

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society
December 2023

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.
Shirley Worth – Editor (pcfs.kt@gmail.com)

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Fellowship Hall, University Presbyterian Church

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/EKzGbBSqrkePUfUa9>

Holiday Potluck!

2 pm: Meet & Greet, Dinner Setup

2:30 pm: Dinner

Holiday Song Swap following dinner

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The President's Post

Dear Members and Friends,

On November 15 the board met to review the Tin Whistle. This is Paint Creek's annual fundraiser and raise funds it did. I do not have the final numbers yet, but from a financial perspective it would be an understatement to say event merely succeeded. During the meeting Glen Morningstar and I agreed that Paint Creek enjoys a historically strong fiscal position.

Artistically, I was proud of our Sampler presenters. Jo Anne, Andy, Marty, and Laura; you set our headliner up perfectly. Thank you! I felt John's performance was a master-class and created a magical evening.

We can still improve how we implement the various tasks required to host such a show, but that is normal. Once a year we rely on 31 volunteers to make it work. Those folks change roles, explore new experiences, and do their best. What else can we ask of volunteers?

Speaking of volunteers, I should to remind you we have a Starry Night for A Ramble coming in February and we can always use help with the Holiday Potluck this month. Speak to Susan Swanson or Maggie Ferguson for more information.

Jack

###

Holiday Singing

At our Paint Creek Holiday Potluck, Saturday, December 2, we'd like to try a new way of singing holiday songs - one which includes guitar players as well as singers.

Using the website at <https://www.bellschristmasmusic.com/christmas-songs-easy-chords.html>, we can view lyrics and chords on the big TV screen. This might also be useful for anyone who plays ukulele, mandolin or other instruments by reading chord names. Bring your capos!

Click on the link to check it out ahead of time, if you like. Maybe it will help you add more music to your holiday celebrations!

Questions? Contact Jack E

jackofallstrings@gmail.com

###

Future Gatherings

Jeff D, Vice President

December 2nd: Holiday Pot Luck – Carols/Holiday song swap; no presentation.

January 6th: *Michigan Women* - Stephanie Arwady, from the Troy Historical Village. Michigan women have rocked the boat and cradle for centuries. Learn about fur trader Magdelaine LaFromboise, suffragist Ann Howard Shaw, artist Gwen Frostic and more.

More information about our February 3 and March 2 meetings will be published in the next issue of Keepin' Tabs.

Our regular Gathering program is as follows: 2 pm, Meet & Greet; 2:30 pm, Presentation; 4 pm, Song Swap; 5:30 pm, Circles & Jams.

###

Call for Experienced Musicians for Paint Creek Country Orchestra

After a sleep of ... 3 years ... the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra will be gathering up their favorite tunes to play for the 2024 Starry Night for a Ramble Valentine's Dance in February. Here's where you come in.

1- Are you a Member of Paint Creek Folklore Society?

2- Are you proficient on your instrument ie. Able to play reels at between 112 - 128; Jigs 116 - 124; Waltzes 110 & under?

3- Can you dedicate your Sundays in January and the first half of February to rehearsals (typically in Highland MI where all my music resides) The rehearsal day/times/location are subject to change. (required) PS - We MAY also be able to coordinate rehearsals at Fellowship Hall on Meeting Afternoons.

4-Are you able to laugh while eating great snacks? (or, as we refer to them - Band Treats)

5-Do you have an empty email box that's itching to be over-populated with music & 'stuff'?

6-And finally, are you able to schlep your instruments & pitch in with band/sound set up/take down at the Starry Night for a Ramble (SNFAR) Dance on a Saturday evening in February, 2024? The dance usually starts at 8 (sometimes 7 or 7:30) but we'll need to arrive quite a bit earlier.

Then we may have an opportunity for you. The Starry Night for a Ramble Dance will, most probably be February 10 OR 17, 2024 at the First United Methodist Church in Troy. We have a dedicated core of veteran musicians who are more than willing to give advice and show you 'stuff' to help you transition into the wild & wonderful world of Dance Band Musician 😊

About Starry Night for a Ramble: This dance for the past 30 or so years has been co-hosted by Paint Creek Folklore Society and Oakland County Traditional Dance Society. OCTDS provides the facility and one of the two callers for the evening. PCFS

provides the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra and one of the two callers for the evening, and decorating the hall. All are invited to provide snacks for the break & a Silent Auction item or two. Proceeds benefit both Paint Creek Folklore Society and Oakland County Traditional Dance Society, and the proceeds from the Silent Auction normally go to a good cause related to either or both organizations. [See Glen call a contra dance in this YouTube video (sorry for the ads): <https://bit.ly/3uvsmdr>]

If you've read this far and are truly interested, please send me an email or call with your intent and/or questions. judithmstar@aol.com or 248-318-5300

If you don't feel you are up to playing 'up to speed' but still are interested in helping out, we will need some willing bodies to help with the decorations, set-up of the hall, and so on. More information will come later, or send an email to Glen Morningstar, this year's co-chair from Paint Creek, to gmorning@aol.com

We'll have a GRAND time!

