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Jamboree

The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

SUMMER 2005

online at www.hvbluegrass.org

Number 38

The Biscuit Burners' "Fiery Mountain Music" & The Dwyer Family Band

River Station Poughkeepsie May 1

The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association is proud to present from Asheville NC, "Fiery Mountain Music," by **The Biscuit Burners** on Sunday afternoon May 1 at River Station in Poughkeepsie.

The Dwyer Family Band -- featuring Jack & Katey Dwyer, with mom and dad Mindy and Jack, Bob Goldring on banjo and Frank Kara on mandolin -- will open the show. Unfortunately for us, The Dwyers will be moving back to the west coast this summer, and we have limited opportunities to see them perform.

The Biscuit Burners have set the roots music scene ablaze in two short years, opening for such notables as Tony Rice & Peter Rowan and Rhonda Vincent & The Rage, and having performed at several festivals, including Merlefest.

Most recently, The Biscuit Burners were honored to perform at an official showcase at the International Bluegrass Music Association and played at the original Grand Ole Opry, as well as The Ryman Theater with legendary Vassar Clements.

In December the Chicago Tribune cited



Peter Montani

The Biscuit Burners: Billy Cardine Shannon Whitworth, Mary Lucey and Dan Bletz,

their CD, *Fiery Mountain Music* in the Top Ten Bluegrass Albums of the Year 2004, as well as choosing their song, *Come On Darlin'*, as the part of the Ultimate Playlist for the entire genre of Bluegrass.

The show will be from 2-5PM upstairs at River Station, at the foot of Main Street. The upstairs dining room offers sweeping views of the Hudson River, Mid-Hudson Bridge and Walkway Over the Hudson,

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Message from the President**Farewell Blues**

An outstanding bluegrass music scene has blossomed in Woodstock/Saugerties area over the past few years. For a quick start, The Saturday Night Bluegrass Band, Big Deep, live radio on 'DST and weekly jams at Catskill Mountain Pizza come to mind. Now we find a weekly venue with Bluegrass Clubhouse (see page 4) every Thursday at The Colony Cafe.

The name dropper would find too many names to let fall and would inevitably leave out several talented players, anyway. But a major contribution to that scene over the past four years has been made by The Dwyer Family -- Mom and Dad (Mindy and Bill), and their kids Jack and Katey.

Since arriving in the Hudson Valley, their music has won over many fans. Likewise their good nature and gentle spirits have made many friends. They have fiddled, picked and sang their way into our hearts and made our lives more meaningful through their music, and their friendship.

Their calling now, however, is back to the west coast and while we will miss them, we know that they are moving on to make more great music in their new home.

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for their contribution to the HVBA.

With a family this talented, it won't be long before they grow into new endeavors. Already I hear they will be playing at a festival in Oregon this summer. Good luck to all!

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

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LC Smith

Fort Ann, NY. Show begins at 1 pm

May 6: Alison Brown Band at The Towne Crier, Pawling, NY www.townecrier.com

May 6: James Reams & The Barnstormers at Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor Brooklyn, NY

May 7: Too Blue at Killingworth Coffeehouse Local talent opens from 7-9PM; Too Blue 9 - 10:30PM Old Town Hall, Killingworth CT \$5 Coffee, non-alcoholic beverages, desserts and snacks will be sold. Sponsored by the Killingworth Lions Club For info call 663-1789 or 663-2226

May 13-15: 5th Annual Banjo Camp NORTH, a weekend-long celebration of the 5-string banjo in both old time and bluegrass styles! Groton, MA Mike Holmes (781) 209-1130

May 13: The Hunger Mountain Boys & The Shiftless Rounders at The Hudson River Theater, Hudson, NY www.hudsonrivertheater.com

May 13: Will Solomon and Heday Watanabe, Gadaletos Seafood Restaurant and Bandstand. 6:30-10 pm. 845-255-1717. www.willsolomon.com

