what might have come out of that guitar if it were still in Clarence's hands, we have enjoyed four decades of "cutting edge" music from it -- it wound up in Tony Rice's hands in the mid-1970s.

Joe Steiner

Thanksgiving Reflections

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Of course, you may have thought you missed it if you've been in any stores recently. Everything is Christmas themed already.

I am celebrating one season and one holiday at a time, however. With that in mind, here are the things I am thankful for at this time of year, in no particular order:

- ◆ The camper is winterized already, and we haven't had a freeze yet. That doesn't always happen in that order every year. I'm thankful that I got it right this year.
- ◆ Festival season is pretty much over and I can concentrate on just being at home for awhile. Not that I don't enjoy the festivals, but sometimes it is nice to just be home.
- ◆ I missed "fall housecleaning" season somehow again this year (for the eleventh time in a row). Probably because of a festival. Maybe I'll make up for it during "spring housecleaning" season. Or maybe not. But I'm thankful that no one really cares, as long as we are playing music.
- ◆ Joel Walker Sweeney. Joe will have to explain that one. But whenever I ask him what he's thankful for, that is his response. Something to do with the 5th string on a banjo, I think.
- ◆ I am SO thankful that the elections are over. And I'm thankful that my facebook "friends" list is more manageable since I had to un-friend so many people. There is no room in my life for people that are uncaring, judgmental, discriminating and cruel.

(None of them were "music" friends. What does that say about people that play music?) With a click of a button, I can remove that from my life. I wish everything was as easy.

- ◆ Even though festival season is over, I'm thankful that there are still so many venues in which to see and play bluegrass. I may have to find a house concert this winter/early spring. I attended one a few years ago and had a blast. I still retain bragging rights for beating Bobby Davis and Becky Buller at 8-ball in the middle of the night in the basement of the house concert. Where else can you make memories like that?
- ◆ While my "real" family doesn't understand our compulsion with music, I'm thankful for bluegrass and old-time friends that do. It is nice to be able to share with people that understand.
- ◆ Gingerbread-flavored marshmallows. As long as I have hot chocolate with a healthy dollop of Bailey's to go with them. Ok, that wasn't music related, but music festivals, cool weather and bonfires make me think of hot chocolate.

And now that I've thought about all of that, I think I will go make myself a hot chocolate and thank God for all my blessings. Have yourself a blessed holiday season! ~ Chris Steiner



My name is Tom T. Turkey and I endorse this message.

And now... how about some "Turkey in the Straw?" Haw haw haw...

Upcoming Events

If you are traveling any distance, be sure to call ahead to make sure the event is still as scheduled.

Indiana

- 1st Sun.** Central Indiana jam, Hall Community Bldg, 307 W South St, Gas City, **IN** 46933 noon-?? (Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, 2016) 765-674-5117
- 1st Thurs.** Wakarusa Jamboree, Northwood Middle School, 301 N. Elkhart St., Wakarusa, **IN** 46573 6:30-9p (Sept. - May) 574-862-2200
- 1st Sat** Contra Dance, First United Methodist Church, 215 South 5th St., Goshen, **IN** 46526; General Public: \$7, Members \$6, Students: \$4, Student members \$3, Children under 12: free, Family maximum cost: \$18. 7:30p beginner lessons, 8-11p dance 574-533-9906 year around
- Every Tues.** Old Timey jam; Fiddler's Hearth, 127 N. Main St., South Bend, **IN** 46601 574-232-2853
- 2nd Wed.** Jam, CrossRoads Inn, 5975 S SR 9, Columbia City, **IN** 46725 260-396-2144 6:30-8:30p
- 2nd Thurs.** 5:30p meeting; 6p jam White River Folk & Bluegrass jam, FOP, 2614 Mounds Rd., Anderson, **IN** 46016 765-606-0761 (Oct '16-April '17)
- 3rd Fri.** Bluegrass, Country, Gospel Jam 7-9pm SR 14, Community Center, North Akron, **IN** 46910
- 3rd Sun** jam; Sheridan Public Library 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan, **IN** 46069 1-5p year around
- 4th Thurs.** 6p jam White River Folk & Bluegrass jam, FOP, 2614 Mounds Rd., Anderson, **IN** 46016 765-606-0761 (Oct '16-April '17)
- 11/19** Blue Mafia; Mitchell Opera House, 7th & Brook St., PO Box 37, Mitchell, **IN** 47446 (812) 849-4447 7-9p \$12
- 11/23** Stampede String Band; The Vogue Theater, 6259 N College Ave, Indianapolis, **IN** 46220 317-259-7029 9p
- 12/03** Branded Bluegrass, New Balance, Blue Mafia; Toys for Tots, American Legion, 1125 Miller Ave, Shelbyville, **IN** 46176 5p
- 12/10** Branded Bluegrass; Denver Baptist Church, 111 N Yorick, Denver, **IN** 46926 765-985-2281 6p

- 12/29** The Matchsellers; Fiddler's Hearth, 127 N Main St, South Bend, **IN** 46601 574-232-2853
- 01/07** Special Consensus; Front Porch Music, 505 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, **IN** 46383 219-464-4700 8p
- 01/27** Joe Mullins & Radio Ramblers; Roberts Park Hwy 1 (corner of Park Rd. & North 30th) Connersville, **IN**

