

The Saltville Jam  
Meeting with Ruritan Club  
09/21/2005

**Our goal is to provide a musical event that will showcase the various musicians and singers in the surrounding area while teaching the various 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.**

We have been at the Allison Gap Community Center for one year now and have experienced growing pains which have led to a lot of disorder and confusion. I will take most of the responsibility for allowing this to happen. As I'm sure most of you know that Sandy and I have gone through some tough medical situations over the past 10 months and needless to say, the Jam was put for the most part on autopilot. Both the quality of the jam and the funding has dropped off considerably due in part to everyone's assumption that the jam would run itself. We have to take action in order to salvage one of the most unique events going on in the Saltville Area. In order to make the jam work for everyone, we have to establish some ground rules and make sure that they are obeyed. In order to do that effectively, we have to come to a complete understanding of what is required by all parties involved (Musicians, Ruritan Club & Audience). Let's briefly look at each one of these:

**Musicians:**

- 1) Form a committee
- 2) Provide the entertainment
- 3) Run the sound system
- 4) MC the event
- 5) Arrange the performing order
- 6) Establish and maintain rules and Jamming Etiquette
- 7) Make sure that donations are sufficient to pay for our use of the building
  - i) May have to have a paying show from time to time to raise funds
  - ii) We will have to be more up front in asking for donations
  - iii) If necessary as a last resort we will ask for a minimum donations to get in
- 8) Pick up trash each night and set thing back up for the next jam
- 9) Turn down the heat/air and lock up the building each night
- 10) Read meters to calculate actual cost for using the facility each night
  - i) May require installation of flow meters on furnaces
  - ii) Factor in insurance and upkeep
- 11) Musicians should observe the same rule listed for the audience when they are not performing

**Ruritan Club:**

- 1) Concessions
  - i) Menu (Regular)
    - (a) Hot Dogs
    - (b) Potato Chips

- (c) Drinks (Recommend bottles – easier to clean up)
- (d) Candy Bars
- (e) Popcorn (Makes a mess – hard to clean up)

ii) Special Dinners

- (a) Bean
- (b) Spaghetti
- (c) Other

2) Heating & Cooling

- i) Regulate room temperature prior to jam
- ii) Keep oil levels checked
- iii) Install flow meters on furnaces to gage the oil consumption per night
  - (a) I am working on getting quotes for flow meters.

3) Building maintenance

- i) Keep facility clean & safe
- ii) Kitchen
  - (a) Authorized personnel only
- iii) Restrooms
  - (a) Paper towels & toilet tissue
  - (b) Soap

4) Look into opening a room for eating and socializing

- i) The musicians will provide all the help we can.
- ii) Pick up trash
  - (a) Keep floors clean
- iii) Seating
  - (a) Keep seating organized
    - 1. Appearance does make a difference
      - i. Extra chairs should be available
    - 2. Tables should only be used sparingly or not at all
      - i. Tables if used should face length-ways in room
      - ii. Tables if used should be in front of room

iv) Parking

- (a) Organize parking
  - 1. Utilize more of the front yard
  - 2. Reserve parking in rear for musicians only

v) Cooperation

- (a) Coordinate activities with the jam leaders

- (b) Ask before making an assumption
- (c) Provide communication (both ways)
  - 1. Remember – we just want a place to perform
  - 2. Keep everyone posted as to changes, etc.
- vi) Smoking & Alcohol Free
  - (a) Keep it this way!

**Audience:**

- 1) Respect the performers
  - i) Keep talking and noise to a minimum
    - (a) Go to [www.saltville.org](http://www.saltville.org) and click on The Saltville Jam and watch the videos
- 2) Respect your neighbor
  - i) Keep talking and noise to a minimum
- 3) Place all trash in the proper containers
- 4) Help out when you can
  - i) Concessions & donations keep the jam alive
  - ii) Invite others to the jam
  - iii) Applause goes a long way
  - iv) We are open to suggestions

My thoughts on the audience: If you go to a movie, talent show, beauty contest, concert, pool tournament, tennis match, etc. you are required to keep quiet not only to keep from disrupting the event, but to keep from bothering your neighbor that may actually enjoy what you do not. This jam was not designed to be a social event. There are plenty other jams that appear to be, but we want ours to be different. The musicians have spent a lot of money on their instruments and thousands of hours learning to perform and they are willing to perform without getting any form of compensation. The very least you can do it respect that and give everyone your undivided attention. If you don't like the music, stay home or keep quiet. If you want a social event, talk to the Ruritan Club and see if they will sponsor a weekly gathering. I don't have a thing against talking to old friends and sharing a laugh every now and then. I've even been guilty of talking at the jam myself; it's hard to walk out in the audience without someone asking you something. We as musicians are not coming to the jam to be background noise we want a change to hone our skills and learn to work with other musicians. Maybe all the musicians should get on stage next week and just sit and talk for four hours and let the audience see what it sounds like. I especially am having a terrible time with room noises since I've developed this major hearing problem. If we can't solve this problem together, I'll have to quit coming to the jam that I had a big hand in creating. I don't want to do that. If we can come up with a room for eating and talking, and use the room with the stage for the music only, I think a lot of the problems with room noise will go away. Another concern that I think is hurting the jam is the half and half drawings and raffles, etc. This even more gives the impression that this is a social gathering and not a music event. It's getting more like a flea market or some of the other jams in the area. The jam will stand on its own two feet, and we can provide the Ruritan with the proper funding if we will stick together and work towards the same goal. If not, The Saltville Jam will either have to be dissolved or moved. I don't think any of us wants that to happen.

Larry Hogston