



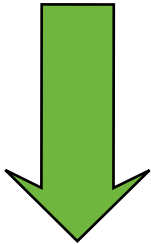
Summer
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

August
2015

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area

In This Edition



“RC Vance, The Fiddle and the Jamboree” Ron Simmons and Jerry Schrepfer

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A Series of articles
About the history of
Bluegrass jams in
Northern Kentucky
Including photos!

Page 6-7 - Bill Keith
Banjo Summit

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Festivals and
Special Events

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And Open Jams
Around Town

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Info, What's New
For 2015

When the “Thompson/Chastain/Lovett’ jam sessions proved to be such a success, it was rather inevitable that somebody would ramp up the fun and turn it into a real show. That person was RC Vance. Although I never heard him play a lick, I understand from many of You whom I spoke to that he was a man who could “get it done”!

It was an era of good Bluegrass Music that was really still considered part of Country Music, so the two genres of music clung to each other on stage and off. It was a time when hats were worn by many of the musicians and audience alike. It was a time when cowboy shirts and string ties were the dress of the time.....or if you were part of the “outlaw fringe”, you wore the funniest beat up head cover you could find. (See the photos with this article and find a picture of the great banjo player Dennis Hensley.) If Dennis still has that “lid”, it should be part of the N. KY Bluegrass/Country Hall of Fame. [Speaking of that, when are we going to recognize some of the greats from our area who have contributed so much and need to be remembered for the legacy they have created? Hmmm. I digress, but that’s how ideas get turned into actions.]

The resulting Jamboree was held in a block building in Boone Co., 4 miles south of

Burlington, which now houses the Boone Co. Water Rescue equipment. The Jamboree lasted for 8 years until RC became too ill with diabetes to carry on. It takes a strong personality and good management for anything like this to go on that long. It also took a lot of good folks who were bent on having a good time every Friday night. It seemed at that time the dancers, the performers and the beloved patrons, who just loved the music, were a part of the show. It all worked around the lights of the stage and the sound made on a wood dance floor. I am told the floor wound up in the basement of the home the Vance family owns on Burlington Pike. I find it particularly interesting that the Buick Dealership just down the road held quite a jam session years later run by Gene Thompson and the elusive Ron Cornett. We will be doing an article soon about that and the move to Willis Music that has kept the music alive. Please look in your albums and computers for pictures of jams at the dealership and if you have some from Willis, we need them too.

Please take a special look at the photos on the next couple pages as many of the participants are not around anymore. If you know them, let’s get them identified for future reference. Some of the pictures are from events other than the Jamboree, but



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were happening simultaneously. A lot of people making a lot of music! I thank two gentlemen that have contributed so much to this article. Tom Bushelman Senior and “Trooper Bob Williams. Their photos and memories have made this a great fun trip through memory lane. There is more to this story and Jerry Schrepfer is providing the anecdotes that follow. In case you don’t know who he is, please know, Jerry took over for Pam Messer who did a great job, until time constraints got to her, in publishing the News for NKBMA. Jerry and I spoke in his office very candidly at how much we are both learning about the people of our area who have contributed to the music. At this time I will let him share from that meeting and invite all who read this article to chime in to either of us. That way we’ll have even more to share in the future. Please email me at simmons@fuse.net if you have a story to tell about the Bluegrass Music and events in our area.....Jerry.....

Thanks Ron. I moved into the N. KY area in 1980, heard Bluegrass Music for the first time at the Ground Round and was hooked on the sound of the banjo and the beat of the bass. Through our children I met Tom Bushelman, Sr. and quickly realized this man would become a friend for life. His love for all things music, in particular Country and Bluegrass was the bond between us.

If you remember the Florence Y’All Festivals on Main St., you remember some all volunteer live TV coverage of the event. Now Tom was a real believer in stage etiquette, but it seems that every time the banjo or mandolin took a break the amateur camera crew would cut to the woman in the front row eating a hot dog! This upset Tom who wanted to see close-ups of hands and fingers, and headstocks and such. It just so happened that the TV broadcast was produced by his brother, Ted Bushelman (of CVG airport fame). So after throwing a shoe at the TV he called his brother and gave him an earful.....

