

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society
September 2021

Distributed via email to members and friends of PCFS.
A PDF file is attached to the message for those who wish to print it out,
or who might have issues reading the email.
Shirley Worth – Editor (pcfs.kt@gmail.com)

Next Gathering: Returning to Saturday!

SATURDAY, September 11, 2021

River Woods Park

Auburn Hills, M-59 & Squirrel Road

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/xyKLxofuQgUcnRxVA>

4:00-7:00 pm: Jams and Circles (see schedule below)

7:00 pm: Announcements, Song Swap

###

Presidential Potpourri

Happy Labor Day to all!

The term "essential worker" has certainly gained new meaning and importance these days. As Jack and I harvest a bumper crop of tomatoes, I pause to consider the many workers in the food supply chain alone, from planting to harvest to transport to stocking store shelves, who are so often underappreciated. A quick read shows the strides labor has made in the last century or two with child labor protection, workplace safety, better pay and more.

Anyway, it seems fitting to consider the lessons of the labor movement. The song that sticks in my head is "Solidarity Forever," sung to the tune of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. youtu.be/R8eK9ZXf-Ow. The phrase "the union makes us strong" could easily be changed to "our unity makes us strong" which is a vital goal during our current pandemic (and climate crisis, but that's another article.) The longer hosts are available, the greater the chance for new and worse variants and the longer this mess will drag on. Is it time to ratchet up your everyday precautions? At our gatherings, our board is currently leaving it to you to determine personal precautions in the great outdoors. Mask or not, distance as you see fit, but let's persevere and be united in this fight. Our unity makes us strong...and keeps us safe.

While our recent outdoor gatherings have featured our Instrumental Jam and Song Swap, more of our Paint Creek traditions are returning starting this month: Gatherings on Saturdays and circles, like our new Songwriting Circle, Ukulele Circle, Native American Flute Circle and our Vocal Jam which is a good, ol' fashioned sing-a-long. I encourage you to try them out! See times and details in this newsletter.

My personal experience is with the Vocal Jam. Using the *Rise Up Singing!* and *Rise Again!* song books, we have access to lyrics and chords for 1,200 different songs from a variety of eras in each book. Whether it's an old English ballad, spiritual, international favorite or unifying song from times of war, there's something for everyone. Did I mention the chance to stroll down memory lane with the Beatles or crooners from previous generations? Sharing books might not be best these days. If you don't have the books yet, we will have a few copies available for purchase (cash or check only) or order one from your favorite online seller. *Don't forget your reading glasses!* Faking it and humming along is another possibility! Please consider this opportunity to lift your spirits while lifting your voice!

It will be good to see everyone on September 11!

Theresa Erickson, PCFS Prez

###

2021-2022 Song Swap Themes

September—Nature	October—Nocturnal Things/Settings
November—Leaf Me Alone	December—Holiday Potluck (Seasonal Songs)
January—Warm or Cold	February—Staying Put
March—Precious Things	April—Travel
May—Blue (Color, Feeling ...)	June—How Did I Get Here?
July— <i>Picnic</i>	August—No Gathering
September—Other Names for Things	

Thank you Jeff for these creative themes!

###

Jams and Circles Returning

The September Gathering will be at River Woods Park in Auburn Hills, a lovely park with nice pavilion, close restrooms and interesting trails. Bring your chair, bug spray, instrument, books, mask, and assorted other stuff. This is a BYOB brown bag event, so if you like, bring a sandwich, takeout, or snack for yourself along with your water bottle or non-alcoholic beverage. The lineup of jams and circles looks like this:

4-6 pm Instrumental Jam led by Marilyn Hotaling
5-6 pm Ukulele Circle led by Jack Erickson--NEW!
6-7 pm Native American Flute Circle led by Vicky Acosta and Sharon Hall Despard
6-7 pm Songwriting Circle led by Dave Belferman--NEW
6-7 pm Vocal Jam led by Jack Erickson – using *Rise Up Singing!* and *Rise Again!* songbooks.

Announcements and Song Swap begin at 7 pm. You can also claim spaces here and there on the lawn for practicing or small jams starting at 4 pm.

Who will **you** invite to join one of these jams or circles this fall?

###

Special UPC Event!

