

# THE HORNPIPE

Seven Mountains Bluegrass Association's Quarterly Members' Newsletter

2024 APRIL/MAY/JUNE 🎵 Volume 20 🎵 Issue 2



## 2023-2024 Concerts Continue All shows start at 7:00

Members \$22 🎵 Non-Members \$25

Goodwill Fire Company

2318 S Queen St, York, PA

I-83 Exit 16 A, 1 mile south on PA-74

Alcohol Free 🎵 Concessions Sold



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Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers  
April 13, 2024



Nick Chandler & Delivered  
May 11, 2024



David Peterson & 1946  
April 27, 2024



Ironwood Drive (also May 11th)  
Formerly Known to SMBA as the Werner Band

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GIL RHOADS



**Greetings !**

This is my first message as SMBA's new President. I know that you all join with me in thanking Ursula Sheaffer for her service as our President for the past five years. That included getting us through Covid.

I sure haven't promised anyone that I'll serve five years! I understand that before Ursula and Dick Beckley, Presidents usually served a one year term. With your help, I hope SMBA can not only continue in a healthy direction in 2024 but maybe make a few good changes.

Many thanks to those of you who have attended our exciting shows this winter. Our condolence to Scotty Napier of Wildfire on the recent loss of his father. Due to his passing, Wildfire had to cancel the February show at the last minute. But thanks to Dick for his many friends and connections, Danny Paisley agreed to fill in and save the night. It was a very entertaining performance with good music and a lot of laughter.

Joe Mullins, David Peterson and Nick Chandler will finish up the winter shows. These are great bands and I encourage you to mark your calendar and join us at The Goodwill Fire Company in Spry.

Many exciting things are happening at Seven Mountains and we are always looking for anyone with experience and interest in helping with administrative duties and setting up chairs for concerts. Now is the time of year that we need you to step up and offer to help with our summer picnic. Please let one of the Board members know and we will be grateful for your assistance.

I look forward to meeting you at the shows!

Sincerely,  
Gil Rhoads

### Seven Mountains Bluegrass Association P.O. Box 224 Lawn, PA 17041

#### 2023 Officers:

Gil Rhoads	President	717-554-6747
Vacant	Vice President	
Patsy Kline	Treasurer	717-202-9423
Steve Hammond	Secretary	717-773-7387

#### SMBA Board Members serving as Committee Chairs:

Dick Beckley	Music	717-395-7128
Bob Bishard	Library/Jams	717-957-4349
Walt Crider	Historian	717-887-2308
George Fishel	Picnic	717-580-7838
Steve Loden	Videography	717-371-4549
Amanda Lynn McDowell	Social Media	717-669-3338
Sue McKinsey	PR	717-244-4428
Dave Nesbit	Newsletter Editor	717-691-9491
Kristen Schneider	Scholarships	717-443-8359

#### Board Members serving as Trustees:

David Emerick, Canyon Moore, Jean Snyder,  
Ursula Sheaffer and Burt Wills

### SMBA Established 1982 Incorporated 1999

#### Mission Statement:

*The purpose of SMBA is  
to preserve, promote and enjoy bluegrass and  
to bring the music to  
an ever increasing number of people.*

#### The Hornpipe

is a quarterly newsletter for members of  
Seven Mountains Bluegrass Association,  
a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation.

#### Newsletter Deadlines

3rd Quarter '24 (July-September) - May 31st  
Inquiries, comments and submissions  
proposed for publication should be sent to the  
editor's attention before the stated deadlines.

Email to:

**Newsletter.SMBA.Bluegrass@gmail.com**

# Minutes of SMBA Members' Meeting

## February 18, 2024, at Young's Church, Mechanicsburg

The annual meeting of Seven Mountains Bluegrass Association was called to order by Vice President Gil Rhoads at 2:30 pm with a prayer. Attending were Gil Rhoads, Steve Loden, Dave Nesbit, Steve Hammond, Dave Emerick, Patsy Kline, Walt Crider, Bob Bishard and President Ursula Sheaffer was present by phone. Thank you to members Faith and Denny Mackey for attending.

Steve Hammond read the Minutes from the November 1st meeting. Patsy made a motion to approve and Dave Emerick made a 2nd, all approved.

Patsy Kline read the treasures report along with the annual report for 2023, and a special note that the scholarship fund has \$1517.00. 252 members have renewed. 260 Have not renewed their membership yet. Steve Loden made a motion to approve the report, Steve Hammond 2nd and the motion was approved.

As there was no old business to discuss, we moved on to new business and the election of Officers. Dave Nesbit on behalf of Dick Beckley nominated Gil Rhoads as new President, Patsy made a 2nd and all were in favor. Bob Bishard made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented, Steve Loden 2nd and the slate of officers was unanimously accepted: President, Gil Rhoads; Treasurer, Patsy Kline; Secretary, Steve Hammond.

Gil Rhoads nominated Ursula to be a Trustee, Dave Emerick 2nd and the motion passed. The Board also asked Faith Mackey if she would consider being a Trustee. She would consider the position. We certainly appreciate the last five years that Ursula has dedicated to the SMBA Presidency.

Discussion took place about the instruments available for the Picnic Raffle. Tim Finch has made a guitar and a mandolin available. All other instruments have been acquired. Patsy made a motion to allow George Fishel to have the raffle tickets printed, Dave Nesbit 2nd. George will make the board aware of ticket pricing before printing.

Gil asked that a caterer be determined by April 15th. Dave Nesbit added that his discussion about pricing with a caterer should land around the mid \$20 range. Gil also had a contact with a caterer and he would check pricing with him as well. The picnic sign up and raffle info will be available on the website. We had discussion that the SMBA Picnic is the Fourth Saturday of July at Hershaull Park. Dick Beckley has acquired David Davis and the Warrior River Boys as the band for the picnic. More info will be available in the picnic letter to be mailed out by George Fishel and his committee to all current and noncurrent members. Details will also be included in the July-September Hornpipe which will be mailed at the end of June.

