

Central New York Bluegrass Association



PRESIDENT

Dennis Crawford
Box 74
Mt. Upton, NY 13809
607-764-8453
dcrawford8@stny.rr.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

William Light
211 Allen Street
E. Syracuse, NY 13057
315-463-4186
william.light@bms.com

TREASURER

John Warner
P.O. Box 274
Sherburne, NY 13460
607-244-4831/0139
jwarner23@twcnny.rr.com

SECRETARY

TBD

BOARD

MEMBERS
Shirley Stevens (451-2801)
3 - also our webmaster
Kathy Kinney - 3
(572-2247)
Juergen Knauss
(672-3749) - 2
Les Hathaway (696-8994)
2
Mark Sostrin (637-6811) -
Ed VanCott (638-7617) -

LIASON between
Board and Membership:
Butch DeForge (258-9216)
deforges@hotmail.com

SALES TABLE:

Ray Crouch
3105 Co. Rt. 45
Fulton, NY 13069
315-593-1646

MEMBERSHIP and SUNSHINE

Helen Weldon
2446 Hillview Dr., #17
Cato, NY 13033
315-626-2603
helwel80@yahoo.com



From the President. . .

2009 CNYBA/MVBGA Festival Update

Festival Planning:

The planning committee for the joint CNYBA – MVBGA Festival (Sept. 12th) met at the June picnic (Chittenango Falls). We established the following work crews:

Gate Attendance – Responsible for admissions, camping fees, etc.

Camper Parking – Responsible for site parking of rough and full hook-up campers

Day Parking – Responsible for proper parking of day attendees vehicles

Stage Management – Responsible for MC, Talent, and stage hospitality issues

Trash/Cleanup – Responsible for trash handling and post-event clean-up

Security – Responsible for all security issues, including wristband compliance, etc.

We have crew leaders, but we need your help to staff the crews. Please consider where you can be of the most help, and volunteer ASAP.

It was agreed to give free admission to any volunteer working at least one 4-hour shift.

Volunteer Coordinator:

We are happy to have Donnette (Dee) Skellington as our Volunteer Coordinator. She will keep track of volunteers and assigned work shifts. Please contact her directly to volunteer:

Dee Skellington
dskellington@gmail.com
315-436-4888

Planning Meeting:

There will be a festival planning meeting at 7:00pm on Wed. Aug 5th. It will be at

Colosseo Restaurant, Rt. 5, Sherrill, NY (315-363-9076). Open to all board members, festival committee members, and crew chiefs. PLEASE do your best to attend – this will be an excellent time to tie up loose ends and insure a smooth operation.

Colosseo Restaurant - directions from I-90:

Take Exit 33 (NY 365 West)

Left at intersection of 365 W and NY-5 (Seneca St.)

Look for Colosseo on right

Guitar Raffle Tickets:

Please continue to push the guitar raffle tickets. If you need more tickets to sell, please contact Bill Light at 315-438-8979 or Dick Satterly at 315-942-2854.

Advertising:

We have plenty of festival flyers, as well as information about the CNYBA Steve Kaufman workshop and concert. PLEASE take a little time to hand them out to friends, or hang them on local bulletin boards, etc. It would be great to get the local area covered with festival flyers. A show like this will appeal to the 'locals' so we need to let them know about it. Contact Dennis at 607-764-8453 if you need more copies.

Thanks for your help! -- Dennis

Member 



NEXT MEETING IS SEPT. 13 AT PARK ROSE ESTATES



What's Happening? Out and About.....

EVERY SECOND SUNDAY: CNYBA meeting
- Park Rose Estates, Liverpool -- Come meet and pick!

EVERY SUNDAY 1 p.m. til? Jammin' at Kellish Hill Farm, 3192 Pompey Center Rd. (1/2 mile north of Route 20), Manlius, NY. Good old fashioned bluegrass, gospel & country music. Can bring a dish to pass. Free for the young at heart! For information, call Kathy at 315-682-1578. See page 7 about our festival!!