That’s when I really stepped into something that changed my life forever. It seems Ted told Tom something to the effect that if you know so much get your rear end down here! Tom immediately called me and asked if I knew how to run a TV camera. Even though I said no, Tom came by in a couple of minutes and we were off to the Festival. Not only did I learn the camera but Tom soon taught me how to read the body language of the band, anticipate the next instrument to take a break and switch to that in time with the music, get close up shoots of the skill of the musician and fully understand the genre called Bluegrass. Playing

music with Tom and learning to produce TV shows with his brother Ted dominated my hobbies for the next 25 years.

Tom Bushelman was the mentor for many of us in the late 80s and early 90s. He shared his experiences playing with some of the local bands and his love for the music of Monroe and Scruggs. But he was never satisfied with the conventional. He dabbled in lutherie and his creations were not your standard items. His basement is full of instruments with a twist. A guitar with a 5 string banjo neck, a banjo made from a stainless steel bedpan, a guitar with a toilet seat around the sound hole (his sitar) a 12 string ‘dobro’you get the point....

Tom was never in agreement with the so-called experts regarding the resonator guitar and their claims regarding the importance of wood and sound holes and such. To prove them wrong, he bought a bag of popsicle sticks from the local craft store, made a concave cut in one end of some of them and laid them out like a miniature wood floor gluing them together to form a sheet of wood sufficient to create a guitar top. Using a planer he achieved the correct thickness for the standard resonator top. Using this for the top, creating good framing and constructing sides of vertical pieces of popsicle stick, he connected a maple neck, cut the hole and attached a spruce bottom.

His contention was that the sound depended upon the resonator and spider assembly that transmit sound to the sound board bottom from the neck and strings. The top



and sides make little difference. The final creation is pictured here. It is the greatest sounding ‘dobro’ you will ever hear. Rich tones and loud. Proved his point.

Today this special instrument bears the signatures of many of the genres greatest names and is displayed in a glass case in his living room.

Now for more photos.....



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The Popsicle Resononic Guitar



Jamboree Wall Decoration
Bushelman Collection



Riverview Nursing Home, March 1982
R.C. Vance, Gene Thompson, Bob Lorette, Larry S. and Jim Mullins.



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**Guitar-Don Mason Bass-Ronnie Cole Mando-Roy Conner
Banjo-Dennis Hensley(check out the hat)**



**Banjo-Dennis Hensley Bass-Tom Bushelman Sr
anyone know the others?**



**RC Vance -Ground Round Fiddle Contest
Tommy Bushelman Jr on fiddle March 1981**



Dwight McCall on guitar



Jamboree Cloggers



Jamboree - One Year Anniversary

Sign on an Electrician's Truck:

LET US REMOVE YOUR SHORTS

Sign in a Car Dealership Window:

**THE BEST WAY TO GET BACK ON YOUR FEET-
MISS A CAR PAYMENT**



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Can you identify these musicians from the Jamboree era?



Cloggin' Fun !!



**Stage Performers
Can You name any of them?**

Sign in a Restaurant Window:

Don't Stand There and be Hungry; come on in and get fed up !

Sign in the Vet's Office:

Be Back in 5 minutes.. SIT! STAY!



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BILL KEITH BANJO SUMMIT



Bela Fleck and Tony Trischka join Bill Keith on Stage as reported by Jerry Schrepfer

A **BILL KEITH Banjo Summit** was one of the highlights of this year's Grey Fox Festival. As if this "Triple Crown of Banjo" wasn't enough, joining them on stage to honor the music and enormous influence of Bill Keith was the award-winning **Noam Pikelnny, Eric Weissberg, Mike Munford, Marc Horowitz, Mike Kropp** and **Ryan Cavanaugh**. During the 90 minute gathering each had an opportunity to thank Bill for the tremendous influence they felt he had on their music and banjo players everywhere. Each demonstrated to the huge crowd at the Creekside Stage some of Bill's music and style that fueled their careers and passion for the banjo..

Banjoist extraordinaire **Bill Keith** is one of just a handful of musicians to have a whole style named after him. The 'Keith Style' was the catalyst that spawned new generations of envelope pushers such as Tony Trischka, Bela Fleck and Noam Pikelnny. Bill's career includes working with The Jim Kweskin Jugband, Jim Rooney, Red Allen & Frank Wakefield, Judy Collins, Clarence White, Richard Greene and David Grisman. His 1963 Decca recordings with Bill Monroe & The Blue Grass Boys introduced his innovations to a world audience. Bill actually wrote all the tab found in the Earl Scruggs banjo instruction book. Last October, IBMA honored Bill with a richly deserved **Distinguished Achievement Award**.