May 14: Too Blue at Mary's Pub, Millbrook, NY \$5 cover. 9PM

May 14th: Mike Burns & North Country, Tin Roof, Wickers Creek with Andy Bing and more at the Apple Blossom Festival at the Warwick Winery, Warwick, NY

May 20: Northern Lights at Our Times Coffeehouse, 38 Old Country Rd., 8PM 516-541-1006 #2, Garden City, NY www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org, \$12,

May 20: Gitfiddle at Mammapolaza at Uncommon Coffeehouse, Wurstboro, NY 7-11PM

May 21: Mike Burns & Too Blue at Lake Purdys Clubhouse, 33 Lake Way Lake, Purdys, NY 8PM \$8 914- 276-2239

May 21: Northern Lights at Towne Crier Cafe (tentative), Pawling, NY

May 21: James Reams & The Barnstormers at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon, VA

May 28: Jawbone (Tony Trischka, Bruce Molsky & Paula Bradley) at The Rosendale Cafe 9PM \$15 www.rosendalecafe.com

May 28: Fairport Convention at at The Towne Crier, Pawling, NY www.townecrier.com

June 3: The McKrells at at The Towne Crier, Pawling, NY www.townecrier.com

June 4: Northern Lights at, One World Coffeehouse, First Universalist Church, Main St., Cambridge, MA 8PM, 978-768-7056, \$15

June 4: Gitfiddle at Highland Day, Highland, NY, at 10AM- 5PM

June 9 -12: Wind Gap Bluegrass Festival, Hunger Mountain Boys, Too Blue, The Gibson

Brothers many more Wind Gap, PA. www.afba.org

June 10-12: Sterling Park Bluegrass Festival, Sterling Park Campground, Sterling, CT Gibson Hill Rd. 860-564-8777, campatsterling@aol.com, www.Sterlingcampground.com

June 13: Wickers Creek band with Wayne Fugate at The Parkside Lounge, NYC 7:30PM (corner of Houston and Attorney Streets, between Ave. A & B.

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 or 610-863-7093

June 18-19: Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival @ Croton Point Park. www.clearwater.org for tickets.

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

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

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 23 & 24: Gitfiddle at Rosendale Street Festival

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

August 8: Mike Burns & North Country at Podunk Bluegrass Festival, East Hartford ,CT

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

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

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

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

Last Monday of each month: Orrin Star 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

2nd & 4th Tuesday of Each Month: Bluegrass Jam at The Uptown Cafe, Kingston, NY (845) 679-6696

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 Baggott Inn, Manhattan 9 PM

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

1st Friday of Every Month: North Country Music's Bluegrass Jam, St. Luke's Church, (914) 276-2239

1st Friday: Fais Do Do with Dr. Romo and the Cajun Swing Orchestra, Woodstock Community Center, Woodstock, NY 8 PM (845) 658-3392

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. Phillips 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!!

April 17: James Reams & The Barnstormers at The Parting Glass - Adirondack Bluegrass League Saratoga Springs, NY

April 17: The Dwyer Family Band at Sun 11am-2pm Dwyer Family Band at Cafe Mezzaluna, Saugerties, NY 11AM-2PM

April 16: The Larry Stephenson Band and David Parmley and Continental Divide, at National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA. \$19 non-member advance/ \$21 at the door. 7:30PM www.bbu.org

April 22: Tin Roof at Bodles Opera House, Chester, NY 8PM. Reservations suggested (845) 469-4595 <http://bodles.com/calendar.shtml>

April 23: The Doc Marshalls at Pete's Candy Store, Brooklyn, NY. www.petescandystore.com. 9pm. www.docmarshalls.com.

