

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

December 2024

Distributed monthly via email to members and friends of PCFS. To unsubscribe from this mailing list, reply to this email address with the word **unsubscribe**.

A pdf file of this KT is attached for those who still like a hard copy.

We wish you joy, whatever your tradition for this season!

Time to Renew Your Membership!

A pdf file of the membership form is attached.

Next Gathering: Saturday, December 7, 2024

Fellowship Hall, University Presbyterian Church, 1385 S. Adams Rd., Rochester Hills, MI 48309.

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

Schedule

2:00 to 2:30: Meet and Greet

2:30 to 4:00: Holiday Potluck

4:00: Holiday Songs

Holiday Potluck Planning Suggestions

Thanks to Maggie for coordinating the food for the December Gathering. We are offering the following suggestions for the December 7th potluck.

The food items listed below are (like our Song Swap themes!) suggestions only. Bring whatever you please.

A-G: Desserts (cake, cookies, pie, brownies, etc.)

H-N: Potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans, coleslaw, turkey roll-ups, chicken salad sliders, pre-sliced submarine sandwich, pizza, bucket of chicken, pickles, sliced onions.

P-Z: Chips and dip, fruit salad, cheese and crackers, California rolls, lettuce wraps, ambrosia, watermelon, deviled eggs, ham roll ups, hot or cold dips.

Holiday Singing

At the Holiday Potluck we will once again use the website at <https://www.bellschristmasmusic.com/christmas-songs-easy-chords.html> to view holiday song lyrics and chords on the big TV screen for our sing-a-long. This will be useful for anyone who plays guitar, ukulele, mandolin, or other instruments by reading chord names. Some of you may want to bring your laptop or tablet and access it for yourself at your table. Don't forget to bring your capos! We may change keys to accommodate voices.

Click on the link to check it out ahead of time. It may help you add more music to your other holiday celebrations!

Questions? Contact Jack E at jackofallstrings@gmail.com

Future Gatherings, Presentations, and Song Swap Themes

Mark your calendar!

- January 4 Nick Schillace presents the guitar style of Maybelle Carter. Song Swap Theme: Criminals, Outlaws and Thugs.
- February 1 Larry Stevens Presents "Major Label, Baby Boomer, Hippie-Dippie, Fairytale Blues," or (more or less) how the hippie generation brought the blues into our music. Song Swap Theme: Most Disturbing Ballads.
- February 15 Starry Night for a Ramble Dance! See the article below.
- March 1 Larry Everhart presents some harmonica history, styles and techniques. Song Swap Theme: Folktales About Animals.
- April 5 Song Swap Theme: Michigan History.
- May 3 Song Swap Theme: Redemption.
- June 7 Song Swap Theme: Coming of Age/Life Changes.
- July 5 Picnic, No Song Swap.

Jeff Despard, Vice President

President's Post

Dear Members and Friends,

Thanks to all your hard work and volunteer efforts, the 51st Annual Tin Whistle Coffeehouse Concert held November 9 was a resounding success. As our largest fundraiser, it exceeded our expectations. We sold 224 tickets; in this post Covid era we are succeeding in keeping the traditions of live folk music and attracting new fans. After 50 years of existence, Paint Creek is in the strongest financial position it has ever been.

Our Paint Creek Sampler acts were the perfect accompaniment to our headliner. Tom Bowes did an outstanding job with his re-interpretations of old favorites. Evie Boss left the audience joyful with her original ukulele tunes. Headliner Wilson Thicket astounded the audience with their creative blend of folk and bluegrass music.

Thanks to all the volunteers: Mike A, Dave B, Tom B, Susan C, Dave

C, Lynn C, Dan D, Jeff D, Tom D, Brad D, Phil D, Jack E, Theresa E, Jack F, Maggie F, Elaine G, Joni G, Sharon H, Marilyn H, Phyllis I, Paul J, Ursula J, Marty K, Melinda K, Larry M, Glen M, Harvey N, Art P, Suzanne R, Kathy R, Julie S, Susan S, Kathy T, and Margie W.

Speaking of volunteers, our joint fundraiser with the Oakland County Traditional Dance Society, Starry Night for A Ramble along with a silent auction will be held February 15, 2025. Contact Glen or Judi M for volunteer opportunities. We can also use help with the kitchen setup for the December Holiday Potluck. Contact Maggie F for more information.

Paul J.

Call Out for Starry Night for a Ramble Dance Band Musicians!

It's that time of the year again, when the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra will be gathering up their favorite tunes to play for the Starry Night for a Ramble Valentine's Dance on February 15, 2025. Here's where you come in:

1. Are you a Member of Paint Creek Folklore Society?
2. Are you proficient at your instrument? Are you able to play reels at between 112 and 128; Jigs between 116 and 124, and Waltzes 110 and under?
3. Can you dedicate your Sundays in January and the first half of February to rehearsals (typically in Highland, Michigan where all my music resides)? Note that the rehearsal days, times, and locations are subject to change. (required)
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 populated with music and stuff?
6. And finally, are you able to schlep your instruments and pitch in with set up/take down at the SNFAR Dance on Saturday evening Feb 15, 2025? The dance usually starts at 8:00 pm (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 be February 15, 2025, 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 and wonderful world of Dance Band musicians.