EVERY 3rd SUNDAY: STBA meeting at the Tuscarora Elem. School, Addison, NY. Bring a dish to pass, your table setting, a friend, your musical instrument, and/or your listening ear. Picking begins at noon; meeting called to order at 1:00 -- then lunch -- then back to picking. Info: Ken Pearson, Pres., 269 Dwight Ave., Corning, NY 14830 (607-936-3103)

FOURTH SUNDAY -- FINGER LAKES BLUEGRASS MONTHLY JAM, 2 pm - 7 pm, EXCEPT DEC. and MAY thru AUG. at the ONTARIO COUNCIL, 65 S. Main St., Canandaigua, NY. Bluegrass Acoustic instruments only. \$2.00 donation at the door; children under 5, free. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages available. Pot luck dinner -- please bring a dish to pass. For further information, call: THE ARTS COUNCIL, 585-396-0087, JOHN at 585-924-3117 or BUTCH at 585-289-4845.

EVERY MONDAY - JAM from 7-10 pm at the American Legion, Rochester St., Hannibal, NY. For information, call Bob Simmons at 564-5412 or 591-3296 or Butch Spencer at 598-1159.

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT from 7 to 10:30 pm **BLUEGRASS OPEN MIC NIGHT** with **STRING THEORY** -- Bring down your banjo, mandolin, fiddle or acoustic guitar and sign up to pick with Rochester's own String Theory. Just come to Johnny's Irish Pub. If you have questions or need more information, go to www.stringtheorybluegrass.com or call Jim Barbero at 585-489-0120. **EVERY TUESDAY: The Golden Link Folk Singing Society, Inc.** sing around 8 pm at 12 Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 S. Winton Rd., 585-234-5004 or <http://www.goldenlink.org>

EVERY WEDNESDAY (thru the summer): 7-9 pm Jam Session at the Hillview Baptist Church Hall, O'Brien Rd., Baldwinsville, NY (off Rt. 48, near Soroco). All welcome -- listeners and players. Phone 455-2434 or 626-2594.



EVERY THURSDAY: 7 pm - Musicians Forum at the Art Council - 108 W. Miller St., Newark, NY. Bring an acoustic instrument for a round robin of shared music -- new and old. Listeners and players welcome. Jacqueline Grey, Ex. Dir. Information: 315-331-4593.

EVERY FRIDAY: 7 pm- Jammin' at the Legion Hall in the village of Marcellus. Come join the fun! Info: Sam and Marion at 315-673-2329 or Jack Burns at 315-673-1844. \$2.00 donation for hall use. **EVERY 1st FRIDAY: COUNTRY JAM** - 7pm - ? At the **VFW POST**, Main St., Camden, NY. All are welcome: bluegrass lovers, country, fiddlers, and listeners (ring buzzer for admission).

EVERY SATURDAY - Open Forum Acoustic Jam, 7 - 11 pm - At the **Legion Hall** (next to the Fire Hall) in **Lyons, NY** - Free beverages, musicians welcome, and no cover charge for hall use. **EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: 8 am til. . . Stittville, NY - The Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Association and the Stittville Vol. Fire Dept.** -- Breakfast and jammin' begins at 8 am. Info: 315-339-2771 or 315-225-2906.

AM-FM-AM-FM



Brother Don's Internet Radio Show 10am & 10pm every day at <http://www.wdyn.net> - Independent Bluegrass and Old Time Artists. Send your CD, cassette tape, or LP To: Brother Don, 2440 Welch Road, Geneva, NY 14456-9303, bristbro@gmail.com OR Brother Don, WDN Independent Radio, 2844 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616 USA 1-800-816-4262

Larry Hoyt: "Common Threads" folk music, 2-5 pm; WAER FM (88.3) Syracuse - every Sunday except when SU athletic contests pre-empt the show.

