

# PETE WERNICK'S BLUEGRASS JAM CAMPS

## COPAKE, NY • JULY 11-14

Preceding Grey Fox Festival

## PRESTON, CT • JUNE 5-7 NEW CAMP!

Following Strawberry Park Festival, after Hot Rize show

• All bluegrass instruments, all skill levels welcome.

• You will be jamming the first morning!

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



# Jamboree

The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

SUMMER #2 2005

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

Number 39

## Hone Those Jam Skills With Pete Wernick

### Jam Camp precedes Grey Fox July 11-14

Jeffrey Anzevino

Many of us have invested hundreds – if not thousands – of dollars in an instrument that we hope will bring joy and camaraderie into our lives through music. Sadly, many of these instruments lie in their cases stuffed away in the back of closets never to see the light of day. Or maybe the instrument actually gets played, but only within earshot of its owner and never to be heard in the accompaniment of others. While it is certainly preferable to play that instrument – even if only for your own enjoyment — than to let it lie in state in its coffin, your playing will jump to the next level by learning to jam with your friends and family.

While jamming at first isn't intuitively easy for everyone, with a little help, it is easy to overcome the pitfalls of the isolated player, who might learn to play songs, but may never enjoy the musical communication that results from a good, old-fashioned jam session.

Fortunately, one of Bluegrass music's most prominent figures, Peter Wernick will be conducting a "Bluegrass Jam Camp" from July 11-14 in Copake, NY, preceding the Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival. This is one of eight Jam Camps he will hold this year,



Peter Wernick conducts 11 jam camps this year, including one July 11-14 at Copake, NY in conjunction with the Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival

including one just concluded at the Strawberry Park Festival in Preston, CT.

Pete, or Doctor Banjo, is perhaps best known as the banjoist for Hot Rize, a band enjoying a long touring and

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Message from the President  
Pay as you are able

I have been asked at a recent jam session why HVBA dues are so low? Our annual dues are just \$10 per household and we'd like to keep it that way. We don't want to deny anyone membership in the HVBA because they can't afford the dues.

However, we are well aware that at \$10 a year we are practically giving away our membership. It was suggested that we make it known to our members that the \$10 should be considered a minimum. If your finances permit, please consider an additional donation above and beyond the \$10 dues. Donations exceeding the \$10 dues are tax deductible as the HVBA is a 501(c)3 arts and education institution.

This newsletter, Jamboree, is our biggest annual expense. It costs us about \$200 to print and \$74 to mail, which totals nearly \$1,100 annually. We could, I suppose, save money by posting the newsletter online and foregoing the mailing of the old-fashioned paper copies. But, not everyone yet is online, and I've heard from many people who like to save their back issues.

Thanks to Peter Wernick for advertising the Bluegrass Jam Camp in both Summer issues. If you could benefit by honing your jamming skills and are free July 11-14, please do yourself a solid and consider attending.

Do you have a business that might benefit by exposure to our HVBA members? Our ads are reasonable. Or, simply send an donation beyond the \$10 dues and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you're keeping the HVBA strong.

Jeffrey Anzevino

 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  
\_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total

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

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

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Hudson Valley  
Bluegrass Association

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July 8: Tin Roof at Poughkeepsie Farmers Market, Main Street, Poughkeepsie, NY

July 8-10: Basin Bluegrass Festival, Brandon, VT

July 9: Too Blue at Millbrook Farmer's Market Millbrook NY. Approx. 10 am - noon or later.

July 9: 2nd Oak Mountain Bluegrass Festival with The Atkinson Family, the Delaney Brothers, String Dusters, Stump Hollow and Lost Time at Oak Mountain Ski Area, Speculator, NY www.oakmtnski.com or (518) 548-7311

July 12: Too Blue at Southbury Training School Southbury CT. Gateway Cafe series, outdoor concert. FREE. 6:30-8:30PM. Exit 14 off of I-84, three miles north on Rt. 172. Parking available near the concert site, bring lawn chairs.

July 14-17: Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival with Dry Branch Fire Squad, David Grisman Quintet, Peter Rowan's All-Star Bluegrass Jam w/Tim O'Brien, Laurie Lewis, John Cowan, Pat Flynn and Darol Anger, Seldom Scene, Sam Bush Band, Tim O'Brien Band, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, The Del McCoury Band, John Cowan Band, Psychograss, Laurie Lewis, Gibson Brothers, King Wilkie, Biscuit Burners, many more www.greyfoxbluegrass.com

July 15: Hope Machine: A Tribute to Woody Guthrie, featuring Fred Gillen, Jr., Todd Guidice, and Steve Kirkman w/guest Red Molly at The Towne Crier Cafe \$15/\$12.50 www.thetownecrier.com

