

BALFOUR BASH XXVI (26)

Music & Art Fair



Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to host Balfour Bash again, a private music fest in the heart of New York's 6 million acre Adirondack Park. This is the 26th edition of the Bash.

Here we share with you some very important information that we think you need to know, to assure that your visit is fun, safe, and memorable. You should print or save this FAQ.

This will be a weekend of music, food, friends, and good times, built around our regular theme: What's so Funny About Peace, Love and Understanding?

1. Who

This is a "by invitation only" music fest. We have invited about 100 friends and family. If you are invited, your family is welcome too. If you have a friend that you think we would all enjoy partying with, please give us a call to add them to the guest list. Every attendee must rsvp and be registered.

2. What

While we are planning for a weekend of fun in the Adirondacks, the main event is Saturday, August 10th. If you can only attend one day, that is the day. Here is a guide to weekend to help you decide how you want to participate:

a. Friday – August 9

Because so many of you arrive on Friday, we have expanded the line-up to include music and dinner on this first evening. Arrive any time after 1 p.m. to set up your campsite or just enjoy the mountains and Balfour Lake with us. Our first band – Old Souls – takes the main stage at 5 p.m. If you like Grateful Dead covers, you're going to love this four-piece band. A family style Italian dinner we be available between 6 and 8 p.m., followed by a campfire lakeside. If you will be joining us on Friday, please let us know so we can anticipate your arrival.

b. Saturday – August 11

This is the main event. For campers, a simple pancake breakfast will be available in the Lodge starting at 7 a.m. Lunch for all will likely be a traditional BBQ, with hamburgers, hotdogs, and the trimmings, followed by chicken kabobs for dinner. Beer and cold Adirondack water will be on tap all day.

c. Sunday – August 12

Departure. This is the closing day. There will be a pancake breakfast for campers and those who are staying in the area and want one last fling. We will start around 8:30 a.m. and ask that you plan to depart by noon. We will need the afternoon to break things down and clean up. If you are joining us for Sunday breakfast, please let us know for our headcount. There will be no live music on Sunday, just the wonderful chorus of nature.

3. Music Schedule

There are a variety of different bands scheduled for the Balfour Bash XXVI line-up. Please support the musicians by filling their tip jars. Bring ear plugs if you are sensitive to loud noise. All of the bands will be performing from the Main Lodge Porch. Pick your lawn chair position according to your music tolerance level. All times and performances are approximate and subject to change. This schedule is tentative and likely to change.

- Friday 5 – 7 p.m.:
Old Souls – Quartet of Guitars, Bass and Percussion. From the Grateful Dead and Beyond.
- Saturday 12 – 2 p.m.
Burning Bridges – Your favorite rock and roll classics, performed by Long Island's hottest cover band.
- 2 – 2:30 p.m.
Rachel Alexandra - Solo Acoustic Guitar
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Buck Teeth – Direct from South Carolina – bringing their southern charm.
- 3:30 – 4
Cousin K: Acoustic Guitar favorites
- 4 – 6 p.m.
Woody and Friends – this is the house band. You will know the band and the friends. Billy Joel, Elton John, Chicago, Fleetwood Mac and more
- 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Haze Ryders – Southern Rock-Style Cover Band – Last Year's headliner. They were a hit then, and they're even better now.

In between these acts, guests with musical instruments or a compelling story or a few jokes to tell are invited to fill in the gaps. Please do not be shy – You are among friends, everyone wants you to succeed.

4. Location

Balfour Lake Camp is located at 2973 State Route 28N, Minerva, NY, 12851. Camp is located approximately in the center of New York State's Six Million Acre Adirondack Park, at the very northern end of Balfour Lake in the Town of Minerva. You should use Google maps or something similar for exact directions. Remember to download your final directions before entering into the Park – You will not have good service once you exit the Northway.

5. Coordinates

43.8557582°N, -74.009865°W

6. Elevation

1,788 feet (545 meters) – Approximately 1.5x higher than the top of the Empire State Building. It can get chilly at night.

7. Weather Forecast

Join us in praying for good weather. We are going rain or shine. In case of rain, the fest will move inside our 3,200 square feet gym building. Check your preferred app, but do dress accordingly and bring a change of clothing in case of changing weather conditions. Please keep in mind that our temperature can vary by 10 degrees from the app, due to the elevation and unique topography in the Vanderwhacker Mountain Preserve, which is the area of the Park in which we are located in.

