



Winter 2017/2018



Photo's by Peggy Brisbane

# quarter NOTES

*A Tonic For Modern Gfts!*

## Festival 'ICE' Story

*as told by Mark Rames*

Ken Brandt and I (Mark Rames) attended Wheatland for the first time in 1979 when we decided to have a fundraiser for the Saginaw Valley Food Co-op. From that first year and through 1989 it was Ken and I who carried the bulk of the food booth load. During those early years of no electricity, keeping our food and beverages cold was a challenge and as the years went on, it became even more of a frustrating challenge. This is when the twinkle of an idea of ice on site took hold.

Now many folks thought and probably still do think that Ken and I worked for the ice company and went around to other festivals doing this. But the truth is, Wheatland is the only festival we ever sold ice at. We did it in the beginning for selfish reasons, to avoid going on ice hunts. Once the ice genie was out of the box though, there was no going back and we both knew it. We recognized that the benefits of ice on site were far reaching, saving festival goers from the ice hunts, benefits to the food vendors and even benefits to the WMO. After 1989, our only job at Wheatland was to make sure you all had ice and at as cheap of a price as we could sell it. It was never about making money although it WAS about not losing money. We also donated a lot of ice, including all ice used by the WMO from 1995 up through present, a total of 24 tons donated of which 15 tons went to Wheatland.

I plopped down a \$500 deposit and a tiny little party store trailer was brought in to which was attached a sign stating "Open for 30 Minutes Every 4 Hours". On that first day of ice on site, at the

appointed time to open, I asked Ken if he'd give me a hand. You KNOW Ken's response, "Sure", Ken to my knowledge would never turn down anyone who needed help and little did I know at the time just how much help he was going to be. We wandered off to the trailer in day parking and were stopped in our tracks upon seeing a line that must have been a quarter mile long snaking through day parking. Ken looked at me and said "Someone's going to be disappointed" as we both knew there were fewer than 100 bags of ice in that tiny trailer.

Ten minutes later, after telling people we were out of ice but that more would be on the way, Ken went back to the food booth and I to my car, not to find ice but to call the ice company for a delivery. As it turned out, the O'Dell truck had just gotten to Mt. Pleasant for their normal run and they diverted the truck to Wheatland. Ken and I met them in day parking and that long line never went anywhere but instead, shuffled behind the big truck and as fast as the ice came off the truck we sold it for \$1 per bag, until the entire truck was empty.

That was it, Ken was just as much the ice man as myself from that day on. Ken was a dedicated hard working man. He never once missed a festival no matter how he felt. He even came with kidney stones one year and I'll be damned if he didn't fight through them all weekend long. Ken was enjoyable to be around, irreverent as one can be but the crowd knew he was joking and loved him to pieces. He would work from morning until dusk and never complain, got tired yes, but he knew what needed to



Mark Rames and Ken Brandt

be done. In the late 90's, the ice company forced us off small trailers and into semi-trailers and this increased our work load ten-fold, we tried to protest but they were having none of it.

Around 2014, we started talking about how we were both getting too old for the amount of work required at the ice truck and we needed to retire. We started it as young men in our 30's and now we were both in our 60's. We were actually having trouble finding replacements but my son-in-law Jason stepped up with one of his cousins and beginning in 2016, we started the handoff of the keys to the ice trucks. It takes a special kind of friend to make a decision to do something every year, damned be the weather or sickness, and to do it for 28 years but Ken was always there.

Ken never came to the festival in 2017, Anna said he wasn't feeling well. We lost Ken too early, about a month later and he will forever be missed, not only by me but by his Wheatland family as well.

Rest in Peace Buddy, I miss you already.

# Wheat Futures '18

## January

Tuesday, January 9

Board of Directors Meeting  
Classroom Building, 7pm

Saturday, January 13

Wheatscouts  
Classroom Building, 11am-1pm

WMO Jamboree

The Cabin, 2-5pm

Winter Wheat 9

The Intersection, Grand Rapids  
1pm-1am (Jan 14)

Saturday, January 27

Traditional Squares, Reels & Contrabass Dance  
w/Scarlet Runner Band, calling by Mark Baumann  
\$5 for 18+, under 18 Free  
The Classroom Building, 7-10pm

## February

Saturday, February 10

Wheatscouts  
Classroom Building, 11am-1pm  
WMO Jamboree  
The Cabin, 2-5pm  
Quackgrass/Costabella/WMO Reunion  
Classroom Building, 5pm-7pm