Website update. Gil will meet with Amanda Lynn to discuss keeping our website up to date. Gil spoke with Heath Laird about using Eventbrite to book tickets for our concert series. Bob Bishard inquired how the website/Eventbrite would differentiate members vs. non members. Also a platform to accept credit cards will be needed in the future.

Discussion was had about videos being made during our concerts. They should not be made available for profit or sale on the internet. Live streaming may also open SMBA for liability. Steve Loden, our official videographer, asked

that his videos be made available on Facebook. Bob Bishard commented about his church's policy on videos and live streaming. Patsy made a motion that we continue with Facebook but we avoid YouTube for videos made by Steve. Dave Emerick made 2nd however Dave Nesbit had a "no" vote and that the topic needed more research and discussion. Patsy withdrew her motion. Bob Bishard made a motion that we table the publishing video discussion to a future date. 2nd was made by Dave Nesbit.

Dave Emerick asked about dates for the Summer Concert series at Gil Rhoads and Wild Country Farm. The dates are as follows.

Across the Tracks - June 22nd  
Echo Valley (tentative) - July 13th  
(Editor's Note: The date has since changed to August 24.)  
Bluestone - August 3rd  
Eric Troutman's band, Whiskey Shooter - September 14th

Dave Nesbit has a deadline of March 4th for article and input for the SMBA Hornpipe to get it in the mail by the 3rd week in March.

Bob Bishard wanted to express our thanks and gratitude to Jean Snyder for the smooth transition of the Treasures position to Patsy Kline, and for his thirty year association and friendship with Jean.

Ursula wanted to thank everyone for their help during her tenure and especially Bob Bishard for his support and kindness.

Dave Nesbit made a motion to adjourn, Dave Emerick made a 2nd and the membership meeting was adjourned at 3:38 pm.

Submitted by  
Steve Hammond, Secretary

# **CONCERT “APPETIZERS” by Dick Beckley**

Seven Mountains’ past-President and long-time Music Committee Chair  
***Read and whet your appetite to attend!***

**Ticket prices are \$22 for members and \$25 for non-members. Cash Only.**



**April 13, 2024**

**Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers**

Joe and the guys have graced our stage almost yearly the last several years and remain a favorite of SMBA attendees as well as one of the top draws in bluegrass. Joe’s cast are longtime members of the Radio Ramblers for the most part. Chris Davis is the newest member having been there almost 2 years now as vocalist and on mandolin. Adam McIntosh has become one of the top lead vocalists in bluegrass as is their bandleader, Joe Mullins on lead vocals and banjo. Jason Barie is one of the best on fiddle and Randy Barnes keeps the band on track with his excellent bass work and lends a great bass voice to their quartet numbers. Always a great crowd for this fine band. Come on out for an enjoyable evening of the best in bluegrass.



**April 27, 2024**

**David Peterson & 1946**

If you don’t attend another SMBA show this season, you really need to see David Peterson & 1946. I’ve seen him several times over the years and no less than my good friend, the late Mike Auldridge told me that he considered David the best voice in both country and bluegrass. Mike asked me to accompany him to a showcase David was playing in Nashville at IBMA and I quickly came to agree with his assessment of David’s atomic voice and showmanship. He’s one of bluegrass’ best kept secrets and I consider it a coup on our part to be able to have him on our stage. His band name pays homage to Bill Monroe’s best Blue Grass Boys lineup which jelled in 1946. He’s backed by the banjo magic of Gabe Dellinger, whose baritone vocals compliment David’s outstanding lead vocals; along with Reed Stutz on mandolin and tenor vocals. The three form a trio on some moving gospel numbers and ballads. The band is rounded out with upright bass player Nate Stephens. Together, 1946 treats bluegrass like a loving mother does her baby. This is good stuff friends and something you’ll remember for a long time. If you love traditional bluegrass done up just right, you won’t hear it this way again!



**May 11, 2024**

**Nick Chandler & Delivered w/opening band, Ironwood Drive**

Our final concert in our 2023-24 Winter concert series is with Nick Chandler & Delivered, new faces on our stage. They are from Western NC and have had several top ranking CD’s over the last few years. Nick is a renowned mandolin picker. At this writing he is adding a new guitar player and vocalist to the band, having had guest vocalists in recent concerts. Jamie Sparks is a fine vocalist and hot banjo man who has played here several times in past years with the Bluegrass Brothers band. Gary Trivette on bass and vocals rounds out Delivered.

Opening that night with a half-hour set is Ironwood Drive, formerly the Werner Family Band. The band who now consists of Brandon Fox, one or two members of the Werner family, and a few new faces. Several of the Werner family and Brandon have been SMBA scholarship recipients, and have performed several times before the main acts on our stage. Always a favorite of our attendees, they are a perfect conclusion to our 2023-24 season!



**June 22, 2024**

**Darin Wassum and Across the Tracks**

The first of 4 summer shows at Wild Country Farm will be Across the Tracks, a band from Hartford County, MD which has been performing around the PA, MD, and DE area for several years. They play a mix of traditional bluegrass and a little early country thrown in. Darin Wassum heads up this fine band on guitar and vocals. Folks who follow Danny Paisley may remember that Darin filled in for Danny at times when Danny was recovering from some health issues. The remainder of the band consists of young Isabella Marsh on vocals and a hot fiddle; Jeff Blevins on banjo and vocals; and various mandolin and bass pickers. My buddy, Jeff Dillard, is usually with them on bass.

**More information about our Wild Country Farm summer series is on Page 5.**

# Summer Concert Series at Wild Country Farm

940 Parks Road, Lewisberry, PA

Attending an outdoor concert at the Wild Country Farm is a treat! The venue is shared by SMBA President Gil Rhodes and his wife, Crystal. Although Dick Beckley does a great job arranging for talented musicians to come and play for us, attending the venue is a great experience that is worth putting on your calendar and planning to attend, even if the performer is unknown to you or maybe not your favorite. There is a large amount of seating area under a pavilion roof; or if you want to sit nearby on the lawn in the sun, that is also an option. Musicians are paid 100% of what is collected at the concert, and nothing more. Please show your appreciation and tip the band if you are able.

