

## HVBA Jam Sessions

2nd & 4th Wednesdays  
of each month

Pirate Canoe Club, Poughkeepsie, NY

Slow Jam starts at 6PM  
Jam ends at 10 PM

\$3 admission  
Call (845) 691-6784 for  
details or directions



## WinterGrass for Farmers

The Bardavon

April 9, 2005

Poughkeepsie, NY



featuring

Ralph Stanley &  
Ramblin' Jack Elliot

use HVBA's coupon and your ticket purchase results in \$5 donation to The Hudson Valley Agricultural Partnership, courtesy of The Bardavon. See Coupon enclosed in newsletter or visit [www.hvbluegrass.org](http://www.hvbluegrass.org)

Check the label for your expiration date. If it is past, please pay \$10 annual membership to keep receiving Jamboree.



Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association  
106 Pancake Hollow Road  
Highland, NY 12528



# Jamboree

The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

SPRING 2005

online at [www.hvbluegrass.org](http://www.hvbluegrass.org)

Number 37

## WinterGrass for Farmers Ralph Stanley and Ramblin' Jack Elliot April 9th

Jeffrey Anzevino

Ralph Stanley, one of the forces defining Bluegrass music over the past 50 years, will perform at The Bardavon in a WinterGrass for Farmers benefit on April 9 at 8PM. Ralph Stanley will perform with Folk icon Ramblin' Jack Elliott. Together Dr. Ralph and Ramblin' Jack have between them over a century of experience in the music business.



Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys

This performance is presented by The Bardavon in association with the Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association, Scenic Hudson and the Hudson Valley Agricultural Partnership. The show is promoted by the HVBA as WinterGrass for Farmers a benefit for local farmers. The Bardavon will generously donate \$5 from each ticket purchased through the HVBA's coupon to The Hudson Valley Agricultural Partnership (HVAP). See coupon in newsletter or visit [www.hvbluegrass.org](http://www.hvbluegrass.org). You must use the coupon to buy your ticket and contribute to the HVAP (for more information about the HVAP, see sidebar on page 7).

Many will recall that in 2003 a similar project featured Vassar Clements and

Northern Lights. That show raised \$1,000 for the New Farmer, New Markets program of New York City's greenmarket system.

**Ralph Stanley** still resides in Dickenson County, Virginia, where he was born in 1927. His musical career spans nearly

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**Message from the President****Cash on the Barrelhead**

I just heard this morning on WAMC the origin of this phrase, which is also the title of a Fred Rose/Roy Acuff song, made famous by The Louvin Brothers and covered by The Dreadful Snakes and, most recently, Beartracks, a fabulous Adirondack trio featured in this issue's CD Review. Apparently much of the business in the days of yore was conducted over the tops of barrels. Someone with poor credit was required to put his cash on the barrelhead, thus giving us the saying.

Front and center in this issue, you'll find news that on April 9th Ralph Stanley is coming to town, along with Ramblin Jack Elliot. In addition to an evening of great music at The Bardavon in Poughkeepsie, you'll have an opportunity to help raise awareness for the Hudson Valley's agricultural community -- and to put "Cash on the Barrelhead" for local farmers. Thanks to the generosity of The Bardavon, \$5 from each ticket purchased with the HVBA's coupon will be donated to the Hudson Valley Agricultural Partnership. Without our farmers, our tables would not be graced by the local bounty which nourishes our bodies and brings smiles to our faces.

Many thanks to Ambrose Verdibello, Joe Whelan, Donna Davies, Rob Bradley, Joyce Cullen and Jim Molloy who responded to my call for articles and photos. I want this to be *YOUR* newsletter.

Bruce Molsky will be performing with the Southern Schoolhouse Rounders on March 20th at the intimate Cuneen Hackett Cultural Center's Theater in Poughkeepsie. This sweet room with impeccable acoustics was the home of many of the HVBA's earliest shows, thus, is bound to rekindle many fond memories.

Hope to see many of you at these and other upcoming shows and, of course, our monthly jam sessions at the Pirate Canoe Club.

Jeffrey Anzevino  
President

 **Sign me up!**  
**Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association**

Send to: Joyce Cullen, 395 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is \$10 for new membership / renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

*a 501 (c) 3 not for profit arts and  
educational organization*

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Winter Summer Spring and Fall*

**Jeffrey Anzevino, Editor**

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### Board of Directors

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Route 212 West, Saugerties 11AM to 2PM  
www.jackdwyer.com

**February 27:** ABL Show with The String Dusters & Gene Tyme at The Parting Glass, Saratoga Springs, NY

**February 27:** Skip Gorman at the SitnBull, Maynard MA 4-8PM 978-897-7232 or email jon@planetbanjo.com

**March 3:** The Doc Marshalls at Galapagos with the Wiyos and Uncle Earl. Brooklyn, NY (70 N Sixth St, bet. Wythe and Kent Avenues). 8 PM. 718-782-5188

**March 4:** The Tony Trischka Trio featuring Bruce Molsky at KAC Coffeehouse, Kirkland Art Center, Clinton, NY \$15/12 members 315-853-8871

**March 5:** Hot Day at the Zoo at, EMERGENZA, The Middle East, 472 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139. <http://mideastclub.com>. Price: \$10. E M E R G E N Z A is Europe's and North-America's biggest music contest. A festival where bands of all musical styles proceed through various elimination rounds, having the opportunity to play in major international venues. The festival is designed for unsigned bands who have not yet found a promotional channel and who are trying to gain notoriety and experience on the national and european music scene; papa@hotdayatthezoo.com

**March 5:** Bluegrass at Unitarian Church Coffeehouse, with Shore Grass, New London, CT. \$12. Info: Eben Salter (860) 464-0040.

