

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message From the VBA Board

Wow! April was a fun month! We had **Cliff Perry and Laurel Bliss** come up from over the border to play and host some successful workshops! **Last Train** played a great set for us, gearing everyone up for the summer season's festivals to come!

Speaking of festivals, be sure to read up on both the Sooke and Coombs festivals in this edition, as well as highlights for the BCBW in Sorrento!

We had our annual membership draw during the Last Train show. Congratulations go to Vivian Sinclair! Vivian happened to have purchased her membership the night of the draw, and luck came her way. And a big thanks to all of you VBA members! If you are not a member yet, read on to find out about the many benefits you are entitled to with your membership!

June 8th is set as our AGM this year. Information and the agenda are included in this issue.

And of course the last Tuesday in May will be an all-night open stage. Please make sure you sign up your band at the Orange Hall over the next month of Tuesday's. You could also email or call Jeb Gordon jgordon@victoriabluegrass.ca
Read on for details



Sooke River Bluegrass Music Festival

and don't delay, this will be the last chance to show us your stuff on stage until September!

Marlene Bertrand is 'retiring' from her volunteer work at the kitchen during our feature nights and special concerts. I know you are thinking 'isn't Marlene already retired?', well, yes she is but has been non-stop in her efforts to support the VBA in so many aspects! Marlene, thank you for all your time and energy in helping us organize and promote bluegrass in the community!

Check out our website www.victoriabluegrass.ca or our Facebook Group to keep up with who's playing where in Victoria and on the island. Bluegrass shows have been abundant this year!

Have a great month folks, and we look forward to seeing and hearing you at the open mic night!

See you at the 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

VBA Membership Benefits

- ♪ Great deals on ticket prices for special concerts , feature nights and merchandise
- ♪ First to hear about our events through our monthly newsletter
- ♪ Paying that toonie instead of a toonie-and-a-loonie on jam nights
- ♪ Voting at our Annual General Meeting
- ♪ Supporting Orange Hall and the promotion of bluegrass and acoustic related music

Go to www.victoriabluegrass.ca to download a membership form

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

VBA Board of Directors 2009/2010

President

Kelly Sherwin

Past President

Bob McKechnie

Vice President

Pharis Romero

Secretary

Colleen O'Brien

Treasurer

David Simon

Member at Large

Linda Henson

Member at Large

Judith E. Tharp

Member at Large

Kate Cino

VBA Membership

\$ 25 single

\$ 40 couples

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jams

May 4, 11, 18 @ 7:30pm

Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road

Slow Pitch, Moderated Circle and Festival Bluegrass Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Players \$2 for members, \$3 dollars for non-members, listeners by donation. Contact: Kelly Sherwin



VBA Open Stage Night

May 25 @ 7:30pm, Info: Jeb Gordon

VBA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, June 8 @ 7:30 (Arrive early as meeting starts at 7:30 sharp), Orange Hall

Dear VBA Member,

The AGM is your opportunity to get involved, to give us some input on what sort of activities you would like to see the VBA organize, and to make suggestions on how to improve what the VBA is doing at the present time. If any member has "Other Business" they wish to raise at the AGM, please submit it in writing to any current Executive board member (President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer), or email president@victoriabluegrass.ca.

Remember, only paid up 2010/2011 members can voice an opinion and vote at the meeting. Bring your instruments and your sweet tooth as well!

VBA Annual General Meeting 2010 DRAFT Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
5. REPORTS:
 - President Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Booking Committee Report
6. OTHER BUSINESS
7. BOARD ELECTIONS
8. ADJOURNMENT



SUMMER EVENTS



Sooke River Bluegrass Music Festival

June 18-20, 2010 www.sookebluegrass.com

The Sooke River Bluegrass Festival celebrates 10 years of foot-stomping fun June 18, 19 and 20. Held every year at the Sooke River Campground, the event is family friendly and features a wide range of local and imported talent.

This year a new board brings fresh energy to the festival. President and Festival Manager Phil Shaver, virtuosic guitar player with Four Chords of Wood, says this festival has something for everyone. "We've worked hard to schedule top Canadian groups like the Spinney Brothers," he says, "but offer lots of local talent as well". Well-known local groups include: Four Chords of Wood, the Clover Point Drifters, Skagway, Last Train and Flash in the Pan. James Whittall and Dave Clarke offer instrumental magic on the guitar and mandolin. Frosty Hollow is a family band from Washington State that delivers a lively old-timey mix of tunes.

This year the camping facilities have been updated with new washrooms and showers. And no more frosty fingers! Phil promises that a large circus tent will keep late night jammers warm and cosy. "It's the same great festival with a few improvements," says Phil.

Coombs Bluegrass Festival

July 30-August 1, 2010 www.coombsbluegrass.com

The Coombs Bluegrass Festival is celebrating their 32nd year and is the oldest bluegrass festival in B.C.! While still the same great festival with a strong support and volunteer base on the island and further afield, festival organizer Linda Thorburn has seen some exciting changes in the last couple years. Spring and fall concert series have been a big hit, with an open mic setting the stage for bands like Skagway, the Foggy Hometown Boys, Flash in the Pan, CornerGrass, Riverside Trio, The Clover Point Drifters, and many others. The series is already booking well into 2011. Interested in playing the concert series? Email Linda Thorburn at info@coombsbluegrass.com.

