

## [The Bluegrass Association of Southern California](#)

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### Board of Directors

Harley Tarlitz  
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## [Rocky Neck Bluegrass Band](#) to Perform at BASC Bluegrass Night at the Braemar

Tuesday, November 16, 2010  
[Braemar Country Club](#)  
4001 Reseda Bl. Tarzana 91356  
6:30 to 9:00 PM

Southern California-based Rocky Neck Bluegrass Band features Devitt Feeley (mandolin, guitar, vocals) Lydia Veilleux (fiddle, vocals), and Craig Ferguson (guitar, dobro, vocals).



Devitt Feeley, Lydia Veilleux, and Craig Ferguson

Though formed in early 2009, the band's members have a long list of experience and credits including: Fox TV's "Next Great American Band," Stagecoach Music Festival, Strawberry Bluegrass Festival, Huck Finn Bluegrass Festival, as well as the Colorado River, Blythe, Parker, Logandale, and Yuma bluegrass festivals. In 2009 the band won the Topanga Banjo and Fiddle 'Band' Contest.

Each member of the band has been active in the music industry for some time. Devitt Feeley has composed

music for nationwide TV commercials. Craig Ferguson has done session guitar work for CBS, Discovery Channel, and Lifetime Movie Network. In 2003, Lydia played in a string section for Michael Brecker and Charlie Hayden at Carnegie Hall.

Their debut CD was recorded at an elevation of approx. 6,700 feet in a

1920's cabin in Big Bear. On breaks during recording, the band often passed out peanuts to the waiting squirrels on the porch. The CD was mastered by legendary bluegrass engineer Billy Wolf who has worked with artists

such as The Bluegrass Album Band, The David Grisman Quintet, and Blue Highway.

Admission to the BASC Bluegrass Night at the Braemar is \$5.00, which includes coffee, tea, and soft drinks. \$19.00 admission also includes the world famous Braemar Country Club pasta bar which opens at 6:15 PM. Bar service is available. There is ample seating and safe and secure free parking. Advance reservations suggested. Call Harley Tarlitz at (818) 221-4680.

## Jams Around Town

### The BASC Jam in the Park

[CTMS Center for Folk Music](#)  
Encino Park  
11953 Ventura Blvd.  
Encino, CA 91316  
4th Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00 PM  
Jeff Fleck 310-390-4391

### The Soup Jam

3240 Industry Dr,  
Signal Hill, CA  
Tuesdays 7:00 PM  
Don Rowan 562-883-0573

### The New Westside Jam

[Industry & Jazz Cafe](#)  
6039 Washington Blvd.  
Culver City, CA  
1st Monday 7:30 PM  
Jeff Fleck 310-390-4391

### The Altadena Jam

Coffee Gallery  
2029 N. Lake  
Altadena, CA  
2nd Sunday 12:30 PM  
Dave Naiditch  
[french10@pacbell.net](mailto:french10@pacbell.net)

### Orange County Archery

18792 Brookhurst St.  
Fountain Valley CA  
1st & 3rd Thursday, 6 PM  
Shelah Spiegel  
(714) 454-1976

### Viva Cantina

900 Riverside Drive  
Burbank CA 91506  
3rd Monday  
Clinic: 6-7 PM Jam: 7-10 PM  
Matt Merritt (818) 669-9778

### Zoey's Cafe

185 E. Santa Clara St.  
Ventura CA 93001  
2nd and 4th Tuesdays  
6:00 to 10:00 PM  
Gene Rubin  
805-340-2270

### Editor

Jeff Fleck  
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*All comments, suggestions,  
and submissions will be gladly  
considered.*

# The Man Behind the Board

-- by Jeff Fleck

At our October 28th BASC concert with Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out and Lonesome Otis at the Rancho Cordillera del Norte in Northridge, I had the opportunity once again to work with IIIrd Tyme Out sound man, Donnie Carver. When I say "work with," what I really mean is watching like a hawk as he twiddled and tweaked the knobs and

levers on the sound board, and asking a bunch of stupid questions, to which he was always ready with patient, enlightening replies.

Donnie has been the full-time audio technician for IIIrd Tyme Out since 1996. He travels with the band to all its

concerts and gigs, takes his turn riding shotgun on the bus, and handles whatever sound equipment a venue may throw his way. He is considered such an integral part of the band that the IIIrd Tyme Out website includes his biography along with those of the other band members. Those who attended the concert know why. The sound he produces for the band is so natural, pure and pristine that even in a large hall it sounds as though you are listening to the boys play in your own living room.

All of which got me thinking about the role of the sound man in Bluegrass. We all know that the sound man is the guy that no one pays any attention to until something goes wrong. If everything sounds good, you may forget he's even there. But if something goes wrong -- the singer can't be heard, the banjo is too loud or too soft, or a squeal of feedback pierces the collective ear drum -- then everyone somehow instinctively knows who to blame. So what does the sound man actually do, and how does he do it (most of the time)?