**March 5:** Northern Lights at First United Methodist Church, 55 Fenn St. Pittsfield, MA, 8pm, 413-499-0866, [www.fumcpittsfield.org](http://www.fumcpittsfield.org)

**March 6 & 13:** The Dwyer Family at Mezzaluna Cafe, Route 212 West, Saugerties 11AM to 2PM [www.jackdwyer.com](http://www.jackdwyer.com)

**March 13:** Southern Rail at the Country Corner Coffeehouse, South Hadley, MA 2-4 PM

**March 13:** Too Blue with the Walkingwood Mandolin Quartet at Hamden Arts Concert, Miller Library Complex, 2901 Dixwell Ave, Hamden, CT. 2 PM

**March 18:** Seneca County Bluegrass at KAC Coffeehouse, Kirkland Art Center, Clinton, NY \$13/10 members 315-853-8871

**March 18:** Rhonda Vincent & the Rage (with Blue Daze from Maryland) at National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA. 7:30PM [www.bbu.org](http://www.bbu.org) \$20 member advance/ \$21 non-member advance/ \$23 at the door

**March 19:** Second Gear at Barnes & Noble (2518 South Rd.), Poughkeepsie, NY 7 PM Please be sure to call 485-2224 to confirm

**March 20:** Bruce Molsky and The Southern Schoolhouse Rascals at Vassar Brothers Theater at The Cunneen Hackett, 12 Vassar St. in Poughkeepsie between Mill and Main Streets (200 block) Adults \$15, Students/Seniors \$10, ages 12 and under free, (845) 486-4571 or (845) 677-5279 or email ambver@hotmail.com 3PM

**March 20:** The Dwyer Family at Mezzaluna Cafe, Route 212 West, Saugerties 11AM to 2PM [www.jackdwyer.com](http://www.jackdwyer.com)

**March 26:** Gopher Broke with Dave Nichols & Spare

Change at Neshobe Sportsman Club, Brandon, VT \$15 802-247-3275 [basinbluegrass@adelphia.net](mailto:basinbluegrass@adelphia.net)

**March 27:** The Dwyer Family at Mezzaluna Cafe, Route 212 West, Saugerties 11AM to 2PM [www.jackdwyer.com](http://www.jackdwyer.com)

**April 2:** Northern Lights at Peterborough Players Theater, Peterborough NH 8PM, 603-827-2905 info, 603-924-7585 tickets, [www.acousticmusic.com/pfms](http://www.acousticmusic.com/pfms),

**April 3:** The Dwyer Family at Mezzaluna Cafe, Route 212 West, Saugerties 11AM to 2PM

**April 9:** WinterGrass for Farmers with Ralph Stanley and Ramblin Jack Elliot at The Bardavon, Poughkeepsie, NY [www.hvbluegrass.org](http://www.hvbluegrass.org)

**April 9:** Too Blue at Molten Java Coffeehouse, 102 Greenwood Ave., Bethel CT. 8:30PM 203-739-0313.

**April 9:** Kat Mills at Rosendale Cafe, Rosendale, NY [www.rosendalecafe.com](http://www.rosendalecafe.com)

**April 10:** The Dwyer Family at Mezzaluna Cafe, Route 212 West, Saugerties 11AM to 2PM

**April 15:** Continental Divide & LarryStephenson Band at The EmelinTheater, Mamaroneck, NY, 8PM, \$30 (914) 698-0098 [www.emelin.org](http://www.emelin.org)

**April 8-10:** Mandolin Camp North featuring Sam Bush, Skip Gorman, John McGann, Richie Brown and a stellar staff of mandolinists. Groton, MA <http://www.mugwumps.com/mcn.html> or (781) 209-1130

**April 16:** The Larry Stephenson Band and David Parmley and Continental Divide, at National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA. \$19 non-member advance/ \$21 at the door. 7:30PM [www.bbu.org](http://www.bbu.org)

**May 13-15:** 5th Annual Banjo Camp NORTH, a weekend-long celebration of the 5-string banjo in both old time and bluegrass styles! Groton, MA Mike Holmes (781) 209-1130.

**May 20:** Northern Lights at Our Times Coffeehouse, 38 Old Country Rd., 8p, 516-541-1006 #2, Garden City, NY [www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org](http://www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org), \$12.

