

Return Service Requested

**May 2008
Newsletter**

**35th Annual
Alaska Folk Festival
April 13-19, 2009**

John Prine in Concert - August 16

**John Prine in Concert
Saturday, August 16, 2008
Juneau Douglas High School Auditorium
Doors open at 7 PM
Opening act at 8 PM
Tickets on sale May 30 at Heathside -
open seating
Price: \$48 premium seating and
\$40 standard**

Wow! John Prine is coming to town! For some of us, that really is better than Santa Claus or a plethora of other classy characters.

Sitting here faced with the task of writing something about John Prine is daunting! It takes little time to recognize that this newsletter is not the forum to recount the four decades of his prolific songwriting career. What has struck me is the cross-generational appeal he inspires. Hearing from some of the local 30 something year olds their enthusiasm for this concert demonstrates that fact.

With 20 plus albums to his credit - with songs covered by Bonnie Raitt, Bette Midler, Johnny Cash and Norah Jones - he has established a life long music career. In the 1960's this native of Maywood, Illinois started hanging out at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago with his brother Dave, a fiddle player. He began his

professional career with his friend, the late Steve Goodman, in the early 70's. From those Chicago roots he established a friendship with John Belushi which led him to a spot on the second season of Saturday Night Live. In 1991 his album, The Missing Years, was produced. With nearly a quarter million copies sold, it won Grammy for Best Contemporary Folk Album: "exactly-odo, quaismodo". His latest album, Standard Songs for Average People, is a compilation of covers he produced with Mac Wiseman. Thankfully, his bout with cancer has not stopped this musical mystic.

Whether you have been a fan of his music since the 70's, a by-standing listener to your parent's music, or a recent convert, you have your own favorite lyrics. In 2001 I had the opportunity to attend his concert at Ravinia outside of Chicago. After the show my daughter said, "Mom, I knew practically all of those words." During Saturday chores, she too inadvertently grew up loving his music. His concert brought back decades of lyrics, plus the infusion of his newer songs. One thing you can count on from a John Prine concert is that you will go home with a deeper appreciation of his take on our "big old goofy world."



Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

35th Annual Alaska Folk Festival: April 13-19, 2009



Amount \$ _____	
___ Member	(\$15 - \$29)
___ Sustaining Member	(\$30 - \$49)
___ Friend	(\$50 - \$99)
___ Patron	(\$100 - \$249)
___ Benefactor	(\$250 and above)
<input type="checkbox"/> Please do not list my name in the program.	

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Visa or Mastercard ONLY
Exp. Date: _____ CSC (3 digit security code): _____

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Signature: _____

All members receive the Festival newsletters. Benefactors, Patrons, Friends, and Sustaining Members will be listed in the Festival program (deadline: March 26, 2009). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska 99802. Thank You!

May 2008 Newsletter

Merchandise Volunteer Needed

Do have a few hours a month you would be willing to donate to the folk festival? Some of the most common requests we get are: "Where I can buy a poster?", "Do you have any more t-shirts?", "Do you have any black hoodies left?", and similar. After folk festival is over all the unsold merchandise is put into our store room.

We need a volunteer to first inventory all the unsold merchandise. Then to process these requests the volunteer would need to receive and acknowledge the orders, retrieve the merchandise from the store room and mail it out. The schedule for doing this could be entirely of the volunteer's choosing. And this would make a lot of people, who missed buying their mug/poster/t-shirt during the festival, very happy. Might this volunteer be you? Please contact a board member or leave a message at 463-3316.

Treasurer's Report

The Alaska Folk Festival stays solidly in the black this year, thanks again to all the supporters and volunteers. Our main sources of income are memberships (\$26,800), merchandise (\$26,700) and program ads(\$3600). Since the beginning of our fiscal year on Oct 1, 2007, our total income to date is \$61,600.

On the expense side, with a couple of bills still estimated, it looks like we have spent \$58,900. Our largest expenses were the hall, merchandise, guest artists, sound engineering and printing. Our profit from merchandise sold is \$10,800 which includes about \$1000 of previous years' unsold merchandise.

If you have any specific questions not answered here, you may send an email message to Jamie Brown at treasurer@akfolkfest.org.

AFF Board Members through AFF 35

AFF Board members are all volunteers who love the Alaska Folk Festival and are willing to serve a three-year term working on the board organizing the Festival. Here are the board members through the next Festival, with term expiration years shown.

Greg McLaughlin, President (exp '10)
Terry Hoskinson, Vice President (exp '09)
Jamie Brown, Treasurer (exp '11)
Linda Frame, Secretary (exp '09)
Amy Randolph (exp '10)
Scott Burton (exp '10)
Pat Henry (exp '11)

2009 Art Work Chosen

The Folk Festival received a great response to our request for poster art for AFF 35. The deadline for submissions was May 15, 2008. We had six entries. We are amazed at the talent from around town and around the state. It was very difficult to select just one when faced with so many fine choices. In the end we did settle on one, but we have hopes that the others may be looked at again for a future festival. Thanks for the great art and keep up the good work.