Judi Morningstar

judithmstar@aol.com or 248-318-5300

###

Tin Whistle Coffeehouse Concert: Wow, it was Great!

I wish to thank our paint Creek Samplers, Jo Ann and Andy MundyMather and Marty and Laura Kohn and all 30-plus volunteers who helped make the 50th Tin Whistle possible – that's what it takes!

Some even described the show as magical. Our opening acts were spectacular and it appeared John kept everyone fixed in rapt attention. Special thanks to Larry M. who suggested we see if John McCutcheon would be an option since he was going to be at the Ark the next day. It worked out great. TERRIFIC IDEA LARRY!

Although the final tabulation was not available at this writing, I'm happy to report we had a great attendance of somewhere close to 270 or 280 people at the show. It looks like we had somewhere around \$3000 profit which will go toward supporting the cost of rentals, etc. for our regular gatherings, and keeping our dues low.

Jeff

###

Membership Highlights

We had our first experience with taking debit/credit cards at the Tin Whistle. Overall, it went very well. The process is easy, quick and painless.

If you haven't renewed your membership, we'll be able to take your card at the December Pot Luck Gathering. There will be a 3% surcharge added to the bill. We'll still take cash or check too.

Blank copies of the 2023-2024 PCFS Membership form are available at the Welcome Desk [and attached to the newsletter email-ed]. If you forgot to bring one from home, we have you covered. The dues have remained the same as last year: \$50 for a single membership and \$90 for a family membership.

The week after the December Pot Luck we'll distribute the membership roster to only those members who have their membership in good standing.

When you attend a gathering, please stop by and sign in and get your badge. It may be the only way we know you attended.

We're also encouraging you to invite a friend or family member to a Gathering. They just might be pleasantly surprised by what we offer as group. Make sure you tell them we are a fun group! A reminder that we've changed the visitor policy so that the first visit is free. Succeeding visits during the season will be \$10 per visit.

See you soon!

Dan D & Jack E, Membership Co-chairs

###

Note from MatherMundys

Jo Ann and Andy want to give a big thank you for inviting us to play at the Tin Whistle. It was an honor and a lot of fun! Thank you also to the committee and all the volunteers who made the show happen and made it a big success.

###

Dr. Peter Stephenson Benefit Concert for PSP

Dr. Peter Stephenson and special guests will be presenting the Second Annual Concert for PSP Research as part of the ITNS Radio network's virtual concert series. PSP is a deadly disease that took my wife last April and it suffers from lack of research money due to its rarity. Each year I am doing a fund raiser for the research and net proceeds from ticket sales go to the CBD & PSP Research Fund. Watch my web site - DrPeterStephenson.org - for ticket information.

###

2023-24 Song Swap Themes

December - Holidays

January - Your Favorite Songwriter

February - Share Your Romantic Side

March - Songs From The Frontier

April - The American Civil War

May - Songs About Trees

June - Revolution

July - Revival

###

Ridin' Drag

by Jack F

The thought occurred to me that, for as long as I have been writing these Ridin' Drag pieces, I never mentioned their relevance to December, Christmas, and friendship. May I correct that?

I'm a paper and pencil guy. These days I prefer a Blackwing 602 pencil, mostly for eraser function. My notebooks vary from Moleskines to foolscap or hard-covered journals I find at Costco.

The pencil and paper produce the first draft, and those first drafts can be rough. How rough? Read Anne LaMott's, [Bird by Bird](#). Hence the eraser. Once things take shape, I transfer the piece onto the computer. The practice comes naturally, as pencil in hand,

the feel of a page creates, while the keyboard smooths the process of correction and revision.

Writers take note; afterward, I learned this was the practice of William Zinsser, author of [On Writing Well](#). Both mediums have their place.

Speaking of places, where do you write? Some writing coaches insist you use the same spot, always. I have a desk with drawers and calendars and the accompanying clutter Mr. Zinsser refers to in Chapter Three. There is even a comfortable chair. This is where I perform email related tasks. If you see me in a Zoom meeting, that's the space.

But that space is rarely conducive to producing a Ridin' Drag, it's just too permanent. The sense of being stuck in one spot runs counter to the spirit of riding. So, I move about, and this is accomplished with a Christmas gift I received in 1992.

My friend Scott knew I was doing a powerful number of papers on my journey through seminary. One December afternoon he surveyed his shop, pulled down some scrap oak, drew a sketch, measured twice, cut once and at a Sunday evening service said, "Merry Christmas, Brother, stay strong."

He held out the portable desk that is on my lap now. Sometimes it holds a legal pad. At the moment, it supports a laptop.

Then he signed it *Scott J. Taylor, December 1992*, and added [Ecclesiastes 12:13](#).