**May 21:** Northern Lights at Towne Crier Cafe (tentative), Pawling, NY

**June 4:** Northern Lights at, One World Coffeehouse, First Universalist Church, Main St., Cambridge, MA 8PM, 978-768-7056, \$15

**June 9 -12:** Wind Gap Bluegrass Festival, Too Blue and more Wind Gap, PA.

**June 10-12:** Sterling Park Bluegrass Festival, Sterling Park Campground, Sterling, CT Gibson Hill Rd. 860-564-8777, [campatsterling@aol.com](mailto:campatsterling@aol.com), [www.Sterlingcampground.com](http://www.Sterlingcampground.com)

**June 17-19:** Pocono Mountain Bluegrass festival with James King, Chester Johnson and The Foggy Mountain Grass, Second Wind, Stained Grass Window, Bill & Maggie, Past Times, The Lost Ramblers, The Mill Creek Boys, and Mark Miklos and The Raritan Valley Boys [mkoach@netcarrier.com](http://mkoach@netcarrier.com) or 610-863-7093

[www.hvbluegrass.org](http://www.hvbluegrass.org)

## Music and Dance Scene

MAD Scene is provided as a service to HVBA members and bands.

Play it safe! Call before you go. List your event by sending pertinent details to [hvba@optonline.net](mailto:hvba@optonline.net)

### Ongoing Jams, Dances, Gigs etc.

**2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month:** HVBA Jam at Pirate Canoe Club, Poughkeepsie, NY 6-10 PM (845) 691-6784 or (914) 276-2239

**Every Friday:** Jammin' at the Legion Hall, Marcellus, NY; (315) 673-2329 or 1844

**Every Monday:** Bluegrass night at The Parkside Lounge, NYC

**Last Monday of each month:** Orrin Star at The Parkside Lounge, NYC

**Every Monday:** The Alphabet City Opry at The Parkside Lounge, Houston St. betw. Ave A & B in Manhattan; 9 PM

**Every Monday:** Irish Folk Session at The Baggott Inn, Manhattan

**Every Monday:** Riverbank Banjo Band, Banta's Steak 'n Stein, Poughkeepsie, NY

**First Monday:** ABL Jam at The Parting Glass, Saratoga Springs, NY 7PM

**2nd Tuesday of Each Month:** North East Bluegrass Jam, Malt River Brewing Co., Latham NY, 8 PM, (518) 489-2369

**2nd & 4th Tuesday of Each Month:** Bluegrass Jam at The Uptown Cafe, Kingston, NY (845) 679-6696

**4th Tuesday of Each Month:** Jam at Lark Tavern, Albany, NY (518) 489-2369

**Every Wednesday:** Minetta Creek Band, Carpos, New York City (212) 353-2889

**Every Wednesday:** Bluegrass & Good Times Jam with host The Sheriff at The Baggot Inn, Manhattan 9 PM

**2nd & 4th Wednesday:** Warren Academy, Warren, CT 7 PM (201) 868-7659

**1st Friday of Every Month:** North Country Music's Bluegrass Jam, St. Luke's Church. (914) 276-2239

**1st Friday:** Fais Do Do with Dr. Romo and the Cajun Swing Orchestra, Woodstock Community Center, Woodstock, NY 8 PM (845) 658-3392

**1st Saturday of Every Month:** Jam hosted by Roger Sprung, United Methodist Church, Sandy Hook, CT (203) 426-5243 (NOT IN JULY OR AUGUST)

**1st Saturday of Every Month:** Open Mic/Bluegrass/Folk Jam; Unitarian Church; Rock Tavern, NY (845) 496-0771

**1st Saturday of Every Month:** Contra Dance at St. Philips Church Parish House, Route 9D, Garrison, NY (845) 265-4011, 265-7201, 265-0032

**2nd Saturday of Every Month:** Walkabout Clearwater, Katonah, NY (845) 242-0374

**3rd Sat. of Every Month:** Restoration Coffee House Open Mic; Old Dutch Reformed Church, Bloomingburg, NY; 7 PM; (845) 647-6491

**3rd Saturday of Every Month:** Hudson Valley Folk Guild Poughkeepsie Chapter; (845) 297-6372

**Every Other Saturday:** (Old Time only!!) Thady Con's Pub NYC; (212) 688-9700

**Every Sunday:** Woodstock Jam at Catskill Mtn Pizza 1PM (845) 679-7969

**Every Sunday:** Bluegrass Session with Tom Hanway at Paddy O'Reilly's Bar, 4 PM; NYC (718) 884-5721

**Every Sunday:** Club 9C in Manhattan 5 PM - ???; (212)-358-0048

**4th Sunday:** Finger Lakes Bluegrass Monthly Jam 2-8 Pm at the Ontario County Arts Council, Canandaigua, NY (716) 396-0087 or 924-3117

### More Music!!

**February 13:** The Dwyer Family at Mezzaluna Cafe, Route 212 West, Saugerties 11AM to 2PM [www.jackdwyer.com](http://www.jackdwyer.com)

**February 13:** Wayne Fugate with Out to Lunch alumnus Tom Eaton at The Rhumb Line, Glouster, MA <http://www.therhumblines.com/>

**February 13:** The String Dusters, Sweetheart Jamboree, at Union Presbyterian Church, Schenectady, NY 3-6PM \$10

**February 13:** Bluegrass Extravaganza with Dave Nichols, & Spare Change, Cabin Fever, Andy Pawlenko & The Smokey Hollow Boys at Rick & Carol's, Fort Ann, NY 1PM

**February 16:** Flynn Cohen & the Chagrin River Band (Erin Prawoko, John McGann, Nate Leath, Chris Pandolfi, Frank Drake) at Club Passim, 47 Palmer Street, Harvard Sq., Cambridge, MA. 8PM