July 23: Ticonderoga Bluegrass Festival with Shady Creek, String Dusters, others, Town Park, Ticonderoga, NY noon-8PM

July 23 & 24: Gitfiddle at Rosendale Street Festival 10AM & 10PM

July 23-24: James Reams & The Barnstormers at Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Festival Rome, NY

July 23-24: Rick & Carol's Bluegrass Festival, Ft. Ann, NY

July 30: Gitfiddle at Mamapalooza, Uncommon Ground Coffeehouse, Wurtsboro, NY 7:30PM

Aug 4-7: Podunk Bluegrass Festival with Rhonda Vincent & The Rage, Mountain Heart, Vassar Clements, Pine Mountain Railroad, Dale Ann Bradley, Alecia Nugent, The Larry Stephenson Band, Mark Newton Band, Mike Burns & North Country, Too Blue and more East Hartford, CT. Info: (860)291-7350 or www.podunkbluegrass.com

Aug 12-14: James Reams & The Barnstormers at August Bluegrass Days at Mickey's Mtn, Hopedale, OH

Aug. 19: Too Blue at Chili Festival Ulster County Fairgrounds, New Paltz, NY

Aug 19-21: Gitfiddle at Rib Fest, New Paltz, NY

Aug 26-28: Upper Hudson Bluegrass Festival with Acoustic Blue, Cabin Fever, others at North Creek Ski Bowl, North Creek, NY

Aug 28: The Cherryholmes Family Band and Chester Johnson & The Foggy Mountain Grass at Duke Island Park, Bridgewater, New Jersey. Free. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. 7PM www.somersetcounty parks.org or (908) 722-1200

Sept 2: Nashville Bluegrass Band at Salem County Fairgrounds, Woodstown, NJ

Sept 3: Nashville Bluegrass Band at Lincoln Center Damroach Park/New York 212/875-5000

Sept 3: Doc Watson at Lincoln Center Roots/New York 212/875-5108

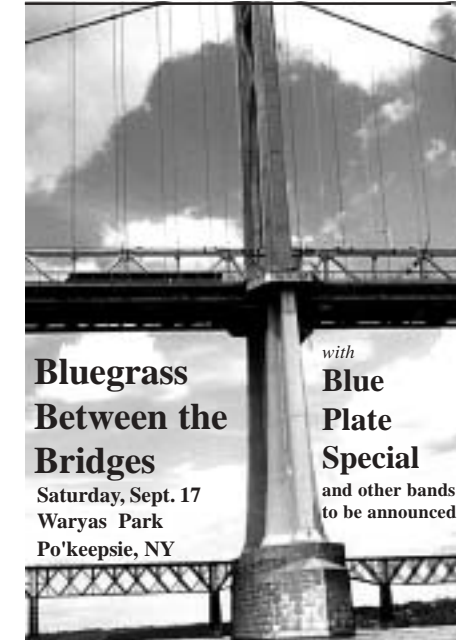
Sept 16-17: James Reams & The Barnstormers at 8th Annual Park Slope Bluegrass & Old-Time Jamboree, a day and a half of workshops, jamming and concerts of traditional American music. Brooklyn, NY

Sept 16-18: Catskill Mountain Bluegrass Festival with Cabin Fever, Stephen Helton & the Flint River Boys, Lynwood Lunsford & Misty Valley Boys, Dave Nichols & Spare Change, Straight Drive, Carolina Road Band, David Davis & Warrior River Boys., Goldwing Express, Smokey Greene, Dan Paisley & the Southern Grass, and more Accord, NY www.geocities.com/catskillmtnbg , or call 845-687-9781

September 17: Blue late Special and other bands to be announced at The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Music Festival: Bluegrass Between the Bridges held in conjunction with The Hudson River Arts Festival, Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie, NY www.bardavon.org, www.hvbluegrass.org

September 30: David Peterson & 1946 in a double bill with The Virginia Ramblers at The Emelin Theater, Mamaroneck, NY www.emelin.org

SAVE THE DATE!



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

**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, Umberto's, 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

**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 Sheriff Bob at The Baggot Inn, Manhattan 9 PM

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

**Every Thursday:** Bluegrass Clubhouse with Saturday Night Bluegrass Band at Colony Cafe, Woodstock, NY (but not June 23rd) 7:30PM

**1st Saturday of Every Month:** Jam (hosted by Wayne Fugate, Suzy Arnowitz & Mike Baghione) at Warwick Valley Winery, Warwick, NY 2-5PM [www.wvwinery.com](http://www.wvwinery.com) or (845) 258-4858

**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 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!!

**June 16-18:** The Cabin Fever Band at Ovitt Family Bluegrass Festival, Warrensburg, NY (518) 623-9359

**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 [mkoch@netcarrier.com](mailto:mkoch@netcarrier.com) or 610-863-7093

**June 18:** Hunger Mountain Boys at Florida, MA Bicentennial Town Celebration 12:00 - 12:45pm

**June 18:** Buddy Merriam and Backroads & Documentary "Bluegrass Journey" at North Castle Public Library, Armonk, NY Performance by Back Roads at 9pm/Film at 7:30 Call (914) 273-8690 for more info 7:30 pm 914-273-8690 \$15 adults/\$10 students

**June 18-19:** Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival at Croton Point Park. [www.clearwater.org](http://www.clearwater.org) for tickets.