**Concerts begin at 2:00** ♪♪ **Cash Only** ♪♪ **There will be no food concessions on-site.**

**Bring Your Lawn Chairs & Picnic Baskets** ♪♪ **No Dogs or Alcoholic Beverages.**

**June 22 - Across The Track (\$10)** ♪♪ **August 3 - Bluestone (\$10)**

**August 24 - Remington Ryde (\$12)** ♪♪ **September 14 - Whiskey Shooter (\$10)**

## Regional Bluegrass Shows for April through June 2024

(SMBA shows in bold are at Goodwill Fire Hall, 2318 S Queen St, York, PA)

April 7– Wilson Banjo, West Shore Theater; 317 Bridge St, New Cumberland, PA ; 5:00; \$20

April 11 - Gibson Brothers (w/Colebrook Rd), Englewood, 1219 Research Blvd, Hummelstown, PA; 8:00 \$30-35

**April 13 - Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers; 7:00; \$22-25**

April 14 - Danny Paisley; Wehrly's Auction House; 4067 Snyder Rd, Glen Rock, PA; 1:00

April 21 - Ironwood Drive, Mt. Pleasant UMC; 830 Pleasant Grove Rd., Mount Pleasant, PA; 6:00 PM; FWO

April 26 - Hammer Creek; McCleary's Pub; 130 W. Front St, Marietta, PA; 9:00

**April 27 - April 27, 2024; David Peterson & 1946; 7:00; \$22-25**

April 28 - Guilford Station; Young's Church; Mechanicsburg, PA 1:00-4:00; FWO

May 3– Colebrook Road, West Art, 800 Buchanan Ave., Lancaster, PA; 7:00; \$20-\$25

May 9 and 10 - Tommy Emanuel; Majestic Theater; 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg, PA; 8:00 PM; \$35-\$60

**May 11 - Nick Chandler & Delivered; 7:00; \$22-25**

May 25 - Black Eyed Suzies; Rob's Bluegrass Barn; 821 View West Drive, Westminster, MD; 8:00; \$18

May 26 - Keepin' It Simple; Young's Church; Mechanicsburg, PA 1:00-4:00; FWO

June 2 - Danny Paisley and So. Grass; Fiddlers' Convention; 400 S. Center St., Westminster, MD; 6:00 PM; \$20

June 2 - "Bluegrass Tentative;" Kings Gap Music on the Mountain; 500 Kings Gap Road; Carlisle, PA; FWO

June 8 - Serene Green; Zoetropolis; 112 N Water St, Lancaster, PA; evening show, admission charged.

June 15 - Ricky Scaggs; American Music Theater; 2425 Lincoln Hwy East, Lancaster, PA; 7:00; \$39—\$59

June 21 - Five Mile Mountain Road; 7-8 pm Bosler Library, 158 W. High St. Carlisle, PA; 7:00 PM; Free

June 21 - Five Mile Mountain Road; 9-10:30 pm, Stern Ctr. Great Room, 208 W. Louthier St, Carlisle, PA; FWO

**June 22 - Across The Track; Wild County Farm; 940 Parks Rd., Lewisberry, PA; 2:00; \$10**

June 23 - Kevin Prater Band; Goofy's; 5965 York Rd, Spring Grove, PA; 4:00

June 23 - Satyr Hill; Young's Church; Mechanicsburg, PA 1:00-4:00; FWO

June 25 - Country Gentlemen Tribute Band; Shriners Benefit Concert, Timonium Fairgrounds, MD.

June 29 - Deeper Shade of Blue; Rob's Bluegrass Barn; 821 View West Drive, Westminster, MD; 8:00; \$18

June 29 - Serene Green; Heritage Festival Concert Series at Mt. Gretna, PA; 7:30 p.m.

**Concert details are subject to change without notice.**

Assume that all listed shows are cash only when buying a ticket at the venue. Call venue if price or time are not stated. FWO (Free Will Offering) means attendees are encouraged to pay as they are able to support the musicians and venue.

Submit details of July through September concerts by May 31st to: Newsletter.SMBA.Bluegrass@gmail.com.

We do not list concerts conflicting with SMBA events, which are usually on 2nd or 4th Saturdays.

Priority is given to concert venues within 40 miles of York, PA.

# SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SUMMER PICNIC!

## Saturday July 27th



### Picnic Preview

As days get longer and the smell of spring is in the air, it's time to think about summer. Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> for this year's SMBA picnic at beautiful Hershaull Park, in southern York County. Tickets prices are as last year: \$30 for buffet/concert; \$20 for concert only.

The price is a deal. Our concerts are normally \$22. A Brisket Combo sandwich with 2 sides and a soda is \$20+ at Mission Barbeque. You may bring your own picnic. Wristbands will restrict access to the pavilion to admit only those with \$30 tickets. Food service will start around noon.

There will be a new caterer this year. Although last year's caterer did not "run out of food," they did run out of one or two choice items because a few SMBA members filled their plates with them. If a few SMBA members would volunteer as servers, we could help all of our members be more restrained on their first trip through the buffet line, and then come back for seconds after all have been served.

Although the Hershaull Park location is a bit out of the way, it is a special venue. Members seem to agree it is well worth the drive to have the place to ourselves, amid scenic farmland. It

is a perfect spot to enjoy our picnic, on a shaded hilltop cooled by breezes!

The Picnic Committee needs us all to help. Speak with or text the Chair, George Fishel (717-580-7838), who is sometimes identified as "The Cat in the Hat" and sits at the 50/50 table in the back of the firehall for concerts. While volunteering in advance is most valued, if you pitch in when you show up at the picnic and offer to help with whatever needs done that day, your help will be appreciated!

If you can bring a treat for the dessert table, call Ilse Heine (717-838-4550); or email: ilseheine73@gmail.com. The dessert table was new last year. It was both popular and a cost saver!

If you are concerned about getting too much sun or a little bit of rain, you may set up a pop-up as long as it is outside the main seating area. Dogs are permitted if they are on a leash and outside the seating area.

