

Welcome to Homer, NY and Bones Fest XX

Steve Brown put the idea of hosting a Bones Fest in my mind at Sunday breakfast in Shepherdstown. Driving home I gave it more thought. Where in the Cortland/Homer area could we have it? Did I have enough time to put the groundwork together as we were leaving for Arizona in mid-September? The Arts Center came to mind and the hotels at Rt. 81 Exit 11, etc. There is nothing like a deadline to make you move fast and it all fell into place right down to meeting with my graphic artist friend just before he moved to Seattle.

It is an honor for me to host this twentieth Bones Fest. Looking through the newsletter archives I realized how much I have missed of these bones family gatherings. Many of the originators of the RBS have passed on now, but their legacy continues. I hope that Bones Fest XX will celebrate that legacy and help continue it into the future.

This year's tee shirt logo was taken from a prophesy submitted at Bones Fest X by Jim Conner. He is a fellow bones player, banjo master and the writer of the song *Grandma's Feather Bed* made famous by John Denver. I contacted Jim earlier in the year trying to convince him to come here but his schedule puts him in another part of the country.

Homer was settled in the late 1700s and some of the homes on Main Street date back nearly that far. It was first settled by land grants to Revolutionary War soldiers. I hope you have scheduled time to explore the area. It is beautiful country. The Finger Lakes start just to the north of Homer and continue West with many wineries, micro breweries, boat excursions etc.

The venue for this year is a special place to me as it was my church for many years and also where I began getting into music. It brought me into guitar playing and singing. Just as bones playing has expanded into harmonica and performing at different events. What a change music has made for me. I am hoping that the events of this Bones Fest will give all of us a chance to learn and expand our talents. And along with that maybe we can pass that along to someone else.

Our Saturday night show will be a benefit for the Center for the Arts. They have been kind enough to let us use their facility free of charge. I hope we can put on a really great show and raise some money for them.

Enough words out of me. Have a rattling good time here in Central New York.

Gerry Hines (If you need help during the Fest, call me at 607-591-6993)

Bones Fest XX Program

Thursday August 4, 2016

7 PM Jamming in the London room at the Cortland Ramada Inn.

Friday August 5, 2016

9 AM Registration opens at the Community Room at Homer Center for the Arts. 72 South Main St., Homer, NY, Vendors can set up.

10:00 Workshop – Bill Vits, measuring with the metronome. Check your bonability [sic]

11:00 Workshop – Steve Brown: Exploring Irish tunes: Barn dances to Waltz's.

12 PM Lunch on your own

1:30 Group teaching at Lime Hollow Nature Center Day Camp. Another group to perform across the street at the Brewster House assisted living facility.

3:30 Approx? Open pass off/jamming and socializing in Community Room. Bones Marketplace

5:30 Casual supper at Community Room in Arts Center.

6:30 Special Event

7:30 To 9:00 or so - Rehearsal show with live band

9:30 To last call. Jamming in the London Room at the Ramada

Saturday August 6, 2016

9 AM Registration and jamming in the community room at the arts center. New vendors if any can set up.

10:00 Beginners bones class: Kenny Wolin and Tim Reilly shanty sing and jam

10:30 Teaching portion of beginner's class by Steve Brown + helpers

11:30 Several 5 minute slots by volunteers on improving your playing.

12 PM Lunch on your own

1:00 Board meeting in the green room at the arts center.

1:00 Open pass around, bring your favorite music

2:00 General membership meeting, film presentation of Jerry Mescher Tribute Video and Percy Danforth Remembered Highlights Video.

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- 4PM Cash bar at the Elks
4:30 Until 6:00. Dinner at the Homer Elks
7:00 Public performance and fund raiser for the Homer Center for the Arts. Any vendors that want to stay set up can display during intermission of the show.
10:00 Jamming in the London room at the Ramada

Sunday August 7, 2016

7AM – 10AM - Breakfast buffet at the hotel, then scatter

Bones Fest XX Local Directions

From Ramada Inn to Homer Center for the Arts: Turn right onto Rt.13 North ¼ mile and get on Rt. 81 North at Exit 11. Drive about 2 miles and get off at Exit 12 for Homer. Follow signs for Rt. 41 and Rt. 11 off ramp. At bottom of the ramp turn left. The Center for the Arts is a red brick church building on the left on the corner of Cayuga St and South Main. There is a parking lot behind the building as well as on street parking (Just pay attention to the signs.).

From Center for the Arts to Lime Hollow Day Camp: Turn left out of Center parking lot and follow Cayuga Street to traffic light at Rt.281. Turn left and follow Rt. 281 South approximately 5 miles to Mclean Rd (by Pall Trinity Factory) and turn right. Follow Mclean Rd. approximately 3 miles to Lime Hollow Nature Center on left. (338 McLean Road, Cortland, NY 13045)

Art Center to Brewster House: Cross South Main Street in front of Arts Center, turn left and proceed 200 yards. The Brewster House is on the right just past the fire station.

Arts Center to Homer Elks: Turn left out of Center parking lot. Follow Cayuga Street one block (If you cross the rail road tracks you went too far.) turn left on Cortland Street and follow it all the way to the end. The Elks is the building on the right across the parking lot.

Arts Center back to hotel: Turn right in front of Center on South Main. Go south and get on Rt. 81 South towards Binghamton. Get off at the next exit.



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