**6/24:** Hunger Mountain Boys at Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival, Weston, VT

**June: 24-26:** Willow Creek Bluegrass Festival with Dan Paisley & the Southern Grass, The Hunger Mountain Boys, Straight Drive, James Reams and the Barnstormers, Cabin Fever, Oxford Depot, Hippies and Hillbillies, Blue Plate Special, McMule, Heavy Traffic, and The Hudson River Cloggers, Montgomery, NY [www.willowcreekbluegrass.com](http://www.willowcreekbluegrass.com)

**July 2:** Too Blue at Riverfest East Hartford, CT. 2 sets, after 4 pm; times TBA. Free. [www.riverfront.org](http://www.riverfront.org)

**July 2:** Gitfiddle at Wooster Memorial Park, Walden, NY 6:30-9PM

**July 2:** James Reams & The Barnstormers at Millbrook Arts Group, Millbrook, NY

**July 8:** Gitfiddle at HV Summer Music Festival, Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie, NY 7-9PM

## Alison Brown at The Towne Crier

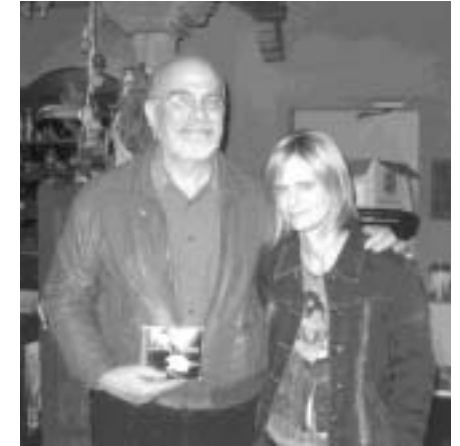
Joseph Whelan

On May 6, The Alison Brown Quartet appeared at the Towne Crier in Pawling NY., a restaurant well known for the quality of the food as well as its performers. The Jazz/Bluegrass quartet consists of Garry West (Bass), John R. Burr (Piano), Kendrick Freeman (Drums) and the renowned Alison Brown, a virtuoso, on 5 String Banjo. Alison is also an accomplished guitarist and composes most of the instrumentals on her CDs. Joe Craven guest performed on fiddle and mandolin.

The Quartet played selections from their new CD, "Stolen Moments", produced by Alison and her husband Garry West, on the Compass Label, which they co-own. This recording has guests like Sam Bush on mandolin, Stuart Duncan on fiddle, and 10 or so others on lead vocals and a slew of other instruments. One selection, "One Morning in May" was co-written by Bill Keith.

The quartet also played selections from *Fair Weather*, which was nominated for a 2001 Grammy "Best Bluegrass Album" and won a Grammy for the instrumental, written by Alison, *Leaving Cottdale* (Alison /Bela Fleck/Sam Bush).

Stuart Duncan played fiddle with Alison when she was a teen in the San Diego Bluegrass Society and recorded an instrumental album with her. She has played banjo since the age of 10. Alison also won the Canadian National Banjo Championship even before attending



Joseph Whelan (l) with Alison Brown (r) at The Towne Crier

Harvard and subsequently UCLA (for an MBA). In 1991, Alison's banjo playing and Duncan's mandolin playing helped Alison Krauss' *I've Got That Old Feeling*, earn the IBMA "Album of the Year". In that year Alison was also named the first female "Banjo Performer of the Year".

The Quartet's repertoire is acoustic, diverse and beautiful. Most apparent to me was the broad role of the banjo in interpreting roots music via Jazz and other genres. It is significant that the movement of Bluegrass into popular music began in 1991 with the *I've Got That Old Feeling* album on which piano and drums were prominent. Would Bluegrass stalwarts be miffed at Alison's seeming move away from "pure" Bluegrass? Alison's view is summed up by her comment to me: "everything I do is rooted in Bluegrass." 🎸

[www.alisonbrown.com](http://www.alisonbrown.com)  
[www.townecrier.com](http://www.townecrier.com)

## HVBA News Briefs

### Thanks to The Bardavon

Thanks to The Bardavon for hosting Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys and Ramblin' Jack Elliot on April 9th. The HVBA helped promote the show as a fundraiser for The Hudson Valley Agricultural Partnership. Thanks to The Bardavon's generous additional donation, \$1,110 was donated to the HVAP. Thanks too to Ralph and his band and Ramblin' Jack for putting on a great show.