Now the ideal way to hear live Bluegrass music would be to stand (or sit) ten to twenty feet away from a good band playing without a sound system. Get any farther than that and the sound dissipates and the mix falls apart. Acoustic instruments were just not designed to project at great distances. So the task of the Bluegrass sound man is to amplify the sound put out by the  
*(continued on page 3)*

Photo by Harley Tarlitz



Donnie Carver and Jeff Fleck at the sound board

## Member Bands

[2 Frets Lower](#)

[Border Radio](#)

[The Brombies](#)

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[The Get Down Boys](#)

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[Lonesome Otis](#)

[Sometimes in Tune](#)

[Stagerobbers](#)

[The Statmen](#)

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[Wimberley](#)

[Bluegrass Band](#)

## Teachers

### Bill Knopf

5-String Banjo Instructor. All styles. Over forty years instructing. 818-891-2533 or [billknopf@billknopf.com](mailto:billknopf@billknopf.com)

### Bill Purcell

Lessons in Banjo, all levels, in the Riverside/Inland Empire area. 951-353-1664

### Shelah Spiegel

Fiddle lesson in her home in Fountain Valley (Orange County). Also available to judge fiddle contests. 714-962-5083 or [ifiddler@yahoo.com](mailto:ifiddler@yahoo.com)

## Behind the Board (cont.)

band so it can be heard by many people over a large area, and at the same time preserve as nearly as possible the natural sound of the instruments and voices.

So here's the paradox: To preserve the natural sound, the Bluegrass sound man must use unnatural means.

Those unnatural means are the sound system that transforms sound waves in the air produced by musical instruments and voices into electrical signals (microphones), subjects those signals to

Photo by Bill Purcell



Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out at Rancho Cordillera del Norte

several stages of amplification (mic preamp, sound board, power amplifier), and then turns the signals back into sound waves (loudspeakers) that travel through the air to the ears of the listeners. Now all of these steps tend to change or color the sound, so to make the finished product seem natural, more unnatural means -- equalizers, high pass filters, gates, limiters, compressors, etc. -- might be put into play.

Now most forms of commercial music make a virtue out of necessity, using (or misusing) these electrical gadgets to make sounds formerly unknown to mortal man. With the flowering of digital technology, the dizzying number of new sounds, or "effects," goes way beyond the Fender reverb amps and fuzz boxes some of us remember from the days of good old Rock 'n Roll.

Bluegrass sound men, on the other hand, still use the analogue and digital tools at their disposal to try to preserve a natural acoustic sound. And in spite of the digital explosion, it turns out that for Bluegrass, at least, less is more. So a Bluegrass sound man like Donnie Carver will use as few tools as necessary to get the job done, and the adjustments he makes will almost always be minimal.

*(continued on page 4)*

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## Behind the Board (cont.)

So what tools does Donnie use to get that crystal clear sound for IIIrd Tyme Out? He adjusts the *gain structure* (the distribution of amplification between the three steps mentioned earlier;) he uses the EQ to make minimal but precise adjustments to a limited number of *frequencies*; he *mixes* the

Photo by Harley Tarlitz



Lonesome Otis at Rancho Cordillera del Norte

voices and instruments into a pleasing ensemble using the channel sliders on the sound board that control the volume of each microphone. Three tools. That's it. Okay, he may use *reverb* and perhaps a bit of *compression* in special

circumstances, but that wasn't the case at our concert.

So next time you're at a Bluegrass concert and things sound good, it's probably because the sound man is not doing too much. Which is usually just the right amount for Bluegrass.

## Thanks!

BASC extends a special thank-you to [Elizabeth Waldo](#), composer, violinist, songwriter, producer, conductor, and our gracious host at our October 28th IIIrd Tyme Out concert at Rancho Cordillera del Norte. Located at the corner of Nordhoff and Wilbur Ave. in Northridge, the rancho has been described as "a pastoral getaway in the middle of an urban desert."

BASC is looking forward to staging more great Bluegrass events there.



The New Mission Theatre at Rancho Cordillera del Norte in Northridge

# BÉLA FLECK & THE FLECKTONES



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# About BASC

BASC is dedicated to the support and promotion of Bluegrass music at all levels.

We support Bluegrass at the amateur level with our monthly Jam in the Park. We provide a showcase for the best local Bluegrass bands at our monthly BASC Night at the Braemar.

We build interest in Bluegrass by bringing some of the best national bands to Southern California, including such artists as J.D. Crowe, Laurie Lewis, IIIrd Tyme Out, James King, and The Special Consensus.

Most importantly, we provide a place where people who want to get connected to Bluegrass as pickers, as listeners, as volunteers or organizers - can get together and meet people who share their love of this great music.

## Don't Miss the BASC Jam in the Park

Sunday, November 28th, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

On the fourth Sunday of every month pickers from far and wide are gathering at the [CTMS Center for Folk Music](#) in Encino Park for what is becoming one of Southern California's premier Bluegrass events -- the BASC Jam in the Park. With plenty of room -- inside the Center or outside on the grass if the weather is nice -- this jam is for pickers of all skills and experience. Don't be surprised if you find three or four jams going on when you arrive. Just pick the one that fits you best and join in. The jam goes from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Snacks and drinks (and BASC tee shirts) will be on sale.

Encino Park  
16953 Ventura Blvd.  
Encino, CA 91316

[Click Here for Map](#)

### Yes, I would like to join BASC and support Southern California Bluegrass

#### One-Year Membership

Individual \$20.00

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