

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message From the VBA Board

Kids are back at school, suntan lotion put away, and people are starting to settle in their fall routines. Enjoy the cool, sunny days and evenings while you can because the seasons have changed. Luckily that also means that regular seasonal events are back into full swing as well. One regular event that always gets people excited is our monthly feature act. The Clover Point Drifters showed us all a great time with their performance last month! The open mic was also chocked full of fun acts, including one couple from Virginia who boasted they travelled 3000 miles just to play at the VBA!

Board member Larry Stevens will now be in charge of booking feature acts and workshops for this season, and is probably open to any suggestions members may have in those departments, so grab him if you see him. Our monthly feature roster will be a mix from local Victoria and Vancouver Island acts as well as acts from across the strait. This month we are happy to announce the return of Vancouver's Viper Central as our feature act!

Also this month Nick Hornbuckle will be coming from up-island to do a banjo workshop. If you want to take part in this workshop, we appreciate a reservation. We had to cancel a workshop last year due to lack of interest, although 3 people arrived last minute without notice only to find a locked and lonely Orange Hall ☹. All the info you need is here in the newsletter, so no excuses.



Viper Central

Also in this newsletter, Kathleen Law, BCBW bursary winner shares some of her thoughts and thanks to the VBA for their support!

If you don't have a membership yet, it is time. By becoming a member of the VBA you will be entitled to a discount on our workshops, Feature Nights, and Special Concerts. Also know that from September to May your membership entitles you to receive this informative monthly newsletter from the VBA, Vancouver Island's premier source for information about the music you love. Most importantly, your membership goes to supporting a completely volunteer-run organization that is responsible for bringing you great music and fun times throughout the year. Your contributions are what keep the VBA running, so thanks to all of you for helping maintain bluegrass and acoustic music in Victoria.

Individual memberships: \$25; Couple memberships: \$40. We will see you out there! And remember...

"Keep on the Sunny Side!"

- The VBA Board of Directors

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Victoria Bluegrass Association
c/o Old Town Strings Repair Shop
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VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

VBA Board of Directors 2010/2011

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Al Planiden
president@victoriabluegrass.ca

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Newsletter Design/Layout

Katherine Dennison

VBA Membership

\$ 25 single

\$ 40 couple

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jams

October 5, 12, 19 @ 7:30 PM

Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road

Slow Pitch, Moderated Circle and Festival Bluegrass Jams. Players of all levels welcome.

Players \$2 members; \$3 non-members; listeners by donation.

Contact Al Planiden, president@victoriabluegrass.ca

Open Stage Feature Night - Viper Central

Sept. 28 @ 7:30 PM, Orange Hall

Admission \$5 for members, \$7 non-members

7:45 - 8:45 Open Stage*

9:00 - 10:00 Viper Central

At the forefront of a rising wave of new talent from Canada's west coast in the bluegrass and old-time music genres, Viper Central has managed to create an original niche in an otherwise traditional style and yet simultaneously appeal to audiences both young and old. Blending instrumental prowess with innovative arrangements and creative vocal harmonies, their first album, "The Devil Sure is Hard to Please," showcases the diverse songwriting talents of every member in the band and their newest release is a live Gospel album. Viper Central is Lorraine Cobb (guitar & vocals), Steve Charles (upright bass, claw hammer banjo and vocals), Kathleen Nisbet (fiddle & vocals), Tyler Rudolph (banjo, upright bass & vocals), Tim Tweedale (dobro), and Mark Vaughan (mandolin).

*To sign up for the Open Stage, contact Jeb Gordon _____

Your Admission is FREE

Workshop - 5-String Banjo with Nick Hornbuckle



Saturday, October 16 @ 2PM - 4PM

Members \$15, Non-Members \$20

In this course, Nick will cover ideas and techniques used to create solos for tunes and songs. Using his proven method, Nick will guide you through the steps of taking a basic melody and turning it into a great Bluegrass solo. We will focus on playing a few well known melodies in open G, also in the up the neck second position G, and finally in the Key of C in the first position. We will also cover basic back up concepts, and use them in the songs we learn. Students should bring a recording device, and tablature will be available.

Nick Hornbuckle has been playing the banjo for 35 years, and teaching for 30. He has taught at several music camps in Canada and the US including Rockygrass, the California Bluegrass Camp, Wintergrass, the 108 Mile Music Camp, the Alaska Bluegrass Cruise, and the BCBW. Nick has been featured in Banjo Newsletter, and has published three banjo instruction books. Nick tours and records with the Juno nominated Bluegrass band, John Reischman and the Jaybirds." Workshop will be held at a location that will be made available to those who register.

Please contact Larry Stevens _____



FolkWest Fundraiser Double Bill

Featuring

The Sweet Lowdown & The Clover Point Drifters

Sunday, October 24

Herman's Jazz Club, 753 View Street

Doors 6:00 PM , Show 8:00 PM

Advance tickets \$14 at Hemp & Co. / Long and McQuade / *Lyle's Place / *Larsen Music (*service charge applies)

At door \$16, \$12 FolkWest Members, \$8 kids 12 & under

For more information, 250-858-8661 or www.folkwest.ca

Sponsored by Monday Magazine, Village 900am, Phillips Brewing and The Number.