### Bluegrass Between the Bridges

The HVBA will participate in The Bardavon's Hudson River Art Festival at Waryas Park in Poughkeepsie, NY on Saturday September 17, joining the Dutchess County Arts Council in programming music for the day. We call our stage "Bluegrass Between the Bridges." Blue Plate Special is confirmed! Other bands tba.

### Nowhere Fast on TV

The title song from Blue Plate Special's CD *Nowhere Fast* is part of the soundtrack to a PBS documentary called "The Appalachians." This is a three-part series airing on over 125 PBS stations nationwide. You can see the special in the NY market starting June 16 on WLIW. The song is in show #3 (June 30), which discusses rural migration to the big cities in the 1950's. The series begins on June 16 and continues on the 23rd and 30th at 10PM

<http://www.sierraclub.org/appalachia/film/tunein.asp>

<http://www.blueplatespecial.us/>

### Jack Dwyer

Jack Dwyer, multi-instrumentalist and driving force of the Hudson Valley's Dwyer Family Band, has been awarded a scholarship from David Grisman and Mike Marshall to attend The Mandolin Symposium June 26-July 1, 2005 at the University of California

at Santa Cruz. Other featured artists at the symposium will include Wayne Benson, Mike Compton, Evan Marshall, John Monteleone, Don Stiernberg and Radim Zenkl.

### Bluegrass at The Emelin

The most recent schedule for the Emelin's 2005-6 season is: David Peterson & 1946 in a double bill with The Virginia Ramblers (September 30), Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum (January 6, 2006), and The Bluegrass Gospel Project (February 17, 2006). They also plan to have an evening with two local bands. [www.emelin.org](http://www.emelin.org)

### The Cabin Fever Band

Dr. Mike Tirella and The Cabin Fever Band received the prestigious "Sunrise Award" at the North East Country Music Association. This award is given to the most improved individual or band over the past two years.

The members of The Cabin Fever Band have been together for the past two years and are one of the North Country's most popular bluegrass bands. Visit [www.thecabinfeverband.com](http://www.thecabinfeverband.com) for more information about the band, including their touring schedule.

### Bobby Hicks Fiddle Video

Bobby Hicks' new teaching video is now available. Bobby is truly one of the bluegrass legendary fiddlers, starting out with Bill Monroe in 1954 and a long time fiddler for Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder.

This new video is available from our web site [www.bobbyhicks.com](http://www.bobbyhicks.com) as well as Mel Bay and your local music store.

### Journey the Backroads in Armonk

Buddy Merriam and Backroads will perform an Evening of Bluegrass with a screening of the Jammy-nominated documentary *Bluegrass Journey* at the North Castle Public

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## Fiery Mountain Music

### The Biscuit Burners

IDR5072

I had the good fortune of seeing The Biscuit Burners in a rare New York State appearance at River Station in Poughkeepsie. I had not heard their music before but took a chance and exchanged my sunny, May afternoon for a few hours of bluegrass. A good move, as it turns out.

Not that you completely sacrifice the outdoors when you sit upstairs at River Station. Large windows on three sides provide views of the Hudson River, rolling hills and the park below. An excellent backdrop for these young musicians whose sincere enjoyment in playing music is obvious. I liked what I heard and quickly purchased their debut CD *Fiery Mountain Music* during a set break.

This CD is 80% original music, 20% covers. The originals are largely written by Shannon Whitworth, vocalist, guitar and banjo player. Her voice is deeper than the petite Mary Lucey (introduced during the show as "the littlest woman on the biggest instrument") who plays the bass. Mary's voice is the sunlight to Shannon's moonlight. The women do all the vocals on this CD and their voices blend beautifully, though there's a tendency to overuse the device of olde timey "twang" now and again.

While there is plenty of pepper in this music, not all of the songs are "fiery." *Prayer of the Moonlight* and *Hot August Evening* are unhurried and thoughtful pieces allowing you to catch your breath between songs.

Billy Cardine's accomplished dobro playing is terrific both live and on the CD. Dan Bletz on guitar more than ably backs up anything his band mates can lay down.

Both he and Billy shine in the original instrumental *Cow and Sake* but perhaps even more brilliantly in *Mermon*, described in the liner notes as "a nautical tribute to the great Bill Monroe."

Other fine moments on this CD:

If the motion of that river in *Bakerstown* is represented by banjo and dobro, then it is rapid and bubbly indeed.



