

NORTH CAROLINA THUMB & FINGER STYLE GUITAR PLAYERS INC.



Thumb Pickers' News



A publication of the North Carolina Thumb and Finger Style Guitar Players Inc.

Founded 1999 to preserve the thumb and finger style of guitar playing

VOL 11, ISSUE 9 AUG. 2007

President's Corner



Hello, Hope things are going well for everyone and all of you are picking a lot, that certainly has been the case for me. As you can see from the newsletter, we have a

good line-up this year so I hope you and your family and friends plan to be with us. I am sure there will be more in the line-up as time nears, so get ready to play a lot and learn a lot at the workshops. Also, Eddy Pennington will be with us this year, one great Travis-style picker and a great fellow to go along with, so we are in for a treat "Travis style"—ha. In closing, thanks to each of you who attend the convention which in turn supports Mitchell Community College. I look forward to seeing you November 9-10, 2007.

Clay
NCTAF

2008 Convention Performers November 9 and 10

Jeff Little

Jeff Little is a musician, steeped in the tradition of his native Blue Ridge Mountains, yet he is also a virtuosic and eclectic innovator. Jeff's involvement with fiddle tunes, old time country, and rockabilly dates to his growing up in Boone, North Carolina, where his father, owned a music shop.



Jeff started playing at the age of five and has played professionally since the age of fourteen. His lead solos much influenced by the flat-pick guitar tradition, are breathtaking in their speed, precision, and clarity. An astounding performer, with a mouth-rack harmonica and vocals he can also be a one man show. Jeff has taken his traditional roots to tour around the world. We welcome him as a performer at this year's convention.

Bob Saxton

Bob Saxton is the winner of the prestigious Merle Travis National Thumbpicking Championship.

Bob has had the honor to play with Merle Travis and has some of this playing on cassette that money can't buy.



He has been lead guitarist for Gene Vincent, who performed "Be Bop a Lula." He has also performed with Bobby Gentry and was a guest star with Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey. Bob also had the blessing of performing with Patsy Cline.

Bob has been blessed by God to perform with some of the mightiest, greatest guitarists on the face of the earth. He is respected by all for his gentle nature and infinite guitar capabilities.

Richard Smith

Richard Smith was born in Beckenham, Kent, England. At the age of five, Richard was watching his father fingerpick



"Down South Blues" (an Atkins-Travis recording) on his guitar. Richard begged his dad to show him how to play it. Despite the fact that Richard is left-handed and his dad's right-handed guitar was not designed for tiny hands, by the end of the day, Richard learned and played both the chords and the melody. Within no time, the toddler outstripped his dad's six-string prowess and it was clear to all who saw or heard him play that Richard was a child prodigy. Both Chet Atkins and Jerry Reed refer to Richard as their "Hero." Richard married the lovely and very accomplished American cellist Julie Adams and settled in the Nashville, Tennessee area. When they play together, it'll melt your heart—and blow your socks off!

Julie Adams

Julie is one of the most diverse cellists on the music scene today. Classically trained at the Cincinnati Conservatory, she has won many competitions and played in a



wide variety of musical settings. Julie branched into folk music, playing a significant role on Glenn and Holly Yarborough's album, "Family Portrait" where she worked with producer and well-known finger style guitarist, Muriel Anderson. Julie and Muriel then worked together as a duet, and have toured extensively throughout the United States. They released a CD together titled "Theme for Two Friends." Julie recorded her first album with her husband, English guitarist Richard Smith, "Living Out a Dream." Audiences in the U.S. and around the world delight in the eclectic mix of Julie's lyrical style and Richard's flawless technique. They are truly soul mates—in life and in music!

Eddie Pennington

Eddie Pennington is widely recognized among his peers as one of the greatest living thumbstyle guitarists. In venues throughout the United States and Europe, he has kept alive the sound popularized by Kentucky native Merle Travis in the 1940s. Because of his ability to adapt well-known tunes to the alternating bass rhythms that characterize "Travis pickin'," Eddie's performances have generated renewed interest in this challenging art form.



On stage, Eddie mixes his music with generous helpings of Travis stories and down-home humor, occasionally tossing in observances peppered with his humble, unpretentious wit. Much like a storyteller draws his listener into another time and place, Eddie transports his audiences to the days of the old coal-mining towns with traditional Travis songs like "Nine-Pound Hammer."

Eddie's love of the guitar—and his love of live performance—brings to life the rich musical traditions of western Kentucky, making him and entertainer appealing to all ages all over the world.

CLIP & MAIL TODAY

Member name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Membership is \$20 per year. For more information, please write to the North Carolina Thumb and Finger Style Guitar Players, Inc. at P. O. Box 222, Union Grove, NC 28689. Visit the Web site at www.nctaf.com or call Mitchell Community College at 704.878.4321.

Send your completed form to North Carolina Thumb & Finger Style Guitar Players, Inc., PO Box 222, Union Grove, NC 28689

2007 Convention: \$55 convention fee includes \$35 for registration and \$20 for the North Carolina Thumb and Finger Style Guitar Players membership for 2007-2008. Total convention fee includes all events for the convention for the member, spouse, and children under 12 years of age. Members will receive a newsletter twice each year. Daily admission for the convention for non-members is \$25 per person, which includes all convention seminars and events.

The North Carolina Thumb and Finger Style Guitar Players Inc.

Ninth Annual Convention

Friday, November 9 and Saturday, November 10, 2007

at Mitchell Community College

500 West Broad Street, Statesville, NC 28677-5264

704.878.4321 • www.mitchellcc.edu

Nightly concerts, daily seminars, open mic and other functions
held on the Mitchell Community College Main Campus
featuring



Julie Adams



Jeff Little



Clay Lunsford



Eddie Pennington



Bob Saxton



Richard Smith

Convention registration begins at 12 noon on Friday, November 9 with workshops and jam sessions at 2 p.m. Friday evening's program begins at 6:30 p.m. featuring the 2007 Convention artists.

Saturday's session begins at 10 a.m. with an open forum with 15-minute segments for finger pickers who would like to perform. Qualified finger pickers will conduct workshops throughout the day. Master guitarists will conduct our featured workshops. Saturday evening's program will begin at 7 p.m.

The North Carolina Thumb and Finger Style Guitar Players, Inc.

- Founded in 1999 to help preserve the heritage of thumb and finger-style guitar playing.
- Fosters thumb and finger-style guitar through public presentation of this style guitar playing.
- Membership is \$20 per year.

For further information contact Vicki Holland at vholland@mitchellcc.edu or 704.878.4321.

Clay Lunsford, President

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OR

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Room accommodations at the Econo Lodge, 740 Sullivan Road, Interstate 40 Exit 151, Statesville, N.C.

Call the Econo Lodge at 704.872.4101 to reserve your room.

If you like world class finger pickin', you will want to attend the 2007 Convention!

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