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
- 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 Sun 11/20, 12/18, 03/19, 05/21** Mid-Michigan jams, Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, **MI** 48917 517-482-2382 \$4 donation (no Easter)
- 11/26/2016, 01/28/2017, 02/25, 03/25, 04/22, 05/20** Michigan Bluegrass Music Assoc. open stages & jams 6-10p Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Drive, Flint, **MI** 48506 810-736-5332
- 11/18** Waynewood Band; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 11/19** The Stray Birds w/ Anthony da Costa; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 8p \$15 (folk, Americana)
- 11/25** Billy Strings; Park Theatre, 248 S. River, Holland, **MI** 49423 616-294-3196 7:30p \$17/22
- 11/26** Billy Strings; Founders Brewing Co., 235 Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids, **MI** 49503 616-776-1195 9:30p \$5
- 11/27** Billy Strings; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 8p \$25

- 12/10** Luke Gitchel Band; Zellie's Opry House, 230 E. Edgerton St., Howard City, **MI** 49329 \$10 2p
- 01/27** Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper, The Smokin' Dobroleles; Park Theatre, 248 S. River, Holland, **MI** 49423 616-294-3196 7:30pm \$20 adv, \$25 door

Ohio

- 1st Sat** - Traditional, bluegrass, country music with acoustic instruments. Nettle Lake United Brethren Church, 18560 County Road 5-75, Montpelier, **OH** 43543 6p 517-270-2870 or 419-485-4112
- 2nd Sat** Central Ohio Bluegrass Assoc., Grace Chapel Community Church (in the Recreation Hall), 7798 Big Walnut Rd., Westerville, **OH** 43082 jam: 5:45-7p, bands 7p (Nov. - May)
- Weds** (except 11/23, 12/21, 12/28) jam with Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass, Pit to Plate BBQ, 8021 Hamilton Ave., Mt. Healthy, **OH** 45231 7-9p 513-931-9100
- 11/18** Fox N Hounds; Woodland Tavern, 1200 W 3rd Ave, Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-299-4987 9p
- 11/19** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; College Hill Coffee Co, 6128 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, **OH** 45224 513-542-2739 7:30-9:30p
- 11/20** The Stray Birds w/ Anthony da Costa; Natalie's Coal Fired Pizza, 5601 N High St, Worthington, **OH** 43085 614-436-2625 8p
- 11/26** Fox N Hounds; Weasel Boy Brewing, 126 Muskingum Ave, Zanesville, **OH** 43701 740-605-7468 8p
- 12/02** Strung Up bluegrass; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W 3rd Av, Columbus **OH** 43212 614-486-4722
- 12/03** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers Reflections@PMG, 3377 US-35, West Alexandria, **OH** 45381 937-839-4500
- 12/05** Joe Mullins & Radio Ramblers; Franklin HS, 750 E 4th St., Franklin, **OH** 45005 7-9:30p \$15 513-478-3762
- 12/09** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers Village Troubadour, 46 Eswin St., Greenhills, **OH** 45218 513-648-9357 7-9p

Continued →

12/09 Erika Hughes & The Well Mannered; Rambling House, 310 E Hudson St, Columbus, **OH** 43202 614-468-3415 9p

12/09 Seldom Scene; 20th Century Theatre, 3021 Madison Rd, Cincinnati, **OH** 45209 513-731-8000

12/10 Seldom Scene, Steeldrivers, Adam Wakefield; The Agora Ballroom, Cleveland, **OH** \$42.50/\$47.50 6p

12/10 Sugar Creek; COBA, Grace Chapel, 7798 Big Walnut Rd., Westerville, **OH** 43082 7p

12/11 Seldom Scene; Natalie's Coal Fired Pizza, 5601 N High St, Worthington, **OH** 43085 614-436-2625 8p

12/16 Fox N Hounds; Rambling House, 310 E. Hudson St, Columbus, **OH** 43202 614-468-3415 \$5 9-midnight

01/13-14 Winterline, Ottawa County, Chris Henry & Hardcore Grass, Jesse Alexander Band, Little Roy & Lizzy Show, Deepwater, Caney Creek, Harbourtown, Bluegrass Mountaineers, Rhonda Vincent & The Rage; Holiday Inn French Quarter, 10630 Fremont Pike, Perrysburg, **OH** 43551 Hotel:

419-874-3111 Festival: 330-645-1541 Larry Efaw, 1154 Woodcrest Ave., Akron, **OH** 44319 \$55 wknd + hotel

01/13 Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers; Methodist Church, 207 S Court St., Marysville, **OH** 43040 937-642-4712 \$20/\$25

01/30 Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers Haddix Hall (next to Hunter Pizzeria), 4165 W SR 122, Franklin, **OH** 45005 937-746-54156:00 - 8:00 p.m.

01/30 Joe Mullins & Radio Ramblers; Cedarville University, Dixon Ministry Center Recital Hall, Cedarville, **OH** 45314 937-766-7700 12p

Are you thinking
about your
taxes yet?

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.

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Address Service Requested



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Next NIBGA Jam - TBD