**Bakerstown**  
**Once Upon A Time**  
**Autry's Peach Orchard**  
**Prayer of the Moonlight**  
**Mountain Lily**  
**If I Fall**  
**Cow and Sake**  
**Come On Darlin'**  
**Mono County Jail**  
**Mermon**  
**Hot August Evening**  
**Red Mountain Wine**

There's a feast of lively pickin' in "Autry's Peach Orchard", originally written by Tut Taylor. Just try not to tap your toes to this one!

*Come on Darlin'* is a song where Billy's dobro weaves in and around the singers' voices like a dancer whose had too much to drink but manages one incredibly graceful swoop and twirl after another. The result: your entertainment and amazement.

Though the CD is produced by the band "in a small bedroom in Swannanoa, NC" the quality is first rate. (Please note that the dog faces on the cover are those of each band member's own beloved pup.)

If you're not yet convinced that this CD is for you, check out The Biscuit Burners website, for downloadable samples of this music as well as tour dates.

Debbie Shave

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

## News Briefs

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Library in Armonk on June 18 at 7:30PM Buddy Merriam is one of the fine musicians featured in the film. Call (914) 273-8690 for info.

### Hot Tin Roof

Some (if not all) of the members of "Tin Roof," along with their good friend Jerry Oland, will be playing the Poughkeepsie Farmers Market on July 8th.

We heard that Rachel Handman is planning to enter the New England Fiddle contest. By press time, the contest held on May 28th will be over and we sure hope she has taken first place. This Hartford, CT event is probably the largest fiddle contest in the northeast, drawing fiddlers from North Carolina to Canada and attracting literally thousands of people! Wayne Fugate will be playing backup for her. She took second place in the "Championship Division" in 2002.

Wayne was lucky enough to play two sold out Patsy Cline Tribute shows at Bodles earlier in May and the monthly bluegrass jams at the Warwick Valley Winery that hosted by Wayne, along with Mike Baglione and Suzy Arnowitz seem to be going very well ... 1st Saturday of the month from 2-5PM [www.vvwinery.com](http://www.vvwinery.com) or (845) 258-4858 for more info ... musicians of all levels warmly welcomed and enthusiastically supported!

### Will Solomon/Doc Marshalls

Work is progressing on Will Solomon's solo project, which will include several original songs and one cover featuring Casey Driessen (fiddle), Josh Graves (dobro), Noam Pikelnny (banjo), Josh Williams (backup vocals), Mark Fain (bass), Cody Kilby (guitar), and Andy Hall (dobro) among others. We look forward to hearing Will's CD, which is sure to be outstanding!

Look for footage of the Doc's on ESPN 2 whose

crew filmed the DMs playing their Cajun music at the Chelsea Piers in Manhattan at the conclusion of a fishing tournament.

The Docs played the Mercury Lounge on Houston St. in Manhattan in May and will perform again in NYC (in Battery Park), as part of a celebration of Cajun culture in mid-July. Visit [www.docmarshalls.com](http://www.docmarshalls.com) for more information.

### Saturday Night Bluegrass Band

Word of mouth about the Bluegrass Clubhouse Thursdays at the Colony Café in Woodstock is slowly leaking out. Guests so far have included The Dwyer Family, the great singer-songwriter Tom Pacheco, and, recently past week, John Herald did a set with the band...as usual, the band is Brian Hollander, guitar, Dobro and vocals; Tim Kapeluck on mandolin, fiddle and vocals; Geoff Harden on bass, fiddle and vocals; Guy 'Fooch' Fishetti on fiddle and pedal steel; and Bill Keith on banjo.

Music starts between 7:30 and 8 p.m., every Thursday (except for one night off on June 23) is informal and audience can pay what they would like. The Colony is on Rock City Road in Woodstock.

### Willow Creek

The Willow Creek Bluegrass festival is upon us June 24-26. Don't miss all the fun and several great bands: Dan Paisley & the Southern Grass, The Hunger Mountain Boys, Straight Drive, James Reams and the Barnstormers, Cabin Fever, Oxford Depot, Hippies and Hillbillies, Blue Plate Special, McMule, Heavy Traffic, and The Hudson River Cloggers. For more information, visit [www.willowcreekbluegrass.com](http://www.willowcreekbluegrass.com)



## Bluegrass Jam Camp precedes Grey Fox

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recording career inspiring tens of thousands of fans across the world. But Wernick has also dedicated much of his life to promoting Bluegrass music and to teaching how to play Bluegrass with others. Pete was the first President of the International Bluegrass Music Association and served in that capacity for 16 years until stepping down in 2001.

The genesis of these camps dates back 25 years to 1980 when Pete was asked to conduct a five-day banjo course at a Portland (OR) State University summer program, which quickly sold out. By 1984, he was teaching two camps each year in

Colorado. He discovered that many banjo players that came for instruction had little or no experience playing along with other musicians. With the benefit of a few relatively simple jamming skills their banjo playing improved, but, perhaps more importantly, they found they could also play in the context of a group. This same "isolation problem" exists with other instruments and Pete's Bluegrass Jam Camp is designed to overcome this obstacle and demonstrate how easy playing along with other people can be.

