July 2: CTBA’s 21st Annual Band Scramble and Garage Sale at Threadgill’s

Sunday, July 2, 2:00-6:00 pm, at Threadgill’s North (6416 North Lamar, Austin) is the time and place for this year’s annual band scramble, probably the most popular event that we do.

The garage sale portion of the event will be where the buffet is usually set up. We’ll have CDs, T-shirts, magazines, instructional materials, maybe even some instruments for sale, and if you want to renew your membership or join the CTBA for the first time, there’ll be some board members at the tables to help you.

The second part of the event is the band scramble, where dozens of area musicians come by and throw their names in the appropriate hat as to what instrument they will play. Names are then drawn to form up to six new bands with each working up a couple of tunes to share after a brief rehearsal period.

The performances will be on Threadgill’s state of the art stage with their sound system and Randy Collier as the MC and band wrangler.

This is a super event, so come on by to cheer on your favorite pickers.

It’s a free, family-friendly event. We’ll pass the tip jar. All the money raised goes to CTBA to help with its mission to support bluegrass in Central Texas and to award scholarships to music camps and workshops for deserving youth.

Here is the order of events. Hope to see you there!

- 2:00 - 4:30: Buy new/used music-related items, such as instruments, CDs, DVDs, strings, books, etc.
- 3:00: Up to six new, on-the-spot bands are formed from bluegrass/old-time pickers with stage experience who sign up to join the fun.
- 4:00 - 6:00 Bands perform their tunes
**BLUEGRASS IS BACK!**

**OLD SETTLERS ASSN**

**AT**

**OLD SETTLERS PARK**

**IN ROUND ROCK**

**WHERE**

**ROUND ROCK, TX**

Old Settler’s Park
3300 Palm Valley Blvd

**WHEN**

**SATURDAY, JULY 8TH**

Stage Shows: 4pm-9pm
Jamming: All day/evening

**COST**

* **FREE ADMISSION** *

Courtesy of Old Settlers Assn of Williamson County

**4pm - Robertson County Line**

**6pm - Lake Travis Fiddlers**

**6pm - The May Brothers**

**7pm - Tradition**

**8pm - The Sieker Band**

- Free admission!
- Free parking!
- **Air-conditioned** hall for watching stage shows
- Food & dining space on site
- Giant shade trees to jam under. Chairs provided!

* **114TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION: JULY 6-8, 2017** *

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY OLD SETTLER’S ASSOCIATION**

FOR MORE INFO SEE: **www.wcosa.org** (512) 388-1733
There are lots of professional and semi-professional bluegrass bands in Central Texas. In fact, there’s a good chance you can enjoy the sounds of a fantastic bluegrass band, usually along with some mighty tasty food, somewhere in the area just about any night of the week.

What we sometimes forget to notice is that there are probably an even more number of non-professional bands around, too. Groups, actually. Most of which are not organized enough to be classified as a band.

Some of them (us) play with whomever we happen upon at the time, like we do at jams or impromptu gatherings. Others are a bit more organized and have formed, however haphazardly, a gaggle of folks who just like to get together on a regular basis and play or practice songs and tunes in hopes of performing for other folks who might be willing to listen. Or, not.

Often times, the only places groups like that perform in public are for the occasional retirement community, nursing home, or at the New World Deli Open Mic hosted by Eddie Collins the second Thursday of most months.

One such group of like-minded pickers is The Mopac Travelers. All of the members are either retired or are still working which, I guess, pretty much covers the qualifications other than their love of playing bluegrass music together.

Recently, I had the good fortune to have an email conversation with the guys about the group and their participation in it.

Sam Dunn: I play banjo and sing occasionally. I wanted to get a group together to prepare a limited number of songs to perform at the (New World Deli) open mic.

I think I asked Randy Frazier (mandolin) and Mark Condos (guitar) to play after a jam at Bruce Manbridge’s.

We got Stan VanSandt to play bass a little later and Steve Mangold to sing and play fiddle. Randy’s wife Patti sang with us a few times.

Stan has since moved on. I really enjoy playing with these guys.

We pretty much restrict our practices to improving the songs we plan to play. We still are making mistakes, but I think we’re getting better. That’s what I enjoy most.

Randy Frazier: I’ve been at mandolin about 10 years; feels like I just started playing it for about three years.

