

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

*Bringing people together for the preservation, enjoyment
and advancement of bluegrass and related acoustic music.*

Message From the VBA Board

“Best wishes for a happy and musical 2009 to all Victoria Bluegrass Association members, and to our other readers as well! We are looking forward to a whole new year of bluegrass and related music as we continue to carve out our niche in the vibrant and diverse Victoria music scene.

The VBA New Years resolution is to continue the tradition of providing old-time acoustic music to all those that want to listen. We consider it quite an accomplishment that we manage to hold such successful and affordable jams and concerts 50 weeks a year, and look forward to doing it in the year ahead. A big reason we are able to pull this off is through the efforts of our numerous volunteers. Volunteers such as board members Andrew Lloyd and Bev Young, who have the huge responsibility of opening and closing the Orange Hall every week for the whole year, including the July 1 jam!

The turnout for VBA events continues to be high. The Slow Pitch sessions, moderated circle jams, workshops, and concerts are always filled with enthusiastic participants. The cooperation and generosity folks show with each other, and with newcomers, is heart warming. The December 16 Band Scramble is the most recent example of so many folks helping make a really fun event possible. That all VBA activities (newsletters included!) are organized and run by volunteers says a lot about the members of VBA and how many pitch in to make the club the success it is. Way to go!



Skagway plays the VBA, Jan 27, 2008 ~ Details page 2.

Membership sales for 2009 are now open, and can be purchased any Tuesday evening from any VBA Board member, or by mail (see website for membership application form). New rates (approved at the June Annual General Meeting) are \$25 for Individuals, and \$40 for Couples.

The more memberships sold means a better financial base for VBA, allowing us to keep admission prices to the jams, concerts, and workshops affordable while still meeting regular expenses like hall rental. It is also a great way to support live music in your town, as well as supporting VBA projects like the youth bursary for the Sorrento bluegrass music camp.

VBA continues to encourage, and provide publicity for many bluegrass related musical events throughout Victoria and the Island. Great jams, bands, festivals, concerts, instructors, a bluegrass radio show, and networking of musicians demonstrate that bluegrass music is alive and well in our city and region.

See further details in this newsletter, and on our website, regarding our January 24 workshop with Doug VanDine on The Mysteries of the Capo, and the January 27 VBA open stage and concert featuring Skagway, a young bluegrass band from Nanaimo!

Have a great New Year! See you at VBA and remember.....

“Keep on the sunny side!”

~ VBA Board of Directors

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Victoria Bluegrass Association
c/o Old Town Strings Repair Shop
1034 Hillside Ave.,
Victoria, BC V8T 2A5

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

VBA **Board of Directors** **2008/2009**

President

Bob McKechnie

Past President

Larry Statland

Vice President

Kelly Sherwin

Secretary

Carol Thibault

Treasurer

David Simon

Member at Large

Bev Young

Member at Large

Andrew Lloyd

Member at Large

Lani Royce

VBA Membership

\$ 25 single

\$ 40 couples

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jams

Tuesday Orange Hall Jams are: January 6, 13, 20 at 7:30pm. Slow Pitch, Moderated Circle and Festival Bluegrass Jams, at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road, 7:30pm. Players of all levels welcome. Players \$2, listeners by donation.

The cornerstone of the VBA is the weekly bluegrass jam, where players, singers and listeners can come out and indulge their love of bluegrass every Tuesday evening.

Contact: Bob McKechnie

VBA Open Stage Feature Night:

Tuesday, Jan 27, at Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood, Victoria, BC.

Admission: \$5 for members; \$7 for non-members.

Doors open at 7:30 pm.

7:45 – 8:45 pm – Open Stage

9:00 – 10:30 pm – Feature Act: *Skagway*

Skagway is the newest bluegrass unit that Vancouver Island has to offer. They are a group of hot young players from Nanaimo with a passion and love for traditional music, and a sound that manages to incorporate a contemporary edge. Their hard driving rhythm, lightning fast licks, and soaring harmonies make them a force to be reckoned with. The members of Skagway are: Ira Pelletier - Mandolin, Natalie Germann - banjo, and Tad Ruszel - guitar, Dinah D. - upright bass, vocals.

More info:

Jeb Gordon

VBA Workshop:

The Mysteries of, and How to Use, a CAPO

If you play the guitar, banjo, dobro or perhaps even the mandolin, and someone calls for a song to be played in the key of F, do you know where to put your CAPO and what chords to play? If you can answer this question in 5 seconds or less, this workshop is probably not for you. If no, you will probably benefit from this workshop. And if you don't even know what a CAPO is, you'll really benefit from this workshop. You will learn all about CAPOS: the different types, on which fret to place it, where on the fret to place it, how to play in every key imaginable, and some that aren't imaginable. You will go away with a little handy dandy "slide rule" that you can put in your instrument case, and then always know where to put your CAPO. This will also be a very good course on the music theory of chords.