**February 17:** The String Dusters at Ambition Coffeehouse & Eatery, Schenectady, NY 5:30PM

**February 18:** The Gibson Brothers & King Wilkie at The Emelin Theater, Mamaroneck, NY, 8PM, \$30 (914) 698-0098 [www.emelin.org](http://www.emelin.org)

**February 18-20:** 20th Annual Joe Val Bluegrass Festival, with Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, IIIrd Tyme Out, Gibson Brothers, Special Consensus, David Davis and the Warrior River Boys, Robin and Linda Williams, King Wilkie, Kruger Brothers, The Bluegrass Gospel Project, Gaudreau and Klein, The Hunger Mountain Boys, Mike Burns and North Country, Freewheelin', Back Eddy Bluegrass (Fri), and more. The Sheraton, Framingham, MA <http://www.bbu.org/jvhome.htm>

**February 20:** The Dwyer Family at Mezzaluna Cafe, Route 212 West, Saugerties 11AM to 2PM [www.jackdwyer.com](http://www.jackdwyer.com)

**February 20:** King Wilkie at KAC Coffeehouse, Kirkland Art Center, Clinton, NY \$15/12 members 315-853-8871

**February 27:** The Dwyer Family at Mezzaluna Cafe,

## Bruce Molsky, Southern Schoolhouse Rascals in Poughkeepsie Concert

*Ambrose Verdibello*

A double concert of old time southern country music and early bluegrass comes to the recently renovated Theatre at Cuneen Hackett when Bruce Molsky is joined by the Southern Schoolhouse Rascals on Sunday March 20 at 3pm.

Bruce Molsky is well known around the world as an ambassador of traditional American fiddle and banjo styles from the southern Appalachian mountains. His finger-picking guitar solos and heartfelt vocals round out the abilities of one of the great versatile acoustic musicians of any style. His recent tours of the British Isles, Europe, Australia and the United States have met with critical and popular acclaim. Collaborations with Mozaik (Andy Irvine and Donal Lunny), guitarist Tony McManus and banjo icon Tony Trischka have filled his recent touring schedule. This concert marks Bruce's first city of Poughkeepsie concert. More information about Bruce and his recordings is available at [www.brucemolsky.com](http://www.brucemolsky.com).

The Southern Schoolhouse Rascals are a five piece old time country and early bluegrass band whose members hail from western Connecticut and southern New York. Drawing from the songs of Carter Stanley, Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt and the Carter Family, the Rascals blend bluegrass and the old time repertoire of Fred Cockerham, Tommy Jarrell, Roscoe Holcomb and others. Lead vocalist Gil Sayre, a native West Virginian, anchors the band playing guitar and singing many original arrangements of



*Bruce Molsky*

classic early country songs. Mandolinist Dave Howard shares lead and tenor vocals with bassist Pat Plankey. Dave and Pat are former members of the great northeast old time band, the Lazy Aces. Ray Alden, clawhammer and finger-style banjo, is known for recording and preserving the music of many of the old-time masters of Kentucky and North Carolina. HVBA member Ambrose Verdibello plays fiddle and sings baritone vocals.

The Theatre at Cuneen Hackett is located at 12 Vassar St. in Poughkeepsie between Mill and Main Streets (200 block). Tickets are general admission, Adults \$15, Students/Seniors \$10, ages 12 and under free. For information call (845) 486-4571 or (845) 677-5279 or email [ambver@hotmail.com](mailto:ambver@hotmail.com).

[www.brucemolsky.com](http://www.brucemolsky.com)

## HVBA News Briefs

### HVBA Elections and Annual Meeting

At the HVBA's annual meeting on November 10, its executive officers were re-elected to serve another term: Jeff Anzevino, president, Chris Scheu vice president & treasurer and Joyce Cullen, membership coordinator.



### Bluegrass Workshops at HVBA jam

Lynn Lipton has arranged several workshops at HVBA 2nd Wednesday jam sessions. Huge thanks to Wayne Fugate (Selected Goodies from Music Theories 101), Too Blue (Playing Well With Others), Mel Paskell (What Makes a Good Arrangement), and Ambrose Verdibello (Double Stops for Fiddle and Mandolin), who have conducted workshops. Future workshops will be done by Andy Bing (Monroe Style Mandolin), Frank Kara (Beginning Improvisation and Gaining Speed) and Jeff Anzevino (Preparing for Performance).

### Second Gear

Second Gear will play at Barnes & Noble (2518 South Rd (Rt 9) Poughkeepsie) at 7 pm on Saturday, March 19th. Please be sure to call B & N at 485-2224 for confirmation. The band consists of Jeff Kirk and Roy Coates on banjo, Pat Dinges and George Nasca on mando, Dave Cobb on guitar, Mary DeBerry on bass, Dave Rosenblatt on harmonica, Doug Mathewson on dobro and Lynn Lipton on fiddle.