Maggie and Jack Ferguson, Tim Erickson, Larry Miller, and Jack Erickson will provide music for a special worship service on the lawn at University Presbyterian Church (UPC), 10:00 am on Sunday, September 12th. All interested Paint Creek members are invited to attend and meet the new pastor, Rev. Trisha Jacobs, and church members – as well as support our members, and strengthen the link between UPC and PCFS. If you attend, please reciprocate and invite church members to attend our gatherings. We look forward to working with the church on future events as well.

###

Board Notes

At its meeting Tuesday, August 31, the Paint Creek Board voted to donate \$200 to the Blue Water Folklore Society to support the Thumbfest. The Board also clarified the member / guest policy for meetings: First-time guests attend free; all other guests are requested to pay \$10 per meeting.

Finally, due to current health considerations, the Board has, with regret, decided by unanimous vote to cancel the Tin Whistle concert for this year.

###

Membership Renewals Due This Month

Twenty-five folks have renewed so far – welcome back! AND we have TWO NEW MEMBERS – please welcome Don Rhienholm (Accordion) and Tom Suliot (Mandolin) when you see them. In 2020 we had 72 members, so we're about 1/3 there. Please send in your renewal to continue enjoying this year's gatherings, so we don't have to charge you the \$10 guest fee!

Memberships cover September 2021-August 2022, and last year's memberships have expired. If you haven't already renewed, kindly print and fill in the membership form attached to the Keepin' Tabs email (so we know all your information is up to date for the new directory), and return your form and check to Pete Hartung or Jeff Despard. Dues are \$50 (single membership) or \$90 (family membership). Bring check or cash to the September 11 Gathering, or mail to Jeff at the new address on the form. And, if you have a friend that might enjoy our Paint Creek experience, please bring them along in September or any future gathering. See you soon!

~Jeff Despard

###

Ukulele Circle

Have you played Elton John's "Crocodile Rock" on ukulele? Or Creedence Clearwater's "Down On the Corner"? Those are just a couple of the songs we'll play in Paint Creek's new Ukulele Circle! Ukuleles are incredibly popular now because they're affordable, small and portable, a lot easier to learn to play than guitar, and provide great accompaniment for lots and lots of songs!

Paint Creek's Ukulele Circle, led by Jack Erickson, meets **5:00-6:00** before every Paint Creek gathering! Our first session will be **Saturday, September 11**, at River Woods Park in Auburn Hills. Look for us not far from the pavilion.

Ukuleles of all sizes and players of all sizes are welcome! Beginners are welcome, as we'll look at chords and strumming patterns. **Be sure to bring your own chair and music stand.** Song sheets from the free online Allegheny Ukulele Collective song books will be provided for the first session. Come join us...unless you're one of those folks who just don't like to have fun!

~Jack Erickson

###

Songwriting Circle

Hi Paint Creek members! We're reprising the Songwriting Circle this year and I am privileged to lead it. As part of my preparations it would be helpful to get an idea of who is interested in joining and perhaps what their interests, experience and expectations are. You can phone/text me. Looking forward to hearing from you!

~Dave Belferman

###

Ridin' Drag

by Jack D. Ferguson

Wait for it...

Rain is coming. That's what the radar says, but the radar is late with its report.

As the sun settled into the west I detected a freshening breeze. At first it was just a cool touch across my arm. A signal to step outside and take note of the trees and recall an Ontario afternoon twenty-five years ago on a portage trail between Deacon and Dickenson Lakes.

The night before had been hot and a plague of energized mosquitoes prevented a proper breakfast. With no wind to deflect the horde, we fled camp and began fishing early in hopes that, whether we caught walleye for supper or not, we would escape the skeeters. The paddle south and west across Dickenson Lake kept us out of the bugs, but pickerel bites were few so we slid the canoes into the brush where began our portage to Deacon Lake.

Poor-tage is a more accurate description of the passage between the lakes where muck aplenty lay in store. We also had a beaver damn to cross. Overhead, the tree canopy was thick with the underbrush thicker still and swarming with black flies. Our party stared into the bush, back at me, into the bush, then at our group leader.

We're going in there? This better be worth it!