Wearing a gray Keith Banjo Tuners jacket and a black NY Banjo cap, the "Banjo Jedi Master" as Ryan Cavanaugh calls him, took

his seat on the right end of the stage. Too frail to bring a banjo on stage and play anymore, he listened along with the audience from the best seat in the house to the music he made popular being played by some of the best banjo instrumentalists on the planet.

The 'Keith Style' of playing was born when Bill recorded 'Devil's Dream'. Tony Trischka asked Bill to comment on the song and Bill replied, "I first heard this tune played by a Nova Scotian fiddler and it just dawned on me, I could see in my mind how to play it in the melodic style. Fortunately, it was a simple tune because if it were anything more complicated, it might not have happened."

A conversation ensued between Tony and Bela Fleck about the difference between the Scruggs style and the method Bill created using scales to create melodies and suddenly the banjo could be used to play fiddle tunes. Bill expanded the approach by adding jazz chords and enchanting melodic effects.

Bela then played 'Devils Dream and Sailor's Hornpipe for the gathering to demonstrate the style. At this point a greeting from Steve Martin, another banjoist, actor, and comedian not in attendance was read:

"There is Pete Seeger, there is Earl Scruggs, and there is Bill Keith. They are the towering founders of modern banjo playing"

And another from Murphy Henry: *"It's not only the men who have been influenced by Bill Keith,"* wrote Murphy. *"I am just one of the many female banjo players who owes a great deal to the musical prowess of this master of the five-string. Bill Keith was my door into Scruggs style of banjo playing. As a newbie, I didn't yet know about Bill, but I had the Earl Scruggs banjo book. Knowing just enough about reading music to hurt my playing, I found I could only make sense of the tabs by slowing down vinyl LPs of Earl's playing. I would figure out as much as I could then turn to Bill's immaculate tabs to see if I got it right. I trusted Bill's tabs with my entire banjo being. Later on I came to admire Bill's own playing. Much later I got to meet Bill and hear all about the circle of fifths. I always felt honored to be in his mighty presence, and I am with you all in spirit today"*

After a few words about Keith, Noam Pikelnny played 'Beating Around the Bush' written by Keith. "I haven't written a lot of music, but that's one of my favorites," Keith said after Pikelnny finished.



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Comments and tunes followed from Mike Munford, Mike Kropp, and Marc Horowitz. All honoring Bill and his varied influences on their careers.

The following are photos from our campsite capturing the essence of Grey Fox and the kinship experienced

As an inventor, Bill Keith made contributions to the mechanical side of the banjo by developing what is known as the Keith Banjo Tuner. These specially designed pegs allow banjo players to quickly and accurately change from one open tuning to another while playing. Bill's business venture, Beacon Banjo Company, based in Woodstock, NY., still offers them in their product lineup. Bela Fleck demonstrated the Keith Tuners by playing 'Katmandu'.



Campside Jam (Bill enjoying the music that was continuous outside my tent)

Ryan Cavanaugh, the young 'Luke of the Jedi Banjo World' told a story of how, at 17, he wandered into Bill's teepee campsite during a Winterhawk Bluegrass Festival, now known as Grey Fox. Ryan had never met Bill before and didn't recognize him. He sat down with his banjo and played with the man at the teepee for a couple of hours. "It was just me and Bill," Cavanaugh said. "I said, you know I should probably leave. Thanks for sitting here for like two hours and playing with me. Who are you, man? He's like I'm Bill Keith and I was like, 'Holy Shit! You're Bill Keith!' I hung out for another two hours and we've been friends ever since."



Horowitz, Hirshfield and Cavanaugh:

And to demonstrate how profound Bill's influence has been on young Ryan, he and Bela Fleck surprised Bill with a special rendition of 'Nola', one of Bill's favorites. To see and listen to the unbelievable banjo performances by these incredibly gifted artists search Utube for 'Bill Keith Banjo Tribute 2015'.

And my favorite photo of all, campside:

My view from stage right wing while waiting and chatting with Eric Weissberg about the 60s:



Back: Ron Cody, Mike Kropp, Eric Weissberg, Marc Horowitz, Wendy Cody and Tom Lindtveit
Front: Bill's wife Claire and the 'Jedi Master' Bill Keith

Memories that will last forever.....