"Closet players often end up self-destructing," says Wernick, "losing interest

because it's not what they expected. The crowning blow is when they attend a jam and find that they don't know how to fit in." The Jam Camp teaches the budding musician how to navigate this new subculture: the head nod (ready for your solo?), the lifted foot (let's end the song), etc. Once this language is learned, you'll have the keys to unlock what turns out to be a not so complicated puzzle.

"Bluegrass is NOT a spectator sport," says Wernick, "People are surprised to see that the first step of the ladder is really quite close to the ground." With a little help from Pete and his excellent "coaches," you will be climbing the ladder to musical

enjoyment, morphing from a closet picker to a sociable jammer in no time. Assisting Wernick is his wife of 31 years, Joan, who plays guitar, and multi-instrumentalists Ira Gitlin and Brian Wicklund.

The camp is held at the Grange Hall in Copake, just a few minutes from the renowned Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival in Ancramdale. Wernick likes hosting the sessions in Grange Halls because they have served as rural meeting places across America and have a tradition of hosting music and dances throughout the years.

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

## Warmth, comfort, dazzle excitement all under one Tin Roof

Eugene Martinez

Tin Roof is the new acoustic band that brings together some of the finest musicians in the Hudson Valley. Its sound - tight, energetic and exciting and at the same time warm, sophisticated and mature - has its feet solidly in American traditional and Bluegrass music while it's head flies with the varied influences brought to it by its members. Tin Roof is musical synergy personified!

Who is Tin Roof? After having played as a duo and been the driving force behind the bluegrass band, Oxford Depot, Suzy Arnowitz (tenor guitar, vocals) and Mike Baglione (guitar, vocals) called on some of their musical friends to form this exciting new group.

Rachel Handman, a classically trained violinist, is an accomplished, emotive fiddler who plays with nuanced energy. She works professionally as a member of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, and has many recordings under her belt.

Phil Helm, bass, is also a classically trained musician, is Principle Bassist of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and Acting Assistant Principle Bassist of the Albany Symphony Orchestra. Like Rachel, Phil is an alumnus of Barebones & Wildflowers and has recorded with a variety of Bluegrass and Folk artists.

Last but not least, Wayne Fugate, master of an awesome array of musical styles and genres - each performed with great professionalism and warmth. Notwithstanding the often lousy jokes he tends to crack on stage, he is revered by his fans, the Wayniacs.



Tin Roof: (l to r) Rachel Handman, Phil Helm, Wayne Fugate, Suzy Arnowitz, Mike Baglione

Put this group of artists on a stage - you get an unforgettable musical experience. Their debut at the epicenter of culture in the Hudson Valley, Bodles Opera House in Chester, NY, filled the house, and their more recent appearance at the Apple Blossom Festival at the Warwick Valley Winery was the highpoint of the day. The energy they generated, playing such tunes as *Big City*, *Breakdown 101* and (my personal favorite) *Glory at the Meeting House / Abe's Retreat* had the folks on their feet, clamoring for more.

This is definitely THE band to keep your ear on - we'll be hearing a lot more of them!

### HVBA Jam Sessions

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

of each month

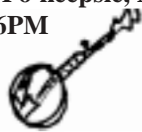
Pirate Canoe Club, Po'keepsie, NY

Slow Jam starts at 6PM

Jam ends at 10 PM

\$3 admission

(845) 691-6784 for more info



## Jimmy Martin

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In 1972 Martin teamed up with The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Roy Acuff, Earl Scruggs, Mother Maybelle Carter, Merle Travis, and Doc Watson, to record the gold three-record set, *Will the Circle be Unbroken*. Martin sang the *Grand Ole Opry Song*, *Losing You*, *Sunny Side of the Mountain*, *My Walking Shoes*, and *You Don't Don't My Mind*.

In 1995 Jimmy Martin was inducted into the International Bluegrass Hall of Honor. In 2003, Martin



Jimmy Martin (center with vest) in a 1953 photo with Bill Monroe (l) and The Bluegrass Boys at The Grand Ole Opry



Jimmy Martin backstage at The Louisiana Hayride in 1958

was the subject of an independently produced documentary entitled *King of Bluegrass: The Life and Times of Jimmy Martin*, which was accompanied by a companion CD of rare live recordings of Martin, entitled *Don't Cry to Me*.

