

Welcome

This is the first Bones Fest after the deaths of two of our founding members. Everett Cowett envisioned this organization, created it with the help of his daughter, Martha, and the internet, and nurtured it to grow through the early years. His bright smile and exuberant bone playing will be sorely missed. Joe Birl was a true gentleman, and one of rhythm bones' important entrepreneurs. He patented a plastic set of rhythm bones that have been played by most if not all players, and had an iconic photograph of Brother Bones playing his merchandise. Beyond his interest in selling bones, he was a tireless teacher, with an endless supply of stories. Join with us on Saturday morning as we celebrate the lives of Ev and Joe.

Welcome to Leominster, Massachusetts, home to Johnny Appleseed, and located almost in the direct center of the New England states. Jennifer and I lived in Leominster during our early years of marriage, and it was in Leominster, about 2 miles from the Unitarian Church, that I learned to play the bones, and began to inflict my new found obsession on the community.

It was 13 years ago that I attended my first Bones Fest in Chatsworth and experienced first hand the camaraderie and family atmosphere that they have become. I sincerely hope that your experience this week end lives up to all other Bones Fests!

When I sponsored Bones Fest V in 2001, I tried to implement a couple of twists to the event, partially because of my experience in the folk music community. It was the first Bones Fest to have a T-shirt, a program book, and to feature live music through out the week end.

This year, although I got a late start in organizing it, I also hope to bring a couple of twists to the event. Friday morning brings an op-

portunity to reach out to the community of Leominster and make connections at the Recreation Department Day Camps and at the Leominster Senior Center. I'm hoping we'll bring the bones to new faces and stir the memories of the bones to some of the older ones. Friday night sees a French Canadian night at the Franco Americans Veterans hall, and features Bob Goulet and his band Le Vent des Cantons as well as some local players from the French tradition. Saturday may see the first Bones "Flash Mob" ever performed! Standard features of Bones Fest will be workshops, our Saturday concert and the usual jamming.

Also the Bones Market Place will be a part of the Fest. If you have brought bones for sale, be sure and put them out - if you need table space, see me.

I couldn't begin to thank all the people who have given me support during this process. The ones who come immediately to mind: Steve Wixson without whose help and support it simply would not have been possible, Mellissa Danforth for designing the Fest graphic, Norm Conrad whose expertise in T-shirt production has been invaluable, First Church Unitarian including Rev. Sue, and Lenore Skully for their willingness to give us a location, The City of Leominster, in particular Lisa Marrone, Sue Cashman, and Mayor Mazzarella. My wife Jennifer who has put up with my obsession for playing bones for all of the 35 years I've been playing. Of course I know I've left people out, and I'm hoping you will accept my most sincere thanks for helping me in this endeavor.

Leominster is literally the place bone playing began for me, I hope Leominster is a place you will always connect to a great bone playing weekend! *Steve Brown*

Bones Fest XVII Program

Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA
and

First Church Unitarian, 15 West Street, Leominster, MA

Thursday August 8, 2013

3 PM Early bird gathering and organizing at the hotel

6:30 PM Performance on Leominster Tonight

7:30 PM Dinner and jamming at the Hotel

Friday August 9, 2013

8 AM Breakfast on you own

9 AM Meet at the hotel to prepare for Community Outreach

10 AM Doyle Filed Recreation Day Camp Performance

11 AM Performance at Leominster Senior Center

12 PM Lunch on your own

12:30 - 2 PM Board Meeting at the Hotel

3 PM Registration opens at Unitarian Church

4 PM Informal jamming and workshops

6:30 PM Gathering at Franco American Veterans Hall. 'Bone Along' with Paul Luria, French Fiddle Jam and Le Vent des Cantons

Saturday August 10, 2012

8 AM Breakfast on you own

9 AM Registration at Unitarian Church

9:30 AM Tribute to Everett Cowett and Joe Birl

10 AM - 12noon Workshops

12:30 PM Rhythm Bones Flash Mod and performance at Kimball Farm Lancaster

2 - 4 PM Workshops and jamming at the Unitarian Church
4 - 5:30 PM Jamming with Dave Reiner and JR at the Church
5:30 - 6:00 PM General Membership Meeting
6:00 - 7:00 PM Dinner
7:30 - 10 PM Saturday Night Performance

Sunday August 11, 2013

9:00 - 11AM - Breakfast Buffet at the Hotel (\$14.00) and Bon Voyage

Directions

Unitarian Church from the Hotel: The First Unitarian Church is located at the intersection of Rte 12 and West Street. From the Hotel, take Rte 12 South to the center of Leominster. In the center when you see the Post Office on the Right, take the second right onto West Street

Franco American Veterans Club from the Church: out of the parking lot turn left, and continue down west street, across route 12, where the street becomes Mechanic street, continue down Mechanic street for approximately one mile, to Ninth Street, turn left, continue for about two blocks to the intersection of Ninth and Water street, the club is cross the street at 300 Water Street, the hall is in the up stairs of the building.

Kimball Farm from the church: take route 12 north back toward the hotel, at the intersection of route 2 and 12, take route 2 east for about 4 miles to the exit of route 70, continue to end of exit, turn left on Route 70, Kimball Farm is about 2 miles on left hand side

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