October 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 Keepin' Tabs is attached for those who still prefer a hard copy.

Come and Join Us for Our Next Gathering
Saturday, October 3rd, 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 - Silvia Simon & Rick Sears explore Dance Music of Latin America
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Snack Time - The Snack Hosts will be Vicky Acosta and Sharon Ferman
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Song Swap. Theme: Autumn – Includes a Hat Band Performance!
5:00 – 9:00 pm	Vocal Jam led by Dave Cottrill; Instrumental Jam led by Jeff Despard; Mountain (lap) Dulcimer teaching session led by Jack Ferguson

Future Gatherings and Song Swap Themes:

October 3, 2026 – Song Theme – Autumn songs
November 7, 2026 – Song Theme – Rivers, the Sea, Sailors
December 5, 2026 – Song Theme – Holiday songs
January 9, 2027 – Song Theme – Winter, Ice & Snow
February 6, 2027 – Song Theme – Love Songs
March 6, 2027 – Song Theme – Irish songs
April 3, 2027 – Song Theme – Disasters, Soldiers
May 1, 2027 – Song Theme – Springtime
June 5, 2027 – Song Theme – Summertime and "Old Timey" songs
July Picnic – To be determined. July 3rd is the first Saturday. Maybe July 10th?

Future Gatherings will take place in the University Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall unless communicated otherwise.

The President's Post

"The coals new burning in the hearth, the dusty damper down,
The firelight glinting off each glass of amber and of brown.
The voices raised in songs of praise, the tales in trust retold;
They mark the passing of the year, the seasons 'round us roll.
These are the Best of Autumn, these are the Best of Autumn!"

These lyrics are part of a song entitled "The Best of Autumn" written by Mike O'Connell, a fiddle player who now lives in Australia and plays with singer Martin Wyndham-Read. Great song!

The year is indeed passing quickly. Hopefully the blazing hot days of summer are behind us and a spectacular Fall is about to begin. Football, cider and "dough-naughts," apples, pumpkins, leaves changing color – all the good things Fall brings. We'll not mention last minute outdoor projects, raking leaves, putting away lawn furniture and all the other labor that Autumn causes.

Work is progressing well on the Tin Whistle Concert which will feature the RFD Boys and Paint Creek's own sampler act The Compadres. It is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th beginning at 2:00 pm. Please consider printing out the flyer for the concert and posting it wherever you can. There is also a great "Welcome to Paint Creek" flyer and business cards, both of which have QR codes, that can be posted around as well. The flyers are printable from the KT newsletter and the business cards are available at gatherings.

We had a nice turnout for the September gathering. Good songs and some nice, clean limericks. No "Man from Nantucket!". Sharon Hall lead us in a nice version of Kitty Donohoe's song "There Are No Words" which was written to commemorate the September 11, 2001 Terrorist attacks. Phil Doolittle recorded it and posted it to the Paint Creek Facebook page. Kitty Donohoe even commented that she liked it.

The Hat Band will present the autumn song "When the Fall Comes to New England" by Cheryl Wheeler at the October gathering. It promises to be a wonderful fall addition—and one that's sure to be good!

We had 5 guests – Sara Lee Watson, Dan Wiegand, Cheryl and Richard Sands and Mike Indyk.

As a reminder, the next Board of Directors Zoom call will be held on Thursday, October 15th at 7:00 pm.

Every gathering has an Instrumental and Song Circle. For the past several months there has been a mountain dulcimer teaching session and a flute class. If there is any interest in discontinuing an instrument session and starting another teaching circle, please let me know. Mandolin perhaps?

Please remember to turn in your revised membership forms and pay your dues to JR Falls. His address is on the form if you prefer to mail it in. If you need a dues receipt for tax purposes, please contact JR Falls at jrfalls1@comcast.net. He will email the form to you.

Hope to see you there! Cheers!

Tom Dooley, President

Ridin' Drag

Mrs. Cricket is miffed.

Mr. Cricket is missing.

Mr. Cricket's Fourth of July timeline was clicking along ahead of schedule. Then, much to his dismay, life got in the way. His efforts were compromised by two juvenile toads, a nest of swift, sweeping, wanton wrens, assorted blue jays and a gardener.

Afterward, when Mr. Cricket emphasized being trapped on a sunflower stalk with toads below, birds above, and the gardener closing in, he accepted that Mrs. Cricket was in no mood to suffer her mister's excuses. His failure to stay on task. To complete a simple, well-prepared shopping list. Mrs. Cricket found his explanation…fanciful and overly dramatic.

Honestly dear, try to focus.