Doug VanDine has been using a CAPO on his guitars (yes, he also plays guitar) and banjos for more years than he cares to admit. He will lead you through this workshop and if you ask nicely, will even tell you where the word "CAPO" comes from. Takes place Saturday, Jan 24, 2 to 4 pm, at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Rd, Victoria, BC.

Admission: \$7 for members; \$10 for non-members; More info: Lani

February Mandolin Workshop:

Mandolin Workshop with James Whittall

Details later....sign up now before the workshop is full!!

Info: Lani

Holiday Band Scramble 2008

Some big THANKS are due to a lot of people for making last months *Band Scramble* such a success:

Marlene for her unstoppable organizing and volunteerism, Judith for jumping in to provide assistance, Doug Mann for bringing fresh holly decorations for the food table, those strapping young lads for chipping away the ice and clearing the stairs, those that helped with donation deliveries and clean-up, and of course Lani and her cider.

On top of that everyone's contributions towards the potluck, the Mustard Seed food bank, as well as all the used strings we received, were most appreciated. We had a great turn out, including many new faces, and such a positive response that we are discussing having another



CLOGGIN' COLLEEN



ELF RHONDA

BAND SCRAMBLE DEC 08



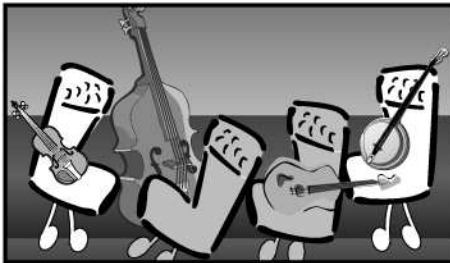
"INFERIOR STRING CUSSERS"



Warm-Up Band "HOT CIDERS"



"HEY!... PICKERS!"



"EMPTY STOCKINGS"



"RHONDA AND THE RAUNCHY REINDEERS"



"VBA CAROLLERS"

Bluegrass On-line:

This e-mail recently arrived in the VBA inbox and we thought it would be a good idea to "forward" it on to our readers:

"Hi bluegrassers,

I'd like to invite you to check out and join the 1000+ member Nwbluegrass Yahoo group at:

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/nwbluegrass/>

It's a great on-line place for posting gig & festival info, meeting new friends, building a fanbase, as well as carrying on bluegrass (& related) music discussions with others in the northwest.

Joe Ross

Nwbluegrass moderator"

For more information or to sign up for the group send an e-mail to:

Nwbluegrass-Subscribe@yahoo.com or visit Joe Ross' website <http://www.talentondisplay.com/joeross.html>

Bluegrass Happenings:

In British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest.

The following is a list of bluegrass and related events happening in the upcoming season.

Ongoing

Jan 4, 11, 18, 25: Sunday Afternoon Hootenanny - Sundays, 4 pm at Logan's Tavern, 1821 Cook St., Victoria, BC. Hosted by Carolyn Mark. Free. More info: 250-360-1832

Jan 4, 18: Sooke Legion Bluegrass & Old Time Music Jam (Sooke) - Sunday, 2 to 5:30pm, Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace, Sooke, first and third Sunday of the month (October to May), no admission. Contact: Eric Day 250-642-3553

Jan 5, 12, 19, 26: Old-Time String Music Jam - Mondays, 7 to 9:30 pm, at Spiral Cafe, 418 Craigflower Rd, Victoria, BC. More info: www.myspace.com/thespiraloldtimegroove Tune Lists & Samples: spiraloldtime.googlepages.com

Jan 6, 13, 20: VBA Bluegrass Jam - Tuesdays, 7:30 to 10 pm at Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Rd, Victoria BC. Slow Pitch & Moderated Intermediate Circle Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Admission: Players \$2, listeners free. More info:

Bob McKechnie mkech@gmail.com

Jan 7, 14, 21, 28: VBA's Sing Me Back Home, Bluegrass On The Air - Wednesdays, 3:00 to 4:00 pm; with your host Jeb Gordon. CFUV 101.9 FM; Cable 104.3 FM

Jan 7, 14, 21, 28: Cornerstone Bluegrass Jam - Wednesdays, 7:30 to 10 pm; at Cornerstone Cafe & Resource Centre, Fernwood at Gladstone, Victoria, BC. Featuring premier acoustic string band musicians. Enjoy some hot coffee or chocolate while listening (for free) to local top acoustic roots musicians jam it out with each other, organized by the Fernwood Bluegrass Coalition (FBC), a group of local business/promoters/musicians.

