

Keepin' Tabs

December. 2011

Jack Ferguson, Ed.

Next Meeting: Will be in Fellowship Hall on December 3rd.

Happy Holidays to All! It's time for our December Potluck and Meeting in Fellowship Hall at University Presbyterian hosted this year by Jack and Maggie Ferguson. Arrival time is 6:00 pm. Feasting to begin at 6:30 pm.

The meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall (next to our usual digs in Lawnridge Hall. There is no charge for guests, so invite your friends and remind them to bring instruments and a dish to pass!

Please bring a dish to pass that is fully cooked, ready to serve and enough to serve eight. There is a kitchen with refrigerator and a microwave, and many outlets for crock-pots and such. Plates, napkins, flatware, cups, and beverages to fill them will all be provided.

Feel free to bring a table-sized holiday decoration to enliven the atmosphere.

Food Category Suggestions: Last names beginning with:

Main Dish – A thru J

Casseroles, meatballs, chicken, ham, turkey, cheese/deli/sandwich plates, lasagna, etc.

Sides – K thru R

Potatoes, pastas, fruit, dips, cheese & crackers, jello, veggies, baked beans, rolls & butter, relishes, etc.

Dessert – S thru Z

This category requires no definition - of course if your last name falls within another designation, feel free to bring an additional dessert. Nobody will complain.

If you can, bring your food in a disposable dish. That makes cleaning up easier. After the meal, please take your dish and any utensils so that the kitchen helpers can join the festivities with the rest of us.

If you would like to help with set-up, please come at 5:00 pm to help set-up tables, chairs, as well as other logistical details and final touches. Contact Maggie at marmik21@yahoo.com if you can help. Thanks!

There is no workshop after dinner, but we will have a song swap of "Seasonal Songs". Later we tend to gather to harmonize on our favorite songs of the season until (almost) midnight.

Mountain Dulcimer Circle: Is taking the holiday off.

Flute Circle: Will be with the dulcimer folks.

Mandolin Meeting: Not yet; read Phil's message, below.

Song of the Month: Went to the Keys for holiday break.

Presentation: No formal presentation for December.

Host: Maggie Ferguson is facilitating the potluck.

Theme for November: Seasonal Songs

Get the Hat! Dave Falk, Lois Keel, Liza Shone and Jack Ferguson are wrapping the package.

Mando Players Unite!

Announcing: PCFS Mandolin Meetin'

We have a very successful Native American Circle, a Dulcimer group, and there is some rumbling about potential ukulele sessions or lessons, all at Lawnridge Hall before our regular Paint Creek meetings. The other day Jack Ferguson approached me with the idea of starting a mandolin group and asked if I would facilitate it. The more I thought about it, the more I liked the idea. I agreed – let's do it! We'll plan to start January 7th at 4:00 pm. So if you play mandolin or would like to give one a try, put it on your calendar and come on out. Here are my current ideas about the group. Of course, after we get started, everyone who shows up will have an input on what we do. First off, I do not pretend to be a great mandolin player who can demonstrate and teach everything you want to know about playing the mandolin. Some of you who are reading this are probably better players than I. However, I can, as Jack says, "facilitate" a mandolin gathering, introducing a lot of printed material on the subject (music, magazines), bring a lot of recorded mandolin music by many of the influential players, teach rank beginners enough to get a good start, and even bring a few extra mandolins for interested potential pickers to try out. My plan will be to have some interesting recorded music to listen to, a technique to try, information about a mandolin player or builder, and a tune to learn if the group wants to. That will get us started, but you who join us will determine where we go from there – sharing ideas, techniques, tunes, jamming, whatever works.

So whether you are a mandolin player or just interested in trying one, come on out to the Mandolin Meetin' at Lawnridge on January 7th at 4:00 pm and let's talk, listen to, and play mandolins.

Phil Doolittle

President's Message

Hi Folks,

Fun is like an orbit – sometimes you just get sucked into it. That's what happened with the dulcimers and flutes, and now mandolins. I hear that ukuleles are the next big thing. It's like these activities reach a critical mass and... zip! Next thing you know you're on fire for a new kind of fun.

