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# Camp folk fest

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The white sign resting against the live oak tree reads, "HAMS (Hill Country Amateur Music Society) Talent is not a requirement for membership (in fact, it is discouraged.)"

At the Kerrville Folk Festival, where you "live" is as much a part of you as your own name.

B e t w e e n 25,000 to 30,000 people come throughout the 18-day Kerrville Folk Festival each year to

soak up good times, good music and good company. With that much company around, having camps serve as landmarks helps make getting around much easier.

It also is a way of expressing your individuality, your personality, your charm — Camp Peace of Mind, Camp Dysfunctional, Camp Stupid, Camp Never Land, and on and on.

At Camp Cheap, Easy or Free, the name pretty much says it all:

"If it ain't cheap, easy or free, then we don't want it," explained Rachel Parra, a five-year Kerrvert



Billy Jonas of the Billy's gets into the rhythm during an afternoon jam session at the folk festival. (Times photo by Rhonda Lashley)



Matthew Medley from the Melody Camp and Jeff Davis from the 400-pound Gorilla Camp, converge at Camp Peace of Mind for a game of four-handed chess. (Times photo by Rhonda Lashley)

from Tulsa, Okla. She brought her one year-old son Asher and her boyfriend Bryan Ward along for the festival fun this year.

Ron Pandey, strumming a guitar at Camp Bungee on a sunny Wednesday afternoon, said the phenomena of camp names has evolved over the last several years. The Tucson-based musician has come to the folk festival for eight of the last 10 years and will be taking to the stage on Wednesday as part of Camp Cactus.

Camp Bungee is aptly named as it is held together with bungee cords. And, it fared very well during thunderstorms that slammed through the

area late Monday and early Tuesday, Pandey reported.

"The camps normally have a community kitchen where we just put everything we have all together and cook our meals together," Pandey said. "And other people join the camp and become part of the camp, and then you start seeing the people again and again."

One of the longest running camp kitchens at the festival is Camp Cuisine, known across Quiet Valley Ranch as the best in cooking and picking (guitars, that is). Festival follow-

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