Years later, after Sunday service, some of those fellas could be seen sharing pictures and laughing about the trip to the lake on the other side of the beaver dam where they caught their limit of walleye. I enjoyed the fillets myself, but my most treasured memory is of coming back over the dam on our way back. The sun blazed and our aluminum canoes were oven hot. Sweat rolled down my back when suddenly, across my cheek came a soft kiss. Cool and autumnal light it whispered, *rain coming*.

As I had no intention of seeing my people paddling a body of water in a lightning storm I went from hero to zero when I insisted we stop.

Lately there's a phrase tossed around, *wait for it*. I figure we would have been three hundred yards into open water when the first crack of electricity split the lowering Canadian skies. The initial rain struck hard with icy pebble-size drops that slashed through the tag alders, stripping leaves and causing us to huddle up. Leaning into each other, one of the gang asked, *How did you know? The sun was out*.

I told him I didn't know how I knew. I still can't fathom it. But in John 4:24 Jesus referred to the infinite spirit. I suspect the answer is available there. Plus, when you ask the many sailors, gardeners and folks that spend time outdoors, they will confirm, you develop a certain intuition about these things.

Right now, my intuition says: *rain is coming*. I better get up and close the windows.

###

Events and Links

If you know of events or links that may interest PCFS members, send them to pcfs.kt@gmail.com

Open Mic Night, Starkweather Arts Center, Romeo

Fourth Friday of each month. 7PM, \$4, \$3 Starkweather members. Open to all, come to perform, come to enjoy! 219 N. Main, Romeo, MI 48065 starkweatherarts.com

Ten Pound Fiddle Concerts

View the full schedule at tenpoundfiddle.org
August 20-September 17: Ann Reed (Streaming from the Archives)
September 4: Playful Songs with Lake Effect (outdoors)

September 8-17: Benefit Concert for 9/11 Victims (Streaming from the Archives)
September 24: Yellow Room Gang (Live)

ACTMAD Calendar

The Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance offers several online opportunities: Pittsfield Open Band Virtual Session, Scandinavian Music Jam with Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey, and a Pub Sing. See events.aactmad.org for details.

The Ark Family Room Series

The Ark's Family Room performances are still available, theark.org/ark-family-room-series-past-events. Check theark.org for their live performance schedule.

CDSS: Online Events Calendar

This is a fantastic place to learn about traditional dance, music, song, and storytelling activities happening every week throughout North America...and beyond. Nearly of the events that are listed are currently virtual. cdss.org/community/events-calendar

Folk Alliance Livestream Concerts

Folk Alliance maintains a calendar of online concerts: folk.org/livestreams/month/2021-08. See their main page for other resources.

Happy Wheatland!

September 10-12: Wheatland Music Festival – Sadly Cancelled. See wheatlandmusic.org for details.

Facebook Links

Huber Breese Music Online Concerts: Look for videos on their Facebook page, facebook.com/watch/HuberBreeseMusic/

Jay Ungar and Molly Mason: The Quiet Room is a live online music series that has been running each Wednesday at 8pm EDT since March of 2020. Tune in live, or listen to past broadcasts any time. <https://www.facebook.com/jayandmolly/live>

Meredith Axelrod & Craig Ventresco: Jazz, blues and ragtime. Live every night at 8 pm Pacific time, 11 pm EDT, or watch videos on Facebook, Youtube and Instagram. <https://www.facebook.com/meredithaxelrod>

Michigan Folk music love: Post folky Michigan gigs, discuss the past, future, present. Photos, videos, anything of MI folk music interest. bit.ly/3r65V7G.

Country Dance and Song Society: facebook.com/cdss.org

Ten Pound Fiddle Concerts and Dances: facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle

The Ark: facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor

AACTMAD: facebook.com/AACTMAD

Wheatland: <https://www.facebook.com/wheatlandmusicorganization>

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Fine Print:

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, an affiliate of The Country Dance and Song Society of America (CDSS), 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 articles, gigs, or other information for publication, please contact Shirley Worth, Editor (pcf.kt@gmail.com). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline possible on request.

We're sorry to say our Facebook pages are not currently functioning and our website at <http://paintcreekkfolksociety.org> is still out of commission, but we hope to get it back up in third quarter, 2021. Progress is being made.

To unsubscribe from this mailing list, reply to pcf.kt@gmail.com with the word unsubscribe in the subject line.