8. Connectivity

Don't count on it. When you are at Balfour Lake Camp you will be off the cellular grid. You will not have cellphone service, no matter who your provider is. Your last cell phone service will be in the Town of Minerva, about 6 miles south of camp. If you need to check your email or txt messages, stop in Minerva at Sporty's Iron Duke Saloon before making the final approach to camp. Once you go over Minerva Hill you are going to be off the grid. If you cannot be disconnected for a day, this may not be the event for you.

- a. Telephone – the landline is available for those who need it: (518) 251-4235. To access the landline in an emergency please see one of the hosts in the Lodge.
- b. Wifi, TV, Streaming Service - Not Available. Plan accordingly. Download your music playlists before arriving, switch to airplane mode and store pictures for upload later.

9. Parking

Please: No cars are permitted past the John Balfour Memorial Bridge at the North end of Balfour Lake, which you will see when you enter the camp. If you are RV or car camping, please see a host before crossing the bridge. Otherwise, parking is permitted as follows:

- On the Outdoor Basketball Court;
- Head-in on the grassy knoll between the Basketball Court and the Bridge;
- In the "turn around" located at the driveway entrance; and
- On Route 28N – Please pull safely onto the shoulder and be very careful of speeding cars along the public highway. There may not be many cars, but they travel fast.

Please - NO PARKING anywhere along the gravel roadway on camp property, as we must keep that one-lane access road clear for supplies and emergency vehicles.

10. Bathroom and Shower Facilities

Regretfully, our septic system is not sufficient for a large crowd. We have arranged for “porta potties” to be located on the east side of the John Balfour Memorial Bridge in the parking area. Please use these should the need arise. Please be courteous to other guests and be neat and clean – your mother will not be here to clean up after you. There are no showers, although if you are camping overnight, you will find Balfour Lake on the north end really nice for a rinse in the morning. Please, if you are using soap in the lake...use the appropriate biodegradable camp soap, such as Dr. Bonners.

There will be a cooling station on the north side of the Lodge. If you need to hose off, that is the spot to do it.

11. What to Bring

If you are camping overnight, please refer to this list and Section 14: Camping. If you are visiting just for the day we strongly recommend that you bring the following:

- **Comfortable lawn chair and/or lawn blanket (you will be sorry if you don't bring a chair – if you are flying in, please let us and know and we will have a chair for you);**
- Towel – at least one. Two if you are thinking about swimming;
- Suntan lotion, particularly if you have fair skin;
- Hat with a wide brim (You'll be glad you did);
- Bug spray (They should not be obnoxious this time of year; but, always come to the mountains prepared for battle);
- Sunglasses – a definite;
- Bathing suit – this is a family event – no skinny dipping (before sunset);
- Water shoes – Strongly recommended if you are planning to go into the lake (*See, Warning, infra*)
- Decent walking/hiking shoes;
- Light jacket or sweater for the evening (it will be cool at 1,800 feet above sea level);
- Shorts for day/pants for night (they also protect against bug bites);
- Refillable Water Bottle (you can't drink beer all day – ITK excepted);
- Ear Plugs if you are sensitive to loud music (or just move away from the porch); and
- Any prescription medication you require (Please see a host if your meds require refrigeration).

Here are some optional items you may want to bring, depending upon your interests:

- Fishing rod;
- Frisbee (we have one or two);
- Guitars and other musical instruments (we have a PA);
- Kite;
- Soccer/volley/footballs;
- Baseball and gloves; and
- Anything else that is wholesome and fun.

12. Swimming?

We do not recommend swimming, as there will be no lifeguard on duty. Balfour is a public lake, and so if you elect to swim in public waters, *please note that you swim at your own risk*. That being said, the northern end is fairly shallow for the first 30 feet or so. If you just want to wade in, you may find that refreshing. However, we strongly recommend that you wear water shoes if you do. The Balfour Lake shoreline has been inhabited for nearly 200 years, and there is hidden debris on the lake floor. Avoid the possibility of an injury or cut by wearing water shoes. Don't have them? Bring an old pair of sneakers -they work fine. You will thank us for this recommendation.

ABSOLUTELY NO DIVING off the dock. The water level at the dock is not deep enough for diving and you risk serious injury if you do. If you are going to ignore our recommendation about swimming, enter at the north end by wading in by the bridge, or at the main dock by using the ladder only. Enjoy the water, which is about 4 – 5 feet deep at dockside. Please note that the water drops off quickly to about 22 feet once you move away from the dock. Be mindful of your swimming ability and pay attention to the current and changing weather conditions.

