

SWFBA Newsletter

SW Florida Bluegrass Association March 2009

Slow Jam Leader Needed

For about the Last 3 years **Seth Holloway** has faithfully led the Slow jam on Saturday morning from 9:30 until 11:00 a.m. during our SWFBA weekend. He has helped a lot of beginners learn jamming etiquette and hone their skills to become a better player. As a result, many of them have gone on to become skilled enough to join in the regular jam sessions and perform in bands. Seth has decided he no longer wants to lead the slow jam. He deserves our thanks for leading it as long as he has. We are in need of a volunteer to take over for Seth and continue as the slow jam leader.

At the current time we no longer have a slow jam workshop. If we do not get a volunteer to lead it, we will no longer be able to offer the slow jam as part of our association weekends. This is an excellent way to pass on some of your expertise to beginning players and help them improve their playing ability. If an individual doesn't want to take on the total responsibility, a group of players could lead the slow jam on a rotating basis. If anyone is interested in assuming this position please contact me, or any of the board members.

Board Of Directors Openings

In the last couple of months we have had three resignations from the SWFBA Board of Directors. **Seth Holloway** and **Betty Hopkins** submitted their resignations from their 'At Large' positions and **Buck Tolbert** has resigned from the Vice President position. According to the bylaws the board has an option to either have an election or appoint a replacement for the Vice President position. In the February 14 board meeting the board voted to take the option of selecting a new Vice President within the board rather than have an election. The board also will select the replacements for the other two positions. Our bylaws do not specify a requirement for a minimum number of board members, so these positions may not be replaced for some time if we do not have any qualified candidates. However we would welcome any applicants for those positions.

Please read the following for some guidelines as to what the requirements are for admission to the board.

I think we have some misconceptions among some of our members as to what the functions of the SWFBA board members are. There seems to be the idea that the SWFBA Board of Directors sits in a meeting room and makes decisions on the policies and practices of the association, then returns to their normal lives and lets those decisions

be carried out by the 'workers'. This may be what a Board of Directors in a major corporation does, but we are far from being a large corporation with countless paid employees to do the work. Board members do offer their ideas, debate the pros and cons and vote on decisions affecting the SWFBA policies. Board members are also in fact part of the 'workers' who help get the job done, not just policy makers. Along with our other volunteers, each member of the board works very hard to prepare for the monthly show. We are not only in need of board members who can help us decide policy. We need people who are willing and able to help us each month to prepare for and run the show and do some of the work to keep the organization going.

Some of the things that have to be done are:

- Transporting the equipment trailer from storage to the show area and back to storage after the show.
- Putting the chairs up for the show and taking them down afterwards.
- Unloading the sound equipment from the trailer and setting it up for the show, and putting it all away afterwards.
- Unloading all of the merchandise that we sell and moving it to the show area and putting it away after the show.
- Handling the parking for all of the show attendees.
- Working at the admissions/membership table and the T-shirt/strings table.
- Running the sound system during the show.
- Getting out chairs during the show if more are needed for show attendees.
- Emptying the trash and sweeping the floor after the performance.
- Emceeing the show.
- Selling 50/50 tickets.
- Updating the mailing list with new and renewed members.
- Writing and distributing the newsletter.
- Printing schedule cards and balance sheets.

The ideal candidate board members will look for in selecting additional members to the board would:

1. Be physically able to help do any of the tasks outlined above.
2. Be there to help do the above tasks each month to prepare for the show and afterwards to clean up.
3. Be willing to accept an appointment to any board position if there is a requirement for it.
4. Be able to write well enough to fill the job of secretary if asked, or to take minutes in the Secretary's absence.
5. Be able to analyze problems and work as a team member to solve some of the problems brought before the board.
6. Be computer literate and have access to the Internet.

If it sounds like we are looking for a worker rather than what your idea of what a board member is, the fact is we are looking for both. Does it sound like a tough job? Ask one of the current board members who has been doing it for years! We need more people like

them who are dedicated to 'preserving, encouraging and promoting traditional bluegrass music', which is part of our goal as an organization. Our show is a very important part of working toward that goal. We feel that one of the ways we can promote bluegrass in our area is to give new bluegrass bands a venue where they can perfect their acts and give established bands a chance to show their expertise. In view of the closing of some of the bluegrass festivals in the last couple of years we can also give them some financial reward to enable them to keep playing as a band. We are also exposing people to some excellent bluegrass who have not been bluegrass fans in the past.

If any of you are interested in submitting your name to be considered for a board position, please let me or any of the board members know. We would be glad to consider you for the board.