About Starry Night for a Ramble: This dance for the past many 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, one of the two callers for the evening, and decorates the hall. All are invited to provide snacks for the break and a Silent Auction

item or two. Proceeds benefit both Paint Creek Folklore Society and Oakland County Traditional Dance Society.

If you're interested, please contact me at 248-318-5300 or email at gimorningstar@comcast.net.

Judi M, Dance Band Baton Beater

Ridin' Drag

Ridin' Drag

There is a male cardinal close by. In the lee of an arborvitae, the red of his tight plumage compliments a trifecta of florescent orange, green and carmine that remain on the burning bush he clings to. Talons strain to ride the violent shake of the shrub's attempts to fend off rhythmic gust-punches from out of the northwest sky.

Three dozen maple leaves roll, tumble, and tangle with the burning bush until they are blown through, free to pass over and under our faithful Ford. Mr. Cardinal is content to watch their journey. An excursion concluded when a fence interrupts their flight and forces them to gather with oaks, catalpas, mulberry and lesser boxelder cousins.

In this moment I am distracted, transported, then reminded of Shel Silverstein, and a poem I committed to memory many years past. The talons relent, and I release these words to bending grass and the leaves bound along the fence line. From Mr. Cardinal, today's strange wind and me, Happy Thanksgiving.

What a strange wind it was today,
Whistlin' and whirlin' and scurlin' away
Like a worried old woman with so much to say.
What a strange wind it was today.

What a strange wind it was today,
Cool and clear from a sky so grey
And my hat stayed on, but my head blew away
What a strange wind it was today.

From *A Light in the Attic* by Shel Silverstein, 1981, Harper & Row

Jack F.

Membership Highlights

As of 12/01/24 we have 61 active members comprised of single, family and Lifetime Members. It's a bit of a drop over last year at this time but it comprises the hard-core music lovers among us.

If you haven't renewed your membership, we'll be able to take your debit and credit card at the next December Potluck Gathering. The 3% surcharge has been waived by the board. We'll still take cash or check too. Blank copies of the 2024-2025 PCFS Membership form are available at

the Welcome Desk. 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 Potluck 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 a 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.

As always don't be afraid to reach out to us with any questions.

See you soon!

Membership Co-chairs Dan D and Jack E

PCFS Board Members

- Paul J, President
- Jeff D, Vice President
- Tom B, Secretary
- Dave B, Treasurer
- Mike A, Kathy T, Kathy R, Elaine G, Members at Large
- Jack F, President Emeritus
- Dan D, Jack E, Membership Co-chairs
- Glen M, Historian
- Dan D, Webmaster, Social Media Editor
- Andy M, Keepin' Tabs Editor

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

Visit Us Online

Want to know more? Well, here's the link: paintcreekfolkloresociety.org.

Jams, Concerts, Events, and More

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society

Calendar at: <https://www.octds.org>

Mama's Coffeehouse

Mama's Coffeehouse, Birmingham

- December 21 Finvarra's Wren

<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 at the Costic Center

On the 2nd Monday of every month, there is an open mike at Costic Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills (not far from Middlebelt Rd.). It lasts from 11:00 until about 2:00 p.m. There are some really great musicians that are there each time and it's lots of fun.

Holiday Season Singalong and Open

The Unity of Royal Oak church is hosting a Holiday Season Singalong and Open Mic on Thursday December 12th, 7PM, doors open at 6:30. The address is 2500 Crooks Rd, Royal Oak, MI 48073. Open mic performers/groups can contact Tom Bowes via text at 586-871-8488 with their song choice beforehand to coordinate things a bit, or they can take their chances and sign up when they arrive.

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

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

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>

Michigan Storytelling

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

Ten Pound Fiddle

- Robin and Linda Williams finally make their way back to the Fiddle on Friday, December 6. Veteran of countless A Prairie Home Companion shows, this duo knows how to write, arrange and present the perfect duet. It has been too long! (ULC)

- The 21st (almost) Annual Holiday Sing takes place on Friday, December 13, featuring song leader Sally Potter, and special musical guests Doug Berch and Doug Austin, and spoken word artist Ruelaine Stokes. Lyric sheets provided. Come sing holiday songs with your community.

tenpoundfiddle.org

ACTMAAD Calendar

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

The Ark

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.

Dr. Peter Stephenson

Every Monday, 8-10 pm - Open Mic, Dessert Oasis, Rochester

Every Friday, 7-10 pm Live Music Fridays - Bean & Benny, Oxford

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

Michigan Folk music love: 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

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society (OCTDS): facebook.com/OCTDS

Detroit Irish Music Association-CCE: facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA

Original Dulcimer Players Club: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064673560484>

[Really Old Martin Guitars](#) Andy M's group about pre-1900 Martin guitars.

Attachments

- December KT pdf
- 2024-25 Membership Form

The Fine Print

Keepin' Tabs (KT) is the monthly newsletter for, by, and about the Paint Creek Folklore Society. Paint Creek Folklore Society (PCFS) 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 this mailing list is not permitted.

To submit articles, gigs, or other information for publication, please contact your most humble editor, Andy Mather (pcfs.kt@gmail.com). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline possible on request.

Our website: paintcreekfolkloresociety.org

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