

# anchorage folk festival



August 2009

## Unsung Heroes of the Anchorage Folk Tradition....

Anchorage is blessed with many community-minded individuals who step up above their everyday concerns to help others in many different ways. Beginning with this issue of **NOTES**, Anchorage Folk Festival will present a series of interviews with folks whose extraordinary passion for the folk tradition is an important lever in building the spirit of our community.

Our first guest in the series is Richard Sanchis, proprietor of the two Arctic Road Runner family restaurants, where he has turned out some of the best and most interesting sandwiches, hamburgers, shakes, and other meals, for over 47 years.



**AFF:** Richard, you've been the host for the Creekside Bluegrass event at the Arctic Roadrunner in June for nine years, and you are now hosting a bluegrass jam once a month open to everyone to play or listen. How did you get interested in bluegrass music?

**RS:** I came from Chicago, and we had blues music, but I had never really listened to bluegrass. I was down on the Park Strip downtown not too many years ago, and there was a band playing. I stopped and listened and thought, "Hey these guys are pretty good." Afterwards, I met Ken Terry, the banjo player for the band, and got to talking with him and invited them to play down here at the restaurant by the Creek.

**AFF:** So you got to be good friends with Ken Terry, before he died in 2005?

**RS:** We were good friends. You know he worked so hard to help other people learn the music and make it popular. He was an awesome guy, and a great banjo player, too! That's his picture on the wall of the restaurant.

**AFF:** Why do you host the Creekside Bluegrass event every June?

**RS:** Well, we don't need help with food sales on Saturdays. We are plenty busy. No, It's my personal thing. I do it for the musicians; to help them get exposure. We set up a big stage by the creek with a big white tent and we advertise it as a family event, so people can come and bring kids without worrying about drugs and alcohol. It's a one-day mini-fest, with music from 2 to 9 PM. We get 100's of people coming through. We had to cancel this year, though. I had eye surgery in June, and my doctor wanted me to sit still. I knew I couldn't do that with the music going on. So next year will be the 10th year.

**AFF:** What about the open bluegrass jams on the third Monday every month?

**RS:** That jam session has been going on for over 2 years. . We do it on Monday evening [7 to 9] so there are plenty of places to park. I give each player a couple tickets for cheeseburgers and coke. It's a public place for fellowship among the musicians. Everybody is welcome. Its good to see young people as

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P.O. Box 243034  
Anchorage, AK 99524-3034

well as older novices learning from the more experienced players. We've had visitors come to the jam from remote parts of Alaska, and even from Outside – there was a man from Idaho who came for the bluegrass jam.

**AFF: Do you do other community events?**

**RS:** Well, for over 30 years, we've had Senior Day once a month. The seniors come between 3 and 5 o'clock on a Wednesday, and pay a small fee to help themselves to meals and drinks. We serve 200 to 400 people in 2 hours. It's a good chance for seniors to get out and socialize - make new friends and visit old ones. Sometimes we have entertainment, as well.

**AFF: What do you like about the Anchorage Folk Festival?**

**RS:** The festival gives a lot of young talented people opportunities to play. It's a great service to the community and the state. I can spend the whole weekend there. What I enjoy is having a steady stream of entertainment; every 15 minutes, the entertainment changes. Sometimes you are kind of glad for the change; other times you wish the singer or group would stay on longer. And the guest artists – that Cajun band you had last year [2008 – the Savoy Family Band] – they were awesome!

**AFF: Is there anything you'd like to tell the readers of Anchorage Folk Festival Newsletter?**

**RS:** You know, churches exist because they have a core of members that ensures the church will continue. Long-standing businesses are that way because they have long-time customers. The Folk Festival continues because of people that really care about up and coming musicians. If you didn't have members supporting the Festival, you'd be out-of-business. Many volunteers donate their time throughout the year for the festival to take place. I'd like to thank the members, the contributors, and the entertainers for their participation going into the 21st year of the Anchorage Folk Festival.

### We'll Miss you Nora!

**W**e bid a fond farewell to Nora Dornan. Nora was an effervescent contributor to the Folk Festival holding such jobs as Board Member, Board President, Stage Manager, etc, etc, etc. She has moved Outside to be nearer to her biological family and we wish her the best. Her Folk Festival family will miss her.

