

Rhythm Bones Society
Presents

**BONES FEST
XXVII**

SEPT. 7-10, 2023



CAMPTON, NH

**CACOPHONY
IN CAMPTON**

Program

Welcome to Campton, NH and Bones Fest XXVII

We are glad you could make it up to Campton for a weekend of Music, Clicking and Clacking.

Every Bones Fest thus far has been an opportunity to learn, teach, make memories and make a lot of great musical manifestations. No doubt that will be the case again this year. But, of course, Bones Fest is really about meeting people, connecting with people, and having a common interest to center our festivities around. We would like to thank every attendee for putting in the effort to get here and for helping to make it another surprisingly well-attended fest. What an amazing gift the Rhythm Bones Society has been for all of us - we are glad to see the tradition continue!

This area has a lot to offer in the way of history, fun family attractions, and natural beauty. We hope you have a great Fest, and if you have any questions or need anything along the way, don't hesitate to be in touch: Jessye Bartlett – (603) 236-2654 or Sky Bartlett – (603) 991-8350.

Bones Fest XXVII Program

Primary Venue location:

The Dole Mill, 1249 NH Route 175, Campton, NH 03223

Thursday, September 7th:

7:00 PM – Reception at Fosters Boiler Room - 231 Main St, Plymouth, NH 03264 (appetizers included with registration)

Friday, September 8th:

9:00 AM – Breakfast (included with registration) - if you are staying at the Mountain Fare Inn, your breakfast is downstairs at the Inn (and breakfast starts as early as 7:30AM); everyone else, feel free to enjoy a basic continental breakfast at the Dole Mill at 9.

10:00 AM – Welcome & Announcements, Jamming at the Dole Mill

12:00 PM – Workshop Block 1

1:00 PM – Lunch on your own (suggestions provided!)

2:30 PM – Workshop Block 2

4:00 PM – FREE TIME or optional Mini Golf Tournament - sign up day of!

6:00 PM – Wood-fired earth oven pizza dinner (included with registration) & bonfire jamming - location is 414 Upper Mad River Rd., Thornton, NH 03285

Saturday, September 9th:

9:00 AM – Breakfast (included with registration) - if you are staying at the Mountain Fare Inn, your breakfast is downstairs at the Inn (and breakfast starts as early as 7:30AM); everyone else, feel free to enjoy a basic continental breakfast at the Dole Mill at 9.

10:00 AM – Bones Playing Excursion

1:00 PM - Catered lunch at Dole Mill (included with registration)

2:00 PM – Workshop Block 3 & Board Meeting

3:00 PM – Workshop Block 4

4:00 PM – General Membership Meeting and Group Picture!

5:00 PM – Dinner on your own (suggestions provided!)

6:30 PM – Doors open at concert venue for preparations

7:00 PM – Concert @ the Campton Historical Society - 529 NH Rte 175, Campton, NH 03223

Sunday, September 10th: Good-byes

(Continued on Next Page)

Places to Eat Within a 5 Minute Drive That We Recommend

Mad River Coffee House - 18 Six Flags Rd, Campton – open 6AM-6PM: This is hands down the best café in a 50 mile radius. Best coffee in town, and lots of great breakfast and lunch options.

Tartaglia's Pizza - 250 NH-49, Campton – open 3PM-9PM Fri & Sat: Wood-fired pizza prepared by a chef who studied her craft in Italy. We recommend the Osceola pizza.

The Little Red School House - 1994 US-3 West, Campton – open 11AM-8PM: Home to the Best Lobster Roll in NH for 2019 and 2020 (the A++ Roll to be exact!). Amazing views from the top deck in nice weather.

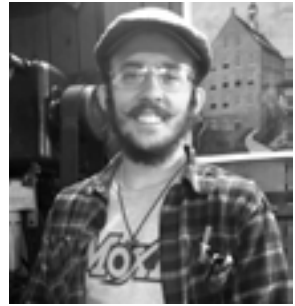
Exit28 Pizza – 25 Vintinner Rd, Campton – open 11AM-9PM: Very standard but yummy fare – got your pizzas, got your subs – this is the cheapest option

Panorama Six82 – 40 Clubhouse Ln, Thornton – open 11AM-10PM: Feeling a bit fancy? The main restaurant at the Owl's Nest Golf Course has you covered!

Covered Bridge Farm Table – 57 Blair Rd, Campton – open 11:30AM-9PM: A unique menu featuring "Fresh Fusion." A Farm to Table attitude infused with cuisines from around the world as well as traditional selections and old favorites. Gorgeous views of the Pemi River as you eat!

