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January 2015
Newsletter

41st Annual
Alaska Folk Festival
April 6-12, 2015

APPLICATIONS FOR AFF 41 DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH - 5PM

We know you're as excited as we are for this year's festival, so here are the many different ways you can apply to be a part of the festivities:

1. Apply directly on our website by filling out an **online form**. Simple, fast, and saves trees.
2. **Download** our applications as PDFs from the website, print, fill it in, and mail it back to us.
3. Contact us by mail, phone, or email (info@akfolkfest.org) and request that we **mail you a paper application form**. We're happy to do so! Fill it out, and mail it back.

All performance applications are **due by February 27th, 5pm**. Workshop applications may be accepted past that deadline, but to give yourself the best chance at receiving a spot, the earlier you send it, the better.

When using the web form to apply, your submitted information will be immediately entered into our database and a confirmation email will be sent back to you with a PDF copy of your completed form. This is for your records only. You cannot make changes after you submit the form, so prepare your entries carefully ahead of time.

Every year some disappointed musicians discover that they waited too long to apply. Don't let this be you. **The DEADLINE is February 27th at 5pm** - in our hands, not just postmarked.

Main Stage Performance Application Deadline: Feb 27th

THE 41st ANNUAL ALASKA FOLK FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 6-12, 2015, AT JUNEAU'S CENTRAL PARK. Evening performances begin at 7:00 pm and afternoon performances begin at noon on Saturday and Sunday. Festival performers are scheduled according to space and availability. All sets are limited to 15 minutes, including set-up. There is no guarantee that all acts apply will perform. We strive to get as many different performers on stage as possible. Please, limit music only. Do not recommend music or other items. If you have special needs for your performance, please let us know when you apply. Completed applications must be received by the Alaska Folk Festival (P.O. Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska 99802) NO LATER THAN 5 PM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015. You have no email. Check Performance Page at http://akfolkfest.org for play-the-music schedule will be sent out to all applicants no later than March 6, 2015. This schedule will be your confirmation of a performance spot.

Type of performance (circle gear): Solo Congerive Instrument Other _____

Performance Group Name: _____

Short description for the 2015 festival program: _____

When did you last perform at AFF, if ever (year, day, set time)? _____

Please list the names of your group members with instrumentation. Large groups please provide separate list.

Name	Instrument	Name	Instrument

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Day Phone: _____ Site Phone: _____

Email: (print clearly) _____

Send my tentative schedule by email as soon as it is ready, rather than by postal mail.

CRISIS OUT does you an **UNAVAILABLE** The more you leave open, the greater your chances of being scheduled.

12 (12) 3 (12) 4 (12) 5 (12) 6 (12) 7 (12) 8 (12) 9 (12) 10 (12) 11 (12) 12 (12) 13 (12) 14 (12) 15 (12) 16 (12) 17 (12) 18 (12) 19 (12) 20 (12) 21 (12) 22 (12) 23 (12) 24 (12) 25 (12) 26 (12) 27 (12) 28 (12) 29 (12) 30 (12) 31 (12)

Signature Required

I hereby authorize the live broadcast of my performance at the 41st Annual Alaska Folk Festival over KQOO-TV during the week of April 6-12, 2015. I also authorize the use of my performance, both live and recorded, for distribution to the public over radio, television, and other media. I understand that KQOO-TV and the Alaska Folk Festival will not be able to provide monetary compensation for my performance, and that Alaska Folk Festival will not be held liable for any spot or other personal expenses.

Printed name of performer and group: _____ Signature: _____

(Thank you to all of our members for your continued support. We couldn't do it without you!)

We will review all applications the week after the deadline, and at that time put together a preliminary schedule. Once that schedule is finalized, the draft is sent out to all applicants via email no later than March 6th, 2015. This schedule is your confirmation that you have received a slot. If you have any questions concerning this process, feel free to email us at **info@akfolkfest.org**.

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

41st Annual Alaska Folk Festival, April 6-12, 2015

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Visa/Mastercard ONLY

Exp. Date _____ 3 digit security code: _____

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
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Signature: _____

Amount \$ _____

- Member (\$15—\$29)
- Sustaining Member (\$30—\$49)
- Friend (\$50—\$99)
- Patron (\$100—\$249)
- Benefactor (\$250 and above)

Please do not list my name in the program

All members receive AFF newsletters. Benefactors, Patrons, Friends, and Sustaining members will be listed in the Festival program (deadline: March 15, 2015). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, AK 99802.

