

SILVER STATE STRING BUSTER



Quarterly news and information from the Northern Nevada Bluegrass Association. For most recent events calendar, please subscribe to weekly emails by contacting nnbamailbox@gmail.com.

Member Spotlight Jerry Robinson



Since its founding in 1978, NNBA has had many amazing folks that have given generously of their time, talents and energy. Volunteers are the absolute backbone of this organization, and we are grateful for all of them.

If you want to know what it's like to be a volunteer, just get to know Jerry Robinson. After retiring from a career in academia, he didn't just sit around and watch TV. He jumped into doing things that he enjoys. Playing music is one of them.

All of us that have attended the bi-monthly jam sessions held at the First Congregational Church in Reno know him as the welcoming face when we walk in the door, as well as the kind and gracious leader of the main jam group. He plays guitar and sings in two different Bluegrass bands – the Rattlesnake Mountain Boys and the Sunday Go To Meetin' Gospel group. And he has, for many years, served our organization as a Board Member and Festival Coordinator.

See "JERRY", ctd. on p. 2

**ANNUAL MEETING
POTLUCK, JAM &
FUN!**
**SATURDAY, FEB. 11
11AM - 4PM**

February is the time for our Annual Member Potluck, Jam and Board Elections! Please mark your calendars, and plan to attend. There will be a brief meeting, to update the membership and to hear feedback from anyone that wishes to share. The rest of the time is devoted to jamming and catching up with friends. It's like a family reunion, especially after the Covid years!

Location: 1st Congregational Church
627 Sunnyside Dr. Reno

Time: 1pm until 6-ish

Bring: Something edible to share, some tunes to play and sing!



Dennis and Pati Bagley always enjoy the Annual Potluck!

**The NNBA Board Rocks!
Be A Part of the
Biggest Little Bluegrass
Organization in the West!**
*Learn more or apply
[HERE](#)*

Our Amazing Board of Directors



Clockwise from top left: Neil Linden (Activities), Russ Davies (Secretary), Randy Wilson (Vice Pres.), Martha Greene (President), Tim Miller (Outreach), Eric Lovejoy (Membership), Sue Newberry (Treasurer).



We are a 501c3 organization (this helps us apply for grant funds for events), and are required by law to elect a Board of Directors each year. Some people run for repeated terms, some people give it a one year whirl

Our Board Election will take place at our Annual Meeting, Feb. 11. Any member can apply to be on the Board, and we encourage every member to serve, if even only for a year. [Click here to see more information](#), and/or to put your name in the hat to run for the 2023 Board. It's that easy, and it's a lot of fun. We welcome you all!

JERRY ctd. from p.1

Quite simply, Jerry Robinson is a treasure that has helped NNBA grow and prosper, especially through the rough Covid years. When you see him smile, it's evident that all the time and effort he puts into helping NNBA isn't a "chore" or a "hassle" --- he truly enjoys playing music, helping others to play music, and helping our great organization. He teaches us all how to turn our "hobby" into a win-win-win situation for ourselves, the people we play music with, and the larger community.

Jerry and his wife, Celeste, have plans to spend more time traveling and enjoying their family, so we won't see him quite as often at the Wednesday night Church Jams. We held a little "Thank You " celebration at the Nov. 2. Jam. If you missed it, you missed some really good cake! Thanks, Jerry, for everything you've done for NNBA!

NNBA has an incredible history -- we've put on 36 Annual Festivals, hosted THOUSANDS of jam sessions and HUNDREDS of educational workshops.

Professional Bluegrass bands contact us every year, wanting to perform here in Reno!

And all this is because of the policies, procedures and the GREAT REPUTATION we have, thanks to the dozens of dedicated people that have served on our Board of Directors over the decades.

Being a Board Member is like taking a course in Bluegrass Music. You learn a lot! And you put your learning to great use, by creating great events -- jams, workshops and, of course, our beloved Bowers Music Festival!

ctd, next column

The Bluegrass Golden Rule

OK, let's all admit it. Every one of us craves attention, recognition, compliments and acceptance. That's because we're all human, and these things are all absolutely necessary to maintain health and wellness.

Jamming can bring these wonderful, warm, fuzzy sensations to each of us.

