



August 2026 Newsletter

Jam Calendar

NEW! EAST by Orange Hat Taproom

Every Monday at 7 PM

Boyd's Jig and Reel

Every Tuesday at 6:30PM

For Weather or Holiday Cancellation Info, Call Boyd's At 865-247-7066

City of Knoxville Parking Website

Stadium events affect parking in the Old City

Laurel Theater

Thursday, August 13th at 7PM

Weather or Holiday Cancellations Will Be Posted on knoxvilleoldtime.org.

Music History

John L. "Uncle Bunt" Stephens

From Middle Tennessee, he is known as the winner of the 1926 national fiddle competition sponsored by automobile magnate Henry Ford.

But wait - was there ever a national contest?

Uncle Bunt said there was, but as with most things, there's more to the story.

"Sail Away Lady" was Uncle Bunt's signature tune, and the one he played to impress Henry Ford. This should remind us to never underestimate the power of a simple tune performed well.

Uncle Bunt's claim of "National Fiddle Champion" should remind us of the importance of a good story told well.



Old Time Happenings In August

Updates will be added on the Calendar Page as they are received.

6/29-Aug 2 Appalachian String Band Festival
Clifftop, WV

3-8 90th Annual Old Fiddlers' Convention
Galax, VA

Boyd's Jig & Reel

22 Jenny & the Weazels

9/4 Evie Andrus Band

These are events with an Old Time connection.

Please consult venues for confirmation and lots more events.

Laurel Theater has free [parking options](#)

East TN History Fair August 15th

This day-long celebration will take place in and around the East Tennessee History Center in downtown Knoxville and will include regional historic/cultural organizations, living history demonstrations, live music, crafts, film screenings, and children's activities. The theme will center around our nation's Semiquincentennial. The Laurel Theater is helping program the performance stage where Joseph Decosimo, Bobby Fulcher, and more will perform. There will be a square dance and an Old Time jam. More details on the ETHS website.



Live Music Is The Best!

We all know it is - but why is live music more captivating than a recording? Researchers call this phenomenon "phase locking." Watch this [video short about how our brains process live music](#). If you want an ultra deep dive, the results of [the study cited in the video](#)

"demonstrate that live music strengthens dynamical responses to musical rhythm within the brain, which provides a candidate neural basis for the widespread appeal of live music and theories of social bonding through music."

Dance



The Laurel Theater Square Dance

Live music with Lincoln Park String Band. No partner needed.

Beginners Welcome!

Tuesday, August 25th at 7 PM



Knoxville Contra Dance

Laurel Theater. Every Monday at 7:30PM.

Live music, dances taught. No partner required.

Worth A Listen

"Active listening is the cornerstone of musicianship"

How about some Old Time music? Here's some you might enjoy:

[The Mostly Mountain Boys \(2013\)](#)

Paul Brown, John Schwab, Terri McMurray

[Haas, Marshall, Walsh EP \(2016\)](#)

Brittany Haas, Owen Marshall, Joe K. Walsh

[The East Texas Serenaders](#)

1927-1937 (Spotify)

[Dykes Magic City Trio \(1927\)](#)

From Kingsport, TN!

Full playlist - 22 videos

[Gid Tanner and his Skillet Lickers](#)

1924- 1940s

620 videos!

[The Ruslifters \(2018\)](#)

The Onlies + John Herrmann & Meredith McIntosh

The Onlies

[You Climb The Mountain \(2025\)](#)

[The Onlies \(2020\)](#)

[Peach Bottom Creek \(3/2026\)](#)

Mitch Depew

[Old Time 100 Vol. 3 \(4/2026\)](#)

George Jackson & Tristan Scroggins

[Golden Shoals](#)

Amy Alvey & Mark Kilianski

[June Appal Recordings just released 65+ albums to Bandcamp](#)

June Appal was established in 1974 in Eastern Kentucky to record and distribute the music and stories of accomplished central Appalachian artists.

Contact/More From The Editor

It's Always Time For Old Time →