It seems like bluegrass players are
the ones I meet and get together with the most, but I love Swing, folk, and what now seems to be called Americana. I grew up on the Beatles and loved the music of the ‘70s (Eagles, Jackson Brown, Neil Young, etc.).

Attending the BIG Jam at Bruce and Elaine’s was a major boost to my playing and integration into the bluegrass community. It was there I met Sam, Mark, Steve, and Stan, the founding members of our current band the Mopac Travelers. For the past three years, we have been traveling Mopac (hence the name!) to practice at each other’s homes spread out over Austin.

The Travelers are currently made up of two retired guys, Sam and Steve, and two working stiffs, Mark and I. Given our respective responsibilities, the probability of playing together much more than we currently do is likely pretty low. That being said, I think we all enjoy playing together and would gladly continue indefinitely as we are now.

Each month we have committed ourselves to learn 2 or 3 songs to perform at Eddie Collin’s Open Mic at New World Deli. During this period we have changed membership, but the core of Sam, Mark, Steve, and I remain. Many of our performances have included stand-ins on bass or guitar, and even a guest appearance by my wife, Patricia. We are eternally grateful to Eddie Collins for providing the venue for us to perform, and sitting in on guitar and bass when needed!

Like Sam says, we were all playing regularly at the Big Jam at Bruce and Elaine’s home on Thursday nights. Sam, our banjo player, was the organizer. He reached out to each of us and proposed we form a jam band to perform 2-3 songs monthly at Eddie’s Open Mic at New World Deli.

Currently Stan, our bass player and best vocalist, has dropped out. We usually have Eddie fill in on bass or guitar if Mark can’t make one of the Thursday open mics.

Individually, I love to practice. Whether it’s the technical stuff in learning scales, timing and rhythm exercises, chord substitution theory, or just wood-shedding on my latest tune to learn, I love practicing. But, there is nothing quite as satisfying as establishing a good sound and “groove” with a group of players. Working out arrangements and performing them for a crowd is just exhilarating, especially when you play well!!

We are always looking for a more accomplished vocalist, wishing for a talented female bassist with a sweet voice! I think we all hope to continue as we are, 2-3 songs a month and improving our musicianship and performance skills. Given our place in life and skill level, I think the pace and venues really fit.

Playing in this band has taught me how to be patient with myself as well as others. I’ve learned how to be flexible yet have an idea of what I think and want musically. Most importantly, I’ve learned to keep “having fun” in the forefront of all that I do musically.

For me individually, I plan to continue my Lessons with Paul Glasse, hopefully develop my “swing
groove” even more. My wife Patricia has written a CD or more worth of songs and we are hoping to get a recording in the next year or so. I look forward to accompanying her on much of that. I am also fortunate to have a number of close friends who play and I plan for that to be an ongoing part of our relationship and my life for as long as possible!

Steve Mangold: Sam approached me about a year ago to join in this ‘jam band’ and I accepted. Stan was pickin’ the bass so I brought my fiddle and I also sing upon request. Most of the members other than me had little or no stage experience so I provided encouragement when Randy wanted to participate in open mic night at the New World Deli.

We worked up our two tunes and fun was had by all. Now we are regulars!!

I mostly enjoy the jammin’ but the performing is fun, too.

Mark Condos: I play rhythm guitar and do some breaks. I’ll also harmonize once in a while if the song is in a key I can handle. I also bring down the average age of the group. :) I originally met the gang at Bruce’s beginner jam at his house.

Playing with a group is much more challenging that just diddling around by yourself (and way more fun)! It gives you incentive to get out and play in front of an audience, too (like the open mic at NWD). It pushes you to practice more, play better, and learn new material, too.

I enjoy playing with these guys because we’re about the same skill level, complement each other pretty well, and have fun when we play!

CTBA: And finally, I got to thinking that there are probably numerous ad-hoc, impromptu bluegrass groups that form and disband and reform that we probably never even know about. They may play together but never or seldom anywhere in public.

And, I bet there are plenty of pickers who would like to be part of a “band” or group of regulars or irregulars who get together every now and then just to pick.

We all know that playing with other pickers is what it’s all about—the love of sharing bluegrass music. Playing with an organized or semi-organized group, whether in private or public, is just icing on the cake.

So, I asked Randy what advice he would give to someone who’d like to be in a group of players?

Randy Frazier: Best to be flexible in all ways; have an idea of what you like and what you want in songs you choose, arrangements, etc., but be open to different interpretations and expressions of the sound.