**Thank you, Jimmy,  
for enriching our  
lives through your  
music.**

To learn more about the life and influence of Jimmy Martin, see the documentary *King of Bluegrass*

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

## Jam Camp

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To benefit from the camp, you don't need a mastery of musical skills. The curriculum is designed for beginners. All you need to know is four chords – G, A, C, and D – and how to change smoothly between the chords. "We make people self-sufficient jammers by breaking them into small groups," says Wernick. On the last day of the camp, Thursday, the jammers ascend Grey Fox's famed "hill" take the stage and play together for the audience.

Pete's bluegrass roots were planted in New York City, where in the 60s he learned to play the banjo by closely studying Earl Scruggs records. "I would ride the subway from my home in The Bronx to jam in Washington Square Park," says Wernick. There, he played with the likes of David Grisman, Jody Stecher, Steve Arkin and Winnie Winston. Soon thereafter, he found himself in his first band – The Orange Mountain Boys, based across the Hudson River in New Jersey.

In 1964, at age 18, he started teaching banjo. Nine years later he wrote Bluegrass Banjo, which has sold nearly 250,000 copies. While studying sociology at Columbia University, where he earned a Ph.D., Wernick hosted New York's sole bluegrass radio show in the 1960's.

## Bluegrass back in Somers

continued from page 7

Refreshments were available for purchase and included coffee, soft drinks, water, and cookies, and really good pound cake.

Following the refreshment break, Mike Burns and North Country took the floor. For the next hour we were entertained by Mike's band. Mike (guitar), Kevin Lynch (mandolin), Ethan Kende (bass), Ben Freed (banjo) and Tom Hagynase (fiddle) kept the up tempo songs coming. Most of them were written by

Wernick's fruitful career with Country Cooking and Hot Rize and array of publications, awards and accomplishments is simply too extensive to be covered in this forum. Suffice it to say, however, this most prominent figure in Bluegrass music over the past 30 years is coming to town and is eager to share with you his knowledge about what it takes to jam with others.

Learn more about the Bluegrass Jam Camp, bluegrass music and Pete Wernick's amazing musical career by visiting [www.drbanjo.com](http://www.drbanjo.com)

**You can find Pete Wernick's instructional materials in Homespun Tapes catalog.**

**Banjo players will appreciate Beginning Bluegrass Banjo, Get Rolling, and Branching Out on Bluegrass Banjo 1&2.**

**Of interest to all bluegrass musicians is Bluegrass Jamming: A Guide to Closet Pickers. This 105-minute lesson (DVD or VHS) includes lyrics and chords to 17 bluegrass classics with accompaniment by Nick Forster, Sally Van Meter, Michael Kang, Ben Kauffman, and Joan (Nondi) Wernick.**

**It is available at [www.homespun.com](http://www.homespun.com)**

Mike over the years. Ben did *Polka on a Banjo* which made me want to get up and dance to it. North Country had a real driving bluegrass sound to it and gets better and better.

So please the Lake Purdys Clubhouse in mind as great venue to hear bluegrass and help Mike make it successful. It sure is nice to only drive less than 30 minutes for good bluegrass music. Good Luck with this Mike.

## Bluegrass back in Somers

Joyce Cullen

On Saturday night, May 21, a new bluegrass series was started. Mike Burns brought the return of bluegrass concerts to the Somers. If you remember a few years ago Mike sponsored a number of concerts at St. Lukes Church in Somers. That location is no longer available. Just a few miles away, the cozy Lake Purdys Clubhouse was put into service as a new venue. Mike hopes to have monthly concerts there starting in the fall. He said he



Mike Burns and North Country

wants to feature local bands. So keep your eyes and ears open for news of the next one. Jams will precede the concerts so bring your instruments and prepare to have fun!

Too Blue opened to a packed clubhouse about 8PM. Joan Harrison (banjo), Betsy Rome (guitar), Mike Sassano (mandolin) and Jack Murphy (bass) played and sang their combination of bluesy swing and bluegrass. Many of the tunes were written by members of the band and some old standards were also included. Jack Murphy came out of the back to sing *Brown Mountain Light*, a song I remember from the days of radio on Saturday night. The audience really liked the music. After their set, a short intermission took place.

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## Turn Your Radio On!

### WAMC 90.3 FM, Albany, NY

WAMC Bluegrass Time.....Sundays 2-3 PM  
Dancing on the Air, w/ Jay & Molly  
....2nd Wednesday each month 8-10:00 PM  
Hudson River Sampler.....Saturdays 8-10:30P M  
A Prairie Home Companion  
.....Sat 6-8PM and Sun 3-5 PM  
Rock 'n' Roots..... Sundays 10-11 PM  
Thistle & Shamrock.....Sundays 7-8 PM