Thank You!!

Contra Dance Schedule Up to Folk Fest All dances 7:30 - 11:00pm St. Ann's Parish Hall

5th & Gold
Juneaucontras.org

<u>Date</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Caller</u>
2/21	Full Circle	Odette Edgar
3/21	TBD	TBD

AFF Contact & Info Sources

Phone: 907-463-3316

Email: Info@AlaskaFolkFestival.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/AKFolkFest](https://www.facebook.com/AKFolkFest)

Twitter: @AK_FolkFest

Web Site: AKFolkFest.org

Legendary Alaskan old-time fiddler Doc South passed away this week.



© 2010 Skip Gray

One of the major figures in the old-time string band revival in Alaska, Doc South influenced generations of musicians. We know that through their music, his spirit will live on. All of our lives were better for knowing him. Our thoughts go out to all who were touched by Doc South's music and enthusiasm.

Gold Street Music—Next Date: 2/7

Remember to mark your calendar for the first Saturday of each month for Gold Street Music. Resurrection Lutheran Church at 740 W. 10th St in downtown Juneau at 7:30pm. \$5 at the door. Check the AFF website for updates or for more information you may call Elva 209-6517 or Frederick 523-6999.

Get ready to dance to:

Western Swing Music

1. Hold your partner's right hand with your left hand and partially extend your left arm leaving your elbow bent slightly. Position your right hand between shoulder blades at the center of her back.
2. Move your left foot behind your right foot and turn your body 30 degrees to the left on the first beat. This is called a "rock step."
3. Shift your weight onto your right foot and step down with it on the second beat.
4. Bring your left foot forward beside your right foot and shift all of your weight onto your left foot by stepping down with it to hold the third and fourth beats.
5. Shift your weight onto your right foot and step down to hold the fifth and sixth beats.

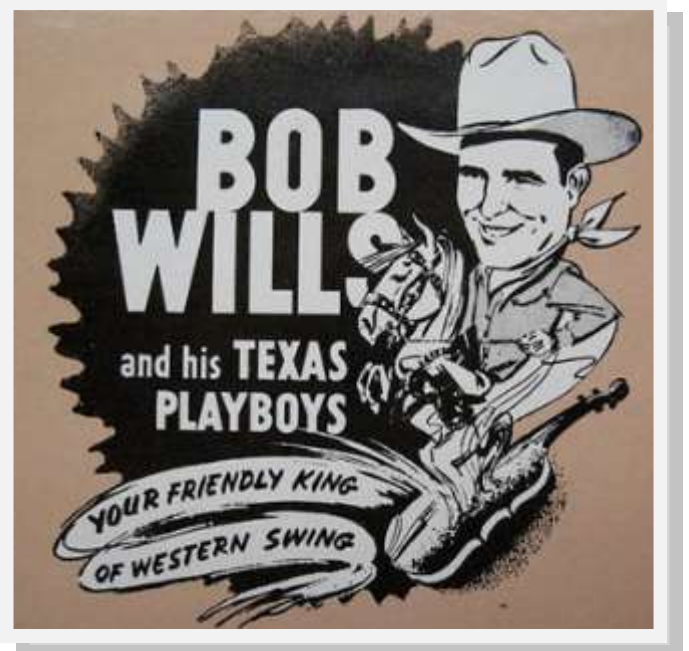
Beginning in the 1920s and 1930s, there was a lot of "swinging" going on in the big cities and small towns across America. The U.S. was not so homogeneous then and regional styles of music developed freely. Western swing dance music became a sub genre of American country music originating in the southern oil-rich states of Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. This new form of dance music was influenced by cowboy, blues, folk, dixieland, jazz and traditional southern string bands. The fiddle remained as the lead instrument and later the steel guitar was added for a distinctive sound. Musicians were largely self taught and they improvised frequently to the rhythmic drive of their fellow band members.

The popular music in urban America at this time was the horn-driven sound of white and black musicians in the big swing bands of Glen Miller, Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington. With the easy availability of phonograph records and transmissions from high powered radio stations, musicians of the southern plains would also be influenced by this sophisticated music. Western swing bands drew large crowds in the dance halls of San Antonio, Shreveport and Oklahoma City as well as small town clubs, house parties and ranch dances.