We have been lucky because our goal was to improve our musicianship and have fun. There is no pressure to play every night and certainly not to make a living. That being said, we all have high standards for the quality of the sound we produce: being patient with one another is a must.
41ST LABOR DAY BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL

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m.sanders711@gmail.com

Wood Street Bloodhounds
Oak Park, IL, Robert Becker
708-714-7206
www.woodstreetbloodhounds.com
oakparkpicker@gmail.com
The Boerne Pickers are an acoustic jam focusing on traditional bluegrass and fiddle music, Gospel, Irish tunes, and a smattering of other styles. Our purpose is to play awesome music, introduce and exchange new songs, and learn together.

We welcome musicians from the NW side of San Antonio, Boerne, Comfort and surrounding areas.

One of my friends asked, "what level is this jam?" I’d have to say Intermediate based on the songs called and people who have been coming. Even if you feel your jam experience or playing level is more basic, feel free to come and learn. As a new banjo player (not that long ago!), I sat outside the main circle and play quietly until I gained the experience and confidence to call my own songs or at least follow the chord changes. We all had to start somewhere! Come join us.

We jam every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 PM at Electric Coffee, 215 W. Bandera Road (aka Hwy 46) in Boerne, Texas. From I-10, take Exit 540 and go east about two blocks to the shopping center on the right. Electric Coffee is the furthest right shop in the strip mall.
Learn with us at Acoustic Music Camp
July 27-29, 2017 • Arlington Texas

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July 27-29, 2017 • Arlington Texas

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Talk about team work! Ten Bluegrass Associations and Bluegrass-supporting groups across Texas worked together to compile the funds needed to put on the 2017 Bluegrass Instrument Contests for banjo, guitar, and mandolin and help continue the tradition of having Texas State Champions for each of those instruments this year.

Those organizations generously agreed to contribute the funding that will provide for the Cash Prizes, Awards, Judges Compensation, the Winfield Accreditation, and the Texas Champ entries to the National Competition and Festival.

The venue this year is the Pearl, Texas Community Center, centrally located in the middle of the state (see http://www.pearlbluegrass.com/NEWSmugMug-Files/NEWMap/MAP-to-Pearl/n-VpCpWV) and will be provided for free. The contests will be held in conjunction with the Pearl Bluegrass Jam & Stage Shows held on the first Saturday of each month.

Following is the schedule.

- **June 3rd** – Texas State Mandolin Championship
- **July 1st** – Texas State Guitar Championship
- **Aug 5th** – Texas State Banjo Championship
- **Sept 13-17** - National Competition at Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas

The Cash prizes for the first three places in each of the contests (banjo, guitar, mandolin) will be: First Place: $500; Second Place: $350; Third Place: $200. 100% of the funds contributed will be used for the contest. No one except the contestants and judges will be paid.

Volunteers from Pearl Bluegrass and Bay Area Bluegrass (BABA) will help run the contest, coordinated by Lynn Holbrook, the BABA Contest Chairman. Rick Kirkland, the BABA President, is maintaining the relationship with the Winfield National Competition organizers and managing the incoming contributions and cash awards.

Think about any musicians you know who may be interested in representing your area at the State Championship along with a fun time of jamming, free Stage Shows, and “Bluegrass in the Country” at Pearl.

See the flyer on the next page. Complete info is available on the Bay Area Bluegrass website at http://bayareabluegrass.org/Contest.php
**Mac Wiseman** was honored once again for his numerous contributions to Country, Bluegrass, and American Roots music when he is inducted into The Blue Ridge Hall of Fame at the Stone Center for Performing Arts on June 10th, in Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Famed for a clear, mellow tenor voice that conveys empathy, kindness, and understanding, Mac Wiseman has been recording great American music for seventy years. He is part of bluegrass music’s first generation.

Wiseman was inducted into The Blue Ridge Hall of Fame in the "Nationally Known Artist" category where he joins previously inducted colleagues that include Earl Scruggs, Doc Watson, Ronnie Milsap, Emmylou Harris, and Andy Griffith.

The Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame exists to showcase and preserve the rich musical heritage of the greater Blue Ridge Mountains area from northern Georgia to northern Virginia.

The Hall of Fame educates, defines, and interprets the history of music in the Blue Ridge area and musicians in all genres from the region with exhibits and an annual celebration of inductees.

Thanks to Kimberly Williams of East Public Relations, info@eastpublicrelations.com, for giving us the info about Mac.