April 24: James Reams & The Barnstormers at WQSU Bluegrass Festival Selinsgrove, PA

April 25: The Hunger Mountain Boys at The Parkside Lounge, NYC

April 30: David Parmley & Continental Divide, James Reams & The Barnstormers, and Smokey Greene at the Weston Playhouse for two shows: 1-5PM and 7-11PM. Dinner served 5-7PM. The Weston Playhouse is located on the Village Green, Main Street, just off Route 100 in Weston, Vermont. For tickets, call 802-824-6674; mail ticket orders to Fernan Parker, 363 Piper Hill Road, Weston, VT 05161 For general information about the show, email clsawyer@adelphia.net

May 1: Candi Sawyer Benefit with The Cabin Fever Band, Smokey Greene, Hank & Irene Clothier with Gene Tyme, more. Donation at the door. \$12.00 admission which includes buffet dinner; \$10.00 with no dinner. Door prizes, raffles, and 50/50. For further information call Tammy Cowin @ 518-686-0173 or Irene Clothier @ 518-747-0039. Show sponsored by the ABL. at Rick & Carol's Restaurant in West

Willow Creek: Bigger & better than ever

Jeffrey Anzevino

The Willow Creek Bluegrass Festival has proven over the past six years to have become the Hudson Valley's local summer festival of choice. This year, Jim Lynch has not let us down. The lineup is better than ever with Dan Paisley & the Southern Grass, The Hunger Mountain Boys, and James Reams & The Barnstormers topping the bill.

The festival will run Friday through Sunday, June 24-26 at Thomas Bull Park in Montgomery, New York. Last year's festival was a huge success, with 13 local bands performing and, after a spot of rain on Friday afternoon, outstanding weather for the rest of the weekend.

Fine music, crafts and other children's activities, such as face painting and the Crazy Hat contest, kept the kids happy. Many families took the opportunity to have outdoor picnics while enjoying the music, and either brought their own food or bought food from the many concession stands set up around the campsite.

The festival has grown considerably and Jim and his staff need volunteers. Jim is offering free camping and festival admission, a T-shirt, and two meals to HVBA members who agree to volunteer at the fest.

A total of 15 volunteers are needed to work two shifts of three-hours each. Tasks include working at the gate, directing vehicles to parking spaces, and duty at the Kids' Tent.

Appreciative of the HVBA's assistance in promoting the show, and our members' support, Jim has offered the HVBA a \$10



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
The Hudson River
Cloggers

donation per volunteer, as well as a link to the fabulous Willow Creek website and ad space in their program.

So, please when you volunteer, tell Jim the HVBA sent you. If you are interested in volunteering at Willow Creek, in exchange for a weekend pass, contact Jim Lynch at <http://www.willowcreekbluegrass.com/2005/contact.html>. Please provide your mailing address, e-mail, phone number and t-shirt size. 🍷

www.willowcreekbluegrass.com

HVBA News Briefs

HVBA awarded "public charity" status

Upon review of the HVBA's finances and programs, the Internal Revenue Service has granted the HVBA status as a "public charity," classified as an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code. Thanks to Steve Lipton, who assisted us with incorporation papers and VP/Treasurer Chris Scheu, who dealt with the seemingly endless paperwork



Bluegrass Clubhouse

Members of the Saturday Night Bluegrass Band are taking root at the Colony Café at 7:30 p.m. Thursday nights, beginning this week, April 7. They're calling it the Bluegrass Clubhouse and admission is pay-what-you-want.

The lineup will usually feature some combination of, or all, of the members: Brian Hollander, guitar, Dobro, vocals; Tim Kapeluck, fiddle, mandolin, vocals; Geoff Harden, bass, fiddle, vocals; Guy 'Fooch' Fischetti, fiddle, pedal steel; and Bill Keith, banjo. The Dwyer Family played with the Clubhouse on April 7.

They're looking for word of mouth to help this effort out, in creating a bluegrass night. The Colony Café is on Rock City Road in Woodstock. Its phone number is 845-679-5342.

Calling All Fiddlers !!

Rosin up your bow for the 11th Annual Old Time Fiddler's Gathering Sunday, April 24th, 2005 2 PM Neversink Fire Hall Route 55, Neversink NY.

