KEEPIN' TABS
The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

August 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 for Our Next Gathering
Saturday, September 12th, 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 – Buried History: An armchair tour of local cemeteries featuring fascinating residents, their stories, and unique grave markers.
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Snacks The Snack Hosts will be Kathy Thornton and Sharon Hall
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Song Swap. Theme: Recite Limericks or any song you wish!
5:00 – 9:00 pm	Instrumental Jam led by Jeff Despard, Song Jam led by Jack E., and dulcimer instruction led by Jack Ferguson.

The President's Post

I have been on a Viking cruise around the British Isles since July 12. I get home on August 3. Everything has been excellent—the vessel, the crew, the food, the service, the amenities, the organization of the port visits, and the port visits themselves.

My only criticism of the itinerary is that many of the port visits are simply too short. Dublin, Belfast, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and other cities for only one day each? We get only the barest taste of each city and country.

But my biggest complaint—one that I have already shared with Viking—is that there were absolutely **no** folk songs or traditional tunes from the countries we visited played anywhere on board. Perhaps I'm a little biased, since I've been listening to and enjoying Celtic and English folk songs and tunes for more than 50 years! It seems like such a missed opportunity to immerse passengers in the culture of each destination, especially on a cruise centered around the British Isles.

Every map I looked at was filled with place names that are mentioned in traditional songs and tunes. Many sea shanties, in particular, reference the ports and coastal locations we visited. I suggested that Viking transform one of its onboard venues into a pub where local folk music could be played, with brief introductions explaining the history and meaning behind the songs. I think it would be a wonderful way to help immerse passengers in the culture of each destination.

The onboard entertainment consisted of a guitarist who played popular songs, a band that specialized in hits from the 1980s, a duo that performed popular music ranging from the 1970s to the present day, a cellist who

played classical pieces, and a pianist who performed popular tunes from the 1940s through the new millennium.

I gave the cellist the sheet music for a beautiful Shetland Islands tune called Leaving Lerwick Harbour. She did a credible job with it. I also asked the pianist to play Auld Lang Syne as we departed Scotland. She initially thought of it only as a New Year's song, rather than one that has long been associated with Scotland and is often sung by the Scots. She had to dig it out of her Christmas music files!

Both the cellist and the pianist were Ukrainian, so they had never really been exposed to Celtic music. That isn't a criticism of them—they were both talented musicians—but it seemed like another missed opportunity for a cruise focused on the British Isles to showcase the rich musical traditions of the regions we were visiting.

I did have a chance to sing a Dublin song in Dublin—my 15 seconds of fame!

The bottom line of this rant is that we have our work cut out for us as proponents and ambassadors of folk music. I sincerely hope that Torstein Hagen hears my plea for more local cultural content and considers making it a greater part of the Viking experience!

Tom Dooley, President

Ridin' Drag

A trio of turkeys is investigating our backyard. Seeing them circumspectly traverse the hosta border reminds me of naturalist Joe Hutto's book; *Illumination in the Flatwoods: A Season with the Wild Turkey*. It's about Joe's time rearing orphaned birds from their hatching to maturity in the flatwoods of Florida. There's a lot to respect about those birds. Did you know that Benjamin Franklin advocated strongly for the turkey to be the national bird?

This threesome is making their way toward the clematis arch. The arch is anchored in opposing east-west perennial beds. The arch is the tie that binds. When sweet autumn blooms the effect is calming and creates a serene, welcoming visual which frames and conveys the eye upwards to the garden gate.

The eastern arch's clematis is a new planting this spring. Winter was hard and took the original plant. Although the replacement shows vigor, we're concerned that we are victims of a nursery misidentification. Despite being described as such, the blooms do not resemble sweet autumn. But vigorous they are, rising from a riot of young zinnias to begin entwining with the arch's trellis.

To the west, the sweet autumn is nearing the mid-way point and going over the top. Sharing the west bed, youthful burning bush are taking hold along with a volunteer catalpa and a tree of heaven. The chief gardener, my wife, decrees the tree of heaven will go. On the other hand, she has taken a shine to the catalpa and decrees it remains, but requires pruning.

That chore is scheduled for tomorrow. Speaking of pruning, it's time to become ruthless where tomatoes are concerned. Even though I enjoy a tomato plant's foliage, the truth is you can't feed excess foliage and expect a reasonable yield from your plants. Prune hard now.

I know these actions have been approved when my wife joins me for coffee. Until… morning bliss is replaced by tiny bristles of hair standing upright on her neck. The sight of the last gobbler bobbing its way toward the garden radically shifts her demeanor. She didn't read Joe Hutto's book. Franklin's positions on national ornithology mean little to her. Whitetails molest her hostas. Squirrels slaughter her strawberries. Blue jays scatter her corn seedlings. Three times mind you, and now a woodchuck wants to burrow beside the burning bushes.

While you Paint Creekers are off, enjoying a peaceful, positive August, around here; if those turkeys don't tread lightly, more than a catalpa and maters will be pruned.

Jack Ferguson

Tin Whistle Concert Update

Maggie Ferguson has agreed to take on the role of Tin Whistle Chairperson. (Bless you, Maggie!)
She will be seeking other volunteers to handle publicity, business sponsor sales, and ticket sales. Please consider "doing your bit" when Maggie calls.

Thank you all!!

Membership Highlights

Happy August, Paint Creekers and Friends! It's an exciting time for the Membership Committee. We're ready to start the 2026-2027 season with a bang. We plan to compile a list of paid memberships early in the season and publish a new Membership Directory.

Here's how you renew your membership:

Fill out a NEW Membership Form. A PDF of the form is included in this issue of Keepin' Tabs. Even if you've filled out one in the past, we need to start this year fresh with updated, current forms. Don't forget to check off the ways of helping that interest you most. It is all of us helping and working together that makes Paint Creek the success that it is.

Then either mail a check, $50 for individual or $90 for family membership, along with your completed Membership Form to J.R. Falls (His address is on the Membership Form.), OR bring a check, cash, or credit card, along with your completed Membership Form, to the September gathering on September 12 and submit them at the Welcome Desk.

See you in September!

J.R. Falls, Jack Erickson
Co-membership chairs

Change in Privacy Policy

On May 6, 2026, the PCFS Board of Directors updated its privacy policy for the KT newsletter. Unless requested otherwise, last names will be included in all articles. Last names will be withheld upon written request to pcfs.kt@gmail.com. Contributors to the KT are responsible for ensuring that their submittals meet the new policy. Policies for other PCFS publications are unchanged.

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
MAMA's Coffeehouse is located at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills.
https://www.facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse

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

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society
Calendar at: https://www.octds.org
Facebook: facebook.com/OCTDS

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENT PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS
https://www.oakland.edu/smtd/performances-and-events/
Let’s support these talented students!

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

TARA! Traditional Celtic Music Schedule
- Gus' Snug, Main Street in Clawson on Sunday, August 9th from 5 - 8 pm
- O'Connor's Public House, Rochester Rd in Rochester on Sunday, August 23rd, 5 - 8 pm
- Gus' Snug, Main Street in Clawson on Sunday, August 30th from 5 - 8 pm

Links

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

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

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

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 tenpoundfiddle.org

Attachments

- August KT pdf
- Paint Creek Folklore Society – Welcome.jpg
- 2026-2027 PCFS Membership Form pdf
- Music on the Lawn – August 2026
- Wisconsin Traditional Music Event – August 2026

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