---

**BANJO FORUM COMING YOUR WAY**

Interested in attending a local five-string banjo forum under the direction of some well-known and very talented banjo players? Watch for the August CTBA Newsletter. We’ll have the details and more information about how you can participate.
BLUEGRASS MUSIC RISING IN NW HOUSTON (BMR)

Presented:

First Friday (Next Show)
Bluegrass Music Knight Out Show & Jam (BMKO)

"Bluegrass & Old-Time Acoustic Music Plus"

July 07, 2017 Show & Jam!

TIME - Show: 6:25/8:30pm; Jam: 4:00/8:30pm

Location: The Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center,
8440 Greenhouse Road (@Longenbaugh Dr), Cypress, TX 77433

A Free Community Event: EVERYONE IS WELCOME

2017 Show Dates:
Aug. 04 Sept. 08
Oct. 13 Nov. 10
Dec 08

Contact: Tony & Nema Redding, 281-373-1777, 281-910-4396/95
Bluegrass Music Rising in NW Houston
Info Re: Show & Jams, and for Booking 'Almost Heaven Bluegrass Band.'
Website: www.bluegrassrising.net; Email: tonynema@earthlink.net;

1. Hwy 75 Alyssa & Colin
2. Almost Heaven Bluegrass Band
3. Armstrong Family Band

All BMR's BLUEGRASS MUSIC JAMS/Show in NW Houston:

A. 1. Every Monday Night Bluegrass Jam, Time: 6:15-9:00pm; Rm #403 & 404
2. Bluegrass Music Knight Out Show & Jam; Show: 6:30-8:15pm; Jam: 4-8:30pm

NOTICE: See Future Dates/changes in Bubble above.

B. 1. Fourth Saturday Bluegrass Jam, Time: 12noon - 4pm; Kleb Woods Nature Center,
NW Houston, 20303 Draper Rd (@Mueschke), {Rosehill}, Tomball, TX 77377.

All Pickers and Listeners Welcome!

No Charge

5FB3A FlyRev #7, 07-07-17
Camp Bluegrass 2017 celebrates the music of the *The Osborne Brothers*, **July 16-21**, 2017, at *South Plains College in Levelland*, TX, located 30 miles west of Lubbock.

Our specialty is quality teaching and small classes in state-of-the-art facilities. The faculty includes some of the best instructors anywhere and several SPC teachers are on staff.

This year’s instructors include:

- Becky Buller - Fiddle
- Blaine Sprouse - Fiddle
- Alan Munde - Banjo
- Bill Evans - Banjo
- Gerald Jones - Banjo
- Ned Luberecki - Banjo
- Jimmy Heffernan - Dobro
- Elliott Rogers - Guitar
- Jim Hurst - Guitar
- Tim May - Guitar
- Nate Lee - Mandolin
- Steve Smith - Mandolin
- Anne Luna - Bass
- Beth Mead - Slow jam
- Chris Sanders - Songwriting
- Dede Wyland - Vocal

The week includes instrumental, vocal, and band workshops small group lessons, jams sessions, and a student showcase concert.

Participants also have the opportunity to study styles of solo and ensemble singing, the history of bluegrass music, and music theory for pickers.

Emphasis is placed on perfecting individual skills and addressing individual musical concerns.

Students desiring band experience are divided into ensemble workshops, directed by one or more instructor, and work from models of classic bluegrass recordings.

All the details plus how to register are located at [campbluegrass.com/registration](http://campbluegrass.com/registration).
FREE!

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Two days of great music, chili, and beautiful flowers under the Texas sky! Bring your blankets and lawn chairs!

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bloominbluegrass.com
CTBA Area Jams
centraltexasbluegrass.org/jams.html

AUSTIN
Every Sunday, 3 PM-??, CTBA Sunday jam at Hill’s Café, 4700 S. Congress; 512-851-9300.

2nd and 4th Saturday, 3-5 PM, beg./int. jam at Wildflower Terrace, 3801 Berkman Drive; Steve Mangold, 512-345-6155.

1st Thursday, 7-9 PM, beg./int. jam, Northwest Hills area; Steve Mangold, 512-345-6155.

Every Thursday, 6-9 PM, beg./int. jam, Texican Café, 11940 Manchaca Road; Dave Stritzinger, 512-689-4433.

2nd Thursday, bluegrass jam at Texas Barber Services, 2301 E. Riverside Dr, #400A; Kurt Phillips, 512-330-4895.