Remember to pack your lawn chairs, suntan lotion, and other summer necessities! Water will be provided.

Jamming occurs throughout the day. Jammers usually stay after clean up of the picnic has been completed.

**Look for a special mailing about the picnic in the mail in the near future. Make sure to respond!**

### Picnic Entertainment

What do you do for an encore the year after booking Seldom Scene for the 40th year, "Founders' Day Picnic" celebration? If you are Dick Beckley, you scroll through your lifetime of bluegrass contacts and friends to plan another exciting show!

This year, the picnic entertainment will be David Davis and the Warrior River Boys, who is scheduled to play two sets in the afternoon.

The Warrior River Boys are a solid band, and bassist Marty Hays has been harmonizing with David for almost 30 years! Although they played at the Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival in August 2018, it has been a while since we have had a chance to see David Davis and the Warrior River Boys play in our area.

As a mandolinist, David Davis is recognized as one of the foremost practitioners of Bill Monroe's technique. Since 1984, he has performed as frontman for David Davis and the Warrior River Boys. He is a member of The Alabama Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame.

David Davis's musical roots in old time and bluegrass come from his musical family. Both his father and grandfather were musicians. Uncle JC "Cleo" Davis was Bill Monroe's "Original" Blue Grass Boy. (See Page 13 for how JC "Cleo" Davis became the original Blue Grass Boy.)

The latest project of David Davis and the Warrior River Boys was a recording of "Didn't He Ramble: Songs of Charlie Poole." It was a highly acclaimed tribute to the 1920s banjoist from North Carolina, Charlie Poole, who Davis has described as "The Grandfather of Bluegrass."

**Come and enjoy!**



## Gettysburg Starts Outdoor Bluegrass Festival Season ! May 16-19, 2024



**Rhonda Vincent & The Rage**  
Photo from May 2017

The beginning of the summer festival season for most SMBA members is the Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival at the Granite Hill Campground, located six miles southwest of Gettysburg's Lincoln Square on Fairfield Rd., Rt 116. The festival planned for May 16-19, 2024 will be the 86<sup>th</sup>. The first was in 1979.

Announced performers are: Rhonda Vincent & The Rage (Sat); Woody Platt & The Bluegrass Gentlemen (Fri); The Seldom Scene (Sat & Sun); Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out (Fri); Dry Branch Fire Squad (Sat & Sun); The Grascals (Thur); Appalachian Road Show (Sat); Rob Ickes & Trey Hensley (Sat); The Larry Stephenson Band (Thurs); Junior Sisk (Fri); Volume Five (Fri); Ralph Stanley II & The Clinch Mountain Boys (Fri); and The Plate Scrapers (tbd). The schedule is subject to last minute changes, so before planning a day trip, especially hoping to see a specific performer, it is a good idea to double-check the website at the time of the festival ([gettysburgbluegrass.com](http://gettysburgbluegrass.com)).

Ira Gitlin will lead the 4-day Wernick Method Jam Camp from May 13-16. Pre-registration is required, with a fee to attend. Free workshops led by a few of the performing musicians will occur throughout the festival. Jamming occurs throughout the campground.

Most of Granite Hill's RV campsites with utilities are sold out, but a few remain with a 4-day minimum. Camping in tents or RVs with no hook-ups is always a last minute option. There are two bathrooms with showers and many portable toilets. An on-site café and a variety of vendors serve food and beverages.

Admission tickets are available every day at the gate and usually cost a bit more than if purchased in advance. Given the unpredictability of weather, especially in May when chilly wet days and evenings are not unusual, most 1-2-day visitors buy tickets at the gate, where senior citizen and children's discounts are offered. A similar festival will be held from August 15-18. Get more details by calling the Granite Hill Campground or this website: [gettysburgbluegrass.com](http://gettysburgbluegrass.com).

## Remington Ryde Festival June 26-30, 2024 Grange Park, Centre Hall, PA . . . A Summer Festival Bargain !



While Gettysburg is the first festival of the summer season, perhaps the best bargain of all the bluegrass festivals is the Remington Ryde Festival, nestled in Penns Valley amid the Nittany Mountains, 12 miles from State College. Many people camp and will arrive as early as June 22nd. Camping is an extra charge.

Headliners include Rhonda Vincent; the Malpass Brothers; the Lonesome River Band; Little Roy & Lizzy; Seth Mulder; Junior Sisk; and a dozen other top-notch traditional bands, about half of which SMBA has hosted in previous years at the Goodwill Fire Co. venue.

This festival was created by Ryan Frankhouser who named it after his band. Shortly after Covid, Larry Efaw became a co-promoter of the festival. The website provides names and dates of all scheduled performers and other information ([remingtonrydefestival.com](http://remingtonrydefestival.com)).

## Other April-June Regional Festivals Featuring Headliners

- 🔑 Baltimore Old Time Music Festival (indoors); April 19-20; ([baltimoreoldtimefest.com](http://baltimoreoldtimefest.com))
- 🔑 Charm City Bluegrass; Baltimore, MD; May 3-4; ([charmcitybluegrassfestival.com](http://charmcitybluegrassfestival.com))
- 🔑 Delfest; Cumberland, MD; May 23-26 ([Delfest.com](http://Delfest.com))
- 🔑 NEPA; Tunkhannock, PA; May 30 - June 2; ([NEPA.com](http://NEPA.com))
- 🔑 Wind Gap; Wind Gap, PA; June 6-9; ([windgapbluegrass.com](http://windgapbluegrass.com))
- 🔑 National Road; Farmington, PA; June 13-16 2024 ([timberrockcamp.com](http://timberrockcamp.com))
- 🔑 Smoked Country Jam Festival, Cross Fork, PA; June 20-22; ([smokedcountryjam.com](http://smokedcountryjam.com))

## **MEMBERS' SPOTLIGHT BY BILL ALDINGER**

### **Bob Bishard**

Bob Bishard has been a member of SMBA since 2001, serving in many capacities, including as President. Bob coordinates SMBA's Spotlight Jams hosted at his church, Young's Church of Mechanicsburg, on the third Sunday afternoon of each month from 2-5 pm. He keeps SMBA records as our Librarian. We hear Pastor Bob's voice on the robocalls when he reminds us of SMBA concerts or events.

