

From Jack Murphy of Aquus restaurant

For any newcomers, the concept of the “Bluegrass Jam” may be somewhat new to you so I've listed a few helpful hints:

The Ten Jammandments

(adapted from Larry Carlin’s List, adjusted slightly)

I. Thou Shalt Tune Thy Instrument.

~ Electronic tuners make this easy.

II. Thou Shalt Keep Steady Rhythm.

~ Count beats if necessary.

III. Thou Shalt Take Turns Choosing Songs.

~Announce the key. Vocalists always choose their key.

~ Choose a song you can complete, and that at least half the jammers know.

IV. Thou Shalt Not Speed.

~ Start songs at a reasonable tempo, and hold it please.

V. Thou Shalt Signal Who Has The Solo.

~ Follow a pattern when taking solo leads.

VI. Thou Shalt Listen To Others.

~ If you can't hear the lead, consider yourself too loud (and then quiet down).

VII. Thou Shalt Welcome Others.

~ Include everyone in your jam. Help everyone sound as good as they can.

VIII. Thou Shalt Not bring NON bluegrass Instruments to the Jam

~Please leave at home your: flute, trumpet, drums, amp, piano, sax, etc.

IX. Thou Shalt Infrequently Try New Material.

~ Original & different tunes are OK occasionally, but must be easy enough to follow.

X. Thou Shalt Be Considerate Of "new" Pickers.

~ Help beginners.