Life jacket: Do you have a life jacket/vest? We strongly recommend that you bring it and wear it in the water, even if you are a strong swimmer. Life jackets make it fun to float around safely.

13. Boating

Our kayaks will be available only until the official start of the celebration Saturday. If you want to kayak, please bring your own life vest and arrive on Friday. Once the party starts, we will not be making boats available for safety reasons. Please do not launch one after that time.

14. Camping?

Campers may arrive any time after 1 p.m. on Friday. Please make sure we know your estimated arrival time, so we may plan accordingly. Please camp in one of the three designated grassy areas with other campers.

a. Area 1 – Tent City

Located behind the gym on the old tennis courts, Tent City is the main campsite for anyone with a Tent. While it should not be rowdy, campers should expect that this area will have some noise and people hanging around the campfire into the late-night hours. This is not the family friendly site for those with young children. Please: No cars here. Need to move your gear from the parking area to Tent City? We will have volunteers running the Gator – to help move your stuff.

b. Area 2 – Family Friendly Hill

Located on the knoll overlooking the Main Lodge, this area is the secondary campsite for those who want a quiet site. Campers in this area should respect the quiet hours. This area is also family friendly. Alcohol and smoking are not permitted here. Again, No cars here. Need to move your gear from the parking area to Tent City? We will have volunteers running the Gator to help move your stuff.

c. Area 3 – RV Park

located in front of the gym, this area is for those who are bringing an RV or want to Car Camp. This area was selected because it has a gravel base and that can support the weight of a small rig or vehicle without leaving tire marks on the ground. Please do not bring your RV or Car into other areas. There are no hook-up sites. If you are RV camping, you are boondocking. Please make sure your rig is equipped accordingly. If you prefer a hookup, we are pleased to recommend Newcomb Café and Campground, just 12 minutes down the road.

We strongly discourage wilderness camping in the woods as this is rustic territory and there are wild animals and unknown hazards on the land.

NO FOOD is permitted in any camping areas. This includes leaving food in any vehicle that may be granted access to the camping areas. Do not become a newspaper headline. Leave your food at home – there will be enough at the party. If you have special dietary needs and need to bring your own food, make sure it is secured in a cooler and stored inside the Main Lodge at night.

Here are additional thoughts for campers:

- Tents: We recommend self-supporting tents that use shock poles. If the weather changes unexpectedly you can move the tent inside the gym;
- Ground tarp under the tent is always a smart move;
- Rain Fly, subject to weather;
- Sleeping bag;
- Flashlight – a definite – particularly if you need to find the facilities at night;
- Extra roll of toilet paper – hey you never know if the supply ran out;
- Water bottle;
- Air mattress or equivalent (the ground is hard and you are not getting any younger. If it rains and you move inside the gym onto the concrete floor, you will be a happy camper);

15. Car Camping?

If you are car camping you are with the RVs in Area 3. please do not move your vehicle onto the main property beyond the bridge until you have notified your hosts. We will guide you to the camping area in order to minimize the impact of your tires on the ground.

16. Campfires

We will have a campfire dockside in the evening when the sun begins to set, and one solo stove campfire in Tent City. Please do not light any other campfires on the property – particularly since there are moderate drought conditions in the area and the risk of forest fire is real. There are enough forest fires burning in Canada. We do not need one here.

17. Alcohol

We will have beer on tap for adults 21 and over. Please drink responsibly. We will not serve anyone who is visibly intoxicated and seems unable to exercise good judgment. Don't be that person. Really, don't!

You may BYOB, but please drink responsibly. However – **NO GLASS**. If you are bringing your own, please use cans and/or transfer your drinks into plastic cups and containers while walking around the Bash.

DO NOT DRIVE UNDER THE INFLUENCE. Be mindful of the time and when you plan to drive. Use a designated driver appropriately. Be an adult.

18. Smoking and Vaping

Please smoke and vape responsibly. Please be mindful of those around you, particularly minors. Move to less crowded areas in appropriate situations. **DO NOT DRIVE BUZZED.** Be mindful of the time and when you plan to drive. Please do not drink, smoke or vape in Camping Area 2, as this is a family friendly site.

