

March 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, March 7th, 2026
Fellowship Hall - University Presbyterian Church

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	Presentation by Cliff Monear, pianist and longtime educator at WSU who will guide us through 100 years of jazz, tracing its rich history and the early influences that shaped the music.
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Snack Time
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Song Swap: Theme: – Irish Songs (what else!?)
5:00 – 9:00 pm	Vocal Jam led by Jack E., Instrumental Jam led by Jeff D., and a new Lap Dulcimer teaching session led by Jack F.

Future Gatherings and Song Swap Themes:

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

Presentation: Experiences and Music from Ghana: An Oakland University Students' Presentation

May 2nd

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: Sad Songs, Disasters

Presentation: From Wood to Music: Explore the Craft of the Violin with local luthier Rob Wilson

June 6th

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: "Old Timey Americana" Songs

Presentation: Exploring the Dodge Legacy with Professor Graeme Harper from Oakland University

July 11th

Seyburn Pavilion Picnic

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

Song Swap Theme: America

September 12th:

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap: Limericks! Everyone recite a couple of limericks. Nothing dirty!

The President's Post

My apologies once again for being an "absentee President" for February's meeting. It was my turn to spend 10 days with my 98-year-old mother in Rochester, N.Y. Since my cooking didn't bump her off, she's tougher than any of us thought! We even sang some songs that her mother used to sing - she has a pretty amazing memory for things like that!

I'm as happy as a king when I catch a breath of Spring,
And the grass is growing green as winter ends.
And the geese are on the wing, and the thrushes start to sing,
And I'm headed down the road to see my friends.

Tommy Makem "The Rambles of Spring"

Despite Winter's hold, Spring will eventually arrive and bring renewed life – and worse roads!
The greening of the land and warmer weather around St Patrick's Day – March 17th – will once again bring forth hordes of "Irish" enthusiasts. There is the "Green Beer Crowd" who only want to drink, shout and hear the same 5 songs over and over. Then the "Rebel Contingent" who blame the British for everything and want to hear the same 5 rebel songs over and over.

The "Irish Oldies" are interested in "Danny Boy," "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," and the other half dozen songs from this genre.

And then there are the "Purists" who want to hear more obscure Irish songs which are usually humorous, or about the ever-popular themes of emigration and dead loved ones.
Suffice it to say that one doesn't need a very wide repertoire to get a gig on St Paddy's Day - unless the Purists show up!

Our song swap for March 6th will welcome any and all "Irish" songs!

SLAINTE!

Tom D, President

Ridin' Drag

The objective of writing these Ridin' Drag pieces is to help. Granted, I don't imagine they provide assistance with all manner of daily life, but hey, if they make for a chuckle, like poor grammar on my part, I'll take it. At least you're chuckling.

I'm finishing this edition on February 20th, the sky is gray, the winds are up, mercury is falling and the potential for fresh snow is real. Since we've just passed through a thaw, a false spring if you will, I'm aware that there are Paint Creekers spread from Arizona, Georgia and in the United Kingdom on the cusp of depression due to seasonal affective disorder or SAD. So, I ask myself, How, can I help?

Despite scribbling ideas for weeks, I didn't know --- until last night. The muse spoke as I was dancing in the kitchen. Take all the time you need to process that. I'll wait.

At our house, my wife cooks. Appreciative of her culinary skills, I clean. While I clean, I listen to podcasts and such. Sometimes it's music. That was the case last night. Randomly, I clicked on a YouTube video of Jose'

Feliciano singing Guantanamera. Jose' recorded the song in 1968, the same year Ernie Harwell lobbied to have him play the National Anthem for Game Five of the World Series. But Jose' isn't the only one to record the song that speaks of the Guantanamo region of Cuba.

In that same year, Celia Cruz released her version. Previously, The Sandpipers had in 1966. Pete Seeger, 1963. You can follow Guantanamera's rhythm trail back through Havana, south and west across the verdant hills of Cuba past Santa Clara, Sancti Spiritus to Palma Soriano and the bay that shares it's name; back to the 1920s to a radio man named Joselito Fernandez and the poet Jose Marti, credited with writing the song. More recently, Wyclef Jean worked up a Grammy with Guantanamera, while the folks at Playing for Change released a global version.

All are delightful to listen to, but if you need to push back on SADness of any form, I recommend recordings by an Italian gentleman named Zuccherro Fornaciari. Particularly his live shows. Zuccherro went to Cuba to record and perform a few years ago, and I'll tell ya straight: turn those Cuban beats up and your dishes will be clean, son. And your hips? Wait till you realize how much freedom you still have in your hips when you allow that groove to access your inner Cuban. Arthritic knees respond too.

