

THE SALTVILLE JAM

JAM BRIEFINGS

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THE SALTVILLE JAM—ALIVE AND WELL!!

SURPRISE! Due to the ever increasing audience and growing number of musicians, we've decided to move the weekly Saltville Jam to the Allison Gap Ruritan Club in Saltville. We really regret having to leave the Holston River Coon Club building, but we have simply outgrown it. The Coon Club members have bent over backwards in making us feel welcome and at home and we would like to let them know, that they're more than welcome at all of our functions and that we will help them in anyway we can in the future.

We would like to apologize for keeping this so quiet, but it was necessary to en-

able us to find out exactly where we stood as far as the musicians and audience were concerned. The response to keep the jam alive has been overwhelming to say the least. Sure, there have been those that have been rejoicing at what seemed to be the end of the jam—sorry but we ain't through yet!

We will still be using the open mic type format, but this time we will have a nice stage and a seating area that will seat about 200 people. Another nice feature will be the availability of additional rooms for tuning, practicing and jamming. Plenty of parking is also available. The only downside is that the jam will be about 2

miles farther for most folks.

We have been receiving many suggestions on ways to improve the jam, and we want to let everyone know that we are working hard to make some necessary changes for the betterment of all. Please be patient as we go through some more growing pains.

We do have to pay for the use of the building, so any donations will be appreciated. All concession money and donations go toward the use of the building and to repair and replace equipment, etc. Any money left will go into a fund for another big Christmas Party and to help with the annual jam.

CLASSIC COUNTRY 1600AM—WXMY RAIDO

Well folks, we kept our promise and brought you an almost live radio jam. The first broadcast was on 8/6/2004 at 5:00 p.m.

We continued the weekly radio broadcast for a month, but due to some technical difficulties and

time constraints, we have discontinued the jam until some issues are resolved.

It has been our goal as well as the goal of WXMY to give people a chance to be heard on the radio. This is also a way to get the jam to people that are not fortu-

nate enough to be there on Monday nights.

If you've not been listening to WXMY, you've been missing some great music. So turn your radio on to 1600AM and have a listen, you just might like it!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ The first jam to be held at the Ruritan Club will be held on Monday, September 13th starting around 6:30 pm.
- ◆ We would like to thank everybody who helps with this jam both the pickers and listeners.
- ◆ If you have any ideas or suggestions that would help us improve the jam, please let us know.

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THE SALTVILLE JAM—A NEW BEGINNING!

“Sometimes, you have to either change the people around you or you have to change the people around you”.

If you have been a part of the vicious rumor circle, I'm sure you are very confused right now. I was very shocked and hurt by some of the stuff I had been hearing, and I had to try to find away to sort out the fact from the fiction. It's true, you probably even heard me say that the jam was over. Well, that was on the outside—on the inside for the ones of you who know me well, you know that I “never give up”. Also, I don't make a habit of lying either, so what has been going on? You could call it stress, aggravation, fatigue, worry, etc., or you could try to define it even farther by saying that I was getting tired of all the “crap” going

around about the jam. So I decided to kill the jam as we knew it and re-invent it a little bit better. So you see, I didn't lie, I just had to throw a little curve until I got things sorted out. I remember an old saying that takes a little thinking to comprehend, but it goes like this; “Sometimes, you have to either change the people around you or you have to change the people around you”.

In order to make the jam fair to everyone, we have had to establish some ground rules. Most of our rules are just common sense rules where courtesy and respect are the deciding factors. Everything

done at the jam is done for a reason. If you think you are not treated fairly or that the rules apply to you differently, you are wrong? Most issues can be resolved on the spot if you will bring it to our attention then. If you introduce it to the rumor circle first, it will only grow and worsen and may never get resolved. If I have asked you to do something and you took it wrong, I'm very sorry. It's so easy to ask why; most of the time the answer will be obvious to you when you hear it. Don't let a little misunderstanding keep you from being a part of history. LH

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Saltville Jam is a smoke and alcohol free site.

The Saltville Jam is a smoke and alcohol free site. Please be conscious to help keep the building and grounds clean and easy to reset at the end of the evening. Volunteers help make this jam possible. You can help make their job easier by placing trash in the garbage and restoring chairs and tables that had been set up. If you bring children, please be aware of their activities and help them get settled in to enjoy the evening.

Some food and beverages are available with all proceeds

going to help keep the jam alive.

If you are a listener, you can help musicians by keeping conversation at a quiet level. Conversations near players can be a distraction. Even sounds that are loud at a distance can be problematic. Players need to hear subtle harmonies, breaks and changes to be able to follow along.

If you are a player, and want to join the jam, you are welcome to do so. Music at the jam is acoustic (electric bass is

an exception) and rooted in the bluegrass genre. Bluegrass instrumentation is made up of guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, bass and dobro. If you play a different instrument, check with the folks you want to sit in with to see if it's ok.

When you are in the jamming area, keep all conversations to a minimum and as quietly as possible to keep from disturbing the players around the mic. Also, don't be playing another song in the background while someone is performing. Tune quietly.

T.E.A.M.-TOGETHER, EACH ACHIEVES MORE

I would like to take this time to thank just a few of the people that have made the jam possible.

First of all, I would like to thank Jim Surber for the great MC work. Jim has had the hardest job of them all in trying to put order to total chaos. He has done a fantastic job.