All fiddlers are invited to play. If you don't have someone to accompany you, don't worry, there are plenty of willing and

experienced players on hand. Other instruments are welcome as long as the music fits within the primary focus of fiddle music.

Upon arriving, each performer or group can sign up for a twenty minute slot during the afternoon to show their stuff to the traditional standing room only audience.

Admission is free for musicians and immediate family. Musicians are welcome to sell CDs. Another great aspect of this gathering is back room jamming! Please call 845-985-2923 or email plounsbury@hvc.rr.com to say you'll be there !

Proceeds benefit the Sullivan County Pregnancy Support Center, a non-profit support center for women with crisis pregnancies.

Wickers Creek Band

Catch WCB in The Big Apple at the Parkside Lounge (at corner of Houston and Attorney Streets, betw. Ave. A & B) on Monday, June 13th at 7:30PM with special guest, Wayne Fugate. The Creek also flows at the Apple Blossom Festival at the Warwick Winery on Saturday afternoon, May 14th. Andy Bing will be sitting in at that gig.

Festivalling with Too Blue

Festival season finds Too Blue at Wind Gap, East Hartford Riverfest and Podunk, so far.

On Saturday May 21 catch Too Blue at St. Lake Purdys Clubhouse with host artist Mike Burns & North Country.

The Clubhouse is located at 33 Lake Way in Somers. For information call Mike Burns at 914-276-2239 or check Too Blue at www.toobluemusic.com



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CD Review

Blue Ribbon Waltz

Hunger Mountain Boys
OFR-003

If you liked their first CD, *Fashioned In The Old Way*, you'll love the Hunger Mountain Boys' second effort, *Blue Ribbon Waltz*. They say that time flies when you're having fun and, likewise, when you're listening to *Blue Ribbon Waltz*.

Without a doubt, the Hunger Mountain Boys have quickly risen to the top of my list of favorite bands. I've always had a soft spot in my nostalgic heart for the 30s and 40s recordings of the "brother duets," such as The Louvin Brothers, Delmore Brothers and Blue Sky Boys. Ted Weber and Kip Beacco, not actual brothers, but, indeed, brothers in spirit, are The Hunger Mountain Boys, delivering a new millennium version of the old-time mountain sound that created bluegrass. The Louvins and Delmores would be proud!

Each of the 13 cuts -- twelve songs and the last track, the title tune *Blue Ribbon Waltz* -- is a clear winner, brimming with infectious melodies and solid harmonies, zippy mandolin breaks, and walking basslines on guitar. I hope I haven't forgot to mention Ted's crying, sliding dobro twang? But perhaps the my favorite element of the Boys' trademark sound is call-and-response harmony that courses through *Blue Mountain Waltz*.

Remarkably, the eight original numbers on the Cd -- five by Kip and three by Ted -- are as genuine and authentic as the Louvin Brothers' tune, *Let Us Travel, Travel On*.

It's hard to choose a favorite, so I won't. I will say, however, that I like two versions of Hang My Hat. I think that David Grisman and the late Jerry Garcia would take a particular shine to #1, a vocal number with guitar and mando backup. #2 is similar, but with Kip sliding on the strings of the dobro and Kip on guitar. Listen to the both and try to pick a favorite.

When the album ends with *Blue Ribbon Waltz*, a gentle lullaby-like instrumental, I find myself searching for the replay button to start the whole CD over.

For those who still haven't bought a CD player, fear not. The Hunger Mountain Boys have produced a 45-RPM



I'm Going Back Where
Time Stands Still
Hang My Hat #1
Can We Get Along With
This?
Cry Away The Years
Dreaming
You Left Me
Katie Dear
Cold Feet
Let Us Travel,
Travel On
I've Had a Big
Time Today
I Was Left Behind
Sweethearted Dear
Hang My Hat #2
Blue Ribbon Waltz

record (if you have to ask, you must be too young!) with their "hit" *Nashville Don't Touch My Music*, from their first CD and on the flipside, *Counting Sheep*, previously unreleased.