In 1929 country musician Carson Robison formed the Carson Robison Madcaps, a jazz dance band using reed and brass instruments. He then introduced new instruments to give the sound a western flavor such as finger picked banjo, fiddle, guitar and a strong syncopated drum beat. The 1932 hit song, "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)", gave big band dance music part of it's name.

In the early 1930s Bob Wills and Milton Brown cofounded the first professional western swing band in this genre and named it the Light Crust Doughboys. In 1933 Wills was

fired from the Doughboys and he then formed what was to become the most famous of the western swing bands, the Texas Playboys. This band from Waco, Texas utilized two fiddles, two guitars, banjo and drums with Leon McAuliffe on the steel guitar. They made many recordings during their years together, played live on the radio and performed nightly shows at Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa, Oklahoma between 1934 and 1943. Other well known western



swing bands of this era included Milton Brown and his Musical Brownies, Spade Cooley and his Orchestra, and Bill Boyd and the Cowboy Ramblers.

The term "Western Swing" as it applies to big western dance bands, became standardized in 1944 when Billboard Magazine announced the publication of Spade Cooley's

(Swing, cont.) songbook folio titled "Western Swing." This sheet music folio consisted of fifteen original swing tunes written by Cooley and Smokey Rodgers. The name stuck and from that time on the genre has been known as western swing.

Many definitions of western swing exist but according to the legendary guitarist Merle Travis (Alaska Folk Festival's first guest artist in 1977) "Western swing is nothing more than a group of talented country boys, unschooled in music, but playing how they feel, beating a solid two-four rhythm to the harmonies that buzz around their brains. When it escapes in all its musical glory, my friend, you have western swing."

Our 2015 guest artist The Byron Berline Band is out of Guthrie, Oklahoma and carries on the tradition of western swing music originating in that area. Byron often plays double fiddle with band member Greg Burgess that preserves the western swing element of harmonizing twin fiddles first started by the Milton Brown band. The Berline Band will be playing for one of the dances held during this year's festival and we encourage dancers to improvise just as the musicians have always done.

2015 Guest Caller

Ava Honey



Ava Honey happened up on old time music and square dancing long before she knew it. She was blessed to be influenced by her dear Aunt, Laurel Bliss. Then one day, she was struck right upside the head and caught the old time bug. That was 5

years ago and she hasn't stopped since. She calls monthly square dances in her hometown of Boise, Idaho as well as in the Great Pacific Northwest. She also loves to sing, play the guitar and write songs from time to time. She is always up for a good time and would be happy to show you how she can break an apple in half with her hands.

Annual Membership Meeting & Election

Our annual membership meeting will be held at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center (JACC), across the parking lot from Centennial Hall, at **5:00pm, Friday, April 10th, 2015**. Open to all current AFF members, this is your chance to contribute to the future of the festival by voting on board members and sharing your thoughts on the festival with the board. Free food and drinks will be provided.

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks to all of you for your support of the Alaska Folk Festival this past year. The Folk Festival Board is pleased to report that the festival is financially sound. What an amazing event! The coming folk festival will be the 41st and we have not missed a year. As always, your folk festival does not charge for any event and almost all work on the festival is done by volunteers. The \$50,000 that it costs to put on the festival comes from Alaska Folk Festival members and friends. Lets go for another 41 years.

You can also purchase 2015 program ads now for as little as \$75. Email Ads@AKFolkFest.org for more info.

Your Board

- **Erin Hanson**, President (exp **2015**)
- **Sergei Morosan**, Vice President (exp **2015**)
- **Bob Schroeder**, Treasurer (exp **2016**)
- **Rachel Brown** (exp **2016**)
- **Pat Henry** (exp **2017**)
- **Paul Disdier** (exp **2017**)
- **Mike Truax** (exp **2016**)

We're thrilled to announce that Mike Truax has kindly stepped up to serve on the AFF board in our vacant position, with a term expiring in 2016.

This year there will be two seats up for election. Sergei Morosan will be hanging up his board hat and Erin Hanson will be running again.

Feel free to join us for any and all meetings leading up the festival, we meet at 6pm at KTOO on the following dates:

Monday, February 2nd
Tuesday, February 24th
Tuesday, March 10th
Tuesday, March 17th
Tuesday, March 24th
Tuesday, March 31st