Second, I would like to thank Tom and Patty Calahan. They have helped out in ways you couldn't imagine. From

working the kitchen, making the chili for the hotdogs to offering much needed moral support.

Third, I would like to thank Pretty Moore for the use of his power amp. Without it, you would have never heard the music.

Fourth, I would like to thank all the musicians and audience, you have put up with a lot and you hung in there.

Fifth, thanks to the Coon Club and the Rescue Squad

for giving us a home when we needed it.

Sixth, I would like to thank my mom for encouraging me and believing in me all my life. She is the main reason I will never stop the jam.

Seventh and last, I would like to thank my wife, Sandy. She has worked very hard in the kitchen and has almost ran her legs off so we would all have something to eat and drink.

Larry Hogston

“I would like to thank all the musicians and audience, you have put up with a lot and you hung in there.”

JAMMING ETIQUETTE

Here's a few thing to consider if you are at a jam.....

Good music is often like good conversation. This means one person speaks at a time while the other participants listen. Give room for the soloist to speak their thoughts. Also, pay attention to the soloist and if you can't hear what they are doing, turn down or play at a softer level. Many times I have heard the backup players at local jams being completely unaware of the fact that they are drowning out the lead instrument.

Here's a simple rule to follow... if you can't hear the soloist, you are too loud. Many musicians think this is the sound man's job, to adjust the player's volume levels. Wrong!! The sound man's job is simply to reproduce what is happening on stage as honestly as he can. In a perfect

world, it is the musicians on stage who set the dynamic level.

If you walk into a jam session and there is magic happening, be sensitive to whether or not you can add anything to this magic. If the playing is way above your level, respect that and learn from it. Likewise, always try to play material aimed at the group of people you are jamming with so you don't alienate anyone with obscure or hard to play material. This is like trying to start a conversation at a party on brain surgery. You are not there to lecture ... you are there to jam and share a musical experience with those around you.

Tune, Tune, Tune your instrument

Be aware of your level of intoxication in relation to the others you are jamming with.

One drunk or stoned musician can really wreck a jam unless the sentiment is shared by all. Then again....one sober musician can really wreck things! Just joking here....

Be aware who is leading the song. If it's you, be sure to call solos and include everyone who is jamming

Don't be a jam hog. Share the circle and let everyone have a chance at leading.

Never, never enter a jam uninvited or in the middle of a song. It's just like budding in on a conversation.

In closing, might I suggest that if you are at a jam and someone is being rude or bullying those around them, gently tell them. We will all benefit from teaching each other how to participate.

*by Doug Cox
Cosmic Debris Musicians Magazine*

“Don't be a jam hog. Share the circle and let everyone have a chance at leading.”

PICKERS CORNER—BASIC RULES

1. Keep in tune. If you don't have a tuner ask to borrow one.
2. Typically the person who picks the song will lead the song. They will signal who takes a break through eye contact or verbally. Otherwise try and take a break where you can but allow others to share in the breaks too.
3. Try not to drown out the lead singer. Holding back on the volume helps the singer be heard without them having to strain their voice.
4. Try to work with the other instruments so that everyone is heard and that your playing compliments theirs.
5. If you are unsure of a song, step back and play along quietly. This way you can learn the song without distracting from it by playing wrong chords etc. Some jams are more advanced than others. It's ok to challenge your abilities but be mindful of how you fit into the jam.
6. Watch your timing. Listen closely for the bass and guitar for your timing. If you can't hear them you're playing too loud!
7. If there is already someone in a jam that is playing the same instrument as yourself, try playing along at a distance quietly. You could also approach the other player and ask to step in later.
8. If you know the lyrics of a song then try singing harmony. If you're unsure of your voice start by singing quietly until your comfortable with singing along louder. Harmony vocals are very important to Bluegrass music!
9. The jams are typically not a sing-a-long, so if you don't know a part, make sure it is ok with the lead singer before you add another lead part to his/hers.
10. If you know a song that you think others would enjoy, or be able to play along with, then please share it. Just be sure to let others pick songs as well.
11. The carpet is used to represent the singing/picking area and should be used only by the person or persons singing or taking a break. It is ok to occasionally step on the carpet to play backup.
12. The mic is very sensitive and works best if you stay back further than you would with a normal mic. Don't play form the front of the mic or too far to the side as it works best when you are behind it.
13. Don't hog the mic. It's ok to do 3 or 4 songs and then step back and let someone else have their turn. Be fair and give everybody a chance. Make sure you are not jumping in front of somebody who's getting ready to play.
14. Understand that these rules/suggestions are not set in concrete, we're still experimenting.
15. Most important have fun! Don't be discouraged if someone reminds you about one of these rules while jamming. If we all follow these simple guidelines then everyone will benefit from a better organized jam.

OTHER JAMS IN THE AREA

Monday—Community Center—Taylor's Valley, TN (Once per month)

Tuesday—State Street—Bristol, TN

Thursday—Senior Citizen Building—Glade Spring, VA

Friday—Community Center—Mountain City, TN

Friday & Saturday—Morefield's Store—Sugar Creek, TN

Saturday—Community Center—Ceres, VA

Saturday—The Store beside Weavers Store building—Konarock, VA

If you know of any other jams, or any more information on the listed jams, please let us know and we'll update this list.



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*In Memory of Ken Collins
(May 23, 1934 – Feb 1, 1998)*