

February 2026

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 version of this KT is attached for those who still prefer a hard copy.

Come and Join Us Saturday, February 7th, 2026 at Fellowship Hall at the University Presbyterian Church, 2:00 until 9:00 pm

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

[Click Here for Directions](#)

Schedule

2:00 – 2:30 pm	Meet and Greet
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Bobby “Reverend Robert” Reynolds takes us on a journey through classic blues, featuring the timeless artistry of greats like Delta Blues legend Charley Patton (NOTE: This is NOT Reverend Robert Jones of Detroit)
3:30 – 4:00	snack time
4:00 – 5:00	Song Swap: Theme: Love, Longing and Heartbreak
5:00 – 9:00	Vocal Jam lead by Jack E., Instrumental Jam lead by Jeff D., and a new Lap Dulcimer teaching session lead by Jack F.

Future Gatherings and Song Swap Themes:

March 7th

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: Irish Songs (what else!?)

Cliff Monear, pianist and longtime educator at WSU, guides us through the past 100 years of jazz, tracing its rich history and the early influences that shaped the music.

April 11th

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

(Please note the gathering is the second Saturday in April!)

Song Swap Theme: Rain, Springtime and Nature

May 2nd

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: Sad Songs, Disasters

June 6th

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: “Old Timey Americana” Songs

July 11th

Seyburn Pavilion from 2:00 until 9:00 pm – Picnic

(Please note the gathering is the second Saturday in July!)

Song Swap Theme: America

The President's Post

My apologies for ducking out of the January gathering early. I had to pick up my son from the airport. He had spent the holidays in Japan visiting old friends. Thank you to Suzanne for so capably filling in!

"When chimney smoke hangs still and low,
Across the stubbled fields of snow;
And angry skies reach down and seize
The sorry, blackened bones of trees.
In the dead of winter when the silent snowbirds come,
You're my sweet maple sugar, honey, hot buttered rum!"

- Tommy Thompson of the Red Clay Ramblers

The long, cold, and dark days of winter are upon us. Seasonal depression is a real thing — ask any Scandinavian! And it's especially bad this year for many reasons.

As supporters of folk music and folklore, it is our "duty" to sing loudly and proudly our paeans to common sense, better days, and empathy for our fellow beings who were, and still are, being abused all over the world — and of course, throughout history.

As we plod along through winter, one of the things we can look forward to is February 14th — St. Valentine's Day. The song theme of our February 7th gathering is "Songs of Love, Longing, and Heartbreak." These songs should fit right in with our personal experiences of St. Valentine's Day! I'm sure everyone has childhood memories of elementary school, when Valentine cards were exchanged throughout class. It's where the first glimpses of "Love, Longing and Heartbreak" were seen. It's where I learned that women are fickle! You like them, they don't like you, the one you don't like, likes you, and so on. It'll be interesting to see what songs everyone comes up with! Spring will arrive before we know it — Be Happy, Keep Singing, Carry on!

Tom D, President

Ridin' Drag

The meteorologist struggles. Obligated to use the word *sorry*, the best he can blurt out is *wrong*. He attempts a disclaimer, as in *we were all wrong*, to avoid personal accountability for a poor forecast. I step away from the broadcast before he launches into his way-over-my-head Euro-model, techno description of undetectable, perfect-storm moisture content hidden in the high atmosphere. From thousands of millibars above, it fell.

This is how Mr. Storm Chaser explains how his prediction of a half-inch dusting of snow manifested into me shoveling upward of six inches. If I were in his shoes, my first words would have been, *I apologize*. If a deeper interpretation of events were required, my comment would be, *Blame the Ides... of January*.

Curious phenomena occur around the Ides. Ask Caesar. The Ides of March were difficult for him.

At 11:00 PM, the fourth inch of snow settles, and I watch a familiar doe emerge from the myriad flakes and move north along our eastern fence line. Soon, a buck of fine stature approaches. He follows in her tracks. A month ago, the buck was of single mind. Now a full bird feeder captures his attention, and I recognize that the whitetail rut has passed. The buck is consumed by hunger of another sort. Come the Ides of February, his proud antlers will rest in our neighbor's hostas, shed for the season.