Kudos to Kip and Ted and to Todd Mack (Off the Beaten Track Studios) for producing this fine CD which, in my book, waltzes off into the hills winning the blue ribbon.

Jeffro

www.hungermountainboys.com

CD Review

***cheatin' / lying /
leavin' crying*****Big Spike****CRR-0100**

I really wanted to hear this CD when I found it existed -- mostly because I like fiddler Freeman Corey's playing. Freeman lived in the Hudson Valley up until a couple of years ago when he moved to Vermont with his wife, Sue. While here the Coreys attended HVBA jams and for a while Freeman played with No Brakes here in Poughkeepsie. So there's my vicarious connection.

As Big Spike points out in their liner notes, Vermont is and has been a, "hotbed of traditional music," and Big Spike continues that tradition. With twelve of the fourteen tunes on the album penned by either mandolinist Neil Rossi or guitar player Pete Langdell we get a good look into the heart of the band. Banjo player Bill Gaston's, *Slippery* and *Armadillo Breakdown* by Pete Wernick (Hot Rize, Dr. Banjo) round out the list Kirk Lord is on bass and special guest Adam Frehm plays dobro. While lightning fast banjo may be a hallmark of bluegrass, here the hot picking lies mostly below the surface. Songwriting and the band's three- and four-part harmonies are favored here. The solid instrumental performances follow along in vintage style.

Sad songs like *Lonesome Like a Train* and a gospel tune like *Moving On* are made sadder and lonelier by the haunting low vocals of writer Neil Rossi. *In One Door and Out the Other* provides classic little instrumental riffs and brief bursts of Freeman's famous flying fiddle.

A quick peek at Big Spike's web site (bigspikebluegrass.com) shows that these guys



**Old Windsor Prison
Greensboro Dam
Up From Birmingham
Slippery
Lonesome Like a Train
In One Door and
Out the Other
Moving On
Armadillo Breakdown
By Your Side
From Here to California
Lift Me Up
Fare You Well, Georgia
Three Chord Jones
Breaking Ties**

are busy. Their schedule is full. No wonder they have fans who say, "Everytime I hear this group it makes me wanna just get up and dance!!"

Chris Scheu

Your ad here

Call 845.691.6784 or email
hvba@optonline.net

www.bigspikebluegrass.com

Smart Mandolins**Mando-mania in Poughkeepsie**

Jeffrey Anzevino

Do "smart mandolins" play themselves, perhaps like a player piano? Well, not likely.

Many do feel, however, that Smart Mandolins -- those crafted by luthier Lawrence Smart, of McCall, Idaho -- play better because they "fit" better. Lawrence prides himself on good communication with the prospective buyers, so that the custom made instrument will better fit their hands and playing needs.

In 1986, Lawrence Smart began building guitars and mandolins full time and, to date, has crafted over 170

instruments, most of which are one-of-a-kind. His instruments have found their way into the hands of many nationally renowned musicians, such as Mike Marshall, Matt Flinner, John Reischman, Nick Forster, Butch Baldassari, and Skip Gorman, who Smart grew up in Salt Lake City. However, one wouldn't need to travel widely to find a Smart. Several Smart mandolins are also regularly seen at HVBA jams. Wayne Fugate has two, Mike Sassano and Frank Kara one each, and David Angell is the newest owner.

On March 7, thanks to David Angell, Lawrence paid the HVBA a visit, as he had just participated in the Mandolin Convention in Concord, NH and had delivered a fine new mandolin to David. David passed the beauty around like a newborn babe. All admired the mandolin's workmanship and some took picks to its strings and quickly fell in awe of its sound.



Lawrence Smart acradeling David Angell's newly made mando in his Idaho workshop

Lawrence exhibited several mandolins and shared with 30 or so attendees at the Pirate Canoe Club his depth of knowledge about his craft. That said, he began his discussion with the words "I'm here to learn from you." That humble statement indicated to me the depth of Lawrence's interest in players' needs and just why his instruments are so sought after that people will wait years on a waiting list.