Attendee Biographies

John Archibald - Howdy, I'm John Archibald. I've been playing rhythm bones for 11 years. Ernie Duffy taught me at a square dance in Wentworth, and then he made and mailed me a full set! I've been hooked ever since.



I'm a knife maker, and all around tinkerer. I do blacksmithing, bladesmithing, machining, leatherwork, and I dabble with a few other mediums."

Michael Ballard - Michael Ballard - "I was introduced to rhythm bones at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire near Los Angeles in 1983. I've been playing on the stages and streets of the Faire ever since. Since then, I've played in pubs and parties and parades around Southern California and, sometimes, further afield.



I've taught rhythm bones, both one-on-one and in workshops almost from the beginning. Most notably, I was invited to teach at the California Traditional Music Society's annual Summer Solstice Folk Music Dance and Storytelling festival for more than 20 years.

Friend, dancer and multi-instrumentalist Molly Bennett told me about the Rhythm Bones Society and I signed up. My first Bones Fest was hosted by Steve Wixson (BFIV). I read through the list on the web site. I believe I've attended 12 Bones Fests so far."

Sky and Jessye Bartlett - I learned to play the bones from Ernie Duffy when I was thirteen. Ernie was gracious enough to take me around to all sorts of events where I had the opportunity to play, and eventually to Bones Fests. I met my wife, Jessye, at the Bones Fest in Alexandria, VA. She is an excellent fiddle player. We are very excited to be hosting this year's Bones Fest!



Steve and Jennifer Brown (Jeremy) -Steve Brown grew up playing drums and percussion highly influenced by his big brother Dennis. In 1978 his brother introduced



him to Percy Danforth and he began playing rhythm bones, playing them later led to making rhythm bones. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Rhythm Bones Society since its inception in 1999. He became the Assistant Director in 2002, and Executive Director in 2003. In 2003 and 2004 he won the All Ireland Bones Competition, and in 2016 he became the only non-Irish person to judge the senior competition.

Ron Bruschi (Marie) - Ron Bruschi has been dabbling in various forms of hand percussion as far back as he can remember. Three years ago while playing spoons, a minstrel banjo playing friend asked him if



he also played rhythm bones. He didn't, but, his wife Marie had recently bought him a set of Percy Danforth Bones (still his favorites). He started practicing and he's been playing them constantly ever since.

Ron and Marie have both been involved in traditional folk music and dance since the revival of the 1960's. They regularly teach several types of traditional folk dance: Cajun, Zydeco and Irish Sets (squares) in the Albany, NY area, including the Dance Flurry Festival Februarys in Saratoga Springs. They attended Bones Fests XX & XXI and enjoyed both the camaraderie and talent.

Jonathan Danforth - Jonathan, Melissa, and Emmett Danforth live in Westport, MA, near New Bedford where they hosted Bones Fest X. Jonathan learned to play the bones from his granddad when he was five or six years old, but didn't meet other bones players until he and Melissa met Steve Brown at NEFFA in 2001, and attended Bones FestV

that year. Jonathan likes to keep it simple on rhythm bones, and loves teaching the bones to beginners almost as much as playing them. He'll be happy to play a fiddle tune with you, too.



Ernie Duffy - I was born and raised in New Hampshire and live within a few hundred



yards from the home where I grew up. So, it was a rewarding experience for me to travel to many of the Bones Fests in other parts of the country. It is very exciting for me to have the Bones Fest in my home state this year so I can share the beauty of the White Mountains with my bones playing friends. I want to express my sincere appreciation to Sky and Jessye Bartlett for hosting it this year. They have worked hard to make it a fun filled few days. I'm

looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Skeffington Flynn - I got my first set of bones in 2009 and attended my first Bonesfest in 2010. I was welcomed with open arms from the very beginning, and I am still enthralled by the musical possibilities of our instrument. The Rhythm Bones Society has really helped me to develop as a player, and I cherish the many connections I have made as a result. I joined the Board in 2011, hosted Bonesfest 19 in Shepherdstown, WV in 2015, and I promise to do whatever I can to steward this amazing musical community as Executive Director. I look forward to engaging with you all in New Hampshire!



Bruno Giles -I have been playing rhythm bones for seven years, since buying my first set from Steve Brown at the New England Folk Festival (NEFFA). I enjoy playing harmonica along with rhythm bones and enjoy the playing of Dom Flemons and Hubby Jenkins. I was inspired to play by all the tremendous players of the Rhythm Bones Society, especially Steve Brown, the late



great Bill Vits, and of course, the happiest rhythm bones player in the world, Jeremy Brown.

