

Volunteer Spotlight: Doug Chasar

How long have you been a volunteer with MBOTMA?

10+ years

What current volunteer role(s) do you have with MBOTMA?

Kickoff Jam - Ranch House Live, August Festival committee - Ranch House Live, Fall Jam committee - Fireside Live, Winter Bluegrass Weekend - MC

What MBOTMA volunteer role(s) have you held in the past?

I've been a committee member and/or volunteer for all of MBOTMA's festivals and many of the fundraisers over the years.

What occupation did you have or do you have now?

I've been the Finance Manager for an employment services-related non-profit in Minneapolis for 13 years, with a couple more to go until I retire.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

Music - I play mandolin, mandola, and sing. Pre-pandemic, I hosted three weekly jams around the metro area. I'm currently hosting a bi-weekly Saturday Outdoor Jam. I'm in The Hacklewrappers, which is a MBOTMA member band.

Gardening - although, you wouldn't be able to tell based on the condition of my landscape and vegetable garden these days.

What's a fun fact about you?

I know the way to San Jose. I grew



up there and emigrated to Minnesota in 1993.

How long have you been part of MBOTMA and what brought you into the organization?

Approximately 13 years. As I get older my perception of time blends together into a nebulous continuum.

Do you have a favorite festival or activity at a festival?

The Winter Bluegrass Weekend is my favorite festival; however, I love all the festivals, and jamming is my favorite activity.

Why are you a MBOTMA volunteer?

I enjoy meeting everyone and being of assistance. Service is a higher calling and it's a lot of fun. Volunteers are crucial to the success of the MBOTMA experience and community.

How has being a volunteer impacted you?

I'm a better person and I feel included in the MBOTMA community.

Do you have a fun story about being a volunteer or about MBOTMA that you'd like to share?

At the August Festival a couple years ago, after I closed down Ranch House Live, I went to Bill Lindroos' trailer looking for a jam about 1:00 am. I think there were maybe five guys there. I tuned up and joined in. I was sooo tired that I wasn't actually thinking anymore, I was just in the moment. I don't remember the song now, but I took a break and it was amazing. The music just flowed through me and it was really good. So good that Gary Germond was speechless.

What would you tell a new MBOTMA member/volunteer?

You'll benefit the most by being involved. Jamming if you're a musician is the best way to improve your ability and enjoyment of the experience of music. Volunteering is the easiest way to make connections with others and enhance your experience.