Jan 7, 14, 21, 28: Sidney Wednesday Night Jam (Sidney) - Wednesdays, 7 to 10 pm at St Paul's United Church, Office Entrance, Malaview & 5th St., Sidney, BC. Stringed Acoustic Instruments Only. All levels of players welcome. 1st Wednesday: Country. 2nd Wednesday: Folk. 3rd Wednesday: Bluegrass. 4th Wednesday: Fiddle Jam. 5th Wednesday (when applicable): Open Stage. Admission: \$2 per participant, \$1 per listener. More info: Jim 250-812-9737

Jan 9: Victoria Fiddle Society Monthly Jam - Friday, 7 to 10 pm. Please Note New Location at St. Matthias Anglican Church Hall, 600 Richmond Ave. (corner of Richardson St.), Victoria, BC. All musicians, all ages and skill levels are welcome. Break-out space for advanced fiddlers. First Friday of every Month (except July & August). Admission: VFS members Free, \$5 for drop-ins. More info: www.bckitchenparty.com

January Special Concerts

Jan 9: Fish & Bird with Sweet Lowdown

Friday; doors open 7:30 pm; at Gardiner Hall, 2070 Granite St, (at Mitchell, beside Oak Bay United Church) Victoria, BC. Banyan Tree, The Victoria Folk Music Society & Oak Bay United Church Presents Young Performers Night with Fish & Bird: Adam Iredale-Gray (fiddle, multi-instrumentalist) & Taylor Ashton (banjo, multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter) and the Sweet Lowdown: Amanda Blied (guitar, vocals) & Shanti Bremer (banjo, vocals); Tickets: \$5; More info: www.fishandbird.ca & www.myspace.com/thesweetlowdownstringband

Jan 27: VBA Open Stage/Feature Night Showcasing: Skagway

Tuesday, doors open at 7:30 pm at Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood, Victoria, BC. First 1/2 of eve is Open Stage, second 1/2 of eve showcases feature Act from Nanaimo, Skagway: Dinah D. (upright bass, vocals), Natalie Germann (banjo, mandolin, vocals), Ira Pelletier (mandolin, vocals) & Tad Ruszel (acoustic guitar, vocals); Admission: \$5 for members; \$7 for non-members. Contact: Jeb Gordon (250) 479-0210 to sign-up for the Open Stage. More info: Jeb Gordon jubal_gordon@hotmail.com & www.myspace.com/bluegrassnanaimo

Jan 31: Mountain Jubilee presents: James King Band:

Performance Workshop & Concert, Saturday, Afternoon Performance Workshop: 3:30 pm; Evening Doors open: 7:30 Concert starts: 8 pm, St Andrews Presbyterian (Douglas at Broughton), Victoria BC. Performance Workshop focuses on Band dynamics; James King Band is a Traditional Bluegrass band featuring: James King (Guitars, Vocals), Kevin Prater (Mandolin, Guitar, Vocals), Chris Hill (Banjo, Vocals) & Tom Timberlake (Bass, Vocals). Admission: Workshop: \$8, Concert: \$15, Under 16: Free if accompanied by adult. To register for Workshop, contact mountainjubilee@gmail.com. Tickets at Royal & McPhearson Box Offices 250-386-6121 & at the door. More info: mountainjubilee.com/bluegrass-concert-information.php & www.thejameskingband.com

Jan 31: 7th Annual Snowgrass - 2009 (Port Angeles, WA) Saturday, doors open: 6 pm, show: 7 pm at Port Angeles High School Auditorium, Port Angeles, WA. Featuring Local bands, including Crescent Blue & Frosty Hollow, fundraiser for First Step Family Support Center; Tickets: \$10, \$6 for seniors, and free for youth 12 and under, available at many Port Angeles outlets or at First Step Family Support Center. More info: Cherie at 360-457-8355 or cherie_fstep@olyopen.com

Lost and Found

Since we get such a lot of help from our volunteers here at the VBA, we in turn like to help them out when we can. So an APB is being put out for the return of Lani Royce's black, winter vest. During all the fun and shenanigans of the Band Scramble it managed to go missing from the coat hooks near the door. She is a valued member of the VBA team and we hate to think of her suffering through this current Victoria cold spell.