AFF Contacts & Info Sources

Phone: 907-463-3316
Email: info@alaskafolkfestival.org
Address: PO Box 21748, Juneau AK 99801
Web Site: http://AkFolkFest.org
ListServ: http://groups.yahoo.com/aff-1/

Thank you!

We have pulled off another successful Folk Festival. It was a great time this year. Another opportunity to get together with folks we haven't seen all year and play music till the wee hours of the morning. The dances, workshops, jam sessions and stage sets went off without any major glitches. That could not have happened if it weren't for the countless volunteers that come to the fore each year. Without you the festival would not happen. Everyone contributes in their own special way each year to make the festival happen. Below is a list of some of the folks who helped us out this year.

James Adams, Becky Allison, MacKenzie Allison, Peter Anderegg, Susan Arnold, Warren Argo, Lynn Basham, Greg Beck, Rachael Beck, Sue Behnert, Rai Behnert, Maridon Boario, Latif Bolat, Bruce Botelho, Sarah Brooks, Jamie Brown, Jeff Brown, Lance Brown, Melanie Brown, Scott Burton, Vic Cano, Steve Caswell, Erik Chadwell, Sonny Chandler, John Church, Cheryl Cook, Collette Costa, Rod Crist, Nikki Dawson, Nancy DeCherney, Brian DeMarcus, Sharon Denton, Sally Donaldson, Ellen Eberhardt, Shonti Elder, Grace Elliott, Lynette Ensor, Mark Everett, Kathy Fanning, Morgan Fawcett, Franz Felkl, Ellen Ferguson, Greg Fisk, Jack Fontanella, Jenna Fontanella, Suzanne Forsling, Odette Foster, Linda Frame, Sally Freund, Anne Fuller, Melora Gaber, Suzy Gaffney, Jose Garcia, Annie Geselle, Ann Gifford, Rainee Godwin, Ester Golton, Jim Grammel, Andy Grossman, Patti Harper, Pat Harris, Caroline Hassler, Kim Hastings, Jerry Hauf, Clayton Hawkes, Hiram Henry, Pat Henry, Christine Hess, Kathy Hocker, Robin Hopper, Dan Hopson, Terry Hoskinson, Betsy Hallum, Charlie Hunt, Davd Job, Debby Johnson, Niall

Johnson, Jeff Jordan, Barb Kalen, Emily Kane, Katherine Kane, Barbara Kelly-Page, Katya Kirsch, Kit, Steve Kunz, John Lager, Nola Lamken, John Laskey, Bob Laurie, Joyce Lavine, Jenny Layne, Corey Ledet, Beth Leibowitz, Thelma Leuba, Olga Lijo, Mark Lukey, Kari Lundgren, M.K. MacNaughton, Wendie Marriott, Deb Marshall, Lisa Marx, Nina Massey, Maria Mattson, John McConnochie, Albert McDonnell, Greg McLaughlin, Mindy Meyers, Rick Miller, Sergei Morosan, Cecily Morris, Barb Neal, Lori Neufeld, Gary Newman, Allan Nichols, Michael Orelove, Shelley Owens, John Palmes, Dan Pascussi, Barb Pavitt, Lucie Peckham, Susan Phillips, Ed Poullard, Kieran Poulson, Katie Pulito, Sanjay Pyare, Amy Randolph, Phil Reeves, Charlotte Robertson, Rick Romerein, Phoebe Rohrbacher, Kathleen Rushing, Gani Ruthellen, Mike Sakarias, Elisabeth Saya, Robert Sauerteig, George Schaaf, Ed Schoenfeld, Shoshanna Seligman, Doreen Shaw, Finn Sinclair, Sam Skaggs, Jonathon Smith, Genevieve Smith, Val Snyder, Steve Soenksen, Carol Tocco, Heather Tonga, Dennis Townsend, Nicole Tragis, Erin Tully, Joyce Waldman, Joanie Waller, Cedric Watson, Charmaine Weeks, Corin Whittemore, Steve Wilde, NeNe Wolfe, Riley Woodford, Brenda Wright, Abbie Zahasky.

And to all the musicians who played on and off the stage, all the light crew and technicians, all the vendors, all the K3 hosts and folks who recorded performers, all the people who helped in so many ways with the dance hall, all the Coffee & Jam folks, all the folks who helped with and participated in the Songwriters Showcase, and all the folks who became members of the Folk Festival. Thank you one and all.

Greg McLaughlin, AFF President

Thoughts on AFF Donations by Mike Sakarias

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Alaska Folk Festival evolved into a protracted discussion of the role of the Alaska Folk Festival in giving monetary support to events and groups.