Bob's church hosts a Bluegrass Gospel Concert Series, February to November, on the 4th Sunday at 7 pm. Local and regional bands play for a free will offering followed by an ice cream social. Now in its twelfth year, this year's schedule was in the last edition of *The Hornpipe* and is on the Young's Church website: [youngsumc.org](http://youngsumc.org).

When his father served in the Army, Bob's family lived in Germany and several states before returning to Pennsylvania, where he graduated from Camp Hill High School and the Cumberland-Perry Vo-Tech School in 1973. The oldest of six siblings, Bob married Carole in 1977. They have lived in Perry County since 1987 and have a daughter, Christina; son-in-law, Matt; and grandson, Keith.

Bob's life journey with Carole is an interesting path centered around his family and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which led to his service as a pastor, while also being a multi-skilled business entrepreneur and active as a community servant.

After high school, Bob was hired by E. N. Dunlap, Inc. as a technician to service office equipment. In 1978, he started Bishard Business Machine Services, which continues today, mostly to serve long-time

customers. Around 1996, Bob got a Class A commercial drivers' license and began to drive trucks for a couple of companies throughout several states in the Northeast.

Meanwhile, Pastor Bob became a Certified Lay Speaker of the United Methodist Church, and served from 2000 to 2010 in pulpits of churches without pastors around Perry County. Eventually, Bob was called by the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church to pastor the then-fledgling Young's UMC Church. In 2021, Pastor Bob graduated from the Wesley Theological Seminary. With Bob serving as its pastor, Young's Church now has a vibrant Christian ministry and fellowship. In 2023, Young's Church left the UMC to join the newly formed Global Methodist Church denomination, of which Pastor Bob is an Ordained Elder.

Bob, whose eclectic musical taste includes many genres, said "Charlie Waller and the Country Gentlemen were one of my all-time favorites."

He added "I think Emmylou Harris has one of the best voices."

Bob enjoys playing the guitar, and on occasion tinkers with the banjo. He is fond of old time fiddle and banjo tunes on guitar, and enjoys singing melody and vocal harmonies. Bob explains why "learning to play the fiddle has always been a dream of mine," as well as why he came to suspend that ambition.

"When I was growing up, my grandfather played the fiddle and my dad played the harmonica. They were both great influences in my life. Several years ago, I borrowed a fiddle from my friend, Jean Snyder, and started practicing. But every time I started to play, my dog would start howling. Eventually, Carole said to me, 'there are two things in this house that have to go, but the dog is staying!'" Bob concludes, "I guess that tells you what happened to my learning to play the fiddle!"

**(Continued on bottom of next page)**



# SMBA Scholarship Program Update:

***This Year's Application Deadline is May 31st!***

SMBA intends to award as many as six scholarships in the amount of \$250 this spring, but it is not too late to apply NOW. Scholarships may be used for students aged 18 or under to take individual lessons on an acoustic string instrument from an approved instructor, or for enrollment in an approved bluegrass workshop or camp. The Scholarship Application is on the SMBA website. Applicants must submit an application **not later than May 31st** to the Scholarship Committee, SMBA, P.O. Box 224, Lawn, Pa 17041. Questions may otherwise be answered by contacting Patsy Kline at 717-202-9423.

## SMBA has Instruments to Lend to Members!

SMBA now has these instruments on hand to loan: a lap dulcimer, guitars, dobro, banjos, mandolin, electric bass and electric guitar. Instruments that presently are out on loan include: an upright bass, a beginner guitar, a full sized fiddle and a lap dulcimer.

If you can donate an instrument to lend, or have an interest in borrowing an instrument, contact Patsy Kline. Since Patsy can do some basic repair and set-up for stringed instruments, even if the instrument you have for donation is not playable in its present condition, please let her know about that as well!

**Email: [patzkline@comcast.net](mailto:patzkline@comcast.net) or Call: 717-202-9423**

**(Bishard continued from Page 8)**

Bob played in past-SMBA-President Dick Neff's band, The Grace Notes. After Dick moved to Virginia, Bob and SMBA members, Jean Snyder and Nelson Steffy, formed the Springtown Trio. Both bands played bluegrass and gospel music. Bob says that, "Dick, Jean and Nelson, along with so many others who I've met through SMBA, have been great musical influences in my life."

Bob is also a songwriter. "Whiter Than Snow" is a gospel song that he has played at jams and in concerts with the Stringtown Trio. "Big Air Horn" is a humorous song about being an over-the-road truck driver. He says "Trails & Trials" has a reflective and melancholy feel to it.

Bob has built a few acoustic guitars with his friend and fellow SMBA member, Ken Runkle of York. Bob is currently building a model D-28 guitar, and has the materials to start building a model D-35.

Bob enjoys riding his 2013 Harley Davidson and is a regularly participating member of CV HOG, serving as chaplain. He is also a member of the Christian Motorcyclists Association's local chapter, The Tribe of David, which raises funds for worldwide evangelism.

Bob's hobbies have included hunting and fishing; vegetable gardening; horseback riding; reading outdoor magazines; and books by his favorite authors including Charles Stanley, David Jeremiah, and John Wigger. Bob's favorite book is the Bible, which he has been studying regularly since beginning in 1980 to teach Sunday school.

A member and officer of numerous clubs related to outdoor activities and community service, Bob is on the board of the PA Sunday School Association which provides training and materials. This year they will host an annual conference in November in Chambersburg.

Bob and Carole have served together as Perry County 4-H leaders, and with a large number of volunteer and non-profit organizations which reflect their interests and their Christian faith. They enjoy vacations to Chincoteague Island and pastoral retreats to the Billy Graham Retreat Center in Asheville, NC.

In closing, Pastor Bob shares these words of encouragement:

"Bluegrass music fans are a special group of people. Music, and particularly bluegrass and Gospel music, has the unique ability to calm and lift up a person's spirit. Very few activities we do in life have this same ability, with the exception of one thing-- that being a personal relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ. I share this so that you may also enjoy the same positive hope for humanity and the promise of a far better place in eternity."