New Band Reimbursement Policy

We have had some great response to our monthly shows since moving to Ramblers Rest in May 2008. The attendance has been great and the gate receipts have risen accordingly. The board decided to increase the travel reimbursement for the bands and reimburse them according to how far they travel to play for us. We on the board felt that we the most effective place we could use the extra money from gate receipts would be to pass it on to the bands. After all, without the hard work and talent of our bluegrass bands we would cease to exist as an organization.

As a result of the new travel expense reimbursement amounts we have been able to ask some bands from further away to play for us. The day has passed when a band can afford to pay the fuel cost to travel long distances to perform for the sheer joy of playing bluegrass. Not only do the attendees enjoy hearing new bands occasionally, but also our local bands meet new players and are exposed to different playing styles and talent. Local bands can also showcase their talents to the traveling band. It is a win-win situation for everyone involved.

SWFBA Monthly Jam-Fest

SWFBA Bluegrass Weekends and Shows at the Ramblers Rest Resort will be held every month all year. The following are the scheduled dates for 2009: - Mar 13-15, Apr 10-12, May 8-10, Jun 12-14, Jul 10-12, Aug 14-16, Sep 11-13, Oct 9-11, Nov 13-15, Dec 11-13

Bluegrass Show - 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday – Admission 6.00 for non-members (12 and under free), Free for members. Membership: \$25/year/family. Shows will be held in McDonald Hall, a 350 seat, air-conditioned hall located to your right as you enter the facility. Chairs are provided. No lawn chairs. Parking is located in front of the building.

Camping – The SWFBA membership card can be used to verify membership with the Ramblers Rest staff at check-in time. Campsites can be reserved in advance with payment and can be canceled 3 days before the event. Check-in time is after 2:00 p.m. on Friday and checkout time is 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Campers arriving after the 5:00 p.m. office closing time can use the phone outside the office to contact the 'on call' person, who will register them.

Food: Vendor service will be available during the Saturday show.

Trash: Must be taken to the dumpster near the front entry.

Facilities: Pool, hot tub, laundry, picnic areas, showers, restrooms, boat ramp, shuffleboard, volleyball, horseshoes, bocce court, dump station, fishing (Myakka River), propane, pool room, exercise room, putting and chipping greens, & basketball.

Directions: Ramblers Rest is located at 1300 North River Road in Venice. From I-75, take exit 191 and go South approx. 3 miles to the park on the left. From US 41, go north to the Ramblers Rest on the right.

Guitar Workshop: Will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday in the same location. There is no charge.

Jam Sessions start Friday around 7 p.m. Jams can be held in the McDonald Hall Recreation Center, around the campsites, or in the public shelters throughout the park. There is a quiet time starting at midnight for jams held in the campsites. Jams can be held after midnight in the McDonald Hall building, located in the front of the park outside the gate. There are some permanent residents in the park as well as day campers, so please be considerate to your neighbors. Anyone who is not camping but wants to join in the campsite jamming is welcome to come in and jam. The gated entry bar is being taken down for the SWFBA weekends.

Pets: All pets must be on a maximum 6' leash and under control at all times. Pets must be kept quiet and owner must carry a bag for fast pick-up. No more than two pets per campsite, 18 pounds maximum weight each.

Note: The instruments that are generally accepted in the jams are guitar, fiddle, mandolin, bass, dobro, and 5-string banjo. Drums, horns, accordions, spoons, tenor banjos, electric instruments, tambourines, and other instruments are not considered bluegrass instruments and are not generally accepted by the musicians in jam sessions. Exceptions are made for electric basses and pedal steel in stage shows. Our goal as an association is to preserve bluegrass music, not provide a venue for players of all instruments. Many jam sessions and clubs throughout the area welcome the other instruments to their shows and jams.

Rules: No alcohol, smoking, or coolers in McDonald Hall. No loud amplified music in the campground. The speed limit is 9.7 mph throughout the park.

For SWFBA Information: Call Herb Washburn, 941-743-8138 or Web www.southwestfloridabluegrass.org. For camping information: Call Ramblers Rest at 941-493-4354 or 800-576-8565

Basically Bluegrass Monthly Concert

Basically Bluegrass Concerts and Pick-Ins are held the first Sunday every month except March at the Lee Civic Center, 11831 Bayshore Road in North Ft. Myers year 'round.

Bluegrass Concert - 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday – Adm. \$5.00 for non-members (under 16 free), Free for members of the Acoustic Music Society of SW Florida. (Membership: \$20/year/family). No concessions. Bring lawn chairs for seating. Concerts are outdoors in a covered pavilion except for July, August, and September when the concerts move into an air-conditioned clubhouse. For info. call Bob Shea, 239-248-8906 or log on www.palmgrass.com.

