



Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 34 Issue 8

May 2023

President's Pen - by Gene Carbaugh

As our 2022-2023 season winds up with our May 20 concert and annual meeting, it's a great opportunity to look back at the past year. Now that Covid restrictions are past, we've seen a major resurgence in attendance at concerts and coffee houses. Special thanks to Micki Perry for her tireless efforts to schedule concert performers, Frank Cuta for concert sound, and Alan Page for booking coffee houses and overseeing the sound system operation. We also resumed contra dances in April through December of 2022, thanks to the effort of Terri Widergren and her committee. After two years of virtual-only Tumbleweed Festivals, we had an amazing hybrid event headed up by Dave Carson on the virtual side and Micki Perry on the in-person side, and a ton of volunteers to make it all happen. Special acknowledgment to Katrina Knight for her stellar work putting out our Folk Talk newsletter. Other people working more behind-the-scenes include Steve Ghan who makes sure our finances and various required reports are current, Terri Widergren who does our database entries and email announcements, Alan Gibbs who maintains our 3RFS.org website, Tom Reitter who has been doing videos of some of our performers and events, and Dave Carson and Katrina Knight for leading our efforts for a digital and virtual presence. And of course, we have to remember that without our audiences, all of these efforts would be in vain, so a special thanks to all of you who attend and support our events. We couldn't do it without you.

Come celebrate our 2022-2023 season on May 20 at All Saints' Episcopal Church. We'll have a special concert by Tim Hall which is free to 3RFS members. During the intermission between Tim's sets, we will hold our annual 3RFS business meeting which will include presentation of the slate of candidates for officers and member-at-large. As of this writing (April 30) the slate has not been finalized so we're not prepared to announce the candidates - meaning there is still time for you to contact Frank Cuta and express your interest in serving on the board. It's really important for the life of the organization that we develop new board members instead of relying on those who have been serving to continue their role. Being on the board involves monthly board meetings

and decision making on behalf of the organization. See you on May 20!

Annual Meeting and Elections featuring Tim Hall

Saturday, May 20, 7:30 pm
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Our 2023 Annual Meeting will take place on May 20 at All Saints' Episcopal Church. Tim Hall will provide free musical entertainment for members. Non-members can either buy a ticket or become members and get in for free. (\$20 gets you the choice of a concert ticket or an individual membership, so why not become a member?) The business portion of the meeting will take place during the intermission.

Musically, Tim thinks of himself as a coffeehouse folksinger. You know the type: guitar, banjo, concertina, plus a smattering of other instruments. He is a purveyor of songs from the "Folk Song Lost and Found" - fun songs, chorus songs, topical songs, traditional songs and ballads, novelty songs and thought-provoking songs for all ages.

Tim says he's been at this performing business off and on for about thirty-five years. His efforts used to be more concerted (pun intended), most illustriously during his stint in the topical song quartet, Shays' Rebellion but as a solo performer he is decidedly off the grid with no CDs, no mailing list, no web site and no following to speak of. A lost-song aficionado and a committed music dabbler, he says "I suppose you could describe me as a professional amateur."

Tim's musical biography is straight forward. He started playing guitar at fifteen, changing his musical orientation from pop and rock to folk music when he was twenty-something and never looking back. Early on, the folks who really inspired him to learn folk songs and start performing were a handful of outstanding singers, most of whom are completely unknown to the general public - Sam Hinton, Joe Hickerson, Michael Cooney, Larry Hanks, John Roberts, Tony Barrand, and a few others. He considers himself a musical descendant of America's great music teacher, Pete Seeger.

His real "college" of folk music, however, was the Seattle Song Circle. That was Seattle's weekly song-swap session, attended by a handful of folk song devotees with seeming endless repertoires of traditional

songs. Many communities have some version of song circles (3RFS has the First Friday Folkie Free for All and the Second Saturday Sea Song Sing-along) and Tim can't praise them enough for keeping non-commercial music alive and maintaining an eternal flame of traditional song and group singing that reaches back hundreds, perhaps even thousands of years. Tim had a brief dalliance with professional music including ten years as a solo musician, performing in pubs, coffeehouses, college cafeterias and occasional concerts. He spent a few successful years with a topical song quartet called Shays' Rebellion. That group performed in all sorts of places like union halls, peace rallies, and concert halls. They traveled as a group to Nicaragua, played the Vancouver Folk Festival, did a few tours, and even made a record album.