You might want to ease into the process, though. Perhaps the Sandpipers' version is the place to start. But mark it down: by the time you're up to Zuccherro speed, folks will find themselves confused by your perpetual smile. It's best to introduce the new you to them slow.

Yo soy un hombre sincero.

Dancin' in the kitchen, alone or in pairs, defeats depression.

I hope this helps.

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: 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.

Help Promote "A Starry Night for a Ramble Benefit Contra & Square Dance"

PROMOTION, PROMOTION, PROMOTION for this year's "A Starry Night for a Ramble Benefit Contra & Square Dance" in May, hooray! This article is a request for Paint Creek members to help promote this most healthy physical and social activity with like-minded organizations that they are connected to: Walking Clubs, Running Clubs, Bicycling Clubs, Tennis and Pickle Ball Clubs, Jazz and Swing Dance Clubs, Garden Clubs, Rock-wall Climbers, Traditional Dance Societies, dog-walkers, cat-walkers...you get the idea...wholesome folks who like to do wholesome things for mind and body. Our medium-aerobic, low impact style of dance is a fantastic way to spend a Saturday evening with friends, old and new.

So, please post and hand-out SNFAR flyers at YOUR venues, invite friends and family to gather with us. If they would like to see this dance in action from a previous year, point them toward a YouTube video where they can imagine the enjoyable time they're going to have. Here's a link to a good one from 2020:

https://youtu.be/5L_YWNU6sSU?si=Yc-BSY63YPI9Q5ul The big bonus here is that everyone moves to some terrific live traditional music for each and every dance in the evening's program. Yes indeed, the toe-tappin' music of the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra gives us a real lift...featuring instruments like the dulcimer, flute, banjo, accordion, guitar, bass and piano. May 16, 2026 is the date and 6:30-10 pm is the time. First United Methodist Church at 6363 Livernois Road in Troy, 48098, is the location. Wearing smooth-soled shoes and dressing in layers adds to the enjoyment of this style of dance. More details in the flyer attached to this edition of Keepin' Tabs newsletter. Ten Bucks gets you a whole ton of fun.

Please don't hesitate to contact Glen Morningstar from Paint Creek with any questions about the dance, or preparing for the dance. Email gmorning@aol.com or phone/text 248.330.0832.

Many thanks.

Request for Musicians

REQUEST FOR MUSICIANS for the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra to prepare for the Starry Night for a Ramble dance on May 16, 2026. Have you ever thought about playing tunes with like-minded musicians for dancers responding to your music? Here's a rare opportunity to do so. If you are comfortable playing lead or backup music for jigs and reels on your instrument at a moderate pace and would like to join in on the fun of a dance band, come and be part of the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra!! Band practices and music distribution will be scheduled for Sunday afternoons (with a possible Saturday thrown in) starting this April. We'll have 4 or 5 rehearsals, typically 3 hours long, at the Morningstar home in Highland, before the May 16th dance. See a video sample (thank you John Newsome) of the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra playing for a Contra Dance at the 2020 Starry Night for a Ramble Dance at this YouTube address:

https://youtu.be/5L_YWNU6sSU?si=Yc-BSY63YPI9Q5uI Of special note, this is a benefit dance, where proceeds go to PCFS and OCTDS for their many great monthly music, song and dance programs. Check out the flyer for the dance at the Paint Creek website for more details.

To reserve a chair in the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra, please contact band leader Judi Morningstar with an email to gjmorningstar@comcast.net or phone 248-318-5300. Wishing you great music wherever you play.

Thank you,

Judi

Membership Highlights

Thanks to our new and renewed memberships this season, we have a healthy membership of about 70 people, enabling us to afford to enjoy a good time with good music and good folks each month.

We're now halfway through our 2025-2026 season, so memberships for the remainder of the season are half off - \$25 for single, and \$45 for family memberships. Please continue to share Paint Creek with your friends. See you all at our next gathering coming up March 7 at 2:00 pm.

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/ACTMAD](https://www.facebook.com/ACTMAD)

The Ark

See the full schedule at theark.org [facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor](https://www.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

March 21, *All About Eve* presents "Good Trouble: An evening of folk songs, woke songs, likely to provoke songs," with special guest *Chris Buhalis*

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!”

TARA Celtic and Traditional Music Schedule

March 10 - O'Connor's Public House in Rochester 5-8 pm
March 12 – O'Connor's Public House in Rochester 5-8 pm
March 15 – Ancient Order of Hibernians in Redford 2:30 – 9 pm
March 16 – O'Mara's Restaurant in Berkley 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
March 17 – O'Mara's Restaurant in Berkley 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
March 17 – Ancient Order of Hibernians in Redford 4:30 – 9 pm

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>

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

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

Attachments

- March KT pdf
- 2025-2026 PCFS Membership Form
- Starry Night for a Ramble Flyer - May 16 2026

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.