



Winter
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

February
2016

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area

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What's New
For 2016

When you want to put a band together there are at least 4 important qualities you look for in band mates. Let's consider the following:

1. The best musician you can get at the time you start
2. The most dedicated and loyal person you can find that respects the music and is willing to rehearse to make the band as good as it can be.
3. A person you trust not to embarrass the group on or off the stage (unless you find a John Duffey clone, then you forget the rest of the rules!)
4. A person you would want as a friend on or off the stage

Add them all together and you get **THE BUD WALLS FACTOR**.

When 'My Favorite Bluegrass Band' formed some years ago, Tom Murphy, Barry Hartman, and I were trying to find a fiddle, mandolin, or a dobro player to round out the group. Most of the choices we had were not what we wanted. No slight intended, but the criteria above narrowed the field. The three of us would get together and work hard to get vocals and arrangements together but something was always missing.

We knew Bud Walls was working with a group that had been together a long time and he was dedicated to Jamie, Paul, Coy and Phil. We respected that as one of the qualities we were looking for. We took some gigs and asked Bud, if he wasn't busy, would he help us out. Of course he did. When Mark Stidham

joined us on the mandolin, even Bud admitted the group took a definite turn for the better. We were successful enough to do the Festival of Bluegrass in Lexington, KY, a bucket list item fulfilled.

Over the years the MFBGB has become mostly a good time basement or porch pickin' group, but the one factor that all agree on is the "**Bud Walls Factor**". Bud proved to be the culmination of all 4 conditions essential in any good band mate.

Having Bud in our band, we made some of our best music. He will be missed in so many ways and for so many reasons. I will quote Lynn Hayes (Rick Hayes of Nightflyer's wife) when I informed them of Bud's passing. She said, "OMG, not our Bud!" That summed it up. *OUR BUD*. He was a credit to any circle of friends, musicians, or family and we all claimed him as *OURS*.

Bud used to ask me which of his dobros would be appropriate for our gigs. It made for some real unimportant conversation because if he had one or the other in his hands, and he was on the stage with you, it didn't make any difference. The factors that made Bud the man he was made us proud he was with us. We want to thank "DJ", his loving wife of 48 years, for sharing him with all of us.

From all of us that called you *OUR BUD* God bless you for being a friend, band mate, incredible musician, wonderful family man and inspiration to all.

Ron Simmons, President NKBMA, ACDA



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“Bud” Walls

Born Murrel Wesley Walls, August 3, 1946 in Uniontown, PA., “Bud” to all of us who knew him and enjoyed his musical talents, passed away December 26, 2015 in Edgewood KY. We have asked some of his close friends and band mates to share their

memories of **OUR BUD**. **Paul Goodridge, Tanner Hill & the River Cats 1995-2015:** ‘Memories of Bud begin with his quick wit, his laugh, playing with tasteful spontaneity on his instrument and his joy of being in the moment. Playing gigs with Bud came in many varied venues, from sitting under a shade tree, playing for a sack of fresh vegetables to playing for a Military appreciation day at the airport and opening for Sam Bush & Leon Russell.

‘Bud enjoyed the adventure and was always on top of his game with everyone he ever played with affecting all who played with him or just listened. He had an encouraging way of making you feel comfortable as a player and as a person. Not only will there be a void left in the bluegrass dobro world but also a void in our hearts and our collective musical souls. We loved you Bud and will miss You and Your incredible talent!’

Steve Bonafel: ‘I met Bud Walls at the N. KY. ‘School of Bluegrass’, known as the Hebron Masonic Lodge. I started jamming there in the 1980s and only knew a few chords on the guitar. It started as a form of entertainment for me but I was soon constantly listening to bluegrass music and jammin’ with friends. I was invited to join a couple local bluegrass gospel groups as a sideman. Then one fateful night at the Lodge the ‘light’ went on. For some reason they were short guitar players and

vocalists so I was forced out of my shell. Bud was playing the banjo at the time and was great. I became the lead singer that night singing Jimmy Martin songs and didn’t have much self confidence. Bud didn’t know me very well but he encouraged me right from the start. You couldn’t help but like the guy so when I started my band, ‘**One Iota**’, Bud was one of the first people I called and he jumped right in. I knew what he could do on the dobro as well as banjo. When I started writing songs Bud would always listen and say, ‘Man that’s good’, whether it was traditional or out on the edge, always giving me encouragement and confidence. And I was always anxious to see what Bud would add to any new song with his picking and playing styles.

