

February 2026 Newsletter

Messages from

MVBGA President Dave Shannon



The weather has been particularly frigid but its not keeping people from coming to our events. MVBGA has hosted two very successful Jams with the Bands at RACC on the second Mondays of the month. That being sad it would be great if we could pick up attendance at our MVBGA Jams. It's understandable we all have very busy lives and below freezing temperatures don't help. But with weekend time constraints in mind MVBGA is exploring the idea of a weekday jam. There will be more details in the body of the Newsletter.

And Other News

MVBGA would like to Welcome our Newest Band Members

Reyna & The Rustics

Reyna Stagnaro, John Crespi, and Steve Skollar deliver a toe-tapping mix of signature originals, bluegrass, country, and blues with distinctive vocals, solid harmonies, a unique blend of instruments and down-home flavor!

MVBGA Regular Monthly Jams are back on !

On the Third Sat in Feb..Feb 21st, we will be at Carriage House at RACC for our monthly Jam.

This will be recurring every third Sat of the month at RACC Come on out and pick a few !

On Monday Jan 9th we had our second Jam With The Band show with The Two Friends held at the RACC

Donna and Amy provided a wonderful of night of music. Their vocal harmonizing on everything from Gospel to Folk to Rock is truly special.

We followed with an extremely fun Jam Session!
Their Show can be seen on our Live Stream [HERE](#)

March
Jam With The Band
will Feature

Cincinnati Creek

at the RACC.
Monday March 9th
Doors open at 6pm
Concert from 6:30-7:30
Acoustic Jam to follow
from 7:30-8:30



Cincinnati Creek is a CNY bluegrass group celebrated for its toe-tapping melodies, tight three-part harmonies and inventive original tunes. With a reputation for enjoyable performances and lighthearted fun, they bring both tradition and fresh creativity to every concert.

Since 2008, Cincinnati Creek has been a fixture in Central New York's live music scene. This band features seasoned musicians whose combined decades of experience span a diverse array of genres and performance settings. Bandleader Lori Thompson sings lead and harmony vocals and plays the mandolin and guitar. Lori performs many original songs that are often inspired by local historical events. Her music was highlighted on the local TV program, Mohawk Valley Living. Lori also has recorded 2 CDs of original material available at shows. Chris Pepe plays the banjo and sings bass vocals in the band. In addition, he is the band's sound engineer. Cathy Martin is the third founding member of the "Creek." She plays the upright bass and sings lead and high harmony. Cathy had prior experience singing in the Remsen Community choir and playing piano. Joe Rowlands has been entertaining audiences in Central NY for some time. Joe is a founding member of the Irish folk group Rattlin' Bog and has performed with the barbershop group Nothing Fancy. In addition to his humorous banter, Joe plays harmonica and guitar for Cincinnati Creek and sings lead and harmony vocals.

Drawing on their extensive backgrounds in bluegrass, country, and folk, Cincinnati Creek tailors each performance to its setting—whether it's an intimate gathering or a large-scale festival. Their tight arrangements and professional stage presence highlight both individual talent and cohesive group synergy. Cincinnati Creek stands ready to bring memorable musical concerts to audiences of all ages that are both entertaining and fun

April
Jam With The Band
will Feature

Pocket Change

at the RACC.
Monday April 13th
Doors open at 6pm
Concert from 6:30-7:30
Acoustic Jam to follow
from 7:30-8:30

Pocket Change
is a bluegrass, blues, folk,
Americana, rock roots (and
whatever else) band from
Central NY. They have a fun,
unique, warm blend of music
presented in a bluegrass style
that they have made their
own.



The MVBGA Board is looking into providing another opportunity for a monthly Jam. This one would be during the week, likely on Tuesday and held at a local American Legion or VFW.

Vice President Bill Fahy sent out a questionnaire to our membership. The results of the main topics can be seen below.

Preferred Location

(more than 1 answer ok)

Legion/VFW - 18 people

Craft Brewery -8

Bar/Restaurant -7

Library/Public place -10

Time

6 pm – 8

7 – 9 pm – 11

General – 8

Weeknight Preference

(Several folks skipped this.)

Monday – 4

Tuesday – 9

Wednesday – 3

Thursday – 8

Will You Be Playing?

Yes – 22

No – 3

Maybe – 3

Would You Be Ok With a Small Fee?

(Several skipped this.)

Yes – 15

No – 8

Is It Important to Have Food/Beverage Available?

(A few no responses)

Very/Somewhat Important – 13

Not Important – 12

Would You Like A Learning Session/Slow Jam Prior?

(A few no responses)

Yes – 17

No - 8

LIVE BLUEGRASS EVENTS WHERE OUR MYBGA MEMBER BANDS ARE PLAYING

Last Minute BlueGrass Band

Even if you're not hitting the
slopes come out for some great
bluegrass music!

at Woods Valley Ski Area.

Thursday Feb. 28thth

6:00 – 9:00 pm



The Mighty Craic

(Come out for some great Irish
music!)

at RACC.

Monday March 2nd

Saturday March 14th



Summitt Park Rangers

at Woods Valley Ski Area.

Thursday March 4th

6:00 – 9:00 pm



Reyna & The Rusitcs

at The Gate House
Morris, NY
Sunday March 29th
1 – 3 pm



New MVBGA Merch has arrived!!!

Our merchandise website is now open and you can order direct at

MVBGA MERCH

We have shirts, vests, hats, hoodies and more! And you can customize from many different options for colors. Free pickup at Max's Print shop on River Road in Marcy, and free shipping on orders over \$50.



FROM OUR FRIENDS

The INGERSOLLS
Friday 2.13 6pm
GROW brewing Co.
Saturday 2.14 6pm
The Cleveland House
Saturday 2.21 6pm
NEAT Whiskey Bar

The Five Families Ensemble
Friday 2.20 7pm
This Old Church Vernon Center, NY

Liz Ingersoll and Al Krula
Wednesday 2.25 6pm Woods Valley

Fish Creek Rodeo (duo)
Friday 2.27 6pm
The Brae Loch Inn Cazenovia

February



Rhonda Vincent Coming to Hamilton College

The reigning Queen of Bluegrass is coming to town, and it's sure to be a sellout. Our friends at Hamilton College wanted to give us a little advance notice. We are pleased to announce that on Friday April 10th she will be playing at Wellin Hall on the campus of Hamilton College. You don't want to miss this one – click on

[**THIS LINK**](#)

for tickets and more info.



ST LAWRENCE BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH, ALEX BAY, MACHERRY LIBRARY, 2PM – 4PM

SECOND TUESDAY, ALEX BAY, REFORM CHURCH, 2 – 4 PM

**3RD MONDAY, BLUEGRASS JAM, 4TH TUESDAY FOLK JAM 7 PM PICKENS
HALL, HEULEVETON**

Bluegrass Jam in Boonville

started in November at

Dodge Pratt Northam Art and Community Center.

Every fourth Saturday of the Month 11am-1:30 PM

Central Chapter of the NYS Old Time Fiddlers.

OLD TIME JAM SESSION 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 7:00PM

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
98 MAIN ST, CAMDEN, NY 13316**

Sundays are time to tune in to Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble show on WCNY –Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble airs every Sundays from 9 p.m. to midnight WCNY-FM 91.3 Syracuse, WUNY-FM 89.5 Utica, and WJNY-FM 90.9 Watertown. Bill has been a big supporter of MVBGA over our 23 years – and he'll keep you up to date with all Bluegrass events going on in our area. For more info – [CLICK HERE](#)