Brad Edmonson: WVBR (93.5 FM) Ithaca; "The Salt Creek Show" 6-10 every Sunday, playing a mixture of music. Saltcreek@wvbr.com

Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble: Sundays 9 - midnight WCNY-FM (91.3), WUNY (89.5) and WJNY (90.0) www.wcny.org and Udmacon@aol.com

Barbara Heller Burns: Thursdays 3 pm; **"String Fever"** WSLU-FM (89.5) Canton, (88.9) Watertown, (91.3) Thousand Islands, and (91.7) Tupper Lake

Bruce Cutler's "Gospel Doings" (Christian Country & Bluegrass) is heard on: WACK-AM Radio 1420, Newark NY, Sundays 6:30 a.m.; also on: www.omnimedia.org, Portland OR, Mondays midnight to 1 a.m. (Eastern time) **"Country Roots" (Secular Country & Bluegrass)** is heard on: WETD-FM Radio 90.7; Alfred NY, Sundays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.; also on: www.omnimedia.org, Portland, Oregon, Fridays 11 p.m. to midnight (Eastern time). Contact Bruce at jockey1170@verizon.net

NEXT MEETING IS SEPT. 13 AT PARK ROSE ESTATES

CNYBA & MVBGA present...

A One-Day Bluegrass Festival
Saturday, September 12th, at the
Oswego County Fairgrounds, Sandy Creek, NY

Featuring... *Acoustic Blue*



The combined experience that Acoustic Blue portrays, with Corey Zink, Shaun Batho, Mike VanAlstyne, and Bear Acker hitting the stage, illustrates a classy and dynamic performance. You can always expect to hear some old favorites with a new twist.

Mohawk Valley

Bluegrass Association



<http://www.myspace.com/acousticblueonline>

Also appearing...

the New North Country Troubadours



During the 1960s, "The North Country Troubadours", founded by Charlie Ingersoll Sr., were a thriving Country / Western dance band. The Troubadours have re-emerged with a new generation, a new sound and a new vision. Charlie's grandsons, Jeff and Aaron Ingersoll, along with Brad Wells, former troubadour Charlie Ingersoll II, and banjo wizard Gordon Lyons complete the lineup

Directions: From 81 north or south, take exit 37 and follow fairgrounds signs
Bring your chairs and your instruments, bring your voices and your families!

Plenty of jamming, listening, and having fun available all day long!
Bands from each of the Mohawk Valley and the Central NY Bluegrass Associations will also be playing.

Sound: George Harrington
Order of Events:
Open Stage 12-2 p.m.
Bands 2 - 5 p.m.
Supper Break 5 - 6 p.m.
Bands 6 - 9(?) p.m.

Extras: Covered seating in stage area
Guitar Raffle - Martin DX-1, donated by Mountain Music of Old Forge, NY
Bathrooms, Electric, Water available
Free dry camping; for hook-ups -- \$15.00 for Friday and \$15.00 for Saturday night
Campers may enter Friday @ 4pm, exit by noon on Sunday

Food: provided by Sandy Creek Grange
Cost: \$15.00 per person for Saturday show; children under 16 - free
Saturday show goes on rain or shine!

No pets or open containers of alcohol in performance area!

Presented jointly by both

The Central New York and the Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Associations

www.cnyba.com / www.mvbqa.com



Ramblin' with Helen.....

Well folks, here it is nearly the first of August, and usually that's when people start saying – “where has the summer gone”/ However, this year, it's “where is our summer?” I don't know about you, but I've rather enjoyed the cooler weather but do hope we have some beautiful warm days in Aug., and a nice fall. Regardless of what the weather is, I feel it's either going to be a “scorchers” for August, or a terrible hard winter, and only time will tell which. Since our last visit, I've learned of the passing of two people who were members of CNYBA many years in the past – **Aaron Moen's wife**, and **Ron Myers**. **Thank you Bill Light**, for sending me an email when Aaron's wife passed away, and I can't remember **who called me** regarding Ron's passing, but **thank you to whomever** it was. I sent sympathy cards from the association to both families.

Had a very interesting letter from our long-time member **Bert Mehlenbacher**, telling me he has moved in with his daughter and son-in-law, which means no more huge rent payments on an empty apartment while he is enjoying the winters (with no snow to shovel) in Florida! He misses our monthly meetings, as it's a long drive from Rochester to Syracuse, but plans on going to some festivals this summer. Old age seems to be catching up to him, but he is so thankful for being able to enjoy the music all year, as it is very plentiful where he is in Florida. Enjoy every minute of it Bert and hope you can do so for many years yet to come.