## LOGO COMPETITION

IMAGINE  
YOUR  
ORIGINAL  
DESIGN ON  
TEE SHIRTS,  
POSTERS,



AND STAGE DECOR AT THE  
**21ST ANNUAL ANCHORAGE  
FOLK FESTIVAL.**

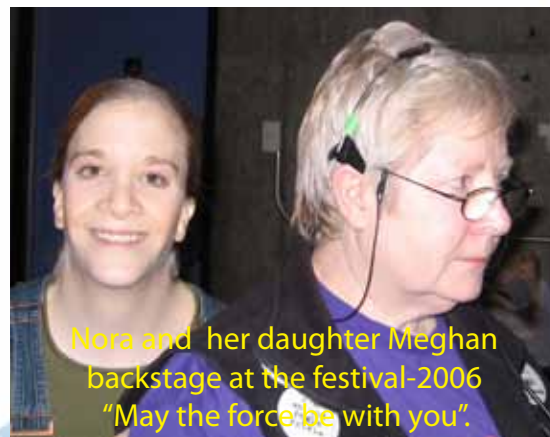
Submit your original CAMERA READY  
artwork by

**October 1, 2009**

in JPEG format to

**folks@anchoragefolkfestival.org**  
or mail hardcopy to P.O. Box 243034  
Anch. 99524-3034. Include your full  
name and Phone no. Submissions will  
not be returned and must be suitable  
for reproduction on tee shirts, posters  
and stage decoration.

**CREATIVE ARTISTS  
SUPPORT YOUR  
FESTIVAL**



Nora and her daughter Meghan  
backstage at the festival-2006  
"May the force be with you".

## INTRODUCING THE GUEST ARTISTS FOR THE 21ST ANCHORAGE FOLK FESTIVAL...JANUARY 21-31, 2010



**B**rother Mule in concert is a musical conversation between three of America's most gifted acoustic musicians. The bandmates share the spotlight in a three-ringed circus of extraordinary talent and variety. Brian Wicklund ignites the stage with his fiery fiddling, Ben Winship plays tasty mandolin as he croons one of his finely crafted songs, while Eric Thorin pushes the boundaries of bass playing as an extreme sport. Their debut recording, Big Twang, earned them the Indie Music Award's Best Americana CD of 2005. It's a showcase of original and traditional vocals and instrumentals spanning genres of swing, old time, Celtic, old country and acoustic funk. Based in Victor, Idaho.

[www.brothermule.com](http://www.brothermule.com)

**S**weet Sunny South is an acoustic old timey string band that plays a unique blend of new and traditional music. Based in Paonia, Colorado, the band has been making a name for itself at festivals and theaters throughout the region for the past 8 years and received invitations to perform as an official showcase band for both the IBMA and The Folk Alliance in 2006. The group was featured as one of Colorado's "Movers and Shakers" in Denver's Westword magazine.

Sweet Sunny South represents the traditional music of greats such as The Stanley Brothers and The Carter Family at the same time drawing influences from more contemporary bands such as The Freighthoppers, The Wilders and The Reeltime Travelers.

