

Alaska Folk Festival, Inc.
P.O. Box 21748
Juneau, AK 99802

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Juneau, AK
Permit #194



"They just have so much energy!"

The Wilders are Back!!!

Juneau learned that first hand last spring when the Wilders came to town. They gave a great concert and are back to repeat the performance. They've already made a lot of friends & fans in town! Spread the word!

This often-heard quote accurately follows a performance by Kansas City's unique hillbilly stringband, The Wilders. This talented group, formed in 1996, is regularly regarded as "the band to see" wherever they go. Led by singer, guitarist and country wisecracker, Ike Sheldon, the band grounds itself firmly in the early formative years of recorded country music. Featured in each performance are the hard driving old time fiddle tunes presided over by multi-award-winning fiddler, Betse Ellis. Her infectious fiddling is often the cause of spontaneous dancing by both the audience and the band!

The Wilders' playlist is peppered with original country, bluegrass, hillbilly songs, and fiddle tunes, and also includes many of the classic country favorites heard in the early days of the Grand Ol' Opry radio show. Songs by Hall of Famers Jimmie Rogers, Roy Acuff and the Carter Family are presented in a faithful yet original light. Anchored by the insurgent walking bass lines of Nate Gawron, the band resurrects 1940's and 50's honky-tonk heroes like Hank Williams and Lefty Frizzell, providing each tune with all the swinging electricity found in the originals without plugging in a single instrument. The finishing touch for the band's sound is produced by the slippery dobro, chugging clawhammer banjo and plunky mandolin of jack-of-all-trades, Phil Wade. While Sheldon and Ellis handle the bulk of the vocal chores, the whole group can sometimes be heard harmonizing on a beautiful old gospel tune.

Witnessing a performance by The Wilders is an exciting experience not soon forgotten. The members huddle around a single microphone. When the time comes for a solo, each player moves with clockwork precision -- they are artists at making each instrument and vocal line mix perfectly through their posture and position in relation to the microphone.

There's plenty of unplanned humor as well. Never ones to take themselves too seriously, the band deals with the calamity of a string break or a high-humidity-detuned instrument in an often hilarious way. Because of this natural sense of humor and humility, smiling faces are a familiar sight at any Wilders show!

The band has burned up concerts and festivals across the nation and beyond, leaving delighted and exhausted crowds in their wake. They have made repeat appearances at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield Kansas, Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival in Ancramdale, New York, and debuted at such festivals as Wintergrass and Telluride in 2005.

In the summer of 2002, the band was featured with singer/songwriter IrisDeMent on Garrison Keillor's "Prairie Home Companion" on National Public Radio. The band performed live at the Kennedy Center in the summer of 2004, and the video of this performance is archived online.

In 2005, The Wilders were invited guests on Michael Jonathan's "Woodsongs Old-Time Radio Hour"; this show is also archived online. In addition, the band's recordings are regularly featured on numerous folk and bluegrass radio shows far and wide.

The Wilders are completely unique among bands playing old time country music. They know the importance of variety in their performances and always strive to give the crowd the best show they could ask for. They multiply their musical skills with a sheer will to give out the most energy they can - and they do it all with honesty and a genuine enthusiasm for the music. For those who like country music, and even for those who don't know they do yet, the Wilders' show is not to be missed!

The Wilders
Tuesday, June 12th
Centennial Hall • 7:30pm.
\$15 in advance , \$17 at the door

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

34th Annual Alaska Folk Festival: April 7 - 13, 2007



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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Visa MC Exp. Date: _____

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Signature: _____

All members receive the Festival newsletters. Benefactors, Patrons, Friends, and Sustaining Members will be listed in the Festival program (deadline: March 20, 2008). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, P.O. Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

Thank you!

President's Report

Another successful Alaska Folk Festival has past and it is time to rest up, learn new tunes, and hopefully enjoy some sun. Maybe it was the extra long winter and very slow start to spring that seemed to make everyone extra happy to see AFF 33 come around this year. What ever made so many of you join us this year we are know you were treated to some fabulous entertainment!

Kudos' to Greg McLaughlin, he arranged for the Carolina Chocolate Drops to be our guest artists. These young folks brought a new concept to the folk festival stage through their work of re-viving a musical style and tradition. The further successive generations get from the original players of folk music, the more important it will be that our young folks take it on. Take it on is what the Carolina Chocolate Drop's have done with remarkable skill and enthusiasm.

The down side of this year was the sad adjustment to see the Armory sit empty with our dancers heading up the hill on Thursday and Friday night. We hope that next year we can find another solution to our dance situation because dancing is a huge part of the festival. It just won't be the same without the Armory.

All in all, we all worked together to pull it off one more time! With all of your volunteer help, monetary support through memberships, and positive feedback we will be ready in the fall to launch AFF 34! Enjoy your summer!

Linda Frame, AFF Board President

AFF Board Members New and Moving On

First a huge welcome and thank you to Amy Randolph and Scott Burton our newest Board Members! Second, a sad farewell (sort of) to Maridon Boario, and Mike Sakarias our out going Board Members. Thank you profusely for the energy, time, and dedication you gave over the last several years to keep the festival going. Sort of because Mike has graciously agreed to keep the membership duties on a volunteer basis, and Maridon has already volunteered for tasks for next year!

Linda Frame, President (exp '09),

Terry Hoskinson, Secretary (exp '09),

Jamie Brown, Treasurer (exp '08),

Christine Hess, (exp '08), Greg McLaughlin, (exp '10)

Amy Randolph, (exp '10), Scott Burton, (exp '10)

Treasurer's Report

Pick your angle, but no matter how you look at it, this year's financial was hugely successful. We set a new record for the weekly gross of \$51,887. Our logo merchandise, which was organized by Christine, accounts for 70% of this income. Sales were so good that most of the items were sold out by the end of the festival. All the t-shirts and

mugs and items you bought will help keep the festival going for yet another year. The other 30% of the week's take comes mostly from memberships and donations. The great supporters of the folk festival come through again. And lets not forget our business supporters - Terry organized the program advertisements and also set a new record of over \$5000 of ad revenue. Since our fiscal year began on October 1, 2006, our year-to-date gross income is up to \$70,600. This compares quite favorably with last year's total income of \$68,100.

However this year's financial success is more attributable to lower costs than our improved income. This year we did not have to pay for the Armory and its insurance, nor nor did we bring in a guest caller. Also lower than last year were the guest artists costs and our costs for sound engineering. Despite this good news, it is still very expensive to put on our free festival. Here are some of our expenses: halls & security: \$11,400; logo merchandise: \$25,500 (we netted \$11,200); guest artists expenses: \$10,200; sound engineering \$4,000; festival programs \$2,900. Many smaller costs include printing, supplies, artwork, support services and many standard year round operating fees: PO Box, phone, web, postage, newsletters, storage, accounting, bank, and on and on. With a few bills still outstanding, we will probably have about \$8,000 we can take to the bank.

You, the great supporters, volunteers and performers of the folk festival made this happen, so we all better thank each other. It's your festival and you decided to make this great event happen one more time. See you next year. You did mark April 7-13, 2008 on your calendar already, didn't you?

Jamie Brown, AFF Treasurer

POSTER ART!!!

The time is now to begin your submission for the 34th Annual Alaska Folk Festival poster. Poster submissions should be sent through the mail, or hand delivered to a board member by October 15, 2007. We need the poster to be camera ready and include: 34th Annual Alaska Folk Festival, April 7 - April 13, 2008, Centennial Hall, Juneau Alaska. The chosen artist will receive compensation for their work and we retain the rights to use the image on our merchandise, advertisements and program during the 34th festival.