Gerry Hines (Janet) - I was first exposed to rhythm bones by my grandfather who won many talent contests in the 1940s and 50s. I inherited the ebony bones he used. In 2010 I met up with “Johnny Bones” in Tombstone, AZ and he told me about the Rhythm Bones Society. I now play at several jam sessions and with the Silver King Minstrels in Tombstone. We play mostly the 1800s minstrel music up to about the 1920s which was the heyday of Tombstone. I took up harmonica trying to add a little something extra to the minstrels. Playing harmonica and rhythm bones together is usually a hit. I have a great time enjoying the music and entertaining the tourists, the majority of which have never seen a rhythm bones player.



Pascal Huynh - Pascal is from Montreal, Quebec. He first heard the rhythm bones being played at his local bar and was transfixed by the rattling. He now tries to teach the rhythm bones to as many Quebecers as possible so that the knowledge does not disappear!



Wally Jakubas - My name is Wally Jakubas, I live in Hampden, Maine and started playing the bones in 2022 after hearing a country music song that featured rhythm bones. I had never seen rhythm bones played before and pictured them being played like spoons. My wife bought me a pair for Christmas and I was quite surprised when I saw them. I decided to take up the challenge and learn how to play them, and have immensely enjoyed the experience. Although I enjoy all types of music, I particularly like playing along to New Orleans jazz. I am looking forward to meeting other rhythm bones players, hearing their stories, and learning new techniques.



Mary Gunderson King - I remember with great fondness the first Bones Fest that I was a part of in 2015 hosted by Skeffington Flynn



in Shepherdstown, WV. The joy of all the rhythm bones players was evident in their faces and in the music they created. Though I don't play the bones, it is a gift to make music with all who do, especially with Skeff. I play rhythm guitar and sing. Skeff and I have been making music together for twelve years. It's a joy to be with you all again!

Donald Joy - Been playing since 10 years old. Now 80. Looking to have fun.



Darryl 'Spike Bones' Muhrer - "My first performance was as Dr. Spike in



June 1978, and inspired by Percy Danforth from whom I learned to play rhythm bones, I soon changed my stage name to Spike Bones. I gather my performance 'vits' and pieces from the period 1840-1940, an era I call pre-TV entertainment. I have developed a lot of my character and material as a street performer in Chicago and New Orleans. Although I have played with a lot of Irish, Old-Time, Folk and Jazz bands, I consider myself as much a dancer

as a musician. A nineteen year old membership with RBS has provided me with great inspiration, friendships, and rhythm bones insight into the art and history of rhythm bones.

Trueman Muhrer-Irvin - Trueman is Spike Bones' son, and lives in Buffalo, NY. He plays the ukulele and rhythm bones too.



Roscoe Oswald - Roscoe made his first pair of rhythm bones in 2022 while living around old time fiddle players. He has assisted and taught music classes at John C. Campbell Folk School.



Jaqueline and Vicki Petroski - We are brand



brand new to the rhythm bones. While we were at the Contra Flurry Fest in Saratoga Spring NY, we attended a Rhythm Bones Workshop with Ron Brushci, which is where we learned about this Fest. We are very excited about joining in for our first rhythm bones weekend and being a part of this community!

Tim Reilly - I have been playing rhythm bones since 1988. I make rhythm bones and decorates them with scrimshaw, and have written an article for the Rhythm Bones Society on “Bones Playing at Sea.” I have taught rhythm bones playing at the Mystic Sea Music Festival in Mystic, Connecticut, several times and have been a rhythm bones instructor for the Williams/Mystic College’s semester there. I have recorded on several different CDs.



Dennis Riedesel - I was working as an extra and on the wardrobe crew on an “Alamo” movie set and saw my first bones player. Later, I saw another one at the San Antonio Folklife festival. I play many different kinds of instruments and here was a weird one that I knew nothing



about. I found a set of bones and an instruction book and tape from “Lark in the Morning” and ordered the set. I had to do a lot of driving so I used this time to learn to play with either hand and then when I was not driving I taught myself to play double bones.

I belong to a Civil War and Cowboy era music group called “Dr. E.T. Bushrod and the Tanner Family Medicine Show or “Col. Bushrod’s Tanner Family Wild West Extravaganza”. We usually play

what our fiddle player calls Authentic Americana Folk Music. Sometimes, when we are all together, I get to play bones with the “Sweet Song String Band”, and the “Next Generation String Band/No Foolin’ String Band”. Also, very occasionally, our fiddle player switches over to his primary instrument, the “Blues Guitar” and I get to groove along with him!