Pastor Bob, we are proud to call you SMBA member and friend!

# Song & Story submitted by Jessica Mary Buck

## "a Singer of Olde Songs"



## "Take This Hammer"

The most popular version of this "hammer" song was recorded by Huddie William Ledbetter, known as "Lead Belly," a traditional American balladeer, songwriter, and 12-string guitar virtuoso. Born in 1888 in Louisiana, he wrote so many songs that almost every well-known bluegrass musician has recorded at least one of them. Among these were "Irene, Goodnight," "Cotton Fields," "Rock Island Line," "Midnight Special," and "In the Pines."

"Take This Hammer" dates back to the 1870's when several "hammer and railroad" songs evolved, including "John Henry" and "9-Pound Hammer," often sharing verses. In 1936 John and Alan Lomax, music historians, recorded the song as sung by a prisoner in the Virginia State Penitentiary. Leadbelly released a single recording of it in 1940, which remains its most popular version. Lead Belly died in New York City in 1949, but his blues and work songs continue to be cherished and performed among bluegrass musicians.

(Traditional)

Take this hammer, carry it to the captain  
Take this hammer, carry it to the captain  
Take this hammer, carry it to the captain  
Tell him I'm a-gone, just tell him I'm a gone

If he asks you, was I running  
If he asks you, was I running  
If he asks you, was I running  
Tell him I was flying, tell him I was flying

I don't want your old darn shackles  
I don't want your old darn shackles  
I don't want your old darn shackles  
It hurts my leg, hurts my leg

I don't want no greenback dollar  
I don't want no greenback dollar  
I don't want no greenback dollar  
It hurts my pride, hurts my pride



"Lead Belly" (1888-1949)

Photo by Richard S. Blacher, circa 1949 in New York.  
Courtesy- Lead Belly Estate, via Smithsonian Folkways



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at SMBA picnics.*



## A CD Review by Walt Crider

"A founding SMBA member who twice served as President!"



The Po' Ramblin' Boys recording, *Never Slow Down*, was their first release after Covid in 2022 under the Smithsonian Folkways label. This recording is what I expected after seeing them in person last year. One word to describe this band and this recording is "traditional."

They will be at Rob's Bluegrass Barn, Westminster, Maryland on Saturday August 24th at 8:00. Rob's Bluegrass Barn is a great place to see live bluegrass up close and person.

The Po' Ramblin' Boys are now ten years old as a band. The musicians are:

**C.J. Lewandowski, mandolin & vocals**

**Jereme Brown, banjo & vocals**

**Josh Rinkel, guitar & vocals**

**Laura Orshaw, fiddle & vocals**

**Jasper Lorentzen, bass & vocals**

C. J. Lewandowski plays a 1923 Lloyd Lear mandolin that has a serial number that is two after the F-5 that Bill Monroe purchased in 1945. Visit [fretboardjournal.com](http://fretboardjournal.com) and search for Podcast 357 for an interesting story about how C.J. acquired that mandolin, which was found in Greece.

*The Never Slow Down* recording has 11 songs, which I am sure you will enjoy!

### Here are the recording's 11 cuts:

1 - **"Missing Her Has Never Slowed Me Down"** - A good start for this CD, written by Josh Rinkel.

2 - **"Where Grass Won't Grow"** - A George Jones favorite, well done by Laura Orshaw.

3 - **"Lonesome"** - A Ralph Stanley original about a subject we don't like to think about.

4 - **"Blues Are Close At Hand"** - This is a real mover, originally recorded by Tommy Brown, Jereme Brown's father.

5 - **"When Are You Going To Tell Me?"** - Another fine love song gone wrong written by Josh Rinkel.

6- **"Take My Ashes To The River"** - A real sad song about a dying woman's last wish.

7 - **"Little Glass Of Wine"** - This a Stanley Brothers favorite, well performed.

8 - **"Ramblin' Woman"** - Written by Hazel Dickens, this really shows what Laura Orshaw has achieved as a vocalist. My favorite cut.

9 - **"Woke Up With Tears In My Eyes"** - We all have dreams of when we were younger. This really brings back memories.

10 - **"Mason's Lament"** - Another song about the life beyond this one, sung with feeling by Jereme Brown.

11 - **"Old Time Angels"** - A Jim Lauderdale original, I think I can almost hear Jim sing this. Another well done vocal presentation by Laura Orshaw.

## Bluegrass on the Grass

**Saturday July 13th**

**12:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Dickinson College Campus**

**Carlisle, PA**

**FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT**

**The Alum Ridge Boys & Ashlee**

**New Dismembered Tennesseans**

**The Ruta Beggars**

**Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper**

**(Bands rotate through 2 sets each)**



# Bluegrass Humor



## (At The Expense Of Our Banjoist Friends !)

### Background:

When Earl Scruggs' banjo was featured on "The Ballad of Jed Clampett" as the theme of song The Beverly Hillbillies, bluegrass went mainstream. The banjo symbolizes the bluegrass, "hillbilly music" genre.

Telling jokes between bluegrass songs was popularized by Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs, perhaps beginning with scripted stage humor which often featured the interaction between and stories from Foggy Mountain Boys band members Hilo Brown and "Uncle" Josh Graves.

**Here is a small sampling of banjo humor, beginning with some stage humor from Scruggs, as reported by a fan** who claimed this happened when he saw the 85-year-old Scruggs play a 2009 show in Charlotte, NC, an hour from Scruggs' hometown of Shelby NC, where the Earl Scruggs Museum is located today. Scruggs was having trouble with his D-tuners, and to fill the void during that time that idle time, **the 85-year-old Scruggs asked the audience:**

Scruggs: Do you know the difference between an onion and a banjo? 🎵 No one cries when you chop up a banjo!

**So, in the spirit of Scruggs, we share this humor from various internet sites:**

How can you get six banjo players to play in harmony? 🎵 Only give one of them a banjo!

Mark Twain said: 🎵 A gentleman is a man who can play the banjo, but doesn't!

