

# Keepin' Tabs

## The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

### May 2025

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.

### Next Gathering: Saturday, May 3, 2025

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 3:30: Presentation: Dan Hazlett will share some hints with us on writing funny songs. He has written quite a few funny songs and offered instructions about the process. And there's a good chance that some straightforward songwriting instruction will seep into his presentation.

3:30 to 4:00: Snackin' and Yackin' hosted by Elaine G and Kathy R.

4:00 to 5:30: Song Swap Theme: Redemption.

5:30: Circles and Jams: Instrumental Jam led by TBD; Vocal Jam led by Julie S; Native American Flutes led by Sharon H; and Part 4 of "Thinking Creatively about Chords" led by Kevin T.

#### Guitar Flatpicking

A sampler of this new Circle, which focuses on the bluegrass style, was presented by Larry Miller at our March Gathering. It will resume in the Fall when we return indoors following our outdoor summer meetings. Please let Larry know if you have interest or any questions about topics that will be presented.

#### Vocal Jam

We use the *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again* songbooks. Each book contains about 1,200 songs with lyrics and chords. Bring yours from home or purchase with cash, check or card at the membership desk. The books get packed up soon after the gathering, so best to purchase early. Don't miss out on this limited number of copies for the low price of \$30 each!

Theresa and Jack E.

## Instrumental Jam

The instrumental jam is led by Suzanne R. Just a few “notes” about the instrumental jam: We gather in a circle with our instruments and take turns choosing each song to play together. Many of the songs come from the pink *Ruffwater Fake Book*, available at the check-in table for purchase. Please feel free to request that we play a song slowly a few times first. Looking forward to seeing you there!”

## Thinking Creatively with Chords

This circle is designed to provide an easy-to-understand approach to building and creatively using a visual chord reference library. The content is presented in clear examples that can be used by all levels of musicians (beginners to performing professionals). Activities will include playing, discussion of topics, and questions and answers. Some handouts will be provided.

## President’s Post



May is a magical month where the world wakes up in song. The daffodils have recovered from the late Spring snow, the forsythia is in full bloom, and lilacs scent the air. Maypole festivities occur on May 1, the midpoint between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice. The symbolism of the Maypole has been debated for centuries:

It was a remnant of the Germanic reverence for sacred trees, or the Norse cosmological view that the universe was a world tree. Thomas Hobbes and Sigmund Freud thought it had phallic symbolism.

Maypoles were first seen in the British Isles about 1350 CE.

The above photo shows PCFS’ers celebrating May Play Day on May 5, 1984. If you look closely, you may be able to see several current Board members and other familiar faces!

May will be our last indoor gathering until October. We will meet outdoors in the Seyburn Pavilion for the June, July, and September gatherings. Details to follow in future KTs.

A reminder to Board Members that there is a PCFS Board meeting scheduled via Zoom on May 6 beginning at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend; please email [pjacques134962@comcast.net](mailto:pjacques134962@comcast.net) beforehand to receive the Zoom invitation. We are looking forward to seeing you at our May gathering and celebrating with songs about Redemption. For those who wish to participate in the vocal and instrumental jams, you can purchase a songbook during the Meet and Greet. New fakebooks are back in stock.

Paul J, President

## Future Gatherings, Presentations, and Song Swap Themes

Mark your calendar!

**May 10:** Starry Night for a Ramble contradance is rescheduled for Saturday, May 10, beginning at 7PM. Join Glen Morningstar and our Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra. This dance is a joint fundraiser with PCFS. See the article below!

**June 7:** (Outdoors) Board Elections! Song Swap Theme: Coming of Age/Life Changes.

**July 5:** Picnic (Outdoors), no Song Swap.

**August:** No Gathering.

**September:** (Outdoors).

Jeff D, Vice President

## **A Starry Night for a Ramble**

**A Starry Night for a Ramble Benefit Contra and Square Dance is just around the corner...literally and figuratively! It's Valentine's Day in May!!**

In less than two weeks we'll all join in the fun, just down the street and around a couple of corners at First United Methodist Church, 6363 Livernois Road between Square Lake Road and South Boulevard. That's where the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra will be playing their finest tunes for the smooth moves of eager dancers reveling in the contra and square figures on the dance floor. Saturday May 10 th is the date with dance newcomers' warm-up at 7 pm and regular dancing 7:30-10:30 pm. All dances **are** walked through to prepare you for a fun time. Bring a partner and a bunch if you can or invite someone from those gathered. Bring your Silent Auction items too to give them a new home and raise a pile of money for programs at Paint Creek Folklore Society and Oakland County Traditional Dance Society, our hosts. \$10 is a great bargain for live music, a warm and inviting venue, dancing, beverages and snacks at the half, and light-hearted conversation throughout. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Tom A and Glen M, Dance Leaders and Callers.