Before the evening was over, we learned about many aspects of Smart's approach to instrument-making: including choice of wood, finish, bracing, fingerboards, responsiveness, overtones, and more.

Afterward a robust and mostly mando jam ensued during which everyone was treated to the result of Lawrence Smart's craftsmanship, attention to detail, and ability to understand the precise requirements of each individual customer. 🎵

www.smart-instruments.com

News Briefs

continued from page 4

Barnstormin' new release!

James Reams & The Barnstormers released their new CD+DVD project, *Troubled Times*, on Mountain Redbird Music on February 16.

Both discs – a CD plus a bonus, limited-edition, double-feature DVD – are packaged together and sold for the price of a CD.

The new CD, *Troubled Times*, contains fourteen songs – including three new original songs and two original banjo tunes.

The first of the two films included in the bonus DVD is *Rollin' On*, which takes the viewer on a ride on the Redbird Express (the band's red van, named after a retired NYC subway line) – from NYC's Lincoln Center, to a bluegrass festival in a small town, to a live radio show, to a square dance in Brooklyn, to a church on Sunday morning, to an old-time and bluegrass music Jamboree. This 80-minute feature will put to rest the oft-repeated misconception that old-school bluegrass music can't possibly be made in New York City.



The second DVD feature, *Pioneers of Bluegrass Music*, is a 20-minute preview of a feature-length documentary of the same name, still in production, in which members of the first generation of bluegrass talk frankly about the early days of the music and life on the road, in interviews conducted at the opening of the International Bluegrass Music Museum, backstage at festivals and on the buses of these pioneers. The preview was directed by David Fasano, along with Coppa and Reams. Interviews are still ongoing for the full-length *Pioneers of Bluegrass Music* documentary, and there is no release date yet set for the full-length version. More

information will be available as the work continues.

The CD/DVD all-in-one package is a limited-edition printing (once sold out, subsequent printings will have the two items packaged individually and sold separately). It is available immediately from Mountain Redbird Music at 565 9th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215, ph: 718-965-8490, fax: 718-504-4679, email: info@jamesreams.com, website: www.jamesreams.com. The price is US\$15 plus \$2 shipping within the US and \$4 shipping internationally. Checks should be made payable to James Reams.

It is also available for purchase by credit card at CD Baby (www.cdbaby.com/jreams or 800-BuyMyCd) and at County Sales (www.countysales.com or 540-745-2001). It is distributed by The Record Depot.

More info is at www.jamesreams.com.

Bluegrass Journey nominated for Jammy

BLUEGRASS JOURNEY, an independent documentary film portrait of the contemporary bluegrass music scene, is nominated for a Jammy Award as DVD of the year.

Legendary bassist, Grateful Dead alum, and bandleader Phil Lesh will host the fifth edition of the Jammy Awards on April 26 at The Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York. From their inception in 2000, the Jammys have catapulted to become a major national awards ceremony, paying tribute to live music with unique on-stage couplings.

The premiere grassroots music event in the country, the 5th annual Jammys recognized the best in live music performance from the



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CD Review

Troubled Times

James Reams &
The Barnstormers

MRMCD004

A feature of HVBA's Bluegrass Between the Bridges and a 2003 nominee for IBMA emerging artist of the year, James Reams and the Barnstormers have again shown why they deserved that nomination. Their blending of old time, bluegrass and original material with solid musicianship and Reams' vocals continue the lines heard in their "Blackest Crow" CD.

With that said, "Troubled Times" is described by Reams as "edgy." "We took some chances, walked down a different path." While *Eye of the Storm*, by Reams, starts out with a classic mandolin intro there are "innovative moments" in each break. I hear that. I also hear Bill Monroe.