Directions to the Lee Civic Center are as follows: Take I-75 to exit 143 (Bayshore Road). Go East approximately 3 miles to Old Bayshore Road. Turn north to Bluegrass Concert entrance.

Upcoming Bluegrass Festivals and Events

March 6-8, 2009 SABAL PALM OLD COUNTRY & BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL @Sabal Palm RV Resort, Palmdale, Florida Palms Bluegrass, Roger Bass & Hillbillies, Tomorrow's News, Bluegrass Stagecoach, Carolina Rose, Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike, The Back Porch Pickers, Myakka River Bluegrass. Contact: Charlie Basford 772/971-6079

Mar 13 - 15, 2009 Southwest Florida Bluegrass Association Jam/Fest Ramblers Rest RV Park, 1300 N River Rd, Venice, FL. Concessions, great indoor A/C venue w/ample seating, show Saturday from 1:00 to 4:15. Jamming Fri. and Sat. night. Info: Contact: Herb Washburn at 941-743-8138 or the website www.southwestfloridabluegrass.org For camping reservations: Call Ramblers Rest at 941-493-4354 or 800-576-8565

Mar. 19-22, 2009 - Market World Auburndale, FL

Featuring: Valerie Smith, Goldwing Express, Roger Bass, and more
Contact: Steve Dittman, 478-949-2036, email: sdittman44@aol.com web: Doerfel Family, Bluegrass Stage Coach Band, Roger Bass & the Hillbillies, Charlie Louvin, Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike. Carolina Sonshine, Larry Gillis Band, Bluegrass Parlor Band, Smokey Greene, Freddy Clark Family, Willow Creek, Goldwing Express, KickIn'Grass. . For Ticket and Reservation Information: Steve Dittman: 2181 Trussell Road • Oglethorpe, GA 31068 Home: (478) 949-2036 • Cell: (478) 235-5504 Email: sdittman44@aol.com
www.originalbluegrass.com

March 23, 2009 ANNUAL CHASCO FIESTA @ New Port Richey

Doerful Family, Palmetto Ramblers. Starts @ 6PM, Free. For more info call 1-877-424-2726 or visit www.chascofiesta.com

Mar 28,2009, Picking Weekend/Show at Craig's RV, Arcadia.

Featuring: Tomorrow's News, Dave Cowles Band, and one more to be announced later. Show starts at 1 pm. Concessions available. Future dates are Apr 25, 2009, and May 30,2009. Contact Craigs RV Park @ 863-494-1820 or email us at craigsvr@desoto.net

April 3-5, Will McLean Festival, Withlacoochee Bluegrass Park, Dunnellon, Hwy 40, (7 miles E of 19 & 5 miles W of Dunnellon). Noon Fri – sunset Sun. On-site camping. Info: 352.465.7208 352.489.3766 or mlonghill@bellsouth.net or <http://www.willmclean.com>

April 2,3,4 7TH ANNUAL FLORIDA STATE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL @ Forest Capital State Park, Perry, Fl Rhonda Vincent & Rage. Mountain Heart, Charlie McCoy, Pure & Simple, Southern Lite, Kallsmidt Family. For more info visit their web site @ <http://www.floridastatebluegrass.com/> email taylorchamber@gtcom.net or call Dawn Taylor @ 850) 584-5366

Apr. 10-12, 2009 [Southwest Florida Bluegrass Association Jam/Fest](#) Ramblers Rest RV Park, 1300 N River Rd, Venice, FL. Concessions, great indoor A/C venue w/ample seating, show Saturday from 1:00 to 4:15. Jamming Fri. and Sat. night. Info: Contact: Herb Washburn at 941-743-8138 or the website www.southwestfloridabluegrass.org For camping reservations: Call Ramblers Rest at 941-493-4354 or 800-576-8565

April 17-19, [Stringbreak Music Festival, Sertoma Youth Ranch,](#)
1 1/2 miles east of I-75 (Exit 293) on County Road 41. Rough camping available. Tickets & camping: 352.754.3082. Info: 863.984.8445 or riverhawk1@lindentertainment.com or <http://www.sertomayouthranch.com>.
http://www.riverhawkmusic.com/StringBreak/SB09/stringbreak_2009.htm

Apr. 24-26, 2009 - [SERTOMA Youth Ranch Annual Spring Show](#)
Dade City, FL Featuring: Dry Branch Fire Squad, The Martins, The Farris Family, and more Contact: Steve Dittman, 478-949-2036, email: sdittman44@aol.com web: www.originalbluegrass.com

