

## October Electronic Folk Talk Addendum

### ***A Folk e-Talk Special***

*For those of you who missed this year's TMF, a few words from Hank Cramer and Hawkeye Herman, some of my favorite performers.*

Harry {doc} Babad

### **Hank Cramer's Words From Near and Far**

Hank Cramer here. I just had ANOTHER fun Tumbleweed weekend, and am happy to report that I have yet to miss a single Tumbleweed from its beginning. It's a great folk festival -- one of the very best, in my opinion -- and I'm always glad to be a part of it.



I thought I was going to miss it for the first time this year. I've been a soldier most of my life, 14 years in the Regular Army, 14 in the Reserve. America's Army is stretched so thin in the war against terrorism that I volunteered for duty last year, figuring that under the circumstances they could use even a geezer like me. During the spring I served as an Assistant Professor in the ROTC Department at University of Washington, training soon-to-be lieutenants. I was then offered a position as a senior adviser to the Afghan National Army. I was able to fit in one last concert, the Lewis & Clark Bluegrass Festival at Sacagawea Park, and headed for Kabul on June 30. The job there was challenging and fulfilling: helping rebuild a country from the devastation left by the Taliban and the Soviets, and forming a new army which will answer to an elected government, not to the tribal warlords. The tour of duty was scheduled for one year, meaning I would miss Tumbleweed, Folklife, and a whole lot of other events I've come to take for granted.

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In one of life's "Good News-Bad News" episodes, I was injured in late July by a spike that penetrated my right boot. It didn't look like much at first, but a staph infection grew so quickly that I was medevac'd from Bagram Air Base to Landstuhl Army Hospital in Germany (an 11-hour flight in a C-17 over Russia ...who'd have imagined THAT 20 years ago). It will be quite a while before this heals, so after release I was sent home to recuperate for a couple of months. I will return to Afghanistan, but not till I'm completely healed. That created an opportunity for me to come attend Tumbleweed as a spectator, but unfortunately the deadline to apply was long past. More "Good News/Bad News": a couple of scheduled acts canceled, so 3RFS offered me the opportunity to perform and lead a workshop. I was thrilled NOT

to miss a Tumbleweed after all! I had a blast as both a performer and a listener, and was able to form an impromptu band with good friends like Robby Thran, Lori Brogoitti, Mike and Val James, Kurt Mesford, and David Rea.



I've been to a lot of folk festivals, and Tumbleweed is truly one of the best in America. It's big enough to bring in some really fine performers, yet small enough that you can rub elbows with everyone involved. There's always an opportunity to park yourself under a shade tree and pick some tunes with musicians you've waited all year to see again. Although the result is magical, the process doesn't depend on magic -- it depends on hard work from a lot of devoted people, mostly unsung.

Everything from the excellent stage sound, to providing the "green room" and food for performers, to coordinating all the vendors, to staffing the information and sales booth, to billeting the musicians, requires a tremendous effort by some very dedicated people. I salute all the hard workers at 3RFS who make this happen, and I

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look forward to seeing you gain  
next year!

Best wishes--Hank Cramer

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### And the Blues For You!

*For me one of the highlights of this years festival came mid-afternoon on Sunday. I abandoned button selling and gave my self time off for good behavior. Off I went to attend Michael "Hawkeye" Herman's blues music workshop and the JAM session that followed.*

*I copied, for you, a letter to the editor that Hawkeye sent to the Tri-City Herald in order to share his perspective on our festival.*

*Next month, I'll add a little bit about blues music that Michael offered to share with our readers. {H}*

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### Dear Three Rivers Folklife Society and City of Richland,

Thanks so much for allowing me to be a part of the 2004 Tumbleweed Music Festival. My wife and I had a wonderful and memorable weekend of folklife activities, good times with great people, and perfect weather.

The environs and ambiance of a newly transformed and pastoral Howard Amon Park, as well as the comfortable, spacious, and inviting Community Center facility are superb. The city should be very proud of such fine improvements in the riverfront area.

I truly appreciate the Three Rivers Folklife Society's hard work and diligence in producing and administering this ever-growing event. Their warm, generous hospitality and love of music and people make Richland a very special place to be on Labor Day Weekend. I am truly grateful for the many friends I have made in the Tri-Cities area as a result of their support of/for folklife, music, dance, arts, crafts, education, and good food. Many thanks.

I hope you will again include me on your wonderful journey on the shores of the Columbia River.

Peace, Love, and Art,

Michael "Hawkeye" Herman  
Ashland, OR  
9/10/04