‘Many members of the band have come and gone, but Bud was there for the first event in 2001 and our last one September of 2015. Mr. Reliable! As a band leader, I had to mix and match personalities to ensure everyone worked well together but Bud worked well with everyone. I spoke to him the day before he passed away and told him I never heard a bad word said about him, everybody liked making music with him. My kids liked him right from the start because he was short like them (haha).

‘He never complained when some of the gigs didn’t pay very well. He seemed to love making music every time we took the stage. And he was also creative in the studio. On our first CD recorded in 2001, we doctored up an old hymn for bluegrass and he got the idea to play a line of Dixie on his break. It fit! And got a few good laughs! He also was in on my last CD in 2009 still playing his dobro making good music.

‘He was more than a good musician, he was also a loyal friend who had my back when I needed someone to lean on. I think highly of all my musician friends and Bud was a part of my inner circle. He will sadly be missed by all’.

Bud Walls Memorial PHOTOS



Artie Werner: ‘...the times that I got to play with him and watch him play were fun, and in addition to being a good musician he was always a good guy to be around. He never had a bad word to say about anyone.’ **Steve Bonafel:** ‘He really enjoyed making music a lot of different ways with a lot of different people. What a blessing (he was)’



What a fitting tribute to the man we claimed as **OUR BUD**...a live jam in the back of the visitation room with some of the areas finest musicians rotating in and out playing music for 2 hours. Love and appreciation for **Murrel Wesley ‘Bud’ Walls** will go on through the music he loved to play and in the hearts of those who knew him.



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2015 Annual Christmas Party

Another great Party!! Thanks to everyone who brought dishes to pass and the NKBMA team, there was plenty of food to go around. And the desserts were almost sinfully good.

Backroom jammin' was at a high level and music from stage featured some of our very talented musician members and other guests. And by the grins on the faces of those in the audience, I would say the music and stories didn't disappoint. Thanks to all the musicians who love to share their talents with us and provide such great Bluegrass music.

Ron conducted door prize drawings and split the pot drawings giving away custom NKBMA shirts, mugs, and hats. A pair of tickets to the January Woodsongs concert event were also given away to a lucky winner.

New this year.....free photos taken in front of the Christmas fireplace setting. To see those photos, go to www.NKBMA.com website and click on Christmas 2015 from the Home page.

A Special thanks to Laura Ennis for her hard work keeping the coffee and food flowing.



Special Guest - **Steve Martin**

The Host of UnrealBluegrass.com radio program airing every Saturday 2-5pm on The Bluegrass Mix and every Thursday midnight to 3am on WOBO FM 88.7 stopped by the party. As a current member of the Board of Directors for IBMA he talked about the IBMA Convention in Raleigh and the direction the new board is charting in the years ahead. Questions from the floor were welcomed

PLUS.....the WINNER of the raffle for a MARTIN GUITAR w/Case !!

Tickets were only \$5 each, only 300 to be sold, so the odds at winning a new Martin DX1KAE KOA Dreadnought guitar and case were pretty good ! CONGRATULATIONS to John "Spotted Horse" Helton





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WOODSONGS[®] COFFEEHOUSE

Past Events

Saturday, November 14th

The RETREAD BAND

performed at Willis Music in Florence. This Band performs Bluegrass, Old Tyme, and Gospel music. A favorite at numerous festivals and featured at Renfro Valley, they have been the subject of an article in Bluegrass Unlimited. If you missed this performance you missed out on some great vocals, excellent instrumental musicianship and a down right entertaining performance.



Members left to right: Vince Phelan, Bruce Clark, Dan Cozens, Eric Lawrence and Dave Seagram

Saturday, January 16th

TOMMY BROWN and

County Line Grass

performed at Willis Music providing an action filled, entertaining evening of fun and great Mountain-style Bluegrass music. From broken guitar strings to banter from the stage with Gene Thompson, this group of veterans can make performing seem easy and fun. Wayne's fiddle was exceptional and Tommy wowed us with traditional Scruggs, frailing, drop down, and clawhammer techniques delivering a powerful banjo performance.