See the flyer attached for more details and see you there!

Call PCFS'er Glen at 248.330.0832 with any questions.

## **Annual Elections 2025 - 2026**

Board Elections will be held on June 7, 2025. The Nominating Committee (consisting of Theresa E and Jeff D) has recommended the following candidates for elected offices. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the June Gathering.

- President: Tom D
- Vice-President: Suzanne R
- Secretary: Tom B
- Treasurer: Dave B
- Members at Large: Mike A, Kathy T, Kathy R, Elaine G

The following positions are appointed by the Board. Current appointees are:

- President Emeritus: Jack F

- Co-Membership Chairpersons: Dan D and Jack E
- Historian: Glen M
- Webmaster/Social Media Editor: Dan D and Michele F
- Snack Coordinator: Sharon H
- KT Editor: Andy M

After **decades** of dedicated service Jeff D, Jack F and Andy M are retiring from the Board. All three have held multiple positions.

Jeff joined the Board in 2015 and served ten terms, including three as President. Jack F joined in 2003, and served a total of twenty-two terms, including six as President or co-President. Andy first joined the Board in 1997, and served a total of twenty years, including five years as President or Co-President, and five years as editor of the KT.

That's 52 years of expertise and guidance to the Paint Creek Community! Be sure to thank them when you see them. Also, thanks to our historian Glen M for his historical research.

Submitted by Paul J.

## Ridin' Drag

Joan's guitar was built in Vancouver Canada. The woods of maple, mahogany, spruce, and rosewood, seasoned for years before the late winter early spring of 2009. Once completed, the satin finished orchestra model was shipped to Gallagher's Music in Berkely, MI. Joan purchased the guitar new on June the sixth, 2009.

She began to carry the guitar, and other instruments, to musical gatherings across the Midwest. I first met Joan's guitar at a Paint Creek affair and approved her choice. By reputation, beauty and build quality, I always held Larrivee guitars in high regard. Then an occasion occurred that confirmed my position.

At the time, I owned a small-body Guild. The instrument was lovely, and I worked hard to play it well. But we couldn't come to an agreement. One weekend, in the depth of pickers frustration and despair, I accepted an invitation to ride motorcycles with Dan. Dan is a fine musician, former Paint Creek President and a motorcycle aficionado. So, I swung a leg over my bike and rode toward Dan's place north of Grayling. When I arrived, he was busy. But he handed me a beverage, offered a nice chair, and pointed at a guitar.

*Amuse yourself.*

Which I did. While despite being thirsty, I never finished my drink. You see, the guitar was a Larrivee. As I began to play it, divine intervention occurred. Everything I struggled to play on the Guild, I could play on the Larrivee. I realized that the Guild, grand as it was, and I were not a match. Harder work wouldn't make it so.

I shopped and found a Larrivee. My wife loves it. To explain requires a twisting rabbit hole blur of guitar swapping stories better left for a campfire.

Meanwhile I had other relationships. Martins. All wonderful teachers.

A Martin brings me back to Joan's Guitar. The Monday before our March Gathering, I delivered a Martin M-36 to a fella. The man was agog. According to him, his prayers were answered, his search was over.

And me? I heard a still, small voice whisper,

*Larrivee... Just wait for your Larrivee.*

The wait was short. During the March Gathering, Joan asked if I was interested in her guitar. She needed something smaller.

I call Joan's guitar Sis. The shared name of a little chestnut mare that taught me equitation, and how to...

*Ask often, never demand.*

When you see me with Sis, remember the value in waiting. Think of the miles, open mics, lessons, jams, and love that Joan played into that guitar. And think of the blessing a Paint Creek Gathering can be.

Thanks for being there Joan. Thank you for thinking of me.

Jack F.

## **In Memoriam**

Alan Goldenstein (May 23, 1940 to April 1, 2025). Alan was a long-time member of Paint Creek and enjoyed singing in song swaps and vocal jams. In addition to Paint Creek, he was active in three choirs. He attended his last Gathering in February 2025.