In recent years, Tim has rediscovered the fun of performing, realizing more than ever that small is beautiful as in house concerts, smaller festivals and folk clubs such as Three Rivers Folklife Society. He says nothing beats an evening spent away from our smart-phoning, computer-streaming, inter-webbing, face-booking, unsociable media as much as gathering to share songs. Come out to hear some beautiful music and interesting songs. Sing some choruses together. Be amused, saddened, outraged, humored or intrigued. Plus you'll get your chance to vote for this year's officers and board members - the people who decide what the 3RFS is going to be doing for the next year.

Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival to Offer Free Concert.

Saturday, June 10, 6:00 pm
Sacajawea State Park

Put the [Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival](#) on your calendar for June 10th and come out to Sacajawea State Park, just east of Pasco. Three bands will play 45 minutes sets, starting at 6:00pm and ending at 9:00pm. As well as no admission charged for the concert, Saturday and Sunday are free days at our State Parks, so no Discover Pass needed. Bring your own chairs, food and beverages, since there are no food vendors on site.

The first band will be the duo "Slipshod", from Oregon, comprised of Matt Snook

(dobro and banjo) and Steve Blanchard (guitar and mandolin). They have similar musical styles, yet they draw on many different influences like Gordon Lightfoot, Norman Blake, Simon and Garfunkel, and Tim O'Brien, to name a few.

Next, there will be the Spokane-based trio "Heartbreak Pass". The band is well known for putting the bluegrass spin on songs not normally heard in bluegrass, along with well-written originals. They are Bonnie Bliss on bass fiddle and vocals, Stan Hall on guitar and vocals, and Randy Engle on banjo, mandolin and vocals.

The final band will be "Kentucky Sky," centered in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The most traditional bluegrass band of the evening, they bring the driving banjo and mandolin combined with the tight singing harmonies of traditional bluegrass music. The band members are Randy Hackworth (guitar, vocals), Emily Frank (bass, vocals), Fred Frank (banjo, vocals), and Chad Fadely (mandolin).

For those wanting to stay overnight, the Bluegrass Festival has camping available to attendees starting on Thursday June 8, at 10:00am. Campers must pay a \$15 per person registration fee as well as the \$13.00 per night per vehicle, camp fee. We encourage musicians to camp and jam, as that is the heartbeat of the festival. The public is welcome to listen to the campground jams. All day attendees on Thursday and Friday must pay the state park Discover pass fee.

Donations to the festival are welcome. www.mctama.org
[Facebook](#) - Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival and Dutch Oven Rendezvous.
 (509)492-1555

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 (Micki Perry)

Tumbleweed News - by Katrina Knight

Thanks to everyone who came out to our Tumbleweed Benefit Concert in April. Badger Mountain Dry Band and Dan Maher did a great job of entertaining us and we thank them for their continuing support of our festival. Putting on a festival costs a lot of money. (Our budget for this year is just over \$46,000). Benefits like this one, along with other donations, help us continue to put on a mostly free festival for the community. If you'd like to make a contribution towards the cost of this year's festival you can go to our website <http://www.tumbleweedfest.com/donate-to-tmf.html>.

We are in the process of planning a get-together for our past volunteers and prospective new volunteers. The tentative plan is for this to happen in mid-June at Howard Amon Park. Look for more information by email and on our website.

The deadline for performer applications and song-writing contest entries has passed and we have a great set of entries for both, about 130 performers and almost 40 songs. We're going to have some tough selection decisions to make. We're very pleased at the number of new musicians who've applied and hope to present a good balance of old favorites and new acts for you to fall in love with.

The time has come for recruiting sponsors, finding a guitar for the raffle, and devoting more attention to getting good PR for this year's festivals. We need a good quality guitar. If you have one you'd be interested in donating, please let us know. If you have a business that would be interested in being a [sponsor](#), or have suggestions for businesses you think we should talk to, let us know. If you have suggestions for good places to advertise, locally or in the broader Northwest region, let us know. If you'd like to volunteer to help with these things, again, let us know. By now you've noticed the chorus of this paragraph - "let us know". Tumbleweed is a community festival and it works best if many members of the community contribute in various ways. Sharing knowledge and suggestions is one of those ways that YOU can help. To volunteer fill out the enclosed form or get a [digital copy at our website](#).