19. Drugs and other Illegal Substances

No. Just – No! Do not make me call you out – I will.

20. Coolers

If you have a cooler – please bring them for any drinks you bring on your own. Don't forget the ice. We do not have an icemaker on the premises.

21. Attitudes

Be an adult – Give us plenty of reasons to do this again. Leave your attitude at home and come with a thick skin ready to enjoy your time. Don't be nasty or obnoxious. Do be considerate, welcoming, and fun. Remember, we are all family and friends. Let's make good memories together.

22. Menu

We will be serving casual BBQ-style during the party – hamburgers, hotdogs, corn, etc. during the day. There will be snacks through the evening. If you are camping, we will also have a pancake breakfast Saturday and Sunday morning. If you have special dietary needs or want to supplement, please pack it in. This will not be a heavily catered event. It is all being handled by family and friends.

Drinks: Keg Beer and lots of refreshing cold water from our own 465-foot-deep well that accesses ancient, clear, clean sparkling Adirondack water. Do you prefer soda or other drinks, please bring them in cans or plastic bottles – No Glass.

23. Dress Code

There is no dress code, but please keep them on. Music Festival Casual is the best way to describe it. Consider the weather and your own tolerance for full sun and cool evenings. Depending on when you arrive and when you depart, it could be a long day. So, plan ahead.

24. Pets

Please leave Fido and Topcat at home. If you have a service animal that we have already approved, you are responsible for cleaning up after your pet, and leashing him or her appropriately. Please do not allow any pet to run freely. You may love your dog, but not everyone else will.

25. WARNINGS AND LEGAL DISCLAIMERS

Here are the warnings and legal disclaimers you knew were coming:

Balfour Lake Camp consists of nearly 70 acres of cleared and uncleared lands in the Forever Wild Adirondack State Park. It is completely surrounded on all sides by hundreds of thousands of acres of uninhabited forest. You can get lost out there. Our property has been occupied in one form or another for nearly 180 years. There are hazards on the property known and unknown. Be careful and always use good judgement. This is not an amusement park that has been “sanitized and made safe.” Please stay out of the forested lands and enjoy the grassy mowed sections of the property instead. Walk with your eyes open, as the ground is uneven in too many spots.

DO NOT ENTER the abandoned cabin. Enjoy the architecture from outside. The inside is unsafe and you can fall through the floor. If you fall through the floor, who knows how far you may fall.

DO NOT BRING ANY FOOD to the camping area. **DO NOT LEAVE FOOD** in your car. You will attract large, wild, unfriendly animals. Do not become Sunday’s newspaper headline.

NO FIREARMS, WEAPONS, or FIREWORKS - Just NO!

SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK. There is no lifeguard on duty. **NO DIVING:** The water is too shallow.

NEVER SWIM ALONE. If you must swim, always have a buddy with you and tell someone when you are entering the water. NO Swimming after dusk whatsoever. Wear a life vest even if you are a strong swimmer.

No Kayaking after 11 a.m. on Saturday. If you Kayak, you must wear a life vest. We have a few medium and large ones you may borrow. If those sizes do not work, bring one of your own.

If you want to enjoy Balfour Lake – bring and wear a life vest and water shoes. You will thank us.

Strong Recommendation – Do not wear perfume, cologne, or highly scented personal hygiene and hair products – unless you want to be a magnet for bugs. They will think you are a flower. In that case, you may be sitting alone – at least not with me 😊.

26. The Adirondack Park

New York State’s Adirondack Park consists of more than 6,000,000 acres of public and private lands. It is the largest State Park in the lower 48 states and is larger than most of the national parks combined. The Adirondack Park was and is a bold experiment in conservation, and in public/private land management - one of the most successful experiments of this type in the world. The Adirondack Park is the only fully intact primeval forest remaining in the continental United States. You can learn more about this unique and special place we call home online.

27. A Brief History of Balfour Lake Camp

Prior to the mid 1800’s when John Balfour and his family settled here, this body of water was called Long Pond, due to its shape and length of approximately one mile. It is a crater lake created by the receding glaciers during the last Ice Age and is located wholly within the Vanderwhacker Mountain watershed. You can learn more about the geology of this beautiful and clean natural body of water online.

John Balfour proudly enlisted in the NY 119th Regiment and fought for the Union Army in the U.S. Civil War. An American patriot, he died of his injuries on May 15, 1862 at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff in Chesterfield County, Virginia during the war. After his death, the lake was renamed for him and his family by the good citizens of Minerva.

