



Three Rivers Folklife Society

P.O. Box 1098  
Richland, WA 99352

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KENNEWICK, WA

Help us promote **3RFS** events! Post the enclosed flyer where the most people will see it.

**Thanks!**

## Local Folk Events

### December

- 1** Constellation's Crew Concert 7:30 PM Sat Battelle
- 8** 2nd Saturday Sea Song Singalong 7:00 PM Sat Round Table  
Pizza, Richland
- 8** Carols and Cocoa 7:00 PM Sat Flat Top Park,  
West Richland
- 10** 3RFS Board Meeting 7:00 PM Mon BPABC
- 14** Uncle Joe's Banjo Band Coffeehouse 7:30 PM Fri All Saints'
- 31** First Night Tri-Cities 6:30 PM-Midnight  
CBC Campus, Pasco

### January

- 11** Coffeehouse 7:30 PM Fri All Saints'
- 12** 2nd Saturday Sea Song Singalong 7:00 PM Sat Round Table  
Pizza, Richland
- 14** 3RFS Board Meeting 7:00 PM Mon BPABC
- 19** Pint and Dale Concert 7:30 PM Fri **KSC**
- 26** Contra Dance 7:30 PM Sat **KSC**
- 27** Last Sunday Song Circle 4:00 PM Sun Round Table  
Pizza, Richland

**KSC** = Kennewick Senior Center, 500 South Auburn, on the east side of Keewaydin Park, across from the East Benton Country Museum

All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland

Battelle = Battelle Auditorium, Battelle Blvd., Richland

BPABC = Battelle Performing Arts Business Center, 716 Jadwin Ave., Richland

Round Table Pizza = 245 Torbett, Richland, 946-0667

For information, call 509 528-2215



# Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

December 2007

## Constellation's Crew Heaves To at Battelle

Saturday, 1 December, 7:30 PM

Nautical music enthusiasts from the dry side of the mountains will welcome the return of Hank Cramer and Constellation's Crew. Although based in the Pacific Northwest, they are the official ship band for the famous sailing warship, the USS Constellation, moored in Baltimore, Maryland. The Crew has released two CD's and a music video. "Sing Out!," the national folk music magazine, called their first CD "the most beautiful and accomplished album of sea music we have ever heard." Constellation's Crew served as the principal sea-music group for Tall Ships 2005, and will repeat that role next summer for Tall Ships 2008. They also performed as headliners for the Lunenburg Folk Harbour in Canada this summer.

Constellation's Crew performances blend traditional sailor a cappella work songs ("shanties") with the instrumental tunes played aboard ship. They also infuse their shows with the history and lore of the "age of sail." Lead-singers include Hank Cramer, Mike James, Brian Maskew, Jessie McKeegan, Di Meyer, and Mark Iler. The principal instrumentalists are Steve Akerman (octave mandolin, banjo, viola); Michelle Cameron (cello, bass); Burt Meyer (concertina); Davey Hakala and Rachel Maskew (fiddles). Val James and Kit McLean Cramer round out the band.

Originally launched in 1797, the USS Constellation was totally rebuilt in 1854, and is now a national historic site in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Hank Cramer and the late Steve Guthe first visited the ship in drydock in 1996, during an \$11 million restoration. The direc-

tor of the project commissioned Hank to put together a music CD which would highlight the ship's history and help fund its preservation. Hank, in turn, enlisted a "crew" of singers and players to make the album - and Constellation's Crew was born. The 3RFS concert on Saturday, December 1 will include a ten minute video tour of the USS Constellation.

The band is now an annual favorite at the Tumbleweed Music Festival, and has toured internationally. Their circuit ranges from "Honolulu to Halifax, Lahaina to Lunenburg." This concert will be held at Battelle Auditorium in Richland. Tickets are \$11 general/\$9 seniors and students when purchased in advance at Bookworm stores, and Octopus' Garden. Admission is \$1 more at the door. 3RFS members receive a \$3 discount.

## Uncle Joe's Banjo Band Perks Up Coffeehouse

Friday, 14 December, 7:30 pm

Uncle Joe's Banjo Band will pay homage to a wide variety of music when they headline the 3RFS coffeehouse in December. You can expect to hear everything from bluegrass to country, folk to gospel, and blues to standards.