I am not, presently, a member of the AFF board, so am not defending myself against criticism offered at the Annual Meeting. But, I have been involved with the AFF as a major volunteer since 1989, as a board member for all but two of those years, and as President for several of those.

I offered to the AFF Board that I would write up some of my thoughts on the Annual Meeting discussion and give some background.

First, from the Articles of Incorporation (with identical language in the Bylaws), the Purpose of the AFF:

The purpose of the corporation is to operate and perpetuate the Alaska Folk Festival and to maintain its traditions of free public admission and the encouragement of non-professional performers; and to do and engage in any and all lawful activities that may be incidental or reasonably necessary to the foregoing purpose.

A flexibly written Purpose.

Over the years, the AFF has been a member of the Anchorage Folk Festival (on and off), of KTOO (usually), of the JAHF (newly) and the Folk Alliance (just a couple years, a decade ago).

The AFF has helped the Juneau Contra Dancers (as has JIF), have been helping the Coffee and Jam (an event organized by the Juneau Contra Dances), donated money to the Pelican Boardwalk Boogie to get it started, donated money to the Dance Fest to get it going, and (after a lot more discussion), voted to donate in its second year. This year, we declined as we really want the Dance Fest to fly, on its own. We DO realize that the major product of the AFF, Inc it the Festival itself, but see these other events as part of the whole.

All of it was spent with the idea and intention of "perpetuating the AFF" by the "encouragement of non-professional performers."

I think it can be argued that a very strict interpretation of the "no donations to anyone" suggestion would not be a healthy thing for the AFF, long term. But, once you allow for some donations, it becomes a question of which ones?

Should the AFF be doing this? There is plenty of room for discussion on both sides. Are there legal

(Thoughts continued on page 4)

Gordon Bok
Sunday, Sept. 28
7:30pm
Ressurrection
Lutheran Church

Maine, maritime folk singer, Gordon Bok is coming to Juneau! Be sure to mark your calendar for Sept. 28.

Renowned for his rich, bass-baritone voice, Gordon sings of sailors and fishermen and the hardworking people he has known.

Accompanying himself on a 12 string or classical guitar he may also be joined by his harpist wife, Carol Rohl. This will be an evening not to be missed.



(Thoughts continued from page 3)

questions? Some think there are. Can this all be resolved in a one hour, once a year meeting of the interested parties during the Folk Festival? No. And, it certainly wasn't.

What are the essential ingredients for the annual Alaska Folk Festival? Money, musicians, volunteers and an audience -- and, critically, a volunteer subset -- people willing to work on the Board of Directors.

It is still the case that 70% of the cost of each AFF is paid for by memberships. It is still the case that one of the prime goals of the AFF is to provide a venue for amateur musicians to perform. It is still the case that without an appreciative audience the money would suffer, fewer people willing to donate money. And, volunteers are essential, too; there isn't enough money to pay people to do all the things that need doing.

And, there is that special subset of volunteers: the Board of Directors. I want to present on a few thoughts from my experience on the Board and as AFF president.

While, generally, non-board AFF folks realize that being an AFF board member is a lot of work, no one, unless you've been on the board, truly understands what that means, how much energy and time is actually involved.

The average number of terms for an AFF board member is one three-year term. More than a few board members have resigned after one year, or even before one year. Very few past board members volunteer much after they have been on the board. Very few run for second terms. And, a tiny handful run for a third or fourth term.

A three year term seems like a long commitment. But, during first year someone is on the board and helps with the Festival, most people are on a VERY steep learning curve. Their utility as a first year board member is hampered by inexperience. The second year a person is pretty useful, but still learning. But, it is only in the third year, that they actually know what they

are doing. Then, if they are one of the many board members, they do not run for re-election and all that experience leaves the board.

The AFF board, to operate best, needs a mixture of people with the institutional knowledge and experience (most easily acquired by helping the AFF happen, at the board level, for many years) and enthusiastic, new folks. A few board members have hung around for many years. Currently, Greg McLaughlin is the board member with the most experience, Though I am not on the board, currently, I am continuing to volunteer lots of hours. But, when Greg and I are 85, we're not going to be helping run the AFF, anymore. Who will take our places?

This brings me back to the Annual Meeting. "Thanks for a great Festival" is nice to hear, but it is very easily counterbalanced by getting chewed on for doing things that you felt were in the best interest of the Festival and its goals. Each year, we have a very hard time finding people willing to be members of the board. We are successful in money, memberships and in the mass of volunteers needed to do the work during the Festival, but not always successful in getting good people on the AFF on the board to work on organizing the whole thing. Constructive suggestions are one thing, but criticism at events like the Annual Meeting could well discourage people who otherwise might have been thinking, maybe running for the board, some year. Why voluntarily make yourself a target for criticism? Then again, maybe some of those folks with the strongest feelings about how the AFF should be run will step forward and help run it.

I want to see the AFF hit AFF50 and more. But, that is not a given. It will not happen without good people working on the board, carrying on the traditions.