The Balfour family faded from Minerva history and folklore around the turn of the last century. Sometime after 1900, the property was purchased by Sol Amster, a NYC school teacher who dreamed about opening a children's camp. Balfour Lake Camp for Boys opened in 1919, making it one of the original sleepaway camps in the emerging American children's camping movement. In those days, affluent families from downstate would send their children to camp in the mountains, particularly in the days of Tuberculosis, for health reasons. (Nearby Saranac Lake was the center of TB care in that era). Medical professionals of that day felt that the fresh cool mountain air was the best way to restore and maintain good health. (Today we just shut everything down and isolate ourselves.)

In those early days, long before the modern Northway and New York State Thruway were constructed, Balfourians would depart for camp by steamship in New York City. They would steam up the Hudson River overnight, to arrive at the Port of Albany the next day. Once in Albany, they would transfer to steam locomotive powered trains, which transported them through the great northern forest to North Creek, NY (North Creek, NY is where Teddy Roosevelt ended his "wild ride" and was sworn in as the 26th President of the United States following the assassination of President William McKinley at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo NY on September 5, 1901. Teddy Roosevelt passed Balfour Lake on his way to North Creek from his camp at Lake Tear of the Clouds – the headwater of the Hudson River. Local legend says he stopped to use the facilities at Balfour). From North Creek, the campers would board horse-drawn stagecoaches to Minerva and their final destination at Balfour Lake. (And you think your drive up will be tedious, lol).

Sol Amster later sold Balfour Lake Camp for Boys and moved down the lake to open Camp Che Na Wah for Girls. For many years Balfour and Che Na Wah were brother/sister camps. Camp Che Na Wah became the summer home of Sol's niece, Ruth Bader-Ginsberg, who went on to become an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. When you swim in Balfour Lake, you are steeping yourself in the same stuff that made RBG the dynamo she became. Still later, Sol sold Che Na Wah and moved to the south end of Balfour Lake to open Camp Baco for Boys. You can see Camp Baco from our camp. Baco then became the brother camp to Che Na Wah and a major lawsuit ensued, which went all the way the New York State Court of Appeals. If you are interested in the legal history and want to know how that case worked out, just ask. The story is compelling – if you're a lawyer.

Balfour Lake Camp continued as a boys-only camp until 1976, when declining youth population, airplane travel, and the opening of Disneyland and World led to its closure. From 1976 to 1998, the property was used as a private hunting camp, before we were fortunate to acquire it in October of that year in a Court ordered sale.

For the last 26 years Balfour Lake Camp has been our second family home and the site of many wonderful memories. That is why this private music fest is Balfour Bash XXVI – you didn't miss the first 25 :)

28. First Aid

We hope that you will enjoy your time safe and injury free. Should the need arise, we have a first-aid kit in the Lodge. Should you feel ill or become injured, please notify any host ASAP. If necessary, we will call for emergency assistance. Please report any injuries, no matter how minor you think it is.

Thank you for being part of Balfour Bash XXV – A Celebration of Peace, Love and Understanding. As Nick Lowe said, “What’ so funny about...” that? We are glad you are here.

29. Suggested donations

To create a sustainable model for this music fest, we are asking that you consider making a donation towards the music, food, and drink. Many have asked what we think is proper, so we offer the following suggestions.

College Students and Minors under the age of 17: \$0

All Others:

Arriving Friday for Dinner and the First Show: +\$25

Arriving Saturday and Staying All Day: +\$75

Staying Sunday for Breakfast: +\$5

Please note that if you are financially tight, we still want you to come. You can opt to help out instead of making a donation – we can use the extra hands. If you cannot do either, just let us know – we get it and we still want you to come. Please do not let money be an obstacle, because this fest is not about the money. This is just guideline. In the end donate what you can, but do give till it hurts 😊

30. Festival T-Shirts and Posters

Our *Festival Artist Laureate* – Eva Pockoski - has designed a beautiful poster and Festival T-Shirt.

Individually signed and numbered posters and Festival T-Shirts will be available only by advance order. Orders must be placed by July 20. Merch will not be available for purchase at the Bash.

When you register to attend, we will contact you with Merch info.

Festival T-Shirts: \$20

Festival Posters: \$20

31. Additional Questions, Comments or Concerns?

Ask one of the hosts or email us: bal4lake@gmail.com