Members left to right: Wayne Fyffe, Tommy Brown, Jereme Brown, (hiding in the back on bass) Rachel Brown





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APPALACHIAN FESTIVAL at Old Coney - May 6th - 8th features live Music, Crafts, Food, Living History Storytelling and Educational Exhibits. Something new will be added this year to promote continued involvement in our Appalachian Heritage through Mountain-Style Bluegrass Music Education.

On Saturday, May 7th, radio broadcaster and one of Cincinnati's foremost acoustic guitar and mandolin instrumentalists, **Tim Strong**, will host a day long Bluegrass Music Seminar. Tim is lining up a growing list of professional Bluegrass musicians to help one



on one and group instruction. Anyone bringing an instrument and registering at the Southwest gate will receive an ID wristband entitling them to receive professional help with playing techniques, Bluegrass music

structure and vocal arranging. Young people 16 and under will enjoy free admission. All others wishing to participate are welcome with normal admission ticket. Fundamental ability on your instrument is recommended.

Applicable instruments are mandolin, acoustic guitar, acoustic bass, resonophonic guitar (dobro), violin (fiddle) and 5 string banjo. A lineup of instructors will be announced in the coming months on the 2016 ACDA website now under construction. For questions regarding this instructional seminar please contact Ron Simmons via simmons@fuse.net



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Located across from the Florence Mall and Next to H. H. Gregg on Mall Road, our Florence Superstore has it all.
Rick Fuchs and staff bring Years of service and experience to meet Your every Musical need.

Our Florence location features a 24 track Digital recording studio and performance Center (seats 200) in addition to the Kate Young Music Makers studios and lesson center

**7567 Mall Road
Florence, KY 41042
859-525-6050**



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CHINESE BREAKDOWN

APRIL 9, 2016

CHINA GARDEN BUFFET

1108 W Kemper Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45240
Promenade Shopping
Center



SHOWTIME 7PM

(door opens 6:30)

Vernon McIntyre's
**APPALACHIAN
GRASS**

\$25 per Person Price includes **ALL YOU CAN EAT** Buffet, Hibachi Grill, Sushi Bar, Desserts, soft drink

TIP included in the price!!!

SEATING IS LIMITED ... Purchase your tickets NOW!

To guarantee your seat, get your ticket by MARCH 1, 2016!

call 513-607-1874 email: fotmc@iglou.com www.fotmc.com

Every Monday Night

Molly Malone's

Bluegrass Jam

In front of the 1st floor fireplace

112 E. 4th Street

Covington, KY 41011

Starts at 8pm Sing and play along or just listen while enjoying your favorite food and beverage

the Sound Workshop

RECORDING STUDIO

Located within **Willis Music** on Mall Road in Florence, KY. Contact Rick Hopkins for all

Your music recording needs at:

(513)607-9855 or visit their website at

www.soundworkshop.net

MONDAY NIGHT BLUEGRASS JAM

STARTS AT 8 PM

MOLLY MALONE'S



Irish Pub & Restaurant

Covington, Kentucky

www.mollymalonesirishpub.com

JOIN IN OR LISTEN TO SOME OF THE AREA'S FINEST IN FRONT OF OUR FIRST FLOOR FIREPLACE. FULL MENU AND \$2 BULLEIT SPECIALS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

112 E. 4th Street, Covington, KY 41011



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FUTURE BLUEGRASS SPECIAL EVENTS

There is nothing better than live music. Bring the family, a friend, or grab a neighbor!!

WOODSONGS® COFFEEHOUSE EVENTS

**Saturday, February 13th
7:00pm**

COMET ALL STARS

At Willis Music in Florence

Audiences find each member of the band to be accomplished singers and multi-instrumentalists in their own right presenting an amazing interplay and high lonesome bluegrass harmony sure to delight. This local legendary band opened for the World Choir Games and introduced the planet to Bluegrass!