Why are a banjo and a missile the same? 🎵 By the time you hear either one it's too late!

What is "perfect pitch"? 🎵 Someone who can throw the banjo in the dumpster and hit the accordion.

Why does the banjoist leave his instrument in the front passenger seat? 🎵 So he can park in handicapped spots.

What can be heaven for a banjo player and hell for a neighbor? 🎵 When the banjo player takes an eternal break.

Two prisoners are waiting to die by firing squad. (No Joking- Firing squads are now legal in Miss., Okla., SC, and Utah !)

🎵 The Warden says, "Well boys, you get one final wish."

🎵 The first guy says, "Warden, I'd like to play Foggy Mountain Breakdown on my banjo one last time."

🎵 The second guy says, "Shoot me first!"

Do you want to share a favorite bluegrass joke or SHORT story? Now that we have picked on the banjo, other subjects would be best. Send it to the Hornpipe editor's address on page 2 by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Give credit to where you heard it!



Dan Piraro, co-creator of Bizarro, permits non-commercial reuse .



A Tony Carrillo Cartoon submitted by a reader who found it on Facebook  
The reader suggested that it should be called:

**"Dueling Banjos."**

## JC “Cleo” Davis “Original Blue Grass Boy”



Bill Monroe (l) and Cleo Davis (r)  
Photo is from the Hudson Valley  
Bluegrass Association website in  
relation to Wayne Erbsen's article.

When the bio about David Davis, who will be our summer picnic entertainment, singularly referred to his uncle, Cleo Davis, as “the original” Blue Grass Boy, The Hornpipe editor became curious. After on-line research of Wikipedia and numerous sources, the editor wrote this article. Many facts came from “The Big Bang Theory of Bluegrass” and “Cleo Davis, the Original Bluegrass Boy,” two articles by Wayne Erbsen, who also wrote the book, *The Rural Roots of Bluegrass*. The Editor is now reading Erbsen's book, which includes both history and songs.

In 1981 Erbsen received an unsolicited letter from Johnnie Cleo Davis, who referred to himself as “JC.” Davis asked for and received Erbsen's help to reconnect with someone else Erbsen had written about in *Bluegrass Unlimited*. Before the days of internet and inexpensive long distance phone calls, an extensive interview began. From his home in Ashville NC, Erbsen mailed Davis questions, which Davis would answer on cassette tapes he mailed

back to Erbsen from his home in Lakeland, FL. Erbsen's article said he was the first to interview Davis about his role in the origin of the Blue Grass Boys. Davis died shortly afterwards in 1986 at the age of 67. Erbsen, now 79, still lives in Ashville, NC.

Apparently, shortly after Bill and Charlie Monroe broke up the Monroe Brothers' act in August 1938, Cleo Davis was encouraged by a friend to respond to a blind ad in the *Atlanta Journal*. The ad was seeking a guitarist to play and sing old-time songs. Davis found Monroe conducting auditions in a trailer next to an Atlanta service station. Davis believed he was hired because Monroe's wife, Carolyn, agreed that he sang remarkably like Charlie. Erbsen quotes Davis as he tells the colorful story about his experience of being hired by Monroe, who immediately bought him a guitar, suit of clothes, and a Stetson hat.

Apparently, Monroe and Davis spent the next two months practicing before they began to perform, auditioning at several radio stations eventually getting their first gig at WWNC in Asheville, NC. As the duet grew in popularity, Monroe hired fiddler Art Wooten and bassist Amos Garren to join them. It was then that they first became known as “Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys.” They appeared on the Grand Ole Opry in 1939.

Monroe was inducted as a member of the Grand Ole Opry on October 28, 1939. The Blue Grass Boys, which over Monroe's career included 150 different musicians, played at the Opry on numerous occasions. A complete list of the Blue Grass Boys who played with Bill Monroe is here: [monroemandolincamp.com](http://monroemandolincamp.com).

Monroe was not only a musician but also a talented baseball player. He met David “Stringbean” Akeman, when he hired him as a pitcher for his semi-pro baseball team, without knowing he played the banjo. Stringbean became Monroe's first banjoist in 1942, and played as part of the Blue Grass Boys until 1945, when he became a member of the Grand

Ole Opry, before becoming a cast member of the TV program *Hee Haw*. As Walt Crider's book review in the 2023 July-September *Hornpipe* mentioned, Stringbean was mysteriously murdered at his modest country home outside Nashville at age 58 in 1973.

In December 1945, shortly after Stringbean left the band, banjoist Earl Scruggs joined Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys, who by then included guitarist, Lester Flatt; fiddler, Chubby Wise; and bassist, Howard Watts, aka “Cedric Rainwater.” The Blue Grass Boys never included a dobro. Some historians say that this 1945 version of the Blue Grass Boys, featuring Scruggs' distinctive three-finger picking style, should be known as the “original bluegrass band.”

Erbsen's article, “Cleo Davis, The Original Bluegrass (sic) Boy,” appears on [nativeground.com](http://nativeground.com), which is Erbsen's website. The spelling of “Bluegrass,” as one word, is contrary to how historians, including the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame, otherwise labels the band as “Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys.” Most music historians conclude that “bluegrass” is a lower-case, one-word name for a music genre that was first used around 1945 to describe the sound of the Blue Grass Boys after Scruggs' distinctive, three-finger picking style was added to the band.

Monroe did not embrace labels. He described his music as: “Scottish bagpipes and ole-time fiddling. It's Methodist, and Holiness, and Baptist. It's blues and jazz, and it has a high lonesome sound.” Monroe's forceful personality directed his Blue Grass Boys as if he was “schooling them.” Among Monroe's alumni are some of the bluegrass genre's most important artists: Flatt and Scruggs; Don Reno; Jimmy Martin; and Del McCoury.

That's the short version of the story about why Johnnie Cleo “JC” Davis is the “original Blue Grass Boy,” why historians agree that the Blue Grass Boys were the first “bluegrass” band, and how Bill Monroe came to be known as the “Father of Bluegrass.”