Mr. Cricket tries, and in his defense, you should know that although nocturnal, he left early that July evening. The moon had not begun to rise when he began foraging. Did you know that crickets were scavengers and omnivores? Were you aware that the more chirping you hear from them, the better they're eating? Cricket was after the staples of a healthy diet as specified by Mrs. Cricket. That meant plenty of decaying organic matter, fungi, plants, ants and whatever is on sale.

The Cricket Family dine in this manner because their mouths are designed for serious chewing. Seeds, smaller insects, and tough, fibrous plants are no problem; algae and mold are delectables. Around Independence Day the season's choices center on fruits, seeds and even other crickets.

Mr. Cricket's search was going splendidly until the gardener appeared. This gardener is a friendly sort, hums and sings often and is generally kind, but was walking the path toward Mr. Cricket's sunflower seed source. The conundrum for Cricket was that, at the bottom of the stalk he clung to, plopped two juvenile toads. They were practicing with their tongues, targeting anything that caught their attention.

Overhead, wrens careened. Blue jays too. Best not to climb. Best to wait, thought Cricket. A pollen coated bumblebee droned past. The gardener kept her distance and with sunset at hand, she slipped from the garden. Wrens rested, toads croaked off yawning and Mr. Cricket? He gathered sunflower seed, ants, and three fat Japanese beetles before heading home.

Late again? Mrs. Cricket sighed.

Now August is bending to autumn's approach. Mrs. Cricket lovingly remains vigilant to remind him of his continued need for focus and efficiency. She believes in him.

About the fourth week of August, after early picking, the gardener discovered Mr. Cricket hiding in her kitchen. He was at the bottom of a harvest basket among a hefty pile of poblanos, beefsteak tomatoes, and basil. True to the gardener's nature, Mr. Cricket was treated with kindness.

He must have worked a long night if sunrise caught this little guy napping. Let's make sure he gets home.

Straightway freed, Cricket faced a long journey ahead of him to return to his hidey-hole. Once safe and reunited with Mrs. Cricket, he endured an uncomfortable interrogation. He was compelled to describe the events that had kept him out all night, causing Mrs. Cricket to worry. Mr. Cricket spoke of nearly being crushed as he was snatched up in a clutch of basil. Of the bumptious ride in a basket. He detailed his many attempts at escape while being hindered by a press of fat tomatoes. Then, most terrifying of all, while peering up at the white-haired gardener, he came to the dread realization: she keeps cats in this house!

Oh friends, what I wouldn't have given to be a fly on the garden cornstalk while Mr. Cricket reported on his misadventure. Still, the honest truth is his recollection was only answered with one of Mrs. Cricket's onerous stares of doubt.

Bless his cricket heart, I fear there's holy hallelujah to pay.

Jack Ferguson

Tin Whistle Program Ads...Please turn in or mail payment

If you haven't already mailed in payment for your Tin Whistle program ads, please bring it to the October 3rd gathering. I won't be there, so Phyllis will be available to collect your payment and ad contracts that night. After the October gathering please mail your check to me at the address on the Ad Contract. Most ads use artwork that we have digitally saved from previous years, but if there is new artwork, please attach it as a digital file and email to Jeff at his email address which is also on the Ad Contract form. The form is attached to this newsletter. October 25 is the absolute due date for payment and artwork, if space is still available.

Thanks so much!

Theresa
Ad Sales Coordinator

Membership Highlights

Welcome back to the 2026-2027 season. After our September gathering, we have 29 paid memberships. We thank all of you who supported Paint Creek with new or renewed memberships, and we hope that many more of you will renew your Memberships by the October gathering. That way, we can be well on our way to creating an accurate, up to date directory.

As a reminder, the Membership Form is available as an attachment to the Keepin' Tabs, and at the Welcome Desk. Please fill it out completely. Membership dues are $50 for single, $90 for family. Cash, checks or charge cards will all be accepted at the Welcome Desk at our next gathering, October 3rd, or checks can be mailed to JR.

See you on October 3rd!

JR Falls, Jack Erickson
Co-membership chairs

New Charitable deduction
When making your membership donation for the 2026-27 season, please be aware of a change in the tax code beginning in 2026.

Donations to PCFS are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. The "Working Families Tax Cut" enacted in July 2025 includes a new Charitable Deduction for Non-Itemizers. This provision allows taxpayers to deduct cash contributions to eligible organizations (including the PCFS) of up to $1,000 for individuals and up to $2,000 for joint filers. This deduction is only available for non-itemizers. See your tax advisor for details.

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
Performing at MAMA's Coffeehouse OCTOBER 17 is REGGIE HARRIS.
The opening performer is LAURA FRAWLEY
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

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

- October Keepin' Tabs pdf
- Paint Creek Folklore Society – Welcome.jpg
- 2026-2027 PCFS Membership Form pdf
- Tin Whistle Ad Contract 2026
- Tin Whistle Concert Flyer

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.