



November/December 2012

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

The annual meeting for the election and installation of the 2013 officers will be held at Morrell Park near Lorna J. Kesterson Community Park, 500 Harris Street in Henderson, NV near Boulder Highway and Basic Road. The meeting starts at 12 noon and a potluck will follow at 2 pm. Bring your favorite food, musical instruments, singing voices, grins or whatever to join in the pick out during this time.

Rhonda Vincent will be coming to Henderson for a one day show to ring in the New Years day after, January 2th. She will be performing at the MacDonald Ranch, 2020 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, Henderson, NV. The show starts at 7:00 pm, tickets are \$12 at the door or you can purchase tickets earlier at the MacDonald Ranch. Stuck in Reverse will be opening for Rhonda so come on out and support bluegrass in the valley.



Rhonda Vincent



BLUEGRASS NEWS is a publication of the SOUTHERN NEVADA BLUEGRASS MUSIC SOCIETY, a non-profit organization chartered in 1975 for the preservation and furtherance of Bluegrass and Old-Time Music. BLUEGRASS NEWS is published monthly, and is free to members of SNBMS.

Any correspondence concerning BLUEGRASS NEWS, its contents, the SNBMS, or the officers elected therein may be sent to BLUEGRASS NEWS, c/o SOUTHERN NEVADA BLUEGRASS MUSIC SOCIETY, P.O. Box 363584, North Las Vegas, NV 89030.

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Meet the Members

Tim and Yvonne are newly joined members of the Southern Nevada Bluegrass Music Society. Yvonne considers herself a professional listener, and Tim plays the guitar. They don't have a favorite band but love them all and the spirit and camaraderie of the people associated with bluegrass.

Tim and Yvonne moved to Las Vegas from Baltimore, Maryland. They love to travel. "We just got back from Boston visiting family and seeing the fall leaves turn to beautiful colors."

They both have an interest in gardening and arts and crafts. Yvonne served as secretary of a philanthropic organization.

The Southern Nevada Bluegrass Music Society would like to welcome Tim and Yvonne to our club, their passion for bluegrass music, and look forward to seeing them in the future.



Tim and Yvonne Johnson



Part I

Where Fiddle Tunes Are Put To Work

Once or twice a month you can walk into the Charleston Heights Arts Center at 800 S. Brush Street in Las Vegas, and hear the sound of fiddle tune favorites wafting across a dance floor filled with enthusiastic dancers executing moves in time with the music. These are contra dancers, enjoying the jigs and reels of the old-timey music genre, produced by a live band featuring some combination of fiddle, guitar, mandolin, banjo, upright bass, and perhaps some other musical accompaniment.

The contra dances are sponsored by the Southern Nevada Old-Time Contra Dancers, a non-profit organization having the goal of sponsoring community dances with live music, and featuring dances that can be learned and enjoyed in the same evening. Contra dances are sometimes called Old-time Barn Dances, or Family Dances because they cater to folks of all ages, and are reminiscent of times when American pioneers would gather on a Saturday night, be it at a barn raising, or at a crossroads, just to be able to socialize, dance to some fiddling' music, and have a good time.

The Southern Nevada Old-time Contra Dancers group organized in the late 1990s, and began their association with the Charleston Heights Arts Center (CHAC) in 2000. Those who are familiar with CHAC are cognizant of the beautiful suspended wooden dance floor, which just lures folks out of their seats and into contra lines. Initially, contra dances were held once a month; in September 2007, the schedule was expanded to about two dances a month. The dances are co-sponsored by the City of Las Vegas, under the Office of Cultural Affairs.

The ingredients for a contra dance

evening are dancers, a live band, and a caller, who walks the dancers through each dance before the music begins, and teaches any new dance moves that may in this new dance and had not been included in previous dances of the evening. Any one dance consists of a sequence of 5 to 8 moves, which are repeated as the fiddle tune is repeated. Although many of the dance moves are borrowed from the square dance world, the dances are danced as two facing lines, rather than in squares. Although the

dances are danced as sets of couples, one couple dances with a second couple once through the dance, then progresses on to another couple for the next time through the dance, etc. Consequently, it is easy to dance with everyone in the room, in one way or another. Also, individuals are encouraged to change partners and dance with a different person after each dance. Sometimes, the dance is a mixer, so one partner lasts only once through a tune.