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Here**

Your advertising will be included in our quarterly newsletter which is also posted on the NKBMA website for all to view. Great Internet exposure for Your company or services. Contact Jerry Schrepfer at schrepferjerry38@gmail.com for more info.

	Single AD	Yearly (4)
Card	\$5.00	\$15.00
¼ Page	\$10.00	\$30.00
½ Page	\$15.00	\$60.00
Full Page	\$25.00	\$90.00

NKBMA.com

Click It To Get It!!

Get all the latest NKBMA News, calendar updates, local Events and more. All this is right at your finger tips!



Old-Time Radio Hour

<http://www.woodsongs.com/>



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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. Store manager Rick Fuchs brings Years of service and experience to meet Your every Musical need.

Our Florence location features a 24 track Digital recording studio and performance Center 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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***A VERY SPECIAL
BLUEGRASS MUSICAL EVENT
SUNDAY, August 9, 2015***

**Proceeds to benefit Medical
Expense Fund
For AUBREY HOLT of the 'Boys
from Indiana' and Wildwood
Valley Boys**

**Turfway Park, Florence, KY
Star Studded Line-up includes:**

Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers

Rhonda Vincent & Rage

The Grascals

Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper

Feller and Hill

Wildwood Valley Boys

Tickets \$25 in advance or

\$30 at the door

Call 859-992-5575 or 513-724-3999

Or online at www.wobofm.com

**STAR STUDDED
BLUEGRASS BENEFIT
FOR AUBREY HOLT**

SUNDAY AUGUST 9TH
SHOW STARTS AT 1PM
AT
TURFWAY PARK
7500 TURFWAY RD
FLORENCE KY 41015

**DOORPRIZE
AND
RAFFLES WILL
BE AVAILABLE**

**WIN A NEW
NICHOLS ROAD
GUITAR**

FEATURING

 <i>The Wildwood Valley Boys</i>	 <i>Rhonda Vincent & The Rage</i>	 <i>Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers</i>
 <i>The Grascals</i>	 <i>Feller and Hill</i>	 <i>Mike Cleveland & Flamekeeper</i>

**ADVANCE TICKETS \$25
AT THE DOOR \$30**

**FOR TICKET INFORMATION CALL
(859)992-5575 or (513)724-3999
www.wobofm.com**

Letter from Member:

Dear NKBMA,

Enclosed you will find a check to cover the membership for Susan Shook and Anna Shook Bradtmueller. Thanks for calling with the reminders. We love to go to the jams when we can make them

We're grateful you're keeping this wonderful music alive with the new generation of musicians!

Sincerely,

Anna Shook Bradtmueller



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BLUEGRASS MUSICAL EVENTS con't

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

Thursday - Saturday

August 20 - 22, 2015

25th Annual

BROWN COUNTY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Brown County Fairgrounds

Georgetown, Ohio

Tickets and Info at:

www.browncountybluegrass.com

Stop by the NKBMA booth and
say Howdy



Wednesday, September 2nd

7:00pm to 10:00pm

BLUEGRASS NIGHT at PIT to PLATE BBQ

An evening of bluegrass with
Vernon & Kitty McIntyre, students
and friends. Award winning BBQ
and adult libation in a family
friendly atmosphere. \$2 cover. 8021

Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati

(513)931-9100 for info





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BLUEGRASS MUSICAL EVENTS con't

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


**Sunday, September 20th
2:00pm**

At SID'S RED BARN

MEATS and DRINKS provided by NKBMA.

BRING a COVERED DISH or DESSERT
BRING YOUR INSTRUMENT and JAM
Entertainment to include music and
DANCERS with caller MIKE CARR
Come out for good old fashioned fun !!
\$5 at the door ; Members FREE with card

NKBMA Annual END of SUMMER PICNIC



Sid's Red Barn
9626 Decoursey Pike (RT.177)
Ryland Hieghts, KY 41015

Live Classic Country Music
Saturdays 6:45 to 10:00 PM

No Smoking - No Alcohol - Food and Drinks - Dancing
email: sidsredbarnky@gmail.com

NKBMA Items.....Inventories are running low

GET YOURS at the next Jam or the PICNIC



Hats = \$8.00



Hoodies/Sweats = \$15.00



Tees = \$10.00



Mugs = \$5.00



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BLUEGRASS MUSICAL EVENTS con't

