

JAM BRIEFINGS

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THE SALTVILLE JAM—HAS MOVED AGAIN!!

The Saltville Jam has really grown over the years and is almost solely responsible for exposing our area to the many great talents and people who have adorned our stages and audiences. It's like everywhere we've stepped, a new jam has sprung up. This is a testament to our success. As the old saying goes; "imitation is the most sincere form of flattery". We want everyone to know and rest assured that we don't have any intentions of ending our jam. It may change locations, format, leaders, etc. from time-to-time, but it will not go away.

We have spent a lot of time

looking for a new home for our jam, and we have decided to move to the Chilhowie Lions Club Building in Chilhowie, VA.

We want to expose our musical heritage to more people and broaden our horizon. This can more easily be accomplished by our new location..

We really regret the circumstances and chain of events that led us to make this bold leap of faith, but we felt it was necessary to preserve the integrity of our jam. When you have a dream and a desire to do something of this magnitude, you have to be willing to make tough decisions.

You also have to be willing to be unpopular and learn to deal with a lot of adversity. We've had more than our share yet we have endured.

We would like to thank the Saltville Rescue Squad, the Holston River Coon Club and the Allison Gap Ruritan Club for their support and the use of their facilities.

It was a great feeling seeing my old Allison Gap Elementary school's dead empty shell come alive again. Did we ignite the spark that saved it?

By Larry Hogston

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE JAM?

Although there is no admission charge for attending the jam, we still have to pay the Lions Club for the use of their building. We want the jam to stand on it's own solely from the support of the audience and musicians. So how do we do it? We would like to ask everyone

who can to make a small donation each night to help us out. Some profit from the concessions will also help support us. If we start accumulating an excessive amount of funds, they will be used to replace equipment, improve the facility, help with our Christmas

Party, etc. All funds taken in will in one way or the other be used for the benefit of the jam. When possible, we will have shows and benefits on Saturday nights to raise money and to give a little back to the musicians for their efforts.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Kody Norris will be performing with Ralph Stanley on the Grand Old Opry on October 15th. Way to go Kody!
- ◆ 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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Our goal is to provide a musical event that will showcase the various musicians and singers in the surrounding area while teaching the aspects of musicianship as well as encouraging the development of new talents while at the same time providing entertainment as a service to the community and the county.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? / RULES / FORMAT

“We have just made a major change to our music event so I think it’s time for a name change.”

NEW NAME: The Saltville Jam name has to be put into semi-retirement. It’s no longer appropriate and since we’re in a different town, it just doesn’t seem to fit anymore. Any ideas? One of the hardest things for us mortals to deal with is change, yet we have to deal with it everyday. We have just made a major change to our music event so I think it’s time for a name change. We’re leaning towards the “Smyth County Jam”. What do you think?

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 rea-

son. If you think you have not been treated fairly or that the rules apply to you differently, you are most likely mistaken. 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 this historic event.

FORMAT: The format will evolve as we go, but for the most part, the stage show will consist of small groups made up to resemble a complete band. It’s always a struggle to get everyone on the show every night, but we will do our very best. You have to be understanding if from time-to-time someone gets left out. This is never intentional. LH

We are looking for someone to take charge of the task of getting the groups lined up. Also, we need an MC who understands our music and can commit to Monday nights. If you are interested, please let us know.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Saltville Jam is a smoke and alcohol free site.

The 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 some 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 who loves good acoustic music and you want to be a part of the jam, you will be more than welcome. Music at the jam is

rooted in the bluegrass and old time 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 on stage. 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 who have made our jam possible.

First of all, I would like to thank the MC's. Jim Surber, Randy Horn, Roger Lawson and Pauline Horn. They have each from time to time handled the MC work and the hardest job of them all; trying to put order to total chaos. Each has done a fantastic job.

Second, I would like to thank Tommy and Patty Calahan, Herman Barrett & Sherry Worley. They have helped

out in ways you can't imagine, from helping with a lot of the behind the scenes work to offering much needed moral support.

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

Fourth, I would like to thank my mom for encouraging me and believing in me all my life.

Fifth, I would like to thank my wife, Sandy. She has sup-

ported me and worked very hard since the very first jam.

Sixth, I would like to thank the women of the Ruritan Club who worked so hard. You made us all feel welcome. You will all be welcome at our new location with open arms. May you all live long and prosper.

Last but not most important, I would like to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for without him all is lost.

Larry Hogston

“I would like to thank all the musicians and the audience. You have put up with a lot and you have 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 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
Feb '98*

“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.”

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. 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.
12. Use the other rooms to jam and teach each other licks, etc. This is actually the most important part of the jam.
13. Understand that these rules/suggestions are not set in concrete, we're still experimenting.
14. Most important have fun! Don't be discouraged if someone reminds you of one of these rules while jamming. If we all follow these simple guidelines then everyone will benefit from an organized jam.

LOCATION / DIRECTIONS

**CHILHOWIE LIONS CLUB
116 INDUSTRIAL PARK RD
CHILHOWIE, VA 24319**



TAKE EXIT 35 OFF I-81 TO CHILHOWIE. TURN LEFT AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHT ON TO HWY 11 SOUTH. GO APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE. THE LIONS CLUB IS JUST ACROSS THE BRIDGE ON THE LEFT. CONVENIENTLY LOCATED BETWEEN HWY 11 AND I-81.

Organization

THE SALTVILLE JAM

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