While the whitetail's passion for procreation wanes, fire kindles in the coyote's loins. From now until the anniversary of Caesar's demise, male and female coyotes will be most lusty in their purpose to create a family. Please be mindful: those urges are known to manifest as what some might call aggressive behavior. While it is not a bad idea to monitor your outdoor pets, but coyotes are shy by nature, and besides, the behavior is perfectly natural.

Like ice balls. About the time I was admiring the buck, and the clock prepared to ring in the Ides, up Lexington way my pal Al was clearing snow from the steps that lead to his beachfront. Like me, Al believes the Ides are influential in manners not easily understood. Between the dates of the 13th to the 15th of the month, the Ides divided the Roman calendar's month. Not by scientific certainty, they require faith. This morning, we discussed how they influenced his beachfront.

To begin, Al reported that overnight Lake Huron became a body of water gone wild. He then proceeded to tell me that from the time he cleared his steps to his morning stroll to the beach, the shore ice tripled. That's when my phone announced a text, with a photo, from Al.

"What is this?" I asked.

"Ice balls." Al had sent me an image of his beach buried in ice-balls. Thousands stretched as far as the eye could see. He told me they ranged in size from smaller than a golf ball to small boulders.

"I have never seen such a thing before." said Al, an outdoorsman, adventurer, educator, and trained geographer.

"How do you explain it?" I asked.

"Ah, it's just the Ides."

I didn't have time to tell Al then, but despite atmospheric anomalies, adjustments in critter conduct, and Caesar's conundrum with fatal regime change, since the great creator saw fit to bring me forth on February 15th, I find the Ides, and any high strangeness that accompanies them, a grand source of wonder. I guess that's why it's instinctive for me to agree with Al when he says,

Whatever they bring, brother, enjoy the Ides!

Jack F

CALL FOR OFFICERS

For the 2026 - 2027 season of the Paint Creek Folklore Society, we would welcome any members who would like to run for the following positions (BUT only IF they are vacated by the present incumbents) President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and 4 Member-at-Large positions. Elections will be held at the June 6th Gathering.

A Nomination Committee will be established soon to solicit any candidates.

PCFS Archives Move Progressing – Got Videos?

The transfer of our Paint Creek Folklore Society archives to their new home with the Rochester Hills Museum is well underway. The first batch of four 66-quart clear view bins were delivered to the museum on September 24, 2025. This batch included documentation and photographs from 1976 to 2009: our first charters, songbooks, t-shirt and sweatshirt silk screens, newspaper articles, Rochester Folk Workshop, Spring Flings, 20th, 25th, 30th and 50th reunions, May Playdays, Danish Exchanges, Tin Whistle Coffeehouses, Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra and Starry Night for a Ramble Dances. The second batch of two 66-quart clear view bins were delivered to the museum on November 20, 2025. This batch included documentation, clothing, and photographs from 1976 to 2002: photo albums, Comfy Concerts, Hat Bands, PCFS personalized coffee mugs, monthly meetings, picnics, and 26 years of "Hello Paint Creek Folk" and "Keepin' Tabs" newsletters (about 300 issues).

At the time of this writing, the focus is on gathering video tapes of the major functions of the folklore society through the years. The Hays and Morningstar collections are in process. **DO YOU HAVE PCFS VIDEOS?** If you have either VHS or 8 mm videos that you're willing to donate to the archives, complete with dates and event names, please contact the PCFS Historian via phone or email to discuss your collection and any transfer.

Glen Morningstar Jr.

PCFS Historian

248.330.0832 or gmmorning@aol.com

Starry Night for a Ramble

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, TOOT YOUR HORN & SET OUT YOUR DANCING SHOES! Paint Creek Folklore Society is cohosting another grand Starry Night for a Ramble Dance on Saturday May 16, 2026, and for sure you'll want to be there. The planning energy from both Oakland County Traditional Dance Society and PCFS, our hosts, has been unleashed. Join the fun from 6:30-10:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 6363 Livernois Road, Troy, Michigan 48098 (located between Square Lake Road and South Boulevard...REALLY CLOSE to PCFS headquarters), yay!! So, SHARE A HEAP O' FLYERS with your family, neighbors, social groups, work friends, fitness centers, outdoor enthusiasts, churches and schools. We always emphasize the physical and mental exercise and fun to be gleaned at a contra and square dance. All dances are taught with walk-throughs before the music begins. Partners are available from the crowd that gathers there. A flyer with all the details is attached to this issue of Keepin' Tabs.