Joining the Kentucky born Reams (guitar) in this Brooklyn based band are Barnstormers: Mickey Maguire on banjo, Carl Hayano, bass and Mark Farrell, fiddle and mandolin round out the band. They are joined on this CD by NY area greats Barry Mitterhoff (mandolin) and Kenny Kosek (fiddle).

What enhances this project is the inclusion of a 100 minute DVD which takes us on a barnstomin' trip on board the Redbird Express with the band traveling from Lincoln Center to a radio interview to the Hudson Valley's Willow Creek Bluegrass Festival (see article in this issue) to a square dance and a Sunday morning church show. A second part of the DVD is a series of interviews done at the opening of the International Bluegrass Music Museum with the first generation of bluegrassers. Quantities are limited on this two for one package which is available online for \$15 + \$2 shipping from www.jamesreams.com

Chris Scheu

www.jamesreams.com



Head of the Holler
Cruel Willie
Ain't a Bump in the Road
Lost Train Blues
Hills of my County
Erin's Flight
You Better Wake Up
Lazarus
Eye of the Storm
Lost Forest
Troubled Times
Cool Down on the Banks
of Jordan
Winsboro Cotton Mill
Blues
Cold Statesville Ground

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



News Briefs

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past year. As of February 21st, voting is open to the public on Jammys.com, JamBands.com, and Relix.com. Relix Magazine, JamBands.com, and executive producer Peter Shapiro present the Jammys.

Other DVDs nominated include Festival Express, Greatful Dead Movie, Jamcam Chronicles, All Good 2004, Phish - It, and Tom Dowd & The Language of Music.

Gibsons honored

Sugar Hill Records recording artists The Gibson Brothers (Eric and Leigh) were recently honored as Distinguished Alumni by Plattsburgh State University's Distinguished Visiting Alumni Program. The brothers, Eric (class of '93) and Leigh (class of '94) are the youngest-ever recipients of this honor.

Early this year the brothers shared experiences and expertise with several classes



Eric & Leigh -- The Gibson Brothers

and presented a program entitled "Behind the Music of the Gibson Brothers." Eric and Leigh also returned with their band mates Mike Barber, Clayton Campbell, and Rick Hayes for a sold-out performance at E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium at Hawkins Hall as a benefit for Hospice of the North Country.

The Gibson Brothers signature harmonies and

hard-driving bluegrass have elicited kudos from the press. Vintage Guitar states them being "worthy of first-class bluegrass star status." Not only are they carrying on the decades-old tradition of the brother harmony duo, they've added to the canon skilled songwriting and an open-minded approach to bluegrass, being named Emerging Artists of the Year at the International Bluegrass Music Association Awards in 1998. Currently, the brothers are in the studio working on their third album for Sugar Hill, which is slated for release in late 2005.

Beartracks website

Junior Barber dropped us a line to invite us to drop by Beartracks' website at www.beartracksband.com. You may recall that we reviewed their new CD *makin Tracks* in the Spring issue of *Jamboree*. Junior Julie and Tom have a busy schedule ahead of them including gigs at the Stafford Springs Bluegrass Festival (CT), Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival (VT), and Shady Grove Bluegrass And OldTyme Music Festival way out in Nanton, Alberta Canada.

Tin Roof is hot!

Tin Roof is a new band consisting of a conglomeration of old friends. The band was founded by long time musical partners Suzy Arnowitz and Mike Baglione. Best known for their work as a duo and as a driving force with Bluegrass band, Oxford Depot, Suzy and Mike called on collection of friends made over the years to join them on their quest for something musically special. Suzy and Mike snagged Rachel Handman (violin & vocals), Phil Helm (bass) and Wayne Fugate - mandolin & vocals and the result is one of the hottest new bands to come down the pike in a while. catch them at Bodles Opera House on April 22 or The Apple Blossom Fest at Warwick Valley Winery on May 15. 🍷

Burning Biscuits

continued from page 1

the historic Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge.

