

# Just jamming

The fun of music keeps The 1937 Flood playing

By **DAVE LAVENDER**  
The Herald-Dispatch  
[lavender@herald-dispatch.com](mailto:lavender@herald-dispatch.com)

HUNTINGTON — A couple of Wednesday nights ago, Charlie Bowen took a sweeping look around the room and thought, Lord, how sweet it is.

Since 1973, Bowen has been meeting up with his musical buddies Dave Peyton and Joe Dobbs at a living room near them, digging out dusty folk, blues and mountain music, and boiling it up live with an ever-changing roster of members of their band, The 1937 Flood.

Come Saturday night, The Flood, which now features Bowen, Peyton and Dobbs along with Doug Chaffin, Sam St. Clair, Dave Ball and featuring regular, but still special, guests 15-year-old guitarist Jacob Scarr and Michelle Walker, bring the parlor picking over a few blocks to The Huntington High Renaissance Center, 900 8th St.

A barbecue dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and music starts at 7:30 p.m.

Admission for the dinner and show is \$10.

All proceeds go to the non-profit group, Arts Resources for the Tri-State, the umbrella arts organization that puts on musical shows, hosts after-school arts enrichment classes, has a high school All-Star Show Choir, as well as a children's choir.

Call ARTS at 304-733-2787.

Bowen said the ever-changing roster helps keep the jam fresh.

"It's interesting for me because we've been doing the band so long," Bowen said. "When we started the other night, we were having such a nice jam session and everybody was back from travels, and I was just thinking, 'Wow,

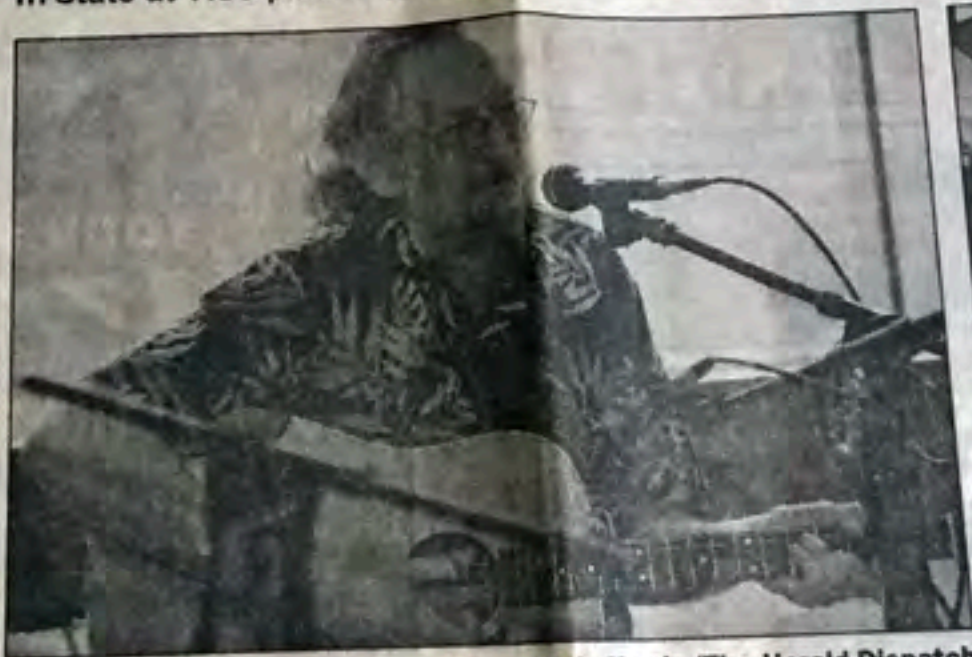
at Jacob's age, how neat to be sitting in the room and playing music with all of these people.' I know these people so well, and it is just such a privilege when you think about how you get together every week with your best friends and do this thing. It's a pretty special time."

Although the band draws on some typical jug band fare that is known by many, the band has always been able to draw from a deep well of music from the mountains, thanks to Bowen, Chaffin, Peyton and Dobbs, who for years hosted the West Virginia Public Radio show



Lori Wolfe/The Herald-Dispatch

Joe Dobbs and the 1937 Flood will perform a benefit concert for the Arts Resources for the Tri-State at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27 in Huntington.



Chris Harris/The Herald-Dispatch

Chuck Bowen is one of three members of the 1937 Flood who has been with the band since 1973.



Lori Wolfe/The Herald-Dispatch

In The 1937 Flood's latest YouTube video, Dave Peyton leads the band through a rendition of "Georgie Buck."

"Music From the Mountains." In fact, the Flood's latest YouTube video is of Peyton leading the boys through a romp of

Please see **FLOOD/10C**



Dave LAVENDER

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## A Flood's On the Rise:

**WHAT:** The 1937 Flood, West Virginia's most eclectic string band, stirs up its blues-basted, mountain-tested, river-soaked songs with a benefit concert.

**WHERE:** Huntington High Renaissance Center (the former Huntington High School), 900 8th St. All proceeds go to the non-profit group Arts

Resources for the Tri-State.

**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m. dinner and 7:30 p.m. show on Saturday, Dec. 27.

**HOW MUCH:** \$10, includes a dinner of pulled pork, stew, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, tea, coffee and dessert that will be served at 6:30 p.m.

**SEE THE FLOOD:** Go online at [www.herald-dispatch.com](http://www.herald-dispatch.com) to see a couple of the latest Flood videos.

**ON THE WEB:** Go online at [www.1937flood.com](http://www.1937flood.com) to hear the band, see more videos and to learn about this band that started in 1973.

**FOR MORE INFO:** Call ARTS at 304-733-2787.



# Flood

■ Continued from 8C

"Georgie Buck," a party tune Peyton learned back in the '60s from a West Virginia folk music legend banjo player Aunt Jennie Wilson of Logan County.

Armed with Bowen, who designs Web sites, The 1937 Flood may be one of the most tech savvy of all string bands. The band's Web site has a slew of videos, audio clips and is starting a podcast of one song recorded at the Wednesday night jam session with a digital recorder.

"I bought a ZOOM H2 and set it in the middle of the table, and while we practice, we see if we can't accidentally commit some art," Bowen said laughing. "It can happen."

Bowen also is submitting the Flood's songs to [www.lastfm.com](http://www.lastfm.com), which is a new generation of Internet radio where artists from around the world share their tunes online, and then the site links to band sites to sell CDs.

"Between the podcast and the Flood Radio feature, I think those are the sorts of things we are doing in the new year to go more into cyberspace," Bowen said. "I think that technology is allowing us to do some things that you couldn't do even two years ago."

Bowen said the band is excited to be playing to raise funds for ARTS, which has started a Fine Arts School that includes many after-school sessions from the Tri-State Youth Orchestra and ARTS Children's Choir to dance, music and even theater

lessons with Broadway veteran actress Beth McVey.

"We always like working with ARTS," Bowen said. "We were over there last year and the it was like 12 degrees, but we still had a packed house and had a great time. I think ARTS has a really clear vision now and a lot of the folks that come out to our show support them, so it's a real natural fit."