We are also working on partnering with other people and organizations to add more family activities to Tumbleweed. So far we have plans for a labyrinth by Mike and Shannon, a booth of children's craft activities by the SageFen Maker Fest group, and family science and craft activities by the new [Mid-Columbia Children's Museum](#). We know that children aren't always good at sitting still in front of stages and want to provide interesting activities for them too, not just adults who enjoy the music.

Word of Mouth Goes a Long, Long Way! - - by Dave Carson

The (not-so-firm) deadline for Performer

Application submissions is now past, and it's interesting to find that we have applications for folks to perform in the park this year from even more far-flung regions of the US.

We've always wondered how people from so far away heard of our comfy-sized festival, so this year, we started to specifically ask people from outside the PNW how they did hear of us.

It turns out that word-of-mouth (or a modern equivalent) plays a large role in spreading our name all around!

These are all obviously new-to-the-Tumbleweed-family performers; if they'd been here before, we'd certainly know them!

"Facebagel," from Golden, Colorado says "In terms of finding you guys, a touring musician friend of mine gave me a list of places to check out and you guys were on that list."

Eric Douglas, of Gilbert, Arizona says "My good friends Steff Kayser and Eric Schaffer were there last year (Steff is a WA native), and I thought I'd see what it's all about."

Morgane (pronounced "Morgan"), from North Hollywood, California, says "I heard about y'all from a friend in the industry - Andy Kimbel, if you know him. He recommended that I apply!"

As it turns out, Andy Kimbel, of South Pasadena, California is also an applicant to perform this year, but it turns out that he had performed for 3RFS many years ago, and wanted to come back and see us all again!

Russell Bartlett, from Round Rock, Texas, used to live in Washington, and talked to someone at a festival in AZ who encouraged him to apply. (Wonder if that was Steff Kayser again. Should we start paying him finder's fees?)

Grace Morrison is from Rochester, Massachusetts. Her Manager, Scott Hartley, told us "My guess is that singer songwriters are looking for festivals to play as we come out of COVID especially because some bigger festivals for folkies (New Bedford Folk, Philly Folk, etc. and several listening rooms are no more).

"I found your festival as Grace is playing Whitefish Songwriters festival this year I think...but it was on my list from a few years ago so I wonder if I found it pre-COVID. Back a couple years ago she had a tour that was SUPPOSED to begin in northern CA and end in Lions Bay, Vancouver, so I have been trying to find other songwriter festivals and venues in the area so we can re-book."

We do have a number of current Tumbleweed family members who have also applied from a distance: Curtis and Loretta, from Minneapolis (for a virtual set this time); Kerry Grombacher, from New Orleans, Louisiana; Mike "Icky" Ichniowski, from Fort Smith, Alabama (he's never performed up here before, but he had applied to perform live last year and had to withdraw due to a family emergency, but that still counts!); and from

the UK for virtual performances, we have David Kidman from Yorkshire, and Linn Phipps of "Sillertides," from Stornoway, Scotland.

We have some Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting contest entries from afar, as well.

The "Couldn't Be Happier" (Jodi and Jordan), from Winston-Salem, N. Carolina, say "We were getting ready to go to SERFA, I think we saw some people with signature lines in the Google group that said they had played your festival or were finalists, so we decided to check it out!"

Sonya Lorelle, from Chicago, Illinois, says "As far as how I heard about you was just googling folk festivals and song contests. I love a good songwriting festival so was wanting to find some within driving distance to me :)" (Happy to oblige!)

So, there you have it. Friends tell friends who tell friends, and the giant community bulletin board that is the internet also tells friends.

So please keep talking about us to the world - and more of the world can come and play with us!

Tumbleweed to feature in SageFen Maker Fest !

On May 12 - 14, at the Pasco Red Lion Hotel, a new type of gathering for the Tri-Cities will be held: SageFen Maker Fest 1! (see <https://sagefencon.org>).

SageFen Maker Fest is both something new and something old, built by fans of science fiction and fantasy who love teaching, sharing, building, creating, and learning. Founded by fans with decades of experience as professionals, teachers, engineers, builders, and creators - a celebration of all the creativeness that is fandom.