### New Buddy Merriam CD

Look for Buddy Merriam and Back Roads' new CD *Buddy Merriam & Friends, Acoustic American Music Live on Long Island* on Lily Pad records. The album



contains a mix of acoustic styles, mostly bluegrass with a couple Gershwin tunes performed by Buddy's swing band "Blue Midnight Quartet," some New Orleans style with Leslie Mendelson singing, an original tune by a fine singer/songwriter Jack Licitra, and even some newgrass with Acoustic Water Street. The disc was recorded live with family & friends in attendance and Buddy was going for a real live, full of energy sound.

It also features the last recordings by Ernie Sykes Sr. singing some bluegrass standards that he use to get requests for Blue Moon of Kentucky and Kentucky Waltz and the new lead singer in Back Roads at the time, Chris Maloy.

Ernie Sykes (JR) is now a member of Backroads Bluegrass. He was the last Bluegrass Boy hired by Bill Monroe, Buddy actually started out working for his dad in the middle 70's (Sykes Boys). Tom Falco is singing & playing rhythm & lead guitar. Gary Oleyar is back from Nashville and playing fiddle & singing. Jerry Oland is playing banjo with Backroads.

2005 is Buddy's 25th year leading Back Roads and without a doubt, they are looking for a mighty year.

Last year Buddy Merriam and Backroads Bluegrass performed at IBMA's Fan Fest and toured Ireland. Catch them at the Joe Val Festival in Boston in February 2005.

### New Big Spike CD

Freeman Corey reports that Big Spike Bluegrass' CD is hot off the presses. There are 14 songs on the disc, one instrumental is not an original, but the rest are originals. This is their first



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## CD Review

### Long Way Back Home

#### The Gibson Brothers

SH 3993

Members of the HVBA don't need to be told that great bluegrass music is being made by Upstate New Yorkers, but there may have been doubters elsewhere in the country before 1998. That was the year that the Gibson Brothers were named Emerging Artist of the Year at the IBMA. And the Gibsons, who hail from Ellenburg Depot on New York's Quebec border, are no strangers to the HVBA, having headlined an HVBA show just a few years ago.

The Gibson Brothers are back on the charts with their 6<sup>th</sup> CD, *Long Way Back Home*, which is their second offering on the Sugar Hill label. The CD features the close harmonies of Leigh and Eric and some great driving bluegrass music. With Leigh on the guitar and Eric playing banjo (and occasionally guitar), the basic musical unit is a quartet, featuring Mike Barber on the upright bass and Marc MacGlashan on the mandolin. Many of the cuts on *Long Way Back Home* also feature Jason Carter or Luke Bulla on the fiddle, or Rob Ickes on dobro.

The Gibsons are songwriters as well as performers, and have penned seven of the tunes on this album. Satisfying though their own tunes may be, some of the most memorable performances on *Long Way Back Home* are covers. My own personal favorite is a rollicking version of Robbie Robertson's *Ophelia*, featuring Leigh on lead vocals and Jason Carter rounding out a classic bluegrass quintet. Another great cover is the title cut, penned by Gordon Lightfoot, performed by the quartet and featuring a blistering banjo and mandolin intro. The album's opening cut, *Mountain Song*, bristles with energy



**Mountain Song**  
**Callie's Reel**  
**Dreams That End Like This**  
**Ophelia**  
**Any Man In His Right Mind**  
**Long Way Back Home**  
**It's All Right With Me**  
**Alone With You**  
**I'm Not Wanted Here**  
**I Gotta get Back to You**  
**Satan's Jeweled Crown**  
**He'd Take Her Back Again**

in a haunting minor mode. The Gibsons' famous brother harmonies reach a sublime peak on the Louvin Brothers' masterpiece *Satan's Jeweled Crown*.

For my tastes, the least memorable cuts are the ones featuring drums and electric guitar/pedal steel. Although these tunes are well put together and may bring the Gibson Brothers a crossover audience of country music fans, I find Eric and Leigh at their best when they stick with the more traditional bluegrass instrumentation and styles. A great album with local appeal.

G. A. Zonbleu

[www.gibsonbrothers.com](http://www.gibsonbrothers.com)

## CD Review Makin' Tracks

**Beartracks**

**AMT CR 0512**

There seems to be magic when family members gather to make music. Genetic harmonies have long provided some of the world's best vocals: The Carter Family, Monroe Brothers., Stanley Brothers, Louvin Brothers, Jim & Jesse McReynolds, Everly Brothers... you get the picture.

Beartracks is a family trio with brother and sister Tom Hogan and Julie Venne Hogan and their cousin, the reknowned dobroist Junior Barber. This family affair will not disappoint those seeking tight family harmony -- thanks to Julie and Tom -- and hot instrumental breaks and backups, a la Junior Barber. You will find nary a banjo, fiddle or mandolin, thus, this album does not fit squarely into bluegrass' round hole. However, the familiar, traditional tunes and outstanding vocals and Junior's dobro are sure to please the most avid bluegrass fan.

The CD presents a collection of 13 carefully arranged and well produced traditional songs. All but one are vocals. The liner notes from their CD, Makin' Tracks, state that "...less is more. A trio is not quite a band..." As a musician in a trio, your role produces 1/3 of the total band's sound. This dynamic will provide an opportunity to sharpen one's musical skills.

