

# NEWS FROM THE HOOT

Making music in Jackson Hole  
since 1993



Welcome to the first issue of the Jackson Hole Hootennany Newsletter. Our goal is to provide the latest news about the Hoot, including upcoming events, musician profiles and venue information. Your input is always welcome. Please email us at [jhhootnews@gmail.com](mailto:jhhootnews@gmail.com)

## In this issue

- The Hoot kicks off with a one-time show at the Pink Garter Nov. 27
- A tribute to the late Hank Phibbs

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## Hoot Comes Early This Year

Lovers of the Jackson Hole Hootenanny get an early holiday present this month when the Hoot kicks off its winter season with a one-time show at The Pink Garter Theater on Monday, Nov. 27.

A week later, the Hoot will return to its wintertime home at the Silver Dollar Showroom, with weekly shows through March.

The Pink Garter event is the result of a collaboration between the Hootenanny board and local playwright and impresario Andrew Munz. His new nonprofit, Tumbleweed Creative Arts, is dedicated to supporting local artists, giving them a space to perform and create on the Pink Garter Stage. Munz initiated talks on the collaboration; other joint events with the Hoot community may eventually follow.

This early season Hoot will follow the traditional format, with signups beginning at 5 pm and music from 6 to 9 p.m.

The only change will be a \$5 cover charge for audience members, but performers will enjoy free admission. Pizza and beverages will be available for purchase, but no outside food and drink will be allowed.



## A Hootenanny Tribute to Hank Phibbs



### **By Matt Montagne**

As most of you know, Hootenanny stalwart Hank Phibbs passed away on Oct. 4 at age 79.

With his lean frame, white hair and well-pressed clothing, Hank cut a classic figure when he took the stage year after year.

When he began playing at the Hoot more than 30 years ago, Hank played guitar, but later took up the Dobro, which became his signature instrument. He loved accompanying others any time he was asked, and was particularly happy adding the Dobro's unique sound to his favorite

tunes, including “Glendale Train” by The New Riders of the Purple Sage, and John Prine’s “Paradise.” In fact, he earned the nickname “Schwing” for his dramatic slides up and down the Dobro’s neck.

But his contributions to the Hoot were more encompassing than his musical chops. As a frequent master of ceremonies, he was always a welcoming presence at the Hoot while reminding attendees of the importance of not talking, “so everyone can enjoy listening to the music in a quiet concert-like setting”. And as a long-time Hoot board member, he was instrumental in organizing the highlight of the Hoot season, the annual concert at The Center for the Arts.

In addition to playing faithfully at the Hoot for more than three decades, Hank shared his music at local picnics, fund raisers and other gatherings, playing with many friends like John Cooke and John Carney.

Some of my fondest musical memories involve playing with Hank on our favorite tunes, including Wabash Cannonball, Wildwood Flower, Red Wing and St Anne’s Reel. Perhaps our favorite tune together was Yellowstone Winds, which we last played at Dan Thomasma’s Memorial in July.

But Hank’s greatest contribution to the region was his dedication to community service. A prominent attorney, he focused on land-related issues, including a long-time advocacy for the concept of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as a way to look at the issues facing the communities within and surrounding the Yellowstone area.

Later, Hank put his talents and interests into serving the community as a Teton County Commissioner.

We thank Leslie, his wife of nearly 50 years, for “lending” Hank to the Hoot and the broader Jackson Hole musical community. Leslie, may our fondness and admiration for Hank bring some comfort to you.

And Hank, thanks to you for your leadership, welcoming spirit, dedication, encouragement and mentorship. We miss you as a

companion and dear friend. Your music remains with us, and may our music drift your way.