## SMBA Concert Attendance



Below are attendance numbers for our January through March concerts at Goodwill Fire Co. While it is certainly appropriate to observe the popularity of the Lonesome River Band and the Grascals, it is also fair to note that attendance was hurt by the cancellation of Wildfire's February 24th scheduled performance due to a death in a band member's family. Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass put on a fine show as usual, but many members who have a chance to see Danny frequently might have decided not to venture out on a winter night. The evening of March 9th was marred by a steady rain with 40 MPH wind gusts. It is unfortunate that the bad weather certainly kept many members away from the Country Gentlemen Tribute Band's great show.

Date	Performer	Members	Guests	Total
Jan 13	LRB	144	89	233
Feb 10	Grascals	146	68	214
Feb 24	Danny Paisley	90	30	120
March 9	CGTB	73	32	105



## Ready to Get Involved? SMBA Needs YOU!

- 🔑 Arrive early to concerts to set up chairs.
- 🔑 Invite a friend to attend their first SMBA concert and offer to pay for their membership as a gift!
- 🔑 Call Ilse Heine (727-838-4550), or email her at IlseHeine73@gmail.com, if you can bring a treat for the dessert table at the summer picnic.
- 🔑 Volunteer to help with preparation and set-up for the picnic at Hershaull Park on Saturday July 27.
- 🔑 If you would like to get more involved with SMBA, ask any Board member how to go about it.
- 🔑 Consider becoming the editor of a reimagined version of *The Hornpipe* beginning in 2025, (or sooner if you prefer).

***When You Get Involved  
It Can Make A Difference!***

## Bluegrass Radio Stations

### Streaming Bluegrass Radio Stations

An alternative to subscription radio is on-line "streaming" through the Internet. If you have a "smart phone," you can most likely download an "app" that will allow you to listen to a streaming station wherever you are— in your car or your home, or an outdoor activity such as walking, picnicking or camping. If you are an aging Baby Boomer and need to learn how to "stream" or "download an app" to your phone, ask a younger person. You will be amazed to discover how easy it is to listen to free bluegrass music wherever you are!

- 🔑 [www.bluegrassonthetube.com](http://www.bluegrassonthetube.com)
- 🔑 [www.bluegrassradio.com](http://www.bluegrassradio.com)
- 🔑 [www.banjoradio.com](http://www.banjoradio.com) (featuring multiple award-winning and recent SiriusXM radio host Kyle Cantrell)
- 🔑 [www.thebluegrassjamboree.com](http://www.thebluegrassjamboree.com)
- 🔑 [www.worldwidebluegrass.com](http://www.worldwidebluegrass.com)
- 🔑 [www.bluegrasscountry.org](http://www.bluegrasscountry.org)

### Radio Stations broadcasting by "Air Waves" in Members' listening areas. Might also "Stream":

#### **WDCV 88.3 FM - Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa**

Davis Tracy plays bluegrass, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 8-10 AM

#### **WDVR 89.7 FM [www.wdvr.com](http://www.wdvr.com) Delaware, NJ**

Echoes From The Hills with Rich Evans, Monday 12-3 PM

Bluegrass Horizon with Mike Wuerstel, Monday 7-10 PM

Country Comfort with Steve Misa "Country, Bluegrass and Americana," Saturday - 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Bluegrass Junction with Richard Evans Saturday 1-4 PM

#### **WRGG 93.7 FM, Greencastle-Antrim area, Bluegrass Connection with Lanny Carbaugh, Weds- 6-8 PM**

#### **WIOO AM 1000 AM, Carlisle, PA and also 93.9 FM, 97.9 FM, 107.3 FM, WEEO 1480 AM**

Opry Show with Tim Michaels Saturday 7-9 AM

#### **WIOV 105.1 FM, Ephrata, PA Time Machine with Tim Michaels, Saturday 6 PM-12 Midnight**

#### **Sirius XM -Satellite Radio**

Bluegrass Junction 24 hours a day Bluegrass. \$99/year by subscription

***Better Late Than Never!***  
**Renew your Annual SMBA Membership**  
**Please use the form below to update your information!**

**Membership Enrollment and Information Update Form**

A household membership includes a family of two adults at the same address and their children, ages 18 and under. Memberships are \$15 and are renewable each year by January 31st. All SMBA members, including Board members and volunteers, are expected to pay dues annually. Your membership supports live bluegrass! Your cooperation makes it easier for our volunteer Treasurer!

Name of Adult(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Household Phone Number for Messages (Schedule changes, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Email \_\_\_\_\_

SMBA is now using email to send a color version of the newsletter to save printing and postage, instead of only mailing the black and white version. Please choose one of these options: Do you want to receive the newsletter by: (1) email only \_\_\_\_; (2) by USPS \_\_\_\_ or (3) both \_\_\_\_

List any string instrument that you play: \_\_\_\_\_

List any band you play with: \_\_\_\_\_

Please give detail if you can teach string instruments or have luthier skills: \_\_\_\_\_

Please give detail if you can share experience with bookkeeping or editing: \_\_\_\_\_

Name any skills or talents you MIGHT volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

What current membership benefits are most important to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a membership benefit you would like to see added in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

***Mail this form and a check for \$15 payable to "SMBA" to the address below:  
SMBA C/O Patsy Kline, Treasurer, P.O. Box 224, Lawn, PA 17041***

***Note: If you are a current member who is receiving phone messages, USPS mail, and email, then this form is not necessary, but updating your information is appreciated if you have any doubt.***






***Thank you!***



Seven Mountains Bluegrass Association  
c/o Patsy Kline  
P.O. Box 224  
Lawn, Pa 17041

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## ***It's Time!***

-  **Renew your past-due SMBA Membership !**
-  **Invite a friend for the April 13th Joe Mullins concert !**
-  **Volunteer to help with the SMBA picnic on July 27th !**
-  **Ask any Board member how you can help with SMBA !**
-  **For children to apply by May 31st for a SMBA scholarship !**

***To get your newsletter and other info by email:  
Send a request to: [patzkline@comcast.net](mailto:patzkline@comcast.net)***