

## November 2009 Newsletter

36th Annual  
Alaska Folk Festival  
April 5-11, 2010

### 2010 AFF Guest Artist - Guy Davis

**Guy Davis** is a blues guitarist and banjo player, actor, and musician.

Davis taught himself the guitar and learned by listening to and watching other musicians. One night on a train from Boston to New York he picked up finger picking from a nine-fingered guitar player. His first exposure to the blues was at a summer camp in Vermont run by Pete Seeger's brother John Seeger, where he learned how to play the 5-string banjo.

Throughout his career, he has dedicated himself to reviving the traditions of acoustic blues and bringing them to as many ears as possible. His influences are as varied as the days. Musically, he enjoyed such great blues musicians as Blind Willie McTell, Skip James, Manse Lipscomb, Mississippi John Hurt, Elizabeth Cotton, and Buddy Guy, among others. It was through Taj Mahal that he found his way to the old time blues. He also loved such diverse musicians as Fats Waller and Harry Belafonte.

Easily the proudest recording project Guy's been involved with is the one produced by his friend Larry Long, called "I Will Be Your Friend: Songs and Activities for Young Peacemakers", in which Guy contributes the title track. It's a CD collection of enriching songs combined together with a teacher's aid kit to help teach diversity and understanding. It is all part of the national "Teaching Tolerance" campaign and continues to be distributed by the Southern Poverty Law Center, and sent to every public school in the country to help combat hatred.

And speaking of children's projects, Guy wrote a couple songs and recorded with Dr. John for Whoopi Goldberg's "Littleburg" series, and appeared and sang in "Jack's Big Show", both for the Nickelodeon network, "Nick, Jr". Guy has also done residency programs for the Lincoln Center Institute, the Kennedy Center, the State Theatre in New Jersey, and works with "Young Audiences of NJ".

We are honored to have Guy Davis as our Guest Artist for the 36th Annual Alaska Folk Festival.



#### AFF News Items:

- **Sergei Morosan** has agreed to fill out the term vacated by Naomi Radditz. The board heartily welcomes Sergei.
- **Treasury Update:** the final numbers from our recent festival show a profit of \$11671.71, one of our best years ever.
- The Sept 25 **Peggy Seeger** concert was very successful. 157 tickets were sold and AFF pulled ahead by \$490.
- **All past festival printed programs** are now available for viewing on our web site. Look in the left column under history.

# Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

36th Annual Alaska Folk Festival: April 5-11, 2010



Amount \$ _____
___ Member (\$15 - \$29)
___ Sustaining Member (\$30 - \$49)
___ Friend (\$50 - \$99)
___ Patron (\$100 - \$249)
___ Benefactor (\$250 and above)
<input type="checkbox"/> Please do not list my name in the program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Visa or Mastercard ONLY

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CSC (3 digit security code): \_\_\_\_\_

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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 15, 2010). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska 99802. Thank You!

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## November 2009 Newsletter

### 2010 AFF Guest Dance Band - The Tallboys



Based in Seattle, Washington, **The Tallboys** are a four piece old time string band well-versed in traditional fiddle tunes and mountain songs. They stay honest to their traditional inspirations, yet charge up their sound with a raw edge of gritty enthusiasm conjured from their years of street performing. The Tallboys consistently deliver exciting stage performances and hard-driving dance tunes.

Talented vocalists, The Tallboys all share the singing, and their harmonies create a beautifully authentic old time sound. The instrumental line-up begins with **Joe Fulton**, from Iowa, who has been playing since boyhood. His impressive fiddling leads the melody. **Charlie Beck**, from Indiana, plays both clawhammer and three-finger style banjo and brings over a decade of musical experience to the band. He is also a talented songwriter, creating several original compositions. Longtime musician **John Hurd**, from Oregon, lays down that driving bass foundation

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essential to The Tallboys' rhythm. **Charmaine Slaven**, from Montana, fills out the sound with solid rhythm guitar and is one of the finest buck dancers on the west coast. She also has the unique ability to dance and play guitar simultaneously. Together, they blend the attributes of each instrument and vocalist, creating a cohesive sound.

Performing since 2003, they have released four albums, with "Rubber Dolly" being the most recent. The Tallboys have received outstanding reviews and press from many well-respected authorities in the music industry. The band has received continuously increasing airplay nationwide, and has recently been featured on Puget Sound Public Radio KUOW 94.9FM and KBCS 91.3FM Community Radio. The Tallboys have been featured at numerous music festivals including the NW Folklife Festival, String Summit (winners of the 2004 band contest), Pickathon Roots Music Festival, Portland Old Time Gathering, San Francisco Bluegrass & Old Time Festival, Berkeley Old Time Convention, Bainbridge Bluegrass Festival, Fremont Solstice Fair, and many others.

A grassroots independent band, The Tallboys have strong ties to the community, and donate several annual performances for local nonprofit fund raising events. Additionally, they have been instrumental in developing Seattle's local old time music community by organizing a monthly square dance at the Tractor Tavern, a weekly old-time jam at Conor Byrne Pub, and non-profit community resource website, [www.oldtimeseattle.com](http://www.oldtimeseattle.com).

#### AFF Contacts & Info Sources

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