On July 7th, **Vernon Loucks** called to say that **Olive** was in the hospital, and I emailed several of you to please let others know and send her a card. I called them last night (7/26) and talked to both of them, and they spoke of how much they enjoyed the cards. Olive sounded much stronger, and said she has been home for about a week from her last visit to the hospital. Please keep them both in your prayers.

On June 28th, **Joy Crouch** sponsored a benefit for a gentleman who attends their weekly jam sessions in Hannibal and is battling the last stages of cancer. It was held near where this gentleman lives, and she reports there were around 75 to 80 people there, with lots of good music and fellowship. This is just another example of the “**big heart**” Joy has – always trying to do for others.

Thanks to **Carol McGinley** for your kind words regarding enjoying my Ramblin' each month, and the only reason for my continuing to do it is because of the appreciation for it voiced over the many years I've been doing it. **HOWEVER**, since I'm no longer always able to get to our meetings and events, if I don't get news from you folks, it will soon become a “**thing of the past**” – only time and response from you will determine this.

Thanks to Pete Carr, I was able to go to our combined picnic with the MVBGA, which was well attended. The food was plentiful, and there was non-stop music by several groups in various places around the reserved pavilion we had all to ourselves.

WELCOME to new members: Lee Saunders, Syracuse, NY.; and the **band “Northwater”** with Cliff Chandler and Dana Klipp of Canastota, NY. I know many of our longtime members will remember “Northwater” – a very talented duo to say the least! Our member, Peter McDonald changed his status to band, so welcome to “**Rebecca Colleen and The Chore Lads**” of Romulus, NY.

THANK YOU to the following for their additional donations when they sent their renewals: **Ed and Barb VanCott; Barbara Amon; Carol Grant, Frank & Joyce Howlett, Craig Ferguson and Bert Mechlenbacher** for his most generous donation. Elsewhere in our newsletter, I know details of our upcoming **CNYBA-MVBGA Festival on Sept. 12th** will be found, and hope each of you will “**heed the call for volunteers**”. Speaking from many years of experience, I know how important they are, and sometimes their help will “make or break” a festival.

Before we know it, the **CNYBA Steve Kaufman Workshop and Concert** will be here – save those dates now! (see page 5 also)

I've had several emails from **Dona Walter**, and we've talked on the phone a couple of times – she and Bob are all settled in their beautiful summer home, after taking care of the many various things that always seem to happen during the winter months. I'm sure they are busy enjoying the various festivals, and hopefully our paths will cross before it's time for them to head back south again.

Just had an email from **Sharon Fultz**, asking me to let you know their next **JAM is AUGUST 28th**. Starting at 2 p.m. until?? Bring your instrument, a dish to pass, a friend if you want and come join them. She also asked for **prayers for 11 yr. old Connor**, who lost his thumb and has many burns from an explosion resulting from fireworks in which was a quarter stick of dynamite, which he thought was a candle. He will eventually have his big toe attached to his hand to replace his thumb.

Well folks, this ends our “visit” for this month, and please send me an email or give me a call with any news you might wish to share – remember, I just can't “pull them out of the air, or your thoughts!” Until next time, remember: “the nicest thing about the future, is that it always starts tomorrow.” --- **Helen**

Classified --

Looking for someone who gives 5-string lessons in the **Fulton** area (10 to 15 miles away is fine). Contact Ed Deaver at eedeav41@aol.com

FYI -- Newsletter Deadline = 25th of month prior to newsletter you want your info. entered! Over the summer, the deadline will be on August 1st. There will be only one newsletter during the summer.

Don't forget to check us out online at www.cnyba.com

Three-Time USA National Guitar Champion to Perform and Teach in Marcellus, NY

**Steve Kaufman Workshop/
Concert Weekend
November 13th-14th, 2009**



Guitarist Steve Kaufman, the only three-time winner of the National Flatpicking Championships, will offer an all-level flatpicking guitar workshop in Marcellus, NY, November 13-14, 2009. The workshop is hosted by Central New York Bluegrass Association. The workshop and concert are to be held at The Marcellus United Methodist Church, 1 Slocombe Ave, Marcellus, NY.