Uncle Joe's Banjo Band is a bit of a misnomer as there is actually no Uncle Joe and the band is comprised of more than just banjos. Uncle Joe is actually local musician and singer Paul Knight who has been playing throughout the Tri-Cities for years. Paul can easily switch between slide guitar and banjo as easily as the Banjo Band can change

from gospel to bluegrass. Paul has performed at a variety of venues including the Tumbleweed Music Festival, Sacajawea Heritage Days, and openmics throughout the Tri-Cities. When not performing as a solo act and accompanying himself on harmonica, Paul often fronts blues duos and trios.

Paul's clear tenor voice is well suited to the band's old-time repertoire. The Banjo Band is composed of a group of rotating musicians who share the same respect for the heritage and traditional of American music. Some of the regular members of the Banjo Band are Debbie Hembre on fiddle, Chris Mesford on baudron, Phil Cathy, on

bass and Kurt Mesford on guitar. While the membership of the Banjo Band varies, it is anchored by Paul who leads the band on its musical journey.

As usual the coffeehouse will start with an open mic session at 7:30 pm. Come early or call Alan if you want a slot, because the slots sometimes fill up. The Coffeehouse is held at All Saints' Episcopal Church located at 1322 Kimball, Ave., Richland. Suggested donation at the door is \$8 general/\$6 senior and students. For more information about the Coffeehouse contact Alan Page at 943-5662.

## Celebrate a Life with Sea Songs

Bruce Mesford was a long-time and well-loved member of Three Rivers Folklife Society. Bruce was the major producer of nautical and traditional music events for 3RFS. He served on the 3RFS board and the Tumbleweed Music Festival Steering Committee, rounding up volunteers and home-stays for visiting performers. He was also the driving force behind the Second Saturday Sea Song Singalongs for more than 10 years. After a battle with pancreatic cancer, Bruce died on November 13th, at home with his large family around him. They will be having a private service for him.

It is Bruce's wish that any memorial gifts be given to the Cancer Center in Kennewick.

During the week of his death, Bruce was still working to ensure that the next concert, Constellation's Crew, would be a success. Bruce's family and friends will celebrate his life at Roundtable Pizza in Richland after the Constellation's Crew Concert on December 1st. Many out of town people will be there to help us celebrate Bruce and the music that he loved. This is as close to a wake as can be done. Join us in song to remember Bruce Mesford.

## Coffeehouse Rules! Rules to Live By

Folk Talk editor, Mary Hartman, is a veteran performer and has some advice for etiquette at 3RFS open mic sessions.

1. Find out how much time you'll have, then practice! It's okay to bring a lyric and chord sheet to prevent getting up on stage and blanking out.

2. Please pay the donation, even if you are playing at open mic. There are expenses (hall rental, etc.) that need to get paid from these donations.

3. Tune your instrument before you get on stage. You can use the nursery,

at All Saints' to the side of the stage. 4. Simple instrumentation is best. Adding amps and effects, etc. makes it tougher on the sound engineer and uses up your music time

5. Let the sound crew get the sound equipment set up for you. If your guitar has a pickup, they'll plug it in for you or tell you where to plug it. They'll adjust mics and do a brief sound check to make sure everything is working.

6. Edgy politics and controversial topics are a tradition of folk music, but our audiences are a mix of ages and sensibilities. Keep this in mind when selecting your material.

7. When the host tells you your time is up, say thanks and leave the stage. You can always come back the next month and play again.

8. Please don't leave the hall right after you finish. You may be the best since Woody Guthrie, but it's only decent to stay and listen to the other folks. And for goodness sake, don't carry on a conversation while people are performing. You want them listening to you so return the favor.

10. If you're uncertain about anything, just ask! Our host, Alan Page, is a really friendly guy!

## First First Night Tri-Cities at CBC

Monday, 31 December, 6 PM - 12 AM

First Night Tri-Cities is a family-oriented celebration that allows families a chance to join together to celebrate in a safe, alcohol-free, fun-filled environment by enjoying the visual and lively arts. It is an event that brings our communities together by providing a shared cultural experience that is accessible and affordable to all.

Entertainment ranges from music, to dance, to magic. Music and dance groups include: Vocal Trash, Skweez the Weezle, An Daire Academy of Irish Dance, Tri-Cities Steel Drum Bands, Scott and Luisa Campbell, Troupe du Soleil, Tory Christensen (Wiggle Like

a Fish), Richland Light Opera Company, and lots more!