And, to further prove that "less is more," the many of the cuts on Makin' Tracks are straightforward, of three-chord construction and familiar to even the casual fan. Long Journey Home, Keep On the Sunny Side, Shackles and Chains and Old Slewfoot. are perhaps the best examples. Thus, the budding musician or "slow jammer" will find a wealth of material with which to expand a repertoire.

The exception is the last track, Gypsy Wagon, a moody instrumental penned by Junior Barber.



**Long Journey Home**  
**Keep On The Sunny Side**  
**Muleskinner**  
**House of Gold**  
**Old Time Preacher man**  
**Move It On Over**  
**To Daddy**  
**Diggy Leggy Lo**  
**The Leaves Mustn't Fall**  
**Cash On The Barrelhead**  
**Shackles and Chains**  
**Old Slew Foot (Beartracks)**  
**Gypsy Wagon**

The tune's B part traverses a tasty "circle of fifths" progression.

In addition to Gypsy Wagon, perhaps my favorite tune is Muleskinner, written by The Singin' Brakeman, Jimmy Rodgers and made famous by Bill Monroe and covered by a seemingly infinite number of bluegrassers ever since.

As one would expect, there is no shortage of hot slide licks on Makin Tracks. The pleasant surprise is the total sound produced by Tom and Julie's vocal work combined with Barber's instrumental dexterity.

### HVBA 2nd Jam

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month  
Pirate Canoe Club, Poughkeepsie, NY

## Talented banjoist and guitarist perform

Joseph Whelan

If you are looking for bluegrass performances, check banjoben.com. I made a note of one and, in early December, after some e-mailing, wangled an invitation. I ventured off to a townhouse on the upper west side in New York City to attend a house concert. The sponsors were the Jenckins family - all talented musicians and singers. Their generosity knew no bounds and there was food, wine and after the break, dessert!

The performers, hailing from Nashville, were Chris Eldridge on guitar (Chris E.) and Chris Pandolfi (Chris P.) on 5 string banjo, graduates of Oberlin College and Berklee College of Music, respectively. Chris E. studied jazz/music performance and Chris P. was the first to have majored in banjo at Berklee.

Eldridge is the son of Ben Eldridge, the banjoist, - a founder of the Seldom Scene in the early 70's., during the bluegrass explosion. He was referred to as "one of the best all around banjo players in bluegrass" in one of Tony Trischka's books. It is worth noting that the Seldom Scene was one of the most popular bands in bluegrass. The Washington D.C. sound, which kept to traditional bluegrass instruments and avoided electrification, was also one of the most popular. Chris E. has now joined the Seldom Scene.

Along with lightning-fast picking on guitar, Eldridge has an appealing voice and sings well. He acknowledges that he has the acoustic bug and says "the coolest thing about playing guitar is the ability to play rhythm and chords."

Chris Pandolfi, who grew up in Westchester, issued his first CD in the summer of 2003,



Chris Eldridge and Chris Pandolfi

"The Handoff," an all original mix of progressive and traditional tunes, that distinguishes him as a musician and composer. Bill Evans, in Banjo Newsletter, said the CD "is full of wonderful original tunes, great ensemble playing and thoughtful and melodic improvisation." Tony Trischka says "Chris (is) in the front ranks of the next generation to chart the course of the five string banjo on into the future."

Chris P. will be at Joe Val in Boston on February 13, performing with Buddy Merriam and Backroads.

The evening's fare was, at first, mostly progressive; each musician's virtuosity was evident. The clock was gradually re-set and some Scruggs' breakdowns, Stanley tunes and those of the inimitable Bill Monroe were performed. It seems inevitable that these two young, very talented performers will be in a band of their own in the future. Keep your fingers crossed. ✓

Your ad here   
(845) 691-6784

## Ralph Stanley/Ramblin' Jack at WinterGrass

continued from page 1

60 years. He has toured the world and recorded nearly 200 albums.

He is perhaps most influential in his work his brother, the late Carter Stanley. In 1946 he and Carter formed their first band in their neck of the woods down in southwestern Virginia. They went on to record for Columbia Records between 1947 and 1952. Between then and Carter's death in 1966, The Stanley Brothers rivaled Bill Monroe, Flatt & Scruggs, Jim & Jesse, and The Osborn Brothers as the most influential bands in the early days of bluegrass music.



Ralph Stanley

After Carter's death, Ralph's previously upbeat musical style turned to an older, more primitive mountain sound. His bands in the ensuing years have been fertile ground for many stars of modern bluegrass music, including Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley, Larry Sparks, and Charlie Sizemore.

His recent work on T. Bone Burnett's critically acclaimed film 'O Brother Where

Art Thou,' brought to mainstream America the talent that bluegrass fans had for years known Ralph Stanley to possess. T. Bone Burnett calls Stanley "one the greatest country musicians in the world today." Huge praise -- but well deserved.


**Ramblin' Jack Elliott** has earned his place in American musical history as a figure central to the folk revival of the 60s, but that is just one phase of his legendary 50-year career.

Indeed, his life itself is bigger than legend. Newsweek magazine called Jack "one of the few authentic voices in folk music."

Ramblin' Jack was a protege of Woody Guthrie and an inspiration to Bob Dylan, whom he met at Woody's hospital bedside.

Since then he has played with and influenced two generations of musicians, from peers, such as Dave Van Ronk to 60s disciples Bob Dylan and Arlo Guthrie to more recent artists Beck and John Wesley Harding.