SUNSHINE GIRLS REPORT

Darla Sorensen and *Betty Sisco* are the Society Sunshine Girls. Call Darla (205-0035) or Betty (564-5806) if you know of anyone needing a little sunshine for any reason. They also offer an ear to bend if you need someone to talk to about a family illness, injury or other tragedy in your life. Betty and Darla also act on happenings of a congratulatory manner.

Cheryl Thompson's radiation treatments will be completed by Christmas. Please continue to keep both Cheryl and Bill Thompson in your prayers. Ernie Waldroup will be going in for back surgery next month. Please keep Carl Misade in prayer. The Warburtons have moved to Cedar City, UT.

ADVERTISE IN BLUEGRASS NEWS

Rates per issue are:

Full Page: \$50

Half Page: \$40

Quarter Page: \$30

Bus. Card: \$1

*Discounts offered for
multi-issue insertions*

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

SNBMS would like to thank Gay and Robert Brady for donating a Deering Banjo to be raffled at the Annual Meeting.

Fiddle tunes are the basis for bluegrass music. So I have included an article written by Norman Bigger on "Where Fiddle Tunes Are Put to Work." Part I is an introduction into the history of contra dancing in the Las Vegas valley.





UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2013

January 2nd – Rhonda Vincent, 7 PM at MacDonald Ranch 2020 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, \$12 tickets limited seating...Buy at Ranch. Stuck In Reverse opening.

January 5th – Annual Election and Installation of Officers located at Morrell Park near Lorna j. Kesterson Community Park, 500 Harris Street in Henderson, NV near Boulder Highway and Basic Road. The meeting starts at 12 noon with a potluck lunch scheduled around 2 p.m. Music to follow.

January 18-20th – 26th Annual Blythe Bluegrass Festival, Colorado River Fairgrounds Location: 591 North Olive Lake Blvd Blythe, CA 92225. Phone 760-922-8166

January 26th – Bluegrass in the Park Yuma, Arizona, West Wetlands Park Directions 1st & 22nd Ave. Times 10pm-6pm Admission & Parking \$20, <http://www.landspromotions.com>. Phone 209-785-4693

FEBRUARY

February 8th-10th – 10th Annual Colorado River Bluegrass Festival, Community Park located at 1251 Highway 95 Bullhead City, Arizona, dry camping starts Feb. 6th, \$10 per day per camp site. <http://www.coloradoriverbluegrassfestival.com>. Phone: 928-763-????.

I Wonder Where You Are Tonight

Tony Rice

Tonight -- I'm sad my heart is weary

Won -- derin' if I'm wrong or right

To think -- about you though you left me

I wonder -- where you are tonight

That old rain -- is cold and slowly falling

Upon -- my window pane tonight

And though -- your love grows even colder

I won -- der where you are tonight

----break----

Your heart -- was cold -- you never loved me

Though -- you often said you cared

And now -- you've gone to find another

Someone -- who knows the love I shared

* Refrain

----break----

Then came -- the dawn the day you left me

I tried -- to smile with all my might

But you -- could see the pain -- within me

The lin -- gers in my heart tonight

* Refrain

----break----

Refrain

CLASSIFIED ADS

- Gold Tone open back 5 string banjo gig bag, 5th string capo mint condition \$850 invested asking \$650. Regal Dobro, hard case, upgraded spider and cone, excellent condition (one mark where I dropped the bar) \$1000 invested asking \$750 If interested phone 775-513-8089 Pahrump. (5/17/13)
- 1977 Martin D 28 \$2200. Call Al Bess 566-9372 (5/17/13)
- Bass for Sale: 4/4 copy of Stradivatus Varussus by KisoSusuki Violin Company \$600. Call Darla Sorensen at (702) 205-0035 (9/17/13)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**November/December 2012
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February 5, 2013

To avoid any delay in your material reaching SNBMS Newsletter, please send all submissions for the newsletter and any correspondence to:

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HA-HA

Q: What is the difference between a banjo and a Harley-Davidson motorcycle?

A: You can tune a Harley.

Q: What is the difference between a banjo and an Uzi submachine gun?

A: An Uzi only repeats 40 times.

Q: Why does everyone hate a banjo right off?

A: Saves time.

