

Winter
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

December
2022

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area

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'Tis the Season!

Howdy pickers and gridders. I hope your stockings are hung by the chimney with care and big enough for Santa to fit a nice Martin guitar in. There are exciting things going on with the Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association. For the first time in a long while, our 4th Friday jam is back! We have partnered with the Boone County Enrichment Center (bluegrass is certainly enriching) and they have offered the use of their fancy new building at the corner of 18 and 237 by Burger King. It is literally two hills over from the former location at Willis Music and will be the usual 6:00-9:00 pm. We had the first one in October and it was wildly successful. Our next one will be on January 27th.

The annual Turkey Jam was the Friday after Thanksgiving at the Hebron Masonic Lodge on November 25th. This has been a great party in the past with everyone bringing leftovers from the day before and the club providing drinks. This was also a 4th Friday, so there was no jam at the Enrichment Center in November. Perhaps next year we will be more consistent.

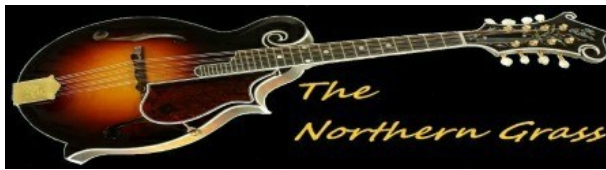
For Christmas, we are appropriately having the party on the 3rd Friday Gospel Jam night at the Hebron Masonic

Lodge on December 16th. This is the event of the year for NKBMA. The club will provide meats, cheese, and drinks again with desserts showing up randomly from attendees (I like yellow cake with chocolate frosting, by the way). Last year we started a silent auction and it was very successful. This year we are going to try it again with donations being accepted. If you have a box of old CDs you never listen to anymore or a 1938 Martin D-28 that won't stay in tune to suit you, a spare instrument case, table lamp, sleeping bag, stale potato chips, or anything else cluttering up your space you would like to donate to NKBMA, it would be most appreciated. As a bonus, NKBMA is a non-profit (boy howdy are we) organization and your donations are tax-deductible. Keep more of the money you earned in 2022 by giving stuff away. This is very exciting because you never know what will turn up. There is also talk of a good old-fashioned cakewalk happening. I hope to see you all there.

Tom Bushelman - President NKBMA



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Last weekend, I heard that Williamstown Kentucky was putting on a street festival with live bluegrass entertainment and thought I'd better check it out. It was a good thing I did, because the lineup was top-notch, featuring Fenced In, Edgar Loudermilk, and Russell Moore & IIIrd Time Out. There are rumors that Williamstown is working towards becoming the next Branson and that may be so. Most of downtown has been renovated with a new amphitheater currently in construction.

We got there in time to put a set of chairs right in the front row and walked down Main Street, checking out vendors for all sorts of delightful fair foods which I sampled to excess. As a side note, a Bahamian gentleman was sitting next to us near the hamburger place and hurricane stories started up. He had plenty of firsthand experience, including one rough hurricane that demolished large parts of the Bahamas and for many weeks, the only thing they had to eat were lobsters. The storm had washed them up and wiped out everything else. I've never had the opportunity to eat lobster until I was sick of it and don't know that I wouldn't like to try. Fortunately, my wallet won't let me do something so foolish and I don't believe they will be washing up on the

riverbanks around here anytime soon.

Russell Moore's show is always fantastic, and if you haven't seen him in a couple of years you are in for a symmetrically fantastic stage presence. Russell takes center stage flanked by a pair of twins, one on each side. That is the kind of thing that brings joy to my heart, sort of like the midget KISS band. The second of the twins finally joined the band in 2021. They put on a fantastic show wrapped up by one of my all-time favorite tunes, John and Mary. I heard a guy a couple of seats down explaining to his wife that the mandolin player was about to pick up a different mandolin for John and Mary. It took me a couple of years to figure out that was done with a mandola tuned much differently than a mandolin. I tried unsuccessfully to pick it out on a mandolin with no luck for a long time. Finally, one day as I was noodling on a guitar, a couple of notes fell in line together with the right timing completely by accident and I recognized the John and Mary lick coming from my guitar. That saved me the expense of buying a mandola for that 8-second melody line. Russell Moore did a bang-up grand finale with that song and Northern Kentucky was blessed to have such a fine street festival put on by the city of Williamstown. Stay tuned for next year.