This year, festival goers can look forward to a full program right through Sunday, with a brand new Band Scramble, a banjo workshop with Roger Matthews on Sunday afternoon, instrument and bluegrass package draws, and the Biggest Bluegrass Band in B.C.! Not to mention a great line-up of 12 bands starting on Friday, including Midnight Flight (Missouri), 5 on a String, the Clover Point Drifters, Last Train, and Flash in the Pan - and at least 13 random acts of bluegrass throughout Sunday, starting with 2 gospel acts in the morning.

Future festival plans include a 2011 Coombs Bluegrass Music Camp the Tuesday to Friday after the festival, and as always, great bluegrass and old-time music.

Looking to get your Coombs fix early? The festival has beautiful new t-shirts already for sale online their new website.

British Columbia Bluegrass Workshop

Week 1 – August 22-27, 2010 Week 2 – August 29-September 3, 2010 www.musicworkshops.ca

The British Columbia Bluegrass Workshop, now in its 21st year, will include some of the finest musicians in bluegrass, who will be instructing during one or both of the bluegrass weeks.

This annual event has been beneficial to all who have attended. Not only will the workshop get you geared up for jamming through the winter season, it will send you home with the tools you need to keep practicing and playing.

Outside of the daily classes, there are plenty of other workshops you can drop in on, and the instructors are always available for any questions you might have. Great evening performances, an old time dance, structured jams, and the student concert highlight the after-dinner hours.

Beyond the program schedule you'll find tons of jams, filled with people who want to share their music and want you to share yours! Many bands have been formed after players have met at this workshop, and a lot of networking and tour ideas get started here. You might meet people from your region and start jams in your own town. There's something for every student, whether you are just beginning to tap into acoustic music, or are already a working musician wanting to learn more from your peers.

Bluegrass Happenings: In British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest

- Sundays** **James Whittall & The Pickits** at *Swan's Brew Pub*, 506 Pandora St., 8:30-11:30 pm.
- Sunday Afternoon Hootenanny** at *Logan's Tavern*, 1821 Cook St., Victoria, every Sunday at 4 pm Hosted by Carolyn Mark. Free admission. More info: 250-360-1832
- Appalachian-Style Old-Time Jam** Appalachian-style Old-Time jam at the Bent Mast is no longer happening.
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- Mondays** **Old-Time String Music Jam** Mondays, 7 to 9:30 pm at *Spiral Cafe*, 418 Craigflower Rd, Victoria.
More info: www.myspace.com/thespiraloldtimegroove Tune Lists & Samples: spiraloldtime.googlepages.com
- Tuesdays** **VBA Bluegrass Jam** Tuesdays, 7:30 to 10 pm at *Orange Hall*, 1620 Fernwood Rd, Victoria. Slow Pitch & Moderated Intermediate Circle Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Admission: players \$2, non-members \$3, listeners free. More info: Kelly Sherwin _____
- Wednesdays** **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.
- Sidney Wednesday Night Jam** . 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 Wed.: Country, 2nd Wed.: Folk, 3rd Wed.: Bluegrass, 4th Wed.: Fiddle Jam, 5th Wed.(when applicable): Open Stage. Admission: \$2 per participant, \$1 per listener. Come with at least 2 favourite songs, photocopied (words, chords, chord charts) to Build A Song/Tune Book. More info: Jim
- Friday, May 7** **Victoria Fiddle Society** Monthly Jam, 7 to 10 pm. 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; Admission: VFS members Free, \$5 for drop-ins.
More info: www.bckitchenparty.com
- May 13** **Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper** St. James Hall, 3214 West 10 Ave. Vancouver , Tickets: \$35.00 or \$30.00 for Pacific Bluegrass & Heritage Society members. Tickets and info at www.Pacificbluegrass.ca or call 604-943-0522, also available at Rufus' Guitar Shop 2621 Alma St.
- May 22** **FolkWest presents Joy Kills Sorrow with Oliver Swain** Fairfield United Church, 1303 Fairfield Road, Victoria. Doors at 8:00, show at 8:30pm. Tickets \$14 advance at Lyle's Place & The Spiral Cafe; \$16 at the door (FolkWest Members get a discount at the door) Info: 250-385-5574 or 604-318-1424, or www.folkwest.ca
- June 12** **The Clover Point Drifters** The Roxy Theatre, Gabriola Island, Doors Open: 7pm Show Starts: 7:30PM. Come and join The Drifters at this great Theatre. If you live off island, you can come and catch the show and still make the last ferry back to Naniamo.
- July 22** **The Sooke Fine Arts Show** presents **John Reishman and John Miller**. Billed as the Purchaser's Preview Night. Tickets are \$25 each at the Sooke Fine Arts office, 250-642-7256. This is rare opportunity to catch these two together, and enjoy their beautiful Latin jazz, bluegrass and other wonderful flavours. Ticket price includes full access to all the artwork accepted into the show, gift shop, and bistro. On this evening, no jeans please.