Every Tuesday, 8-10 PM, Texas Old Time Fiddling, Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto; 512-474-1958.

BANDERA
4th Friday of each month except Good Friday, November, and December at Silver Sage Corral – east of Bandera. Starts at 6 PM. For more info call 830-796-4969, www.silversagecorral.org.

BELLMAR

BLANCO
First Saturday, 2-5 PM at Buggy Barn Museum, 1915 Hwy 281 N; contact Deanna Dosser, 830-554-0006.

2nd & 4th Sunday, 3:00-6:00 pm, Old 300 Barbecue, 318 4th St, Info: Tibby Armke 830-660-5734.

BOERNE
2nd & 4th Thursday, 6:30-8:30, at Electric Coffee, 215 W. Bandera Road (Hwy 46), Info: Dave Moore, 210-846-9745, dmboerne@gvtc.com.

FAYETTEVILLE
2nd Saturday, Fayetteville Picking Park jam Jan.-Nov., beginning at 1:00 PM on the courthouse square. Acoustic only. banjobooklady@yahoo.com

GARLAND
Every Saturday, Bluegrass on the Square, March-November, between Main and Main Sts. at 6th, 7:30 PM to 1:00 AM.

GLEN ROSE
3rd Saturday, Oakdale Park, Paluxy River Bluegrass Association, free stage show, jam; and potluck Friday night before. Jim Chapman 469-231-6616, www.paluxybluegrass.com

HOUSTON
1st Tuesday, Fuddruckers, 2040 NASA Rd 1, 281-333-1598

JOHNSON CITY
3rd Saturday except in December, 2-6 PM, jam at The Dome, 706 W. Main St., Hwy 290 W; Charlene Crump, 512-632-5999.

Last Saturday of each month, 2:00 PM, Dally’s Down Under 9097 US-290, Johnson City. Info: Cliff Robbins 701-770-8962 or telecliff@hotmail.com

LEAGUE CITY (BABA)
3rd Saturday: Jam 5:00 PM, Stage show 6:30 PM Jan.-Nov., League City Civic Center, 300 W. Walker St. 281-636-9419. Sponsored by Bay Area Bluegrass Association.

LEANDER
1st Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, CTBA Beginner/Intermediate Bluegrass Jam, at Leander Public Library, 1011 South Bagdad Road. Bob Vestal, 512-983-5031

LILLIAN
2nd Saturday, 4:00 PM jam, 7:00 PM show, First Baptist Church, $4; Dale Brawner 97-935-4525.

LLANO
4th Saturday, 2:00 PM, jam at Fuel Coffee House, 106 East Main St.; 325-247-5272; www.fuelcoffeehouse.org

MAGNOLIA
1st Saturday, West Montgomery County Community Development Center on Friendship Drive, 5:00 PM. Info: Bill Ingram, wingram177090@gmail.com

MEDINA
2nd Tuesday, all gospel jam, 6 PM at First Baptist Church; contact Linda Barton, 830-589-2486.

PEARL
1st Saturday: Jam all day/night, stage show, 12:15 PM-6:15 PM; food and RV hookups available. Pearl Community Center, on FM 183, 7 mi. south of Purmela; info@pearlbluegrass.com. Check website for show schedule: www.pearlbluegrass.com

ROUND ROCK
3rd Saturday, 2-5 PM except November and December, jam at Danny Ray’s Music, 12 Chisholm Trail; 512-671-8663. www.dannyraysmusic.com

SAN ANTONIO
Every Monday, 6:30-8:30 PM, at The Barbecue Station, 1610 NE Loop 410 at Harry Wurzbach exit; 210-824-9191.

SCHULENBERG
1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 PM, jam at Schulenberg RV Park Community Center, 65 N. Kessler Ave. Laretta Baumgarten, 979-743-4388, camp@schulenbergrvpark.com

TOMBALL
4th Saturday, 4:00 PM, bluegrass jam at Kleb Woods Nature Center and Preserve, 20303 Draper Road, Tomball, 281-373-1777 or 281-910-4396.
FRIDAY, JUNE 9 * 6PM-10PM
FESTIVAL PARK * 507 S. PECAN * NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

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Austin, Texas 78766-9816

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Merchandise</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compilation CD of member bands, vol 2</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTBA logo T-shirt (black, white, orange)</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl Scruggs design T-shirt</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mona Lisa design T-shirt</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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