## **Membership Highlights**

The Paint Creek Folklore Society now has almost 80 members! Some have been here for years, some for decades, and some for only a few months.

With so many members, as well as visitors, coupled with data overload induced memory deficit, we're getting where we don't always remember the names of the people we're talking to.

There are two solutions to this problem. The first is to refer to them as, "You," or "Bro," or some other anonymous moniker. The second is to look at their name tag and refer to them by their name.

We recommend the second option, which necessitates everyone - that is, everyone - wearing a name tag, even if you think everyone knows you. This way, new members, old members, and visitors will quickly become familiar with each other by name. So be sure to stop at the Welcome Desk to pick up your name badge or (clip-on or pin-on) or write out a temporary stick-on name tag.

Remember that you're always welcome to bring friends to our gatherings. Lastly, a big thank you to our new and newish members who have stepped up to volunteer to help our society succeed.

Jack E and Dan D, Membership Chairpersons

## 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](mailto:pcfs.kt@gmail.com)

### A Note to PCFS from Grant F

I just wanted to follow up and say thanks for having me out last weekend! I wanted to send some links to keep in contact/share with folks from the society.

Personal Website: <https://www.grantflick.com>

Main duo project: <https://www.warrenandflick.com>

My next show in the area is at the Ark in Ann Arbor with Warren and Flick on May 28

I'd love to come back to the society in the future! If you or anyone you know likes to host house concerts, please let me know, I still have a decent amount of gaps this summer and have a few projects I could potentially bring.

Great to meet and hope our paths cross again soon!

Grant

## Jams, Concerts, Events, and More

### ACTMAAD

The Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance opportunities: [aactmad.org/calendar](http://aactmad.org/calendar)

### The Ark

See the full schedule at [theark.org](http://theark.org).

### BaseLine Folk Society

Third Saturdays, 7 pm at Plymouth Community Arts, 774 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth. Open mic and a featured performer. A \$7 donation is requested at the door. Facebook:

<https://bit.ly/BaseLineFolk>

### 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](http://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 and Benny, Oxford

### 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](mailto:jackofallstrings@gmail.com)

### **Mama's Coffeehouse**

Mama's Coffeehouse, Birmingham  
<https://www.facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse>

### **Michigan Storytelling**

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

### **Oakland County Traditional Dance Society**

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

### **Open Mic at the Costick Center**

On the 2nd Monday of every month, there is an open mike at Costick 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.

### **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](http://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](http://plymouthcoffeebean.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](mailto:nan.drinkard@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](http://starkweatherarts.com)

### **Rochester Hills Public Library Concert**

Diane Westin and friends, March 30th (Sunday), 2pm to 3:30pm (Easy Listening music with splashes of folk). More info and registration link for the event: [RHPL registration link](#).

### **Ten Pound Fiddle**

[tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org)

- Fri, May 2 - The Paxton/Spangler Band
- Thur, May 08 - John Depew
- Tues, May 13, From England, Martin and Eliza Carthy

### **Links**

AACTMAD: [facebook.com/AACTMAD](https://www.facebook.com/AACTMAD)

The Ark: [facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor](https://www.facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor)

Country Dance and Song Society: [facebook.com/cdss.org](https://facebook.com/cdss.org)

Detroit Irish Music Association-CCE: [facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA](https://facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA)

Elderly Instruments <https://www.elderly.com/>

Huber Breese Music Online Concerts: [facebook.com/watch/HuberBreeseMusic/](https://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](https://facebook.com/jayandmolly/live)

Lois Sprengnether Keel: “Keeping the Public in Public Domain”, [facebook.com/lois.sez](https://facebook.com/lois.sez)

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://facebook.com/meredithaxelrod)

Michigan Folk music love: Photos, videos, anything of Michigan folk music interest.  
[bit.ly/3r65V7G](https://bit.ly/3r65V7G)

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

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

Paint Creek Folklore Society (PCFS):

- PCFS website: [www.paintcreekfolkloresociety.org](https://www.paintcreekfolkloresociety.org)
- PCFS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086482332379>

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

Ten Pound Fiddle Concerts and Dances: [facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle](https://facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle)

## Attachments

- May KT pdf
- Starry Night for a Ramble Flier
- 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, events, links or other information for publication, please contact your most humble editor, Andy MundyMather ([pcfs.kt@gmail.com](mailto:pcfs.kt@gmail.com)). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline granted on request.