The two-day all-level flatpicking guitar workshop will be a two-hour session Friday evening and will cover core picking skills and techniques, repertoire and building blocks for growth. The workshop continues Saturday morning for 6 more hours. This is when Kaufman will cover right and left hand technique, drills and skills, and many other valuable aspects of flatpicking guitar.

Small groups and some individual attention make this workshop valuable for flatpicking guitarists at all levels of experience. Bluegrass Unlimited has said, “As a professional guitar teacher, Kaufman has perfected his teaching skills as much as his picking technique.” The fee for the all-level flatpick guitar workshop is \$90 per person. Pre-registration is required. Seating is limited.

The evening concert is November 14, 2009. The concert starts at 8:00, and tickets are \$15.00 with opening act Plexigrass, one of New York's Southern Tier Favorites, www.myspace.com/plexigrass. This year's slots are going fast, so make your reservations now.

Call Dennis at 607-563-5270 (days), 607-764-8453 (nights) or email him at dcrawford8@stny.rr.com

--Upcoming Bluegrass Events--

Top of the Hill Bluegrass Festival 2009

August 7 thru 9

Join us at the Lain family camp on Lain Hill, Canisteo, NY 14823

Call 607/382-7457 for details, camper registration, or e-mail festival@stbany.org

August 14, 2009

Contra/barn dance with Harvey Nusbaum and the Salt Potatoes: at the Rolling Hills of Bluegrass-Americana: 3192 Pompey Center Road, Manlius, NY. Refreshments and snacks available. Caller to be announced. Contact Kathy at 315-682-1578 -8 pm- Tickets: \$7.00

August 15 to 16, 2009

Rolling Hills of Bluegrass Festival: at the Rolling Hills of Bluegrass-Americana: 3192 Pompey Center Road, Manlius, NY: Atlantic Flyway, Diamond Someday, John Cadley and the Lost Boys, Folkstrings, Lake Effect Bluegrass, Off the Wall and the New North Country Troubadours. Bob Hayden and Kathy Kellish will be the emcees. Jamming areas available all day. Food service on site with their great chicken BBQ. Rough camping will be available. Contact Kathy at 315-682-1578; Friday dance: \$7.00; Saturday: 10 am (gates open at 9 am) Tickets: \$20.00 - Both events: \$25.00

Saturday, August 22, 2009

Boots n' Shorts: The Westcott Theater, 524 Westcott St., Syracuse, NY 13210 - 9 pm; Tickets - \$10

Bill Harrell - A Look Back

POSTED BY RICHARD THOMPSON ON
06.30.09 @ 10:45 AM -



TAG: [BILL HARRELL](#)

Veteran singer/multi-instrumentalist Bill Harrell passed away on June 24 at his home in Davidsonville, Maryland. He had suffered a stroke on June 12 and was hospitalized for a week. His health was further complicated by advanced prostate cancer, an enlarged heart and fluid on his lungs.

Born in Marion, Virginia, on September 14, 1934, Harrell had a recognizable vocal style, light and mellow in tone, in a bluegrass music career that started during his college years when he began

playing mandolin in a trio. Prior to that he learned to play the piano and to read music.

Subsequently he played with several Washington, DC area musicians like Eddie Adcock, Donny Bryant, Smiley Hobbs, Smitty Irvin, Carl Nelson and Roy Self, during stints with bands such as the Rocky Mountain Boys.

While serving in the armed forces, Harrell was injured in an auto accident, and spent close to a year recovering in a military hospital. Upon his release, he returned to Washington, DC and formed a group that released three singles on the Starday label.

Subsequently he formed the Virginians with Irvin on banjo, Buck Ryan on fiddle and Stoney Edwards on bass and in 1963 released the album *The Wonderful World of Bluegrass Music* (United Artists). This was followed two years later with *Ballads and Bluegrass* (Adelphi). The group played dates up and down the East Coast of America and Harrell hosted his own (continued on page 7)

NEXT MEETING IS SEPT. 13 AT PARK ROSE ESTATES

weekly television program from Harrisonburg, Virginia, and the group were frequent guests on Jimmy Dean's network TV series.