Admission is just \$15/adults and \$12 for HVBA members. We appreciate River Station's hospitality for hosting the show. Please plan to enjoy a selection from River Station's menu, relax with a beverage and enjoy some great bluegrass music.

Interestingly, the HVBA has a tradition of presenting shows with the hottest up-and-comers. In 1997 we hosted The Gibson Brothers and in November 2003, King Wilkie. Soon after each show, each band went on to win the International Bluegrass Music Association's coveted Emerging Artists of the Year.

Come on out to River Station on May 1 for lunch, the view, and catch a preview of this hot new band before their Grey Fox debut in July. Plus, you'll have one more chance to hear The Dwyer Family before their move back out west. 🍷

Dear friends,

The Dwyers are moving to Port Townsend in the Pacific Northwest.

We feel tremendously lucky and owe a debt of gratitude to all of you in the HVBA community for making the Hudson Valley such a happy home the past four years.

We thank you for your support and inspiration and will carry your friendship in our hearts wherever we go.

Thanks for everything.

The Dwyers



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.....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 Bearegard.....Thursdays 6-9 AM
Dave Gross.....Fridays noon to 1PM
Kim Gluckler.....Fridays 9 AM-1 PM
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.com>

XM satellite Radio

24 hours a day on channel 14

DitecTV

bluegrass audio on Channel 826

Cablevision

bluegrass audio on Channel 805

Hunger Mountain Boys' "Blue Ribbon Waltz" CD release at Helsinki

Jeffrey Anzevino

I could not resist the opportunity to experience The Hunger Mountain Boys on their home turf, at Club Helsinki, for the CD release party for their second album, "Blue Ribbon Waltz."



Kip and Ted -- The Hunger Mountain Boys tear it up at their old haunt, Club Helsinki for CD release party

In case you are wondering, there is a real place called Hunger Mountain. It's a place every bit as real as their music -- a mountain in nearby Monterey, MA where Kip Beacco lives and where much of their music is inspired.

Ted started the show by reminiscing about playing Helsinki before "crowds" of three people. Such was not the case this night, however as the club was standing room only. Before long, to the crowd's delight

The Boys were into material from the new album with "Dreaming," harmonizing in their trademark call and response manner. Kip set aside the mandolin and picked up the fiddle for the 1929 hit "Kiss Me Quick And Go."



Kip Beacco rips a tune from his mandolin

Then, in a bit of "musical instruments," Ted handed Kip the guitar and brought out the dobro, for "Counting Sheep" and a red-hot version of the Bob Wills' favorite, "Steel Guitar Rag," perhaps the highlight of the evening for this avid resophile.

Tune after tune, and song after song, The Boys had the hometown crowd in a frenzy. Near the end of the evening special guests Paul Kleinwalt (banjo), Lucas Schwartz (fiddle), Matt Downing (bass & guitar), and Seth Travins (Bass) for several songs with a full band sound. Of particular note was "Cold Feet," from the new CD and written by Schwartz.

The opening act, Northern Aggression, a rollicking band of young bucks warmed up the anxious crowd with with a good old time jug band sound.

From my very first listen to their very first CD, the quality of The Hunger Mountain Boys' craft -- particularly their outstanding songwriting -- would be their ticket to stardom. As a big fan of the "brother duets" that laid the groundwork for bluegrass -- The Monroe Brothers, Louvin Brother, Blue Sky Boys, etc -- I appreciate Kip and Ted's authentic interpretation of the genre.

Afterwards I asked Ted about his approach to arranging covers. "We get our hands on as many versions of the song as possible," he said, "listen to them, and then put them aside for a while. This distance allows us to give the songs our own sound."

Authentic. Genuine. Bonafide. Real. The Hunger Mountain Boys proved at Club Helsinki why they are all that -- and more. 🍷



Ted Weber makes the old hound dog sing

**see page 13 for
Blue Mountain Waltz
CD review**



Paul Kleinwalt, Kip Beacco, Seth Travins, Ted Weber and Lucas Schwartz jam it up to close out the show