Tom Bushelman Jr.

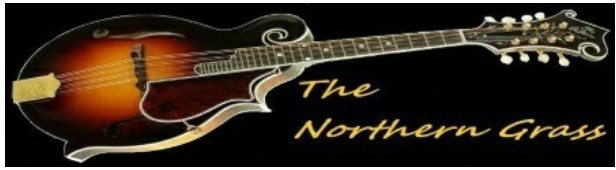
Two windmills are standing in a wind farm. One asks, "what's your favorite kind of music? The other responds, "I'm a big metal fan."

What is a dinosaurs least favorite reindeer? ... Comet.

I've started investing in stocks: beef chicken, and vegetable. Someday I hope to be a bullionaire.



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A Visit to BGMHOFandM



It's a steamy summer afternoon as we putter down Second Street in Owensboro, Ky. Joanie's voice from the back seat jolts us saying "Look . . the colors on that building look like a dance floor!" Artists talk like that a lot and as we crane our necks the Bluegrass Hall Of Fame and Museum, sure enough, is on our right. Now I tumble into distracted driving mode as my mind ponders: A: checking off one of the higher items on the "ole bucket list." B: mental images of a barn dance. C: thinking about the location of the hotel.

To the relief of my passengers, the parking lot of our hotel is right next door, and I cruise into a spot to unload. It's great to stretch our legs after the drive from Florence to Owensboro, four-lane almost all the way. This is going to work out great as I have simple plans for tomorrow morning. After a good breakfast, I plan on being the first one in the door at the Hall of Fame.

We follow the advice offered by the desk clerk and later walk into the park behind the hotel. It's Friday, and there is a festival in full tilt. I count four stages with bands offering all types of music. Right behind the Hall of Fame, a Gospel concert is finishing up with every seat occupied. Did I mention all this was free?! Folks there told me this is a monthly thing in Smothers Park. As we do our touristy walk-around, I'm impressed

with the walking paths, the largest playground I've ever seen, art installations, river views, and those wonderful oversize porch swings. It's easy to imagine just a-swingin' there at the right time of year and watching a big red sun sinking in the Ohio River. Smothers Park. . . now if I could just get the picture of those two brothers with guitar and upright bass out of my mind.

Oddly, the next morning my plans work out and I walk through the door of the Hall of Fame as customer number one, followed by my three traveling companions. We get our tickets and are issued a listening device that allows us to privately hear a description of the exhibit we stand near. Good ole Bluegrass music is in the background, but I hear something live as I enter the exhibits. Turning the corner, I see my son with a huge grin and he is wearing a Martin HD-28 strapped across his body. Well, "I raised that boy right!" He had found the wall of instruments museum patrons are encouraged to take down and play, examine, or pose with. Our two lady traveling companions quickly found the upright bass and fiddle and were discussing what to call their band when they form one.

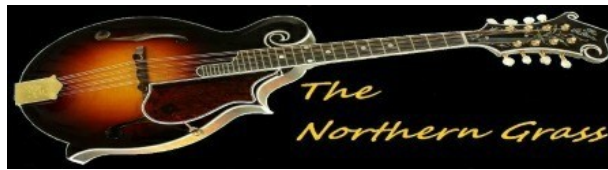


Being early, we checked out dobros, banjos, guitars, fiddles, mandolins, etc. all good quality and very playable.

Cont. on next page



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Two fellows in the corner cranked up on fiddle and guitar and explained they come here most Saturdays to jam while they save up for their own top-notch instruments. By now several others had entered and were photographing each other holding instruments. You just always notice how someone who has never played holds a banjo or whatever. We leave all this fun to see the exhibits.

With just a short turn, we are treated to an absolute feast of audio-visual displays to explore. Murals, a giant timeline, listening areas, recreations, and display cases fill spaces in every room while ever-present bluegrass music furnishes a background. Representations of small barrooms up to massive festivals are tastefully done with an eye to “you are there” realism.