Contact: Gene Thompson (859)689-7431

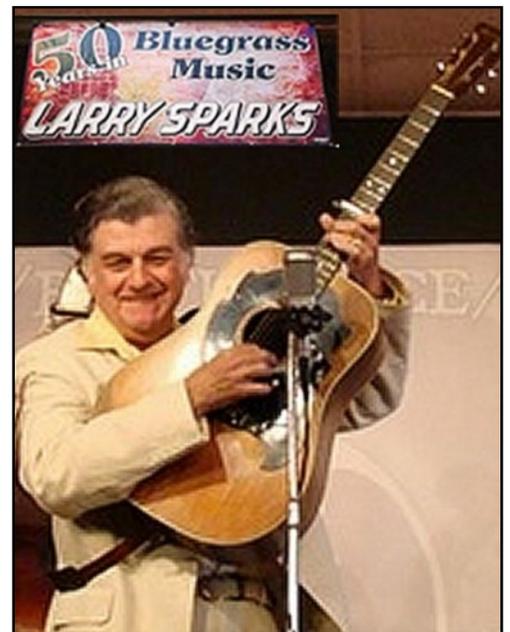


Thursday, March 3rd 7:00pm

LARRY SPARKS

At Willis Music in Florence

Larry is among the most widely known and respected touring musicians in bluegrass and gospel music today. Celebrating over 50 years in bluegrass music, Larry was inducted into the IBMA Hall of Fame in 2015 and is also a member of the Bill Monroe Hall of Fame and the George D Hays Hall of Fame. He was also nominated for a Grammy Dove award for his gospel album 'New Highway'. With 60+ albums to his credit, Larry still delights all with his soulful vocals and unparalleled musicianship. For info, contact Gene Thompson (859)689-7431





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FUTURE BLUEGRASS MUSICAL EVENTS

There is nothing better than live music. Come on out, bring the family, grab a neighbor!!

WOODSONGS® COFFEEHOUSE EVENTS

Saturday, April 16th 7:00pm
COON CREEK GIRLS

Together again after a 27 year hiatus, Pam Gadd on banjo and guitar, Wanda Barnett on guitar and Fiddle, Vicki Simmons on bass and banjo and Pam Perry Combs on mandolin and guitar, this group defines acoustic Bluegrass music. A musical event you don't want to miss. For info, contact: Gene Thompson (859)689-7431



Plus -same night

Michael Johnathon

Founder of Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour will be on stage to talk about his latest initiative to keep acoustic music alive in the home and the community. Come and listen as he shares his vision of what we all can do to become 'Song Farmers', find out about 'The Front Porch Association & Gathering' and listen as he demonstrates the new guitar Martin designed for him and maybe play a tune or two on his long neck 5-string





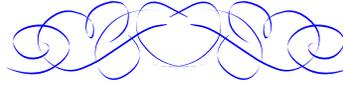
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MEETINGS AND JAMS



Gene Thompson -Hebron Jams are back

1st Friday of each month thru April
Hebron Lodge, Hebron, KY
Starts at 6:00pm; \$2 donation at the
door; refreshments available
Come and play or listen. Info Contact:
Gene Thompson (859)689-7431

Russell Turner Bluegrass Jams

2nd Friday of each month
5th and Park St, Newport, KY
6pm to 10pm year round
With Pot Luck and \$6 donation
Contact Russell Turner at:
rturn02@zoomtown.com



NEWEST JAM!!

Richwood Flea Market Jam

10915 Dixie Hwy, Walton KY
Every Sunday 2pm to 5pm
On the Flea Market Restaurant Stage
Contact Jerry Schrepfer for info:
(859)393-1175



Old Time Fiddlers Jam

2nd Sunday of each month 1 - 4:30pm
Whitewater Community Center
6125 Dry Fork Rd, Cleves, OH
All Acoustic, bring instruments or
listen and enjoy. Refreshments available.
roseballard3@aol.com

NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam

4th Friday of each month
Open Mic Fun! Backroom Jammin'
6pm to 9pm
Willis Music on Mall Rd, Florence
Come and play or listen.
Contact Rick Fuchs (859)525-6050





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AND NEW FOR 2016

Updated NKBMA website now Apple Compatible

Go to www.nkbma.com for all the latest news, special events, concert schedules and jams.

Plus our own Facebook Page



Find us on
Facebook

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 schrepferjerry38@gmail.com

HAVEN'T RENEWED? MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE?

If you haven't already, please send in your annual membership dues to the NKBMA , remain a member in good standing and be part of the team helping keep Bluegrass music alive in the area. Member bands are listed on our website and member band event schedules can be added to our website calendars.

Send payment (\$12 Single, \$15 Couple, \$25 Band) and your current email address to:

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 133

Hebron, Kentucky 41048

Join the NKBMA team for 2016 and help us support Bluegrass Music in the Northern Kentucky Area.



Address Label

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**Featuring a special memorial to
BUD WALLS**



Coming Events and More

**Pick up an instrument
And Make Some Music!**