I was on an Alaskan Cruise and found a piece of Mammoth Ivory at one of the tourist traps. I now have a set of Mammoth Ivory Bones!!

Dean Robinson - Dean Robinson has been studying and playing Irish percussion and rhythm bones for the past five years. He has conducted and participated in rhythm bones workshops locally and in Ireland and competed in the All Ireland Bones Playing Championship in Abbeyfeale, Ireland in May, 2022. Robinson performs with the band Turas and also plays regularly at Irish music sessions in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.



Jim Runner - I learned to play rhythm bones from my grandfather, who used to jam with the radio, or play with my grandmother at the piano. I met Percy Danforth in the seventies, and bought some of his rhythm bones. At that time, he was the only rhythm bones player I had ever met other than my grandfather. I like to fit rhythm bones into a wide range of musical styles, but I also enjoy them as a portable solo instrument. I take them hiking, particularly in rocky canyons where the terrain influences the **echoes**.



Paul Sedgwick - Paul started playing the banjo in 1973 at the impressionable age of thirteen because he hoped to one day meet Elly May Clampett, fall in love, and get married. That didn't happen, but a lifelong passion for all things banjo did ensue, including the natural progression to playing rhythm bones. Paul makes rhythm bones in his home



studio, The Gourd Patch, in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts; and he plays banjo and rhythm bones in LEMONSHINERS, a Boston-based, American-aesque string band. He made the rhythm bones and the gourd banjo pictured in his photo.

Rebecca Shannon - I live in Northampton, Mass and play fiddle with the Fiddle Orchestra of Western Massachusetts and the Rocky Road Band. I've been to two Bones Fests in the past and am glad to be coming again!



Erin and Diane Sharkey - Two begin-



ner rhythm bones players ready to take on the world one tap and click at a time! Diane and Erin are ready to jam, smile and enjoy all the things while visiting New Hampshire from Rhode Island.

Bruce Strong - I started playing bones after attending Steven Brown's workshop at NEFFA some years ago. I play well enough to amuse myself and annoy my family.



Scott and Jill Volles - I (Scott) am a person interested in history, and would like to plan some interviews? I am on the road full time, traveling and exploring. I have some basic film and sound equipment, and I hope to do some Fest recordings and post them on YouTube.



Last summer Scott helped out and chronicled Bones Fest XXVI with beautiful photography. He joined in playing the whistle. This year he brings his wife.

Stan Von Hagen (Jean) - I got interested in playing rhythm bones



after hearing Carolina Chocolate Drop recordings. I have played guitar, banjo, dulcimer, auto harp in a local amateur folk group ‘Strings and Things’ (now disbanded). I was asked to demonstrate rhythm bones playing on a Grand Circle cruise ship show (see accompanying picture). I take my rhythm bones with me everywhere we visit to try to get others interested.

Greg White - Beginner Bones player living in Portland, Maine.



Steve Wixson - I am your Secretary/Treasurer and Editor of the



Rhythm Bones Player newsletter. I learned to play one handed from my butcher father and then, after finding Ev Cowett and attending Bones Fest II, I learned to play two handed. I love to research and write about rhythm bones, but I really love it when members renew their membership and research and write articles for

the newsletter.

Kenny Wolin - I’m currently on the RBS board and joined the Rhythm Bones Society in 2004. I also have been teaching the advanced Bones Fest workshops since that time. I first learned to play rhythm bones from Percy Danforth at the 1979 Michigan Percussion Festival. I’ve also been a percussionist and resident rhythm bones player with “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band since 1997, and have enjoyed many performance opportunities on rhythm bones throughout the United States, as well as at the White House with the Marine Band’s Celtic Ensemble. Prior to joining the Marine Band I was the percussionist with the Rhode Island Philharmonic, and attended Oberlin Conservatory (B.M.) and Univ. of Michigan School of Music (M.M.)



To recap what rhythm bones mean to me: I met my wife Teri at Bone Fest IX, I proposed to her on stage at Bones Fest XIII, we hosted Bones Fest XIV with a Bones Fest wedding (Tim Reilly was our Best Man). Teri and I have performed together as the Celtic/Maritime duo, The Mollyhawks at the Kennedy Center, and are working on our new Celtic Marimba/Guitar Duo, McCushla.



1060 Lower Brow Road
Signal Mountain, TN 37377