I enjoyed sitting and watching tapes of 1970's festivals, trying to catch a glimpse of my younger self toting that folding chair around near the front. All in all, I got a clear notion of the sometimes-tough times those early bluegrass bands survived. Nearby, I find a room lined with plaques celebrating achievements and award winners of previous years: banjo player of the year, best album, singer, etc. A trivia lover could spend the weekend in this room. This area truly shows off the masters of bluegrass and the promise for the future.

Nope, Bill Monroe's mandolin isn't there, but I saw one of Jimmy Martin's guitars. Earl Scruggs' string tie looks the same as on the album cover, which sits beside one of those banjos he signed. Derby hat. . . John Hartford's is right there along with a sound clip. Several iconic suits, ties, boots, and a big white hat or two recall how bluegrass is foremost a performance art done with a lot of stage presence.

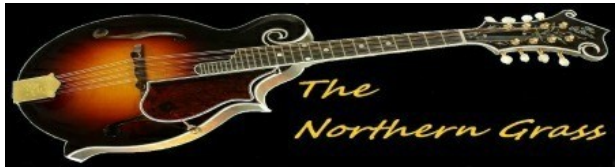
Almost on overload, I'm drawn to a research area with two computer stations. The chairs are comfortable and I promise myself

I'll just do a quick skim to see what this area is all about. I quickly realize I don't have enough time to follow through on my plan. The computers hold a massive database of personalities, bands, individuals, instruments, and almost anything remotely related to bluegrass. I see a familiar name and promise myself I'll just look at one article. The name I pick is Melvin Goins of the Goins Brothers band. At one time, while working and living in Floyd Co., I often passed by Melvin's house and could keep track of his touring. Melvin was a great talker on stage and off so I select a tape of an interview and fasten my seatbelt. It's Melvin at his best. After the first question, the interviewer can only helplessly watch as an absolute barrage of jokes, stray thoughts, and stories come flooding out in his rat-a-tat-tat-tat way of speaking. I'm cracking up with the story of his band pushing a car down a hill with one of the members asleep in the back. Tears begin to flow as he talks about bringing a live snake backstage just as the show starts. People start to stare as I listen to his story of buttering the fiddler's bow just after sound check. It's time to hang up the earphones and make a graceful exit. Bluegrass music certainly has its share of characters, and I'll bet you could find most of them in that database.

We gather our little group together after this and begin to wonder what time it is after being so absorbed in our visit. We haven't seen it all, some exhibits will change, and we know we will be back. Even visitors who know little about bluegrass will be entertained, and the area around the Hall of Fame makes a great weekend destination. There is a big checkmark on my bucket list: “been there; done that,” but I've lightly scribbled in a return trip for next year. See you there!



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Looking for an evening of fun entertainment and good home-style cooking? Head south on I-75 to exit 159, Dry Ridge. The Bluegrass Mkt place has a gift shop, restaurant, and a dinner

theater too, with family fun and great food!

Member Band News: Do you have a band? We offer promotional support for our member bands. Join NKBMA as a band and members (up to 5) are members also. See Page 11 for details and visit our 'Member Band' page at <http://nkbma.com> for links to member band websites or pages on our site.

The Art Of The Pun

What's the difference between a well-dressed man on a bicycle and a poorly dressed man on a tricycle? ...A tire.

I haven't seen many advent calendars recently...I guess their days are numbered.

I lost my mood ring... I don't know how I feel about it.

Valley Wide **kw** REALTY SERVICES
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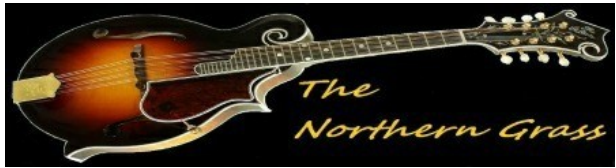
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STATUS OF LOCAL JAMS

Jams are starting back up around the area. Here are a few that we have been made aware of. If you know of more, drop us a note at nkbma.com/contact-us.html

Hebron Jam at the Lodge 1st Friday of the month starting **March 4th** 6-10pm, \$3 donation, snacks, beverages, food available. Hart Dr, Hebron, KY. For info: Gene at 859-689-7431

Newport Lodge jams, 2nd Friday of the month, 6-10pm \$6 donation, potluck dinner. 5th and Park, Newport, KY For info contact Russel at russturner22@gmail.com

Hebron Gospel Jam at the Lodge 3rd Friday of the month starting **February 18th** 6-10pm, \$3 donation, snacks, beverages, food available. Hart Dr, Hebron, KY. For info: Gene at 859-689-7431

NKBMA Jam 4th Friday of the month has been suspended. We are in search of a venue that can accommodate multiple jam groups. If you know of any such location, contact a board member.