Glen Morningstar from Paint Creek and Ed Vincent from the Oakland County Traditional Dance Society will do the SQUARE DANCE and CONTRA DANCE calling honors. Judi Morningstar is leading the famous Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra again this year, and is seeking PCCDO Alumni, and new and upcoming dance band musicians from the membership of Paint Creek. Please phone Judi at 248-318-5300 or drop her an email at judithmstar@aol.com if you are comfortable playing jigs and reels with lead or back-up instruments at a modest pace, and would like to join in the fun of a dance band. Music distribution and band practices will be scheduled soon and there will be three or four held at the Morningstar home in Highland, before May 16th.

Of special note, this is a benefit dance, where proceeds go to OCTDS and PCFS for their many great monthly music, song and dance programs. Please show your support by joining in the listening and dancing fun. \$10 General Admission, kids 12 and under free. Bring a big snack and get another \$1 off. Bring your folky silent auction items too and put them up for bid. Proceeds again split by the two orgs.

We're seeking volunteers to help out with decorating the dance hall, and setting up the silent auction and pitching in a few minutes to wrap it up at the end of the dance. Grab the sign-up sheet at the upcoming PCFS meetings and jot your name down...THANKS. Any questions can be directed to Glen Morningstar Jr. at 248-330-0832 or gmorning@aol.com.

Membership Highlights

Looking back at 2025 we welcomed a good number of visitors and many have joined. At our gatherings, please look for new faces and get to know these folks. You will find we attract interesting people! You probably know others who would enjoy getting out a few hours one Saturday a month making friends, enjoying snacks, songs swaps, circles, jams, and interesting presentations. 🎵 In the bleak midwinter 🎵 our gatherings offer a bit of warmth and cheer for all! See you February 7!

Dan D and Jack E
Membership co-chairs

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

Jams, Concerts, Events, and More

ACTMAAD

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

The Ark

See the full schedule at theark.org
facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor

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
facebook.com/cdss.org

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

Hudson Valley Folk Guild

Monthly Online Open Mic Event

<https://hudsonvalleyfolkguild.org/event/open-mic-via-zoom-tom-bowes/>

MAMA's Coffeehouse

February 21 will be a co-billing of Shari Kane & Dave Steele and Rochelle Clark & Jason Dennie. MAMA's Coffeehouse, Birmingham

<https://www.facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse>

MAMA's Coffeehouse is located at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills.

Meredith Axelrod and 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 Storytelling

Posts about storytelling events around Michigan: michiganstorytelling.org

The North American International Banjo

The North American International Banjo Celebration is coming up on the last weekend in April this year at the Double Tree Hotel located on Ford Road and Southfield Fwy.

Check the web page at NAIBC.org

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society

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

Facebook: facebook.com/OCTDS

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, 115 S. Main Street, Royal Oak

Every Monday, 8-10 pm, 336 S. Main St, Rochester

<https://docr.coffee/>

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 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

Sons of the Never Wrong

“Deborah Lader of “Sons of the Never Wrong” wishes to invite everyone to enjoy their music at the 46th Annual Hiawatha Traditional Music Festival in July of 2026!”

Links

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

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

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

Michigan Folk music love: Photos, videos, anything of Michigan folk music interest. bit.ly/3r65V7G

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

Paint Creek Folklore Society (PCFS):

- PCFS website: 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://www.facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle) tenpoundfiddle.org

Attachments

- February KT pdf
- 2025-2026 PCFS Membership Form
- A Starry Night for a Ramble – Benefit Contra & Square Dance – Saturday, May 16th
- Oakland County Traditional Dance Society Update

Privacy Notice

You may have noticed that in the Keepin' Tabs, members' last names are generally not included. This is done out of respect for members' privacy. Last names are found in the Membership Directory, which is distributed to members only. However, since our newsletter is accessible to the general public via the internet, our board feels that a little more discretion is prudent and respectful to members who may not want everybody knowing who they are and where they are at any given time.

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 the editor, Art P (pcfs.kt@gmail.com). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline granted on request.