Jam Etiquette & Guidelines

The goal of jamming is to ***have fun*** and share music with your fellow pickers – a few simple guidelines can help:

1. Tune your instrument before the jam starts
2. When it's your turn to pick the tune - explain the key and chords to the group. Give everyone a heads up of any unusual elements.
    a. If you don't want to lead a tune – that's okay! Just pass it on to the next person when your turn arrives
3. Respect your fellow jammers:
    a. Don't practice your lead while others are having their turn.
    b. Don't play lead over the vocalist.
    c. When the vocalist is singing or another jammer is taking a break/solo and you find you can't hear them, you are likely playing too loud - be respectful and allow others their turn to sing or play lead.
4. Singing along with the chorus, particularly if you can harmonize is fine but let the vocalist carry the song on the verses when it's their turn.
5. Tunes generally go clockwise around the circle starting from the leader of the jam or whoever plays the first song. Likewise for taking breaks/solos.
    a. If you don't want to take a break signal the song leader so they can see who else, in turn, would like to have a chance to shine.
6. When you are not taking lead focus on clean steady rhythm at a reasonable volume - don't drown out other jammers.

Above all:

Be kind and respectful to your fellow jammers! If you have questions about procedure or etiquette, feel free to ask them between songs. Let's all help each other grow as musicians in a fun, inclusive, and supportive environment!