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

End of Summer Festivals

**Friday September 25th
102nd Seaman Fall Festival**

**Featuring Vernon McIntyre's
APPALACHIAN GRASS**

Lightning fast instrumentals, close harmonies, and novelty songs For info call: (937)386-2083



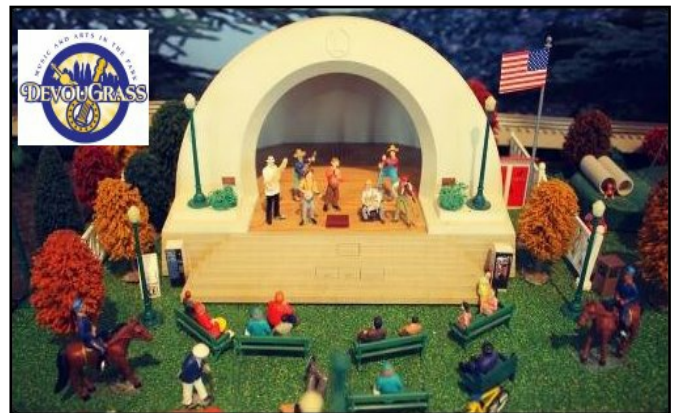
Sat., September 26th

12:00pm to 8:00pm

DevouGrass Festival

Devou Park Band Shelter
Newport, KY

Good food, crafts, and kid friendly activities plus music from fine bands including **APPALACHIAN GRASS.**



Is Your Band currently a member of NKBM? (If not, see page 13) Would you like your performance schedule listed in our next quarterly edition of this newsletter? Send the request with information to the editor at:
schrepferjerry38@gmail.com

Favorite Signs of the Month:

On the back of a Septic Tank Truck:

“CAUTION - This Truck is Full of Political Promises”

In the Front Yard of a Funeral Home:

“Drive Carefully. We’ll Wait



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BLUEGRASS MUSICAL EVENTS con't

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

WoodSongs Coffee House Concerts

Saturday, October 17th

7:00pm

A WoodSongs CoffeeHouse Event

The PRICE SISTERS

at Willis Music in Florence

Twin sisters Lauren and Leanna perform bluegrass music in the tradition of Bill Monroe and his Bluegrass Boys. For info, contact Gene Thompson (859)689-7413



Saturday, November 14th

7:00pm

A WoodSongs CoffeeHouse Event

The RETREAD BAND

at Willis Music in Florence

The Retread Band performs Bluegrass, Old Tyme, and Gospel Music for your delight

For info, contact Gene Thompson (859)689-7413





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MEETINGS AND JAMS



NKBMA Monthly Board Meeting

1st Wednesday of each month
Willis Music on Mall Rd.
Starts at 6:00pm

NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam

4th Friday of each month
Willis Music on Mall Rd
Contact Rick Fuchs at Willis:
(859)525-6050

Russell Turner Bluegrass Jam

5th and Park St., Newport, KY
2nd Friday of each month
6pm to 10pm year round
With Pot Luck and \$6.00 donation
Contact Russell Turner at:
rturn02@zoomtown.com

Old Time Fiddlers Jam

2nd Sunday each month 1- 4:30pm
Whitewater Community Center
6125 Dry Fork Rd, Cleves. OH
All Acoustic, bring Instruments or
Listen, Refreshments Available
roseballard3@aol.com

NEWEST JAM!!

Richwood Flea Market Jam

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



Richwood
Flea Market
Restaurant



KITTY McINTYRE

PRIVATE LESSONS
Bluegrass Style Music
Fiddle Mandolin Guitar Banjo Bass

Northern KY School of Music
2551 Dixie Hwy, Lakeside Park, KY

513-607-1874

fofmc@iglou.com www.fofmc.com

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



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AND NEW FOR 2015

Updated NKBMA website

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

And while you're there, look for the link on the Home page for the best internet radio playing all your Bluegrass favorites 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



www.bluegrassmix.com

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

HAVEN'T RENEWED?

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. 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 2015 and help us support Bluegrass Music in the Northern Kentucky Area.



Address Label

NKBMA
PO Box 133
Hebron, KY 41048



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**2nd installment of "In the Beginning"
Coming Events and More**



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