In December 1966, Harrell joined Don Reno and the Tennessee Cut-Ups, remaining Reno's partner for over a decade; a period in which saw the rise in popularity of bluegrass music festivals. Reno and Harrell recorded several albums for a variety of established labels, like King, Starday and Monument, as well as smaller ones such as Jalyn, King Bluegrass and CMH (recently formed at that time).



Early in 1977 Harrell and bass player Ed Ferris amicably left the Tennessee Cut-Ups to re-form the Virginians with Harrell's old friend Carl Nelson on fiddle and newcomer Darrell Sanders on banjo. The following year the band released their first album *Bluegrass and Ballads* (Adelphi), followed by the back-to-back albums *Bluegrass Gospel*, *Pure and Simple* (Leather) and *I Can Hear Virginia Calling Me* (Rebel), in 1980. By this time mandolin player Larry Stephenson had joined the band also. These albums were followed by another album for Leather, *The L&N Don't Stop Here Anymore* (in 1981). Despite a constantly changing line-up, Harrell continued to lead the Virginians well into the 1990s, issuing excellent records like *Walking in the Early Morning Dew* (1983), *Blue Virginia*, *Blue* (1986) and *After The Sunrise* (1990); all for Rebel Records.

Shortly afterwards, Harrell retired and son Mitch, who was already by that time a member of the Virginians, took over the band.

In a career that spanned over 30 years and is noted for his relaxed, easy-going style of traditional bluegrass, Bill Harrell was a major contributor to the growth of bluegrass music in the Washington DC area. He performed for three presidents:

Nixon, Reagan and Bush. Last year the IBMA honored Harrell with a Distinguished Achievement Award, presented to him by Larry Stephenson.

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The following information I discovered on the Bluegrass Association of Maine website (<http://www.bmam.org/cfm/bmam/news.cfm>) - AED



GREETINGS FROM SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS RECORDINGS

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings is the nonprofit record label of the Smithsonian Institution, the national museum of the United States. We are dedicated to supporting cultural diversity and increased understanding among people through the documentation, preservation, and dissemination of sound.

From reviewing your (BMAM) website, we think a recent episode of **Tapestry of Times**, a new weekly radio program and podcast from WYPR public radio in Baltimore that explores the Smithsonian Folkways collection, would be of interest to your users. The episode, entitled ***Ola Belle Reed: An Enduring Legacy*** (http://www.tapestryofthetimes.org/shows/archive/episode_27.php) is online now and takes an in-depth look into the life and legacy of Ola Belle Reed, the influential singer/songwriter/instrumentalist, with testimonials, interviews, and original on-site recordings. Its a must-listen for any fans of Ola Belle Reed, bluegrass, and old-time music, or compelling storytelling in general. The show is available for free stream or download, via the podcast.

Listen to the podcast: (http://www.tapestryofthetimes.org/shows/archive/episode_27.php)

Watch the video: (<http://shanecarpenter.com/ola/ola.html>)

See Ola Belle Reeds Albums at Smithsonian Folkways (still in print!): (<http://www.folkways.si.edu/searchresults.aspx?sPhrase=ola%20obelle%20reed&sType='phrase'>)



JOIN THE CENTRAL NEW YORK BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Choose your membership: Active - \$10. _____, Senior (62+) - \$9. _____

Family - \$15. _____, Band - \$20. _____

Gift Certificate**

** To _____ From _____

What instrument(s) do you play?

What band(s) are you with?

Areas/activities you can assist us with: (check all that apply)

Publicity _____ Mentoring _____ Performing _____

Your occupation _____ Fund-raising _____

Other skills _____

Make checks payable to CNYBA and mail to Helen Weldon, 2446 Hillview Dr., #17, Cato, NY 13033; 315-626-2603, e-mail: helwel80@yahoo.com.

Central New York Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 491

Baldwinsville, NY 13027

ENJOY!!



*Check your
membership re-
newal date!!*

PLEASE KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT -- RENEW EARLY!!!!