Sunday, February 18

Open Clogging  
Classroom Building, 1-3pm

Saturday, February 24

Traditional Squares, Reels & Contrabass Dance  
w/Rhythm Billies, calling by Polly  
\$5 for 18+, under 18 Free  
Classroom Building, 7-10pm

## March

Saturday, March 10

Wheatscouts  
Classroom Building, 11am-1pm  
WMO Jamboree  
The Cabin, 2-5pm

Tuesday, March 13

Board of Directors Meeting  
Classroom Building, 7pm

Saturday, March 24

Traditional Squares, Reels & Contrabass Dance  
w/Tinkers Folly, guest callers  
6:15 Potluck and youth performance  
\$5 for 18+, under 18 Free  
French-Canadian Voyaguer dances led by Wally  
\$5 for 18+, under 18 Free  
Classroom Building, 6:15-10pm

## April

Monday, April 2

45th Annual Wheatland Music Festival tickets  
go on sale to Paid Members.  
Call 989-967-8879 or 989-967-8561 between 9am  
& 3pm to order

Tuesday, April 10

Board of Directors Meeting  
Classroom Building, 7pm

Saturday, April 14

Wheatscouts  
Classroom Building, 11am-1pm  
WMO Jamboree  
The Cabin, 2-5pm

Monday, April 23

Volunteer sign up for Campgrounds and Day  
Parking - begins at 9am.

Saturday, April 28

Traditional Squares, Reels & Contrabass Dance  
w/Hawks and Owls String Band,  
calling by Thom & Karin  
\$5 for 18+, under 18 Free  
Classroom Building, 7-10pm

Wheatland Music Organization Presents

Winter Wheat 2018

Saturday, January 13, 2018

1:00pm – 1am (Jan 14)

A Celebration of Traditional Music and Dance

## Traditional Dances

January 27

Traditional Squares, Reels & Contrabass Dance  
w/Scarlet Runner String Band, calling by Mark  
Baumann

February 24

Traditional Squares, Reels & Contrabass Dance  
w/Rhythm Billies, calling by Polly

March 24

Traditional Squares, Reels & Contrabass Dance  
w/Tinkers Folly, guest callers  
6:15 Potluck and youth performance  
French-Canadian Voyaguer dances led by Wally

April 28

Traditional Squares, Reels & Contrabass Dance  
w/Hawks and Owls String Band, calling by Thom  
& Karin

*All dances on Saturdays from 7-10pm  
in the Classroom Building  
\$5 admission, under 18 free*

*No experience needed, all dances taught  
Come with or without a partner*

*Snacks to share are welcome – Coffee provided  
7251 50th Ave., Remus, MI 49340*

*989-967-8879*

2018 Volunteer Training Dates:

May 19, 2018

August 4, 2018

## WHEATLAND FESTIVAL GENERAL 2018 TICKET PRICING INFORMATION

2018 Festival ticket ages are as follows:

Under 5 = Free

Age 5-12 = Child's Ticket

Age 13-59 = Adult Ticket

Age 60 and up = Senior Ticket

As always, first come first serve camping is included  
in the price of your ticket.

Festival tickets for 2018 will be sold in tiers. The  
number of tickets that will be sold in each tier will  
not be announced. Ticket prices for 2018 are under  
board consideration at this time and will be an-  
nounced at a later date.

The following are the dates for 2018 ticket sales:

April 2 – April 30 -- SALES TO PAID MEMBERS ONLY

Tier 1 – May 1 to May 31

Tier 2 – June 1-June 30

Tier 3 - July 1 until sold out

June and July tiers will each have a price increase  
and July will be not include a member price.

### MAIN STAGE:

1:40 - 3:00 Jake Kershaw  
3:20 - 4:40 Michigan Mafia String Band  
5:00 - 6:20 Luke Warm *and the Not So Hots*  
6:40 - 8:00 Jimmie Stagger  
8:20 - 9:40 K Jones and the Benzie Playboys  
10:00 - 11:20 Joshua Davis Trio  
11:40 - 1:00 Gasoline Gypsies *with Native Howl*

### TRADITIONAL STAGE:

1:20 - 3:00 Open Jam *hosted by*  
*Blue Water Ramblers*  
3:20 - 4:40 Peat in the Creel  
5:00 - 5:30 Bruce Gartner's CD Release Party  
5:30 - 6:50 The Palooka Brothers  
7:10 - 8:10 Drive South  
8:30 - 9:50 The Journeymen  
10:10 - 11:30 Josh Rose *and the Founding Fathers*

*The mission of the Wheatland Music Organization is to serve as a regional resource center for the preservation and presentation of traditional music and arts.*

## Wheatland Music Organization

P.O. Box 22, Remus, MI 49340

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