Now Ramblin' Jack nears completion of an album with slide guitarist-producer Roy Roger, featuring never-recorded (by Jack) songs by some of Jack's favorite musicians.

**WinterGrass for Farmers** offers the opportunity to witness living history as these two icons of American music take the stage at The Bardavon. And, you can help The Hudson Valley Agricultural Partnership, as well. 



Ramblin' Jack

## News Briefs

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CD, and they expect to start working on another CD project by late summer.

After skillful research, Big Spike Bluegrass decided to sell them for \$13 each, after polling research shows that most people have some element of superstition, therefore, they would be more likely to buy 2 CD's. For more information about the band, [bigspikebluegrass.com](http://bigspikebluegrass.com), or you can find a link from the Vermont Bluegrass website.

### Osborns at Emeline

Jim Molloy had a photo taken of himself with Sonny Osborn at The Emeline. Thanks for sending it along.



### Wayne Fugate

In November, Wayne participated in a "Patsy Cline" show, playing before three completely sold out shows that got a great write up in the Times Herald Record. (<http://www.davemyers.com/patsy/>)

"Out to Lunch" played to packed house at Bodles Opera House as part of their Bluegrass Weekend on November 13th

Wayne also enjoyed playing to a great crowd at the Parkside Lounge in NYC with Wicker's Creek on December 20, sharing the evening with Buddy Merriam & Backroads

Fugate played at the Warwick Valley Winery on December 11 with the amazingly talented singer/songwriter Suzy Arnowitz & Mike Baglione (both of Oxford Depot)

Wayne Started the new year off right by playing a "duet gig" with Mike Baglione of Oxford Depot on WJFF (the NPR station in

Jeffersonville, NY). They called themselves "The Foggy Memory Boys" and are slowly but surely learning each others' material for a while and plan to do more things together in the future!

On February 13, catch Wayne at the Rhumb Line in Gloucester, MA with "Out to Lunch" alumnus Tom Eaton. Check <http://www.therhumblineline.com/> for details.

### Hunger Mountain Boys


The Hunger Mountain Boys opened for Taj Mahal at three shows in North & South Carolina and Kentucky. Their new album, Blue Ribbon Waltz, has been released! It features nine new originals and a handful of old gems from the likes of Arthur Smith, The Louvin Brothers, the Blue Sky Boys, and others in the early country style.



### Attention Grisman fans

Acoustic Disc publishes a newsletter that is a must for David Grisman fans and, in fact, music lovers of all stripes. Visit [www.acousticdisc.com](http://www.acousticdisc.com) or call (800) 221-DISC.

### King Wilkie Emerging Artist

King Wilkie won the IBMA's Emerging Artist of the Year Award. You may recall that we hosted King Wilkie at Bantas Steak n' Stein in November 2003. Here H V B A 's Membership Coordinator Joyce Cullen celebrates with with Nick Reeb. 



## How I spent my summer vacation

Donna Davies

When I got the email this week asking for submissions to the HVBA's newsletter, I felt compelled to write. The experience I had last summer really propelled me forward in my bluegrass guitar playing, and with the hope that it might inspire someone else out there, I thought I'd share my journey with you.

Last June, I packed up my guitar and drove to Maryville, Tennessee, the home of Steve Kaufman's Acoustic Kamps. I had a wonderful drive down,

stopping to hike and sightsee for a couple of days in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and then on to Maryville College, the site

of Steve's Kamps. My nervousness about kamp soon melted away as I met Steve and Donna Kaufman, their wonderful staff, and my new friends and fellow students. My roommate Cathie and I hit it off right away, she's a retired banker who plays cello in orchestras and also plays bluegrass guitar. Steve and Donna are such down to earth, caring, fun people, and they foster a supportive, non-competitive atmosphere at kamp. They make everyone feel at home immediately. There were even teenagers at kamp; it is a place where families and kids would feel comfortable.

The teachers, who included Pat Flynn, Beppe Gambetta, Uwe Kruger, Tony McManus, Marcy Marxer, Cathy Fink, Steve and Mike Kaufman, to name a few, were all wonderful. They each brought their own personal touch and spirit to their classes. Classes ranged from "new pickers" to

beginners, intermediates, and expert/professional. I was in the beginner class, and found the teachers able to reach down to that level and be willing to help us where we were in our stage of playing. When we weren't in class, we had optional seminars. I joined the guitar orchestra (bluegrass style, complete with a musical tribute to Norman Blake) conducted by Beppe; what a great experience!

My stand partner was from my hometown neck of the woods in southeastern Ohio so we hit it off right away. We also attended

the nightly concerts, which were amazing, fun, and so inspiring! There were open mike nights, slow jams, and of course the late

night jam sessions that pop up everywhere around the campus, and where people were always willing to have a newcomer join in and try a song or a few.

When I returned from Kamp, I knew I was going back next year. Cathie has already signed me up as her roommate again, so I'll definitely be there! I also left kamp with goals for myself in my guitar playing for the year, and one was to take advantage of the HVBA jam sessions. I had to switch a work night to make it happen, and I started attending last summer. I come as often as I can because playing in the slow jam led by Lynn Lipton has been a supportive place to learn to play with and in front of others. My repertoire is expanding along with my confidence about playing. And besides, my dogs and family just don't cheer me on the way my fellow players in the slow jam do. So, I hope I see you around, and keep on jammin'!