The Sweet Lowdown

These three talented women produce dulcet tones that remind us of front porch jams and the rolling hills of Appalachia. Following their self-titled, 7-song EP released independently in 2008, the trio has plans to record a full-length album this fall. www.myspace.com/the.sweet.lowdown

The Clover Point Drifters

For over 10 years, The Clover Point Drifters have been performing their repertoire of bluegrass, country, folk and blues around Victoria and beyond. Always brimming with good humour, the "Drifters" will be pickin' and grinnin' the night away. www.cloverpointdrifters.com

Letter from Band Camp

Kathleen Law, the 2010 VBA Bursary winner for the British Columbia Bluegrass Workshop, lets us know how things went in Sorrento:

"Two weeks shy from a full year in Victoria, I look back upon my experiences feeling that I've grown as a musician and person. The culmination of this time was two weeks of sustained bliss at the British Columbia Bluegrass Workshops, in Sorrento. I am still excited about all twelve tunes Sammy Lind passed on to us in his Old Time fiddle class and I am grateful for Dave Keenan's Intermediate flatpicking class, in which he distilled over 20 years of playing into a four-day lesson on the fundamental patterns governing the guitar neck.

I learned a lot in those two weeks that flew by so quickly. I learned the importance of taking naps if you want to be able to jam at night and make it to your morning class the next day. But more importantly, I witnessed a community built around a shared passion for playing music come together to learn and celebrate. It is that same community which so graciously welcomed me last fall, and through which I've grown as a musician and made friendships that will last for many years to come. It is with profound gratitude that I want to express my thanks and appreciation to all VBA members and volunteers who made it possible for me to attend Sorrento as one of two 2010 Bursary winners. I leave with Garret Tompson, also a past VBA Sorrento Bursary recipient, on October 10th, headed for my new hometown of Toronto (don't worry, Garret will be back!). We'll be playing guitar and fiddle all the way across the country through Via Rail's 'entertainment in exchange for transport' program, and contributing to the bluegrass epidemic which is sweeping the nation."

If you are 25 or younger, a current member of the VBA, have never been to the BCBW, and would like to improve on your instrument(s), spend a week on a property with 150 people learning, playing, jamming, swimming...then we encourage you to apply for the VBA's 2010 Scholarship. Deadline for application will be in December. Keep checking our newsletters and website.



Bluegrass Happenings

In British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest
(all events in Victoria BC, unless otherwise indicated)

Ongoing

- Sundays** **Bluegrass Night** at *Spinnaker's Pub*, 308 Catherine St., 8:00-10:30 pm. James Whittall, Oliver Swain, Alan Law and Mike Kraft perform live.
- Sunday Afternoon Hootennany** at *Logan's Tavern*, 1821 Cook St., 4 pm
Hosted by Carolyn Mark. Free admission. More info: 250-360-1832
- Open Mic** at the *Cobblestone Pub*, 2566 Holland Ave., Cobble Hill. Swing-style Western, bluegrass, and old western; an acoustic friendly open mic/jam. For time and info: 250-743-4232
- Mondays** **Old-Time String Music Jam** at *Spiral Cafe*, 418 Craigflower Rd., 7-9:30 pm
More info: www.myspace.com/thespiraloldtimegroove
- Tuesdays** **VBA Bluegrass Jam** at the *Orange Hall*, 1620 Fernwood Rd., 7:30-10 pm
Slow Pitch, Intermediate & Advanced Circle Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Admission: players \$2 (non-members \$3), listeners free. More info: Kelly Sherwin kelly.sherwin@gmail.com
- The Sweet Lowdown** at *The Fernwood Inn*, 302 Gladstone Ave., 9-11 pm.
More info: www.myspace.com/the.sweet.lowdown
- Wednesdays** **Cornerstone Bluegrass Jam** at Cornerstone Cafe & Resource Centre, Fernwood at Gladstone. 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.

Other Happenings

- Sat. Oct 16** **Double Bill: Emma Beaton (*Joy Kills Sorrow*) and Big Machine (Oliver Swain, James Whittall, Quinn Bacchand)**, Hemma Yoga Studio, 1274 May St., 7:30 pm. More info: ollieswain@yahoo.com
- Sat. Oct 23** **Clover Point Drifters** at The Dancing Bean, 9752 Willow St., Chemainus, 7:00 pm. Best coffee house on the Island. Tickets \$15. www.dancingbean.ca
- Thurs. Oct 28** **Clover Point Drifters** at Lower Centennial Hall, Lake Cowichan Community Complex, Southshore Rd., Lake Cowichan, 7:30 pm. Presented by Music in the Lake, sponsored by community radio station, CICV, 98.7 FM
- Sat. Nov 6** **Shearwater** at Fairfield United Church, 1303 Fairfield Rd., 8:00 pm. More info: 250-893-1508, www.shearwaterband.com
- Sat. Jan 29** **Snowgrass** at the Port Angeles High School Auditorium, Port Angeles, WA, First Step Family Support Center (www.firststepfamily.org), a United Way agency, is excited to announce SNOWGRASS 2011. Tickets \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors, free for children 10 & under.