Various arts and crafts have featured for decades at science fiction conventions, from the art shows covering a wide variety of fan-made art (painting, display costumes, pottery, sculpture, cartoons, etc.) to the competitive masquerades which often feature professional-level design and construction of original costumes, recreations of costumes from TV and films, or groups of people all creating costumes on a theme.

One aspect of science fiction conventions that has been present since the very first one in 1939 is music. The first World Science Fiction Convention, in New York City, was to feature "Folk Singing," but a typo to "Filk Singing" created a new genre that day - songs inspired by or actually even from favored fiction. Cecilia Eng, who was one of our headliners in the 2021 Tumbleweed Concert, is a world-renowned, award-winning filker!

There is a very large crossover of interest between filkers and the regular folkies that comprise the Tumbleweed family, and SageFen Maker Fest has asked Tumbleweed to participate in their con!

Local Folk Events

May

3	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
5	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's, Kennewick
8	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's
12-14	SageFen Maker Fest	Fri-Sun	Red Lion Hotel, Pasco
13	2nd Saturday Sea Song Singalong	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
17	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
20	Annual Membership Meeting and Concert - Tim Hall	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland
26-29	Northwest Folklife Festival	Fri - Mon	Seattle Center, Seattle

June

2	FFFFFA	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's
3	Uptown Get Down	12 - 11 PM Sat	Uptown Shopping Center, Richland
7	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
9-11	Sacajewea Bluegrass Festival	Fri-Sun	Sacajewea State Park, Pasco
10	SSSSS	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
12	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00pm Mon	TBA
21	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom

July

1	No FFFFFA in July		
5	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
8	SSSSS	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
10	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00pm Mon	TBA
19	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
28-29	Art in The Park	Fri - Sat	Howard Amon Park , Richland

August

2	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
4	FFFFFA	7:00pm Fri	Micki Perry's
9	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
12	SSSSS	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
14	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00pm Mon	TBA
16	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
23	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
TBA	Tumbleweed Volunteers Orientation		

All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland
 Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch Ave., Richland
 Micki Perry's = 1011 S. Dawes St., Kennewick
 Round Table Pizza = Corner of George Washington Way and Torbett St., Richland

For more calendar info from across the Northwest go to <https://www.3rfs.org/info-nw.htm>. Information for the current month is available in a pdf file, or information extending through the year can be downloaded in spreadsheet form.

Tumbleweed folks will be leading a song circle similar to our SSSSS, and some Tumbleweed folks will be sure to perform! (And, Frank Cuta is doing their sound all weekend!)

So, if you love to see people performing various crafts at a very high level, or would like to learn about some of them as well, please consider coming to SageFen Maker Fest - drop by the Tumbleweed table & say hi!

Homestay Hosts Wanted

We are once again looking for people who are willing to host a performer (or performers) in their homes during the festival weekend. If you would like to have a performer or two all to yourself for a while, please drop us a line at tumbleweedchair@gmail.com.

Yes!

I want to help 3RFS and the Tumbleweed Music Festival Roll on!

I would like to contribute at this level:

- _____ \$1000.00
- _____ \$250.00
- _____ \$100.00
- _____ \$50.00
- \$_____ Other

Please keep my gift anonymous (Donor names will be listed in next year's program unless you indicate you wish to remain anonymous.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail -- _____

Send to: 3RFS TMF, PO Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352



Membership Application

Your membership gives you voting rights in Folklife elections, discounts on events, and is tax deductible! Plus it gives you the satisfaction of supporting 3RFS activities.

____ Individual (\$20) or ____ Family (\$25) Renewal? Y N

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Please send Folk Talk (choose one) US Mail **Email** **Both**

I can help 3RFS with:

- Refreshments at concerts
- Taking admission at events
- Serve on Board of Directors
- Demonstrating folk arts
- Tumbleweed Music Festival
- Song Circles
- Setting up chairs
- Folding newsletters
- Publicity
- Membership
- Fund raising
- Coffeeshouses
- Other

Our monthly sing alongs continue through the summer. Please come out for some fun group singing. The First Friday Folkie Free For All happens at Mick Perry's house and the Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong takes place at Round Table Pizza on George Washington Way in Richland. See the calendar on page 3 for exact dates.

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