### WHVW 95.0AM, Hyde Park, NY

Pirate Joe Radio Show.....Weekdays ....3-6 PM  
Darwin Lee.....Sundays 3-6 PM

### WKZE 98.1 FM, Sharon, CT

Frank's Picks.....Fridays 7-11 PM  
Harmony Jct w/ Dick Hermans.....Th 7-10PM  
Plus, bluegrass mixed in with regular, roots, and Americana programming

### WTBQ 1110 AM, Florida, NY

Doctor Nick.....Saturdays 6-7:30 AM

### WKCR 89.9 FM, Columbia U, NYC

[www.columbia.edu/cu/wkcr](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/wkcr).....24 hrs/day  
Moonshine.....Sundays 10-12 Noon  
Honky Tonkin'.....Tuesdays 9:30-11 PM  
Tennessee Border.....Sundays Noon-2PM

### WVKR 91.3 FM, Vassar College, Pok., NY

Hudson Valley Rag Shop.....Tues 5:30-8 PM  
Vince Vincent's Jukebox Jamboree.....Fri 7-9P

### WFDU 89.1 FM, Teaneck, NJ

Carol Beaugard.....Fridays 9 AM-noon  
Dave Gross.....Fridays noon to 1PM  
Earl Karlsen.....Saturdays 6-9 AM

### WCNY-FM 91.3 Syracuse; 89.5 Utica, etc.

Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble  
.....Sundays 9-midnight

### WPKN 89.5 FM

Chris Tesky.....Wednesdays 7-10 PM

### WUSB 90.1 FM

Buddy Merriam.....Wednesdays 6:30 - 8 PM

### WRPI 91.5 FM, Troy, NY

Andy Hawley.....Saturdays 7-10 AM

### WLNL 1000 AM, Horseheads, NY

Bruce Cutler, Gospel Doin's, ...Sun 2-3 PM

### WZZZ 1300 AM, Fulton, NY

B. Cutler, Gospel Doin's .....Sundays 8-8:30 AM

### WHGL 100.3 FM, Troy, PA

B. Cutler, Classic Clips.....Sundays 6 AM

### WDYN Independent Radio

24 hours a day at <http://wdyn@wdyn.net>

### XM satellite Radio

24 hours a day on channel 14

### DitecTV

bluegrass audio on Channel 826

### Cablevision

bluegrass audio on Channel 805

# Celebrating the memory of Jimmy Martin

## The "King of Bluegrass"

Jeffrey Anzevino

**B**luegrass music lost a legend on May 14 when Jimmy Martin, the "King of Bluegrass" died at age 77 after a year-long bout with bladder cancer.

He was born in Sneedville (Hancock County) Tennessee. Dirt poor, Martin made his first guitar from a Prince Albert tobacco can. Later, at age 10, he hunted possums and sold the skins to buy a "real" guitar.

At age 21, Martin was fired for "singing on the job" at the factory where he worked. Not to be deterred, he then went to the Grand Ole Opry and talked his way backstage, where he persuaded bluegrass legend Bill Monroe to sing a couple of songs with him.

This impromptu audition in 1949 earned him a spot in Monroe's band as a Bluegrass Boy, where he performed as emcee, guitarist and lead singer until 1953. Martin's hard-driving rhythm guitar playing helped change the sound of Monroe's band. His strong, high vocal range pushed

Monroe's tenor up into the sky, creating what has become known as the "high lonesome" sound. Jimmy Martin and Bill Monroe recorded such classics as *The Little Girl and the Dreadful Snake*, *Uncle Pen*, *A Voice From On High*, *Sitting Alone in the Moonlight*, *Walking in Jerusalem*, among many others.



After departing the Bluegrass Boys, Martin flourished in his own right, forming his own band, The Sunny Mountain Boys, which included alums JD Crowe and Doyle Lawson, and recorded on Decca Records (now MCA) for many years. Some of his best known recordings include *Sunny Side of the Mountain*, *Hit Parade of Love*, *20/20 Vision*, *Ocean of Diamonds*, and *Freeborn Man*.

Jimmy Martin and The Sunny Mountain Boys appeared as regulars on the WJR Barn Dance in Detroit. He later headlined the famous Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport for three years. He joined WWVA's Wheeling (WV) Jamboree in 1960 and in 1963 moved to Nashville, where he appeared on The Grand Ole Opry. To his disappointment, he was never invited to become a regular member of the Opry, possibly because of his brash behavior.

Martin, however, made no apologies stating "in a 2002 newspaper interview "I'm just an old country boy with a third-grade education and I'm liable to say anything."

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**"People have told me they enjoy the way I play bluegrass music and it makes me real happy.**

**You know, there's two kinds of tears that you shed in this world and that's the tears of sadness and the tears of happiness.**

**You're looking at a man who has shed 'em all. But bluegrass music and country music has been good to me and I've loved it."**

*Jimmy Martin, from an interview in King of Bluegrass: The Life and Times of Jimmy Martin*

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