Every Ridin' Drag you read, I write on the desk Scott crafted. No Ridin' Drag is ever written in the same place twice. The desk is welcome in the garden, along the ridge and beyond. Which brings me to repairs.

Because you won't do much riding, sailing, or general living without fixing things. Like when your portable desk slips, wood splits, and hinges twist.

It's the same with folks, we slip too. And by grace, we mend.

Drill bits waiting, wood screws and glue at the ready, I'll attempt a restoration in the morning. My work won't measure up to Scott's, but might bring the uncommon maker a smile as he moves ahead of the herd, on point past the north star.

Yet still, nearby. Near enough to whisper, *Keep writing, be brave, stay strong and remain grateful for this turning of the season.*

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

###

Events and Links

*If you know of events or links that may interest PCFS members – or if **you** are appearing somewhere, send information to pcfs.kt@gmail.com*

Member Showcase

Tara

December 1 & 2, 5-7 pm - Gus' Snug, Clawson

Dr. Peter Stephenson

Every Monday, 8-10 PM - Open Mic, Dessert Oasis, Rochester
Every Friday - 7-10 pm Live Music Fridays - Bean & Benny, Oxford

Lois Keel

December 3, 2 pm - Did you miss Lois's Prohibition program, want to see it again, or bring friends? It will be at the Main Detroit Library, 201 Woodward, in the Explorer's Room. Additional focus on Detroit will be added to this program with music, audience participation, and stories of Michigan providing three-quarters of the smuggled alcohol during Prohibition.

Jams, Concerts, Events, and more...

Mama's Coffeehouse, Birmingham

December 15, 7:30 pm - **Kitty Donohoe**. \$17, \$15 student/senior. <https://bucmi.org/music-choir/mamas-coffeehouse> or <https://www.facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse>

Endless Strummers Ukulele Club

The Endless Strummers Ukulele Club meets Monday evenings 7:00-8:30 at Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church, 749 W. 14 mile Road, Clawson, for a little instruction and a lot of strumming. Beginners are welcome. For more info, contact Jack Erickson. jackofallstrings@gmail.com

Open Mic Night, Starkweather Arts Center, Romeo

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

Open Mic Night, Shelby Township Community Center

Second Saturday of each month. 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30), Instrumental music, singing, or listening. \$3 at door, drinks and snacks provided. 14975 21 Mile Rd, Shelby Township. Contact Nan at nan.drinkard@gmail.com

Open Mic at Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters

Every Monday, 8-10 pm at The Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters, 115 S. Main Street, Royal Oak. docr.coffee

BaseLine Folk Society

Third Saturdays, 7 pm at Plymouth Community Arts, 774 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth. Open mic and a featured performer. \$7 donation requested at door. Facebook: <https://bit.ly/BaseLineFolk>

Open Mic Night, Plymouth Coffee Bean Co

First Monday of each month, 6:00 pm signup, 6:30 pm start. 884 Penniman Ave., Plymouth plymouthcoffeebean.com

Michigan Storytelling

MI Story newsletter posted monthly: storytelling events around Michigan michiganstorytelling.org

Ten Pound Fiddle

Find the schedule at tenpoundfiddle.org

ACTMAAD Calendar

The Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance opportunities: aactmad.org/calendar

The Ark

The Ark is now open for in-person events, requiring proof of full vaccination and masking. See the full schedule at theark.org

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. To find virtual events, click "Event Category" and check "Online Event". cdss.org/events

Facebook Links

Lois Sprengnether Keel: "Keeping the Public in Public Domain", facebook.com/lois.sez

Huber Breese Music Online Concerts: 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. facebook.com/jayandmolly/live

Meredith Axelrod & Craig Ventresco: Jazz, blues and ragtime. Live every night at 8 pm Pacific time, 11 pm EDT, and videos are posted on their Facebook page. [facebook.com/meredithaxelrod](https://www.facebook.com/meredithaxelrod)
Michigan Folk music love: Photos, videos, anything of MI folk music interest. bit.ly/3r65V7G
Country Dance and Song Society: [facebook.com/cdss.org](https://www.facebook.com/cdss.org)
Ten Pound Fiddle Concerts and Dances: [facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle](https://www.facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle)
The Ark: [facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor](https://www.facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor)
AACTMAD: [facebook.com/AACTMAD](https://www.facebook.com/AACTMAD)
Oakland County Traditional Dance Society (OCTDS): [facebook.com/OCTDS](https://www.facebook.com/OCTDS)
Detroit Irish Music Association-CCE: [facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA)

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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. Circulation: about 200 people on PCFS mailing list, which is not published or shared. Commercial use of mailing list is not permitted.

To submit articles, gigs, or other information for publication, please contact Shirley Worth, Editor (pcfs.kt@gmail.com). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline possible on request.

Our website: [paintcreekfolkloresociety.org](https://www.paintcreekfolkloresociety.org)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086482332379>

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