But.... sometimes, it doesn't. Sometimes it brings embarrassment, humiliation or even anger. That's no fun. And it's not good for your health.

This is where the Bluegrass Golden Rule comes in. Here's the Rule: ***Are you listening to others the way you want them to listen to you?*** It's that simple.

Listening to someone playing music is pretty much the same as listening to someone expressing themselves with words. For effective communication to happen, both sides need to hear and understand what is being communicated.

Most of us have learned to not shout or interrupt or insult others during conversations (yes, I realize that, sadly, there are some people who haven't). The more of us that demonstrate good listening skills during a jam, the more warm, fuzzy feelings of affirmation and enjoyment will be experienced.

Most local jams will start up again after the New Year
Click [here](#) for updates!

What do good jam listening skills look/sound like? Pretty much just like they do in a conversation:

- **Eye contact** – look around; smile, nod, let your facial expressions show appreciation for others' playing.
- **Know the unspoken rules** of Bluegrass Jamming (often referred to as "[The Ten Jammandments](#)"). If you're a newbie to jamming, start off with guided jams where the more experienced players can help you learn these rules.
- **Let your playing show respect** – playing too loudly, noodling, being out of tune or off the beat are all signs that you're not listening to others. These are signs of disrespect to all the others in the jam, and are likely to result in your feeling disrespected in return.

Listening ~ The Bluegrass Golden Rule



Look around, listen and pick!



SHUT UP AND PICK!!

Improve Yer Pickin'

For local LIVE IN PERSON Instruction

Mountain Music Parlor

Renee has a great crew of instructors, and will help you find one that's just right for you!

735 S. Center Street

775-843-5500

mountainmusicparlorreno@gmail.com

It's All About Music

John Ponzo has a great line-up of Instructors, too!

770 Smithridge Dr. Suite #550

(775) 741-1440

john@johnponzo.com

Really Good Online Instruction

Peghead Nation

The most amazing selection of professional Roots Music Artists. Only \$20 a month!

Watch this video to see how their streaming lessons work.



Click to learn about Peghead Nation lessons

Get Involved

Bluegrass Music Events Rely on Volunteers!
*Only compensation is lots of new friends
and a whole lotta fun!*

Volunteer for an NNBA Board Position

Each year, we welcome anyone to join our Board! Any member in good standing is invited to apply for a Board position. Click [here](#) for more information.

Volunteer for a Festival!

Strawberry Music Festival

May 25th - 29th

Nevada County Fairgrounds

Grass Valley, CA

[Volunteer link](#)

Father's Day Bluegrass Festival

June 15-18

Nevada County Fairgrounds

Grass Valley, CA.

[Volunteer Link](#)

Susanville Bluegrass Festival

June 15-18

Nevada County Fairgrounds

Grass Valley, CA.

[Volunteer Link](#)

Bowers Music Festival

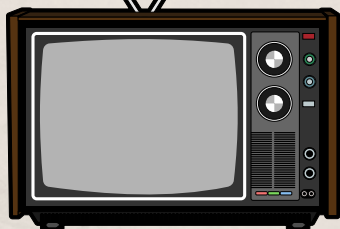
August 25-27

Bowers Mansion Regional Park

Reno, NV.

[Volunteer Link](#)

Stay Tuned



2023 will bring some great new changes! Workshops, concerts, and lots more pickin'!!

If you haven't already subscribed to our email list, get on it now!

Send an email to nnbamailbox@gmail.com



"It's called bluegrass. A friend drug me to something called a 'bluegrass festival', over the weekend and, well, this is pretty much all I'll be doin' for the rest of my life."

You're the First to Know!



Trad Music Faire
roots music & dance



www.tradmusicfaire.org

NNBA is hosting a NEW event in Reno, the

TRADITIONAL MUSIC FAIRE

Saturday, June 3, 2023 1 to 9pm

McKinley Arts & Culture Center

925 Riverside Dr. Reno

We've received some funding from the Reno Arts & Culture Commission to host this

FREE TO ALL PEOPLE

event that will feature live traditional music & dance from many cultures

Appalachian

Mariachi

Native American

Celtic

Basque

Greek

and more

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

www.tradmusicfaire.org