Camp Springs Tavern, every other Thursday, 6-10pm 7009 Stonehouse Rd, Melbourne, KY, favorite libations available. Details at campspringstavern.com

Molly Malone's Monday Night Jams, 7pm, 4th and Court St., Covington, KY. Artie Werner and the Missy Werner Band lead this popular jam. Food and beverages available.

Augusta Pub Bluegrass Jams, 3rd Sunday of the month, 1:30-4:30pm, 120 Main St, Augusta, KY 41002 For information call (606)756-9910

"Old Time Jam", Bean & Barley Coffeehouse and Taproom in O'Bryonville, 2005 Madison Rd. Cincinnati, OH. Every Sunday. Bring your acoustic instrument and help celebrate traditional music from Appalachia.

Old Time Fiddler's Jam, 2nd Sunday of the month, 1-4:30pm, Whitewater Community Center, 6125 Dry Fork Rd, Cleves, OH. All acoustic only.

Old Time Music Co. Jam, every Tuesday 7-9pm. Famous Old Time Music Co, 1196 Ross Millville Rd, Hamilton OH. Call ahead of time to ensure the jam is still on.



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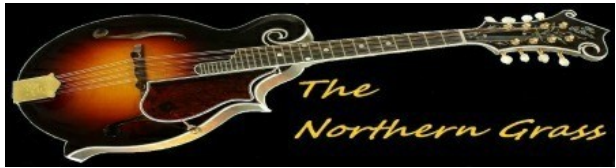
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Updated NKBMA website now Apple Compatible

Go to www.nkbma.com for all the latest news, special events, and jams plus our huge archive of old photo slideshows, member band news and past Northern Grass issues.

Plus our own Facebook Page www.facebook.com/nkbma

Visit the page whether you have a Facebook account or not and see photos from past events and the latest event schedules

Want to be part of our Event Reminder Network? Send your current email address to Jerry@NKBMA.com

JOIN the TEAM for 2023. Please send your annual membership dues to the NKBMA , remain a member in good standing and help keep Bluegrass music alive in the area. Membership benefits:

- ** Bands are listed on our website with links to their websites.**
- ** Musical Scholarships to acoustic Instrument students**
- ** Weekly Jams supported around the area**
- ** Annual Summer Picnic, Turkey Jam and Christmas Dinner**
- ** Quarterly Newsletters like this one emailed to members**
- ** Email notification/reminder network for events**

Your membership fees help pay for our liability insurance, our PO Box, our website and domain name, and the costs of publishing this newsletter, music scholarships and more.

Send your name, mailing address, current email address and payment to:

**Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association
P.O. Box 133
Hebron, Kentucky 41048**

(current rates: \$15 Single, \$20 Couple, \$25 Band)

Join the team for 2022, become a Member or Volunteer.

Enrollment forms also available at www.nkbma.com

The FUTURE of the ORGANIZATION Depends Upon YOU

NEW NKBMA APPAREL NOW AVAILABLE

Products looks great and are going fast! And we now have a variety of items in a variety of sizes and colors to make you the fashion talk of any group, jam or gathering. Here is a listing of items available:

- T-SHIRTS, sizes Large to 3x, 3 colors \$15.00 ea
 - POLO SHIRTS, sizes L to 3x, 2 colors \$25.00 ea
 - CREW SWEATSHIRTS, Large to 3x \$20.00 ea
 - Zipper Front HOODIEs, Large to 3x \$30.00 ea
 - BALL CAPS , 2 colors \$10.00 ea
- Be sure to check the items out at the next Hebron Jam

Address Label



NKBMA
PO Box 133
Hebron, KY 41048



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Festival News, fun stories

Member Band News

And more



**Pick up an instrument
And Mentor Someone!**