For the first time, First Night will be held in Pasco at Columbia Basin College. Admission is with a button that you can buy for \$8 at local Sunmarts or online. For more info, schedules, etc. see the First Night 2008 website at [www.firstnighttc.org](http://www.firstnighttc.org).

## January Brings New 3RFS Venue

Just a reminder that starting in January, we will be attending concert performances and contra dances at a new, temporary location. Due to the remodeling efforts at the Kennewick Highlands Grange, Three Rivers Folklife Society will be using the Kennewick Senior Center at 500 S, Auburn, in Keewaydin Park, for most concerts and all of our contra dances.

The Pint and Dale concert, Saturday, January 19, 2008, will be the first event at the Senior Center followed the next Saturday by the first contra dance of the year.

**Folk Talk** is published monthly from September through May by the Three Rivers Folklife Society.

**Editor:** Mary Hartman  
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1757 Boston, Richland, WA 99354  
**Member classified ads to:**  
P.O. Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352

**3RFS 2007-08 Board of Directors**  
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Bruce Mesford, Vice President 946-9226  
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509 528-2215

**Deadline for the January newsletter is December 15th.**

## Out of Town

### December

**7** Deadwood Revival and Humphrey, Hartman & Cameron, 7:30 PM Fri Seasons Performance Center, 101 N. Naches Ave., Yakima. 888 723-7660

**8** Yakima Contra Dance, 7:30 PM Sat, Broadway Grange, 9th and Washington, Yakima

**8** Walla Walla Contra Dance Sat, 7:00 PM-instruction, 7:30-dance. Stateline Grange

## Familiar Folk Team Up in Yakima

Friday, 7 December, 7:30 PM

Yakima Folklife has teamed up with Seasons Music Festival for a great concert series this year. In December, two great acoustic groups headline; Deadwood Revival and Humphrey, Hartman & Cameron.

If you close your eyes at a Deadwood Revival show, you'd swear there were many more than just two people onstage, but Kim Trenerry and Jason Mogi produce an amazingly full sound that has fueled many a hootenanny up and down the West coast. You'll hear old-time tunes with clawhammer guitar, guitar, and an awesome blend of vocals. The band is based in Port Angeles.

Tri-Cities folk fans are familiar with Humphrey, Hartman & Cameron and their quirky brand of "chamber folk." Janet Humphrey and Mary Hartman play guitar, sing, and write most of the tunes, while Michelle Cameron adds cello that ranges from classical to gypsy to "slap cello."

The concert will be held at Seasons Performance Hall, 101 N. Naches Ave., Yakima. Call 509 453-1888 or 888 723-7660, for information, or visit [www.seasonsmusicfestival.com](http://www.seasonsmusicfestival.com).

# Yes! I want to help the 2008 Tumbleweed Music Festival succeed!

I would like to be a:  Patron, \$50.00  
 Donor, \$100.00  
 Contributor, \$250.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: 3RFS Tumbleweed Music Festival, P.O. Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352



## 2008 Membership Application

Your membership gives you voting rights in folklife elections, \$3 off most concerts, and is tax deductible! You'll even get a nifty membership card to show your friends and neighbors!

Individual (\$15) or  Family (\$20) Is this a renewal? Y N

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### I can help 3RFS with:

- Providing refreshments at concerts
- Taking admission at events
- Serving on Board of Directors
- Demonstrating folk arts
- Tumbleweed Music Festival
- Setting up chairs
- Folding the newsletter
- Publicity
- Membership
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Fund raising
- Coffeehouses
- Song circles
- Contra dances

Make check payable to: Three Rivers Folklife Society, P.O. Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352.

## Contra Dance & Song Circle Dark until '08

Due to the proliferation of holiday singing and dancing events in December, you'll have to curb your enthusiasm for the 3RFS Contra Dance and Last Sunday Song Circle until next year. Dancers mark your calendars for January 26, 2008, and those circling for songs, you'll be on for January 27, 2008. See you there!

## Dec. SSSSS Is On!

Saturday, 8 December, 7:00 PM

Our leader will be there, in spirit, I'm sure and will be expecting the usual boisterous belting out of songs of the sea at the usual Richland Roundtable Pizza for the usual Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong. Eat, drink and be merry for the usual reasonable price at the usual time, 7pm-ish. No singing experience required.