My latest infatuation is with stories, influenced in no small part by the editor of this e-letter. In my travels I stumbled across a great article on storyfix.com. It was written about writing but can be applied to any part of your passions. The burden of it is that one must not wait for the muse – it's the other way around. Inspiration is waiting for you. When you actively seek it, it will reveal itself to you.

So you think you have a song, a story, a tune or a poem in you? You've been thinking about trying something new but just haven't gotten around to it? It's not going to happen by itself. Meet it half way. Take an action, no matter how modest. Actions lead to interest, and interest to fun, and even joy.

The muse awaits you!

Andy Mather

Dates and Themes for the Year:

December 3: "Seasonal Songs"

January 7: "Favorite Things"

February 4: "Songs of the Heart"

March 3: "Struggle and Victory"

April 7: "Storms"

May 5: "Crime and Consequence"

June 2: "My Favorite Song"

July 7: "Sing What You Want – It's the Picnic!"

August 32: "We Don't Meet in August"

Board Meetings are a Big Time: The next one is at Jack and Maggie's on Thursday, Jan. 5th at 7:00pm.

Where the Creek Flows

"Where the Creek Flows" is dedicated to PCFS members' events.

Here's a web link to the Dessert Oasis Café, where Dave Belferman plays every other Wednesday. <http://www.dessertoasis.net/>

Dave Falk runs the Open Mic at the Coffee Beanery on Woodward in Berkley every Thursday evening at 7:00

Evie Boss invites all on the First Tuesday of each month to Gilda's Club in Royal Oak (on Rochester Road just north of 13 Mile Rd.) has a coffee house: dinner starts at 5:30, open mike from 6-7 and featured performer from 7-8.

Maggie Ferguson hosts the Live! From the Living Room Acoustic Showcase on Friday nights. For more information go to oldfrontporch.com. As long as we're on the front porch tune into WXOU FM. To listen via live webstream go to:

www.wxou.org. Tuesdays between 5:00 and 7:30 pm for the best in contemporary folk music.

Floyd King and the Bushwackers will be part of this years Arts and Apples Festival in Rochester.

To submit all your upcoming gigs and events, email the details to Jack, KT Editor, at thunderisle@yahoo.com. To have your event in the KT I will need the info by the 15th.

Field Trips

Submit your favorite trip by the 15th and encourage others to visit a new venue.

Ridin' Drag

It's been busy here at the line shack. Hey, just keeping up with the early deer season reports has been intense. My cousin Mike enjoyed success opening day, but my buddy Treat and Mikes' brother Gerald are...struggling. I'm convinced that their problem is an age old one: location.

Mike doesn't go north. Treat and Gerald both have spots in the eastern half of the northern lower peninsula, Onaway and Hillman respectively. Now you don't need to be Hawkeye or Chingachgook to know that the southern part of the state is swarming with cervids. A ride around Oakland University will convince you.

So why travel north? Why buy gas, invest time and maybe get snowed in, when statistically your opportunity to fill the freezer with venison is improved in the southern portion of the state?

Again, it's the matter of location. You see, the stories are in the north. Go on and try to write "Metamora in Da' Moonlight". Any commuter can tell you there are more whitetail along Rochester Rd. between Lakeville and Leonard than there are on Hwy.2 from St. Ignace to the Soadie Deer Camp. But if you're looking for a story to enhance your outdoor experience: start packing.

If you're wondering what I'm thankful for this year: well one reason is the memory of sitting around a campfire while Treat told his story of "The Man Who Didn't Shoot". Ridin' drag, it's all about location.

Jack D. Ferguson, Editor

Fine Print: The *Keepin' Tabs* (KT) is the monthly newsletter for, by, and about the Paint Creek Folklore Society. Paint Creek Folklore Society is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, a center for The Country Dance and Song Society of America (CDSS), a member of the North American Folk Alliance, and a supporter of folklore, folksong and folkdance societies, groups and individuals whose interest is in the preservation of and education in traditional music and dance. To submit corrections, articles, gigs, or other information for publication, please contact Jack Ferguson, Editor, at thunderisle@yahoo.com; deadline for the next issue is the 15th.

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