May 8 - 10, 2009 [Southwest Florida Bluegrass Association Jam/Fest](#) Ramblers Rest RV Park, 1300 N River Rd, Venice, FL. Concessions, great indoor A/C venue w/ample seating, show Saturday from 1:00 to 4:15. Jamming Fri. and Sat. night. Info: Contact: Herb Washburn at 941-743-8138 or the website www.southwestfloridabluegrass.org For camping reservations: Call Ramblers Rest at 941-493-4354 or 800-576-8565

June 12 - 14, 2009 [Southwest Florida Bluegrass Association Jam/Fest](#) Ramblers Rest RV Park, 1300 N River Rd, Venice, FL. Concessions, great indoor A/C venue w/ample seating, show Saturday from 1:00 to 4:15. Jamming Fri. and Sat. night. Info: Contact: Herb Washburn at 941-743-8138 or the website www.southwestfloridabluegrass.org For camping reservations: Call Ramblers Rest at 941-493-4354 or 800-576-8565

NOV 6,7,8 - [FALL BLUEGRASS SHOW @ Dixieland RV & Music Park,](#) 17500 NE US 301. Waldo FL Grascals, Special Concensus, Larry Gillis Band, Southern Light, Backwater, Gary Waldrep Band, Wilson Family, Palmetto Ramblers. Gospel Pick & Singalong Sunday. Info: Camping: Victor 352.468.3988 or Tickets: 478.949.2036 or sdittman44@aol.com or <http://www.originalbluegrass.com> or <http://www.dixielandmusicpark.com>

Ongoing Jam Sessions

Bartow – Java Breeze Coffee House (Formerly Java Jacks) Wilson Blvd & Hwy 60 in Bartow. Bluegrass jam every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Coming from I-4, take the Lakeland bypass (570) to Hwy 98 South, then 4 miles to Bartow, left on 60 and it's on the right.

Bonita Springs - Flamingo Island Flea Market 11902 Bonita Beach Rd., Bonita Springs. Regular and Bluegrass jams & show, every Sun 12 – 4. Info 239-948-7793

El Jobean - Weekly Jams. Bluegrass jams in the Bean Depot Restaurant. Held every Tuesday & Wednesday night at 7:00 in El Jobean on Sturkie Ave., across Hwy. 776 from the Texaco Station. Call the Bean Depot at 941-627-3344 for info.

Englewood - Indian Mounds Park Bluegrass and Country jam in a covered shelter. Held every Monday night at 6:30 year 'round. Call Morris Campbell at 941-473-4022 for information.

Ellenton - Ridgewood Meadows Bluegrass and Country jam at Ridgewood Meadows Clubhouse. Exit 224 off I-75, East on Route 301, left onto Ridgewood Blvd to clubhouse gate. Held the fourth Saturday of each month 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM, October thru April . For info call (941) 735-7304.

Palmetto - Jack & Becky's Bluegrass Jam inside the clubhouse at Country Lakes II in Palmetto. Call 941 729-1014 for info.

Punta Gorda - Gilchrist Park Jam Just west of Hwy 41 South on the Peace River. Informal Bluegrass, Country and Folk music jam sessions every Thursday at 6:30 p.m., year 'round.

Sarasota Bluegrass Jam - Every Thursday at 7 p.m. Jam is located in Bee Ridge Park on the Corner of Lockwood Ridge and Wilkinson. For information call Floyd Knight at 941-284-6832

Plant City – Bluegrass Parlor Jam Held every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the historic area of Plant City at the Espresso Yourself Coffee 101 Shop. Hosted by Tom Henderson, who hosted the Thursday jam at the Bluegrass Parlor for 30 years.

Venice – Venice Beach Pavilion Informal Bluegrass jam session every Monday at 6:00, year 'round. Located at the end of Venice Boulevard. Hosted by the Swinging Bridge Band.

SWFBA Board of Directors

Officers:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Herb Washburn, President, Newsletter Editor | 941-743-8138 |
| Fran Talley, Treasurer | 941-484-9262 |
| Mark Horn, Secretary | 941-219-2256 |
| <u>Board Members:</u> | |
| Marge Shallow | 239-283-5094 |
| Nina Gooch | 239-995-9596 |
| Judy Kelly | 941-497-4557 |
| Joe Hucceby | 941-639-3735 |
| Shirley Hucceby | 941-639-3735 |

SWFBA Membership Application *** PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ***

Please Check: New Member ___ Renewal ___ Address Correction ___

Name _____

Date _____

Winter Address _____

Winter City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Winter Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

Summer Address (if different) _____

Summer City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership dues are \$25.00 per year per family, which includes admission to SWFBA events.

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND OUR MONTHLY EVENT. You can join at the Membership Table at the monthly SWFBA show and receive your membership card there. If you choose to mail in the form your membership will go into effect and you can pick up your membership card at one of our shows. **Membership cards will not be mailed out.** They are only valid for admission to our shows.