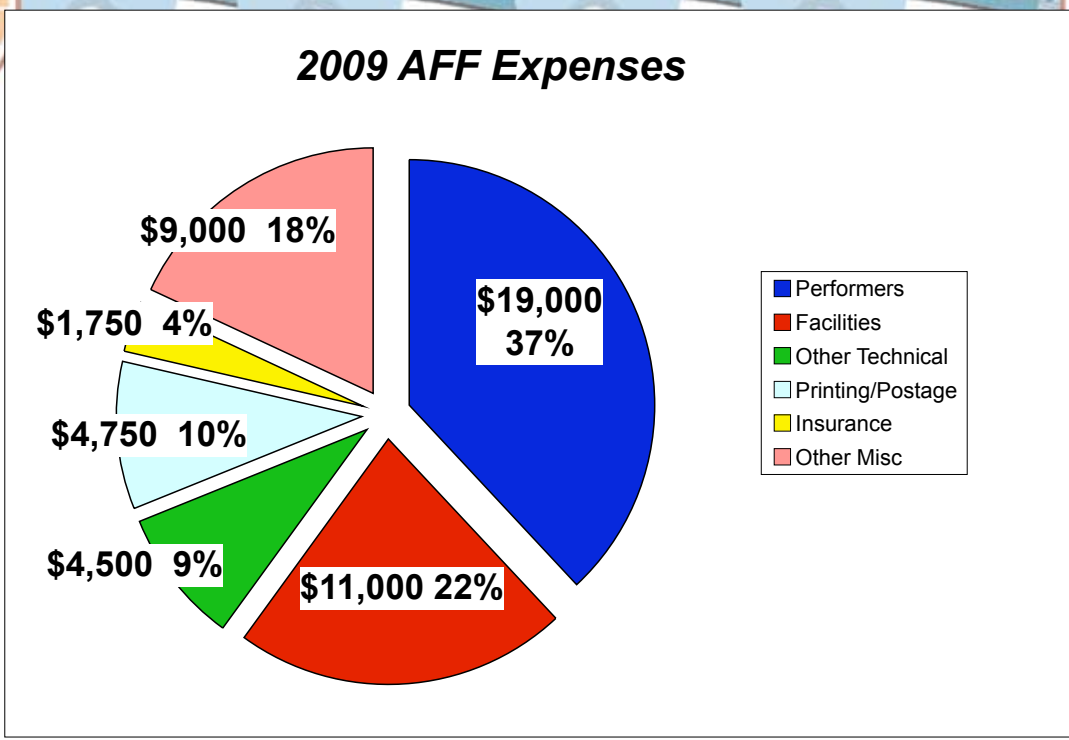
Audiences can expect a highly entertaining stage show featuring rollicking fiddle tunes, soulful ballads, tight vocal harmonies and an exceptional array of original songs combined with a heavy dose of humor that keeps the crowd smiling. They have recorded 4 unique and entertaining CDs which are receiving heavy airplay across the country. Transport yourself back to the glory days of the Grand Ole Opry and experience Sweet Sunny South presenting their style of old time music you won't soon forget!

[www.sweetsunnysouth.com](http://www.sweetsunnysouth.com)



[www.anchoragefolkfestival.org](http://www.anchoragefolkfestival.org)

### 2009 AFF Expenses



"Most people don't realize what it takes to produce a 'Free' festival. Your contribution is essential to ensuring that the festival goes on!!"

#### Board of Directors 2009-2010

- Brett Jokela (President)
- Pat Noah (Vice President)
- George Knight (Secretary)
- Tom Torvie (Treasurer)
- Jerry George
- Caitlin Hopper
- Rhea McDonald (Dance coordinator)
- Marianne See
- Pete Wikoff

#### Coming Attractions...

- Arctic Roadrunner Bluegrass Jam - 3rd Mon. monthly
- Paddle Boat Cafe Jam - Tuesday Evenings
- Irish Music/Dance - Middle Way Cafe Tuesday Evenings
- First Friday Sessions at Suzi's Woolies
- Anchorage Downtown Markets
- Anderson Bluegrass Festival - July 31-Aug 2
- Galway Days on G street - August 1
- AK Traditional Music Camp - August 4 - 8
- Sutton Blugrass Festival - Nov 13 - Dec 6

**21st Annual Anchorage Folk Festival**  
**January 21 - 31, 2010**  
**Brother Mule**  
**Sweet Sunny South**

### Anchorage Folk Festival Membership Opportunity Form

Handclapper \$25	Step Dancer \$50	Troubadour \$100
Barn Dancer \$250	Folk Hero \$500	Major Sponsor \$1000
New Membership or Membership Renewal		

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS MAKE IT HAPPEN!!!**

Name		Clip and return with payment to: Anchorage Folk Festival P.O. Box 243034 Anchorage Ak 99524-3034
Address		
Phone #s		
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The Anchorage Folk Festival Inc. is a non-profit organization with 501 (c)(3) status. Your Donation may be tax deductible, depending on guidelines and limitations set by the Internal Revenue Service. Our IRS tax# is 92-0142926.