## Hudson Valley Agricultural Partnership

# HVAP

### Our Mission...

**HVAP's mission is to initiate, support and promote efforts to protect farmland and strengthen agriculture for the benefit of the people of the Hudson Valley.**

### Our Key Goal...

**HVAP's key goal is to provide effective, regular communications among the diverse stakeholders who make up and support agriculture in the Hudson Valley. Communications will be focused on addressing priority agricultural issues from a Hudson Valley perspective, while helping to develop a strong identity for the valley as a unique, highly productive, high quality agricultural region.**

[www.hvap.net](http://www.hvap.net)

## Turn Your Radio On! Bluegrass in jeopardy on WKCR

New York City is in jeopardy of losing its only bluegrass show — the show that Pete Wernick started about 35 years ago.

WKCR is in financial trouble. They got hit with big bills from their move to a new studio — followed by the costs of replacing their broadcast antenna that was lost in the collapse of the World Trade Center. Now the station is threatened with financial ruin — and will be shut down unless the bills can be paid.

The Moonshine Show, with great bluegrass and old-time. Honky Tonkin, with great classic country and bluegrass (the show that our good friend Doug Tuchman hosted for so many years). The shows are streamed on the web at [www.wkcr.org](http://www.wkcr.org).

So please support the station — if you're a New Yorker, or a former New Yorker, or just someone who doesn't want to see another bluegrass show go off the air.

NYC would be poorer without WKCR. There are other bluegrass radio shows broadcast from nearby that reach into some parts of NYC, but WKCR is the only one that covers the area. It's where we hear the announcements of shows. The new releases. The old, archival stuff that you can't find in record stores. The live performances by bands passing through town.

Call 212-851-2699 to pledge your support. Please give whatever you can. No amount is too small (and, of course, no amount is too large!) so please give what you can.

James Reams & Tina Aridas

## Jerry Oland and Friends -- Banjo

**B**efore CDs and the widespread use of digital recording, Hudson Valley musician Jerry Oland wanted to share his banjo music with the world. He performed with regional bands in the 1970's, including the Arm Bros. based in Poughkeepsie, NY. In 1976 he gathered bluegrass musicians from several of these groups to record an LP at Renovah Records in Liberty, NY. (Renovah no longer exists, however, the Renovah catalog was purchased last year by Copper Creek Records.) Twelve tracks were recorded, which comprise the LP *Jerry Oland and Friends - Banjo*.

Accompanying Jerry were Dick Kniss, Daniel Gifford, Ronnie Sutton, George Langston, Skip Arthur, and Dave Kohut.

Dick Kniss played upright bass. He was playing with John Denver at the time, and has also been the principal bassist over many years for Peter, Paul and Mary.

Fiddler Dave Kohut played with Jerry in The Millstone Valley Boy, a band based in Belle Meade, NJ in the mid 1970's.

Daniel Gifford and George Langston both attended the Poughkeepsie Day School and were big fans of the Arm Bros. Daniel plays mandolin on the recording and George performs wonderful guitar solos in the style of Clarence White.

In his album notes, Jerry refers to Ronnie Sutton as "the best dobro player I ever worked with." Ronnie now lives in LA, but he played dobro in Ulster County for many years.

Skip Arthur sang all the tenor parts on the recording and still picks and sings in Saugerties, NY.

While Jerry's playing was notable in the 1970s, he has matured into a real master of the banjo.



### The songs:

Good News  
 Bill Cheatham  
 Land of Lincoln  
 Walk Softly On This  
 Heart Of Mine  
 Jerry's Breakdown  
 Sail Away Ladies  
 Ferndale  
 The Memory Of Your Smile  
 Dusty's Hornpipe  
 Minor Accomplishment  
 A Hundred Years From Now  
 Bonnie and Clyde's Getaway

[www.backroadsbluegrass.com](http://www.backroadsbluegrass.com)  
[www.blueplatespecial.us](http://www.blueplatespecial.us)



*Jerry Oland and Friends  
 left to right: Dick Kniss, Daniel Gifford,  
 Ronnie Sutton, Jerry Oland,  
 George Langston, and Dave Kohut*

Most recently, he is performing with Buddy Merriam and Backroads and Blue Plate Special. Catch Jerry and these great bands at an upcoming show. 🍷

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*Special thanks to Eric Spaulding, who provided the record album, Lynn Lipton for scanning the photos, and Jerry Oland for sharing his recollections.*

*The HVBA is particularly interested in the history of bluegrass in the area. If you have stories about memorable bands, concerts, or festivals, please contact me at [hvba@optonline.net](mailto:hvba@optonline.net)*

"...When people left our club after hearing Jerry and the Arm Brothers, they were thinking about a whole lot more than they were when they parked their cars. I think this album is going to have the same affect. The direction, the flow and the sound are totally different from what I hear other people doing in Bluegrass or New Grass. It's an album which, I feel, will put people in a thoughtful frame of mind for a time -- and isn't that what music is supposed to be about?"

Larry Plover  
 liner notes excerpt, 1977