

October

News

2008

Post Office Box 160038 Nashville, Tennessee 37216

www.nashvilleoldtime.org

Scheduled Jams—

FIRST THURSDAY SLOW JAM - October 2nd, 6:30-8:30 pm, Fort Negley Visitor's Center. Sounds season is finished, so parking should be plentiful.

Mike Baugh (guitar), and Mary Lou Durham (fiddle) plan to lead the jam. Here is the design:

Learn:

D—West Fork Gals

G—Old Yeller Dog

Am—Cold Frosty Morning

Review tunes taught at the last slow jam:

C—Texas Gales

D—Shoo! Fly

G—Georgia Railroad

Play at a moderate pace and as time allows, tunes taught at previous recent slow jams:

D—Lady of the Lake

D—Over the Waterfall

D—Needle Case

D—New Five Cent Piece

A—Booth Shot Lincoln

A—Hunting the Buffalo

A—Little Dutch Girl

A—Benton's Dream (Red Rocking Chair)

G—Nail That Catfish to a Tree

G—Seneca Square Dance (Waiting for the Federals)

G—Shove that Pig's Foot a Little Further in the Fire

C & G—The Darker the Night

G—Garfield's March

You may bring this newsletter, pages 2 & 3, with written music and chords for the tunes of the month.

Recording devices are recommended.

SECOND THURSDAY REGULAR JAM - October 9th, 6:30-8:30 pm, Buchanan Log House, 2910 Elm Hill Pike.

Tunes are played from moderate to up-to-speed. All skill levels are welcome and everyone's encouraged to play along. A list of tunes frequently played by the group is available on our website and a copy will be at the jam. . New tunes may be brought in.

THIRD THURSDAY REGULAR JAM - October 16th, 6:30-8:30 pm, Ft. Negley Visitors Center. Regular jam, tunes are played up-to-speed. Play the chestnuts or bring in something new!

FOURTH SUNDAY JAM - October 26th, 2-6 pm at the Fiddle and Pick, 456 Hwy 70 S, Pegram, TN (615-646-9131)

The fourth Sunday jam will be hosted by Gretchen Priest-May and Tim May at the Fiddle and Pick. Opened this year, the Fiddle and Pick is located in an historic building in Pegram that has had several previous lives including being the original Pegram Post Office. There will be plenty of chairs, and there is a kitchen with microwave in case you need to heat the dish you bring. Also, there is a "house bass" that can be played by one of our bass players, so you won't have to bring your own.

Come a little early and explore some of the interesting programs and information available at the Musical Heritage Center of Middle Tennessee which is located at the Fiddle and Pick, or check it out on the Web site at www.fiddleandpick.ning.com.

Directions

From more or less the center of Nashville, take I-40 west to Exit 196, "70S/Bellevue/Newsome Station." At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right onto 70 South. After you go about 1.8 miles, you will come to a wide fork or "T" in the road. (The landmark there is a newly built one-room white church with a steeple).

At the "T," take a left onto 70 West. (This is the Highway 70 that takes you to Pegram.) Go about 4.5 miles to the first traffic light you will see (where Hannah Ford Drive crosses Hwy 70), and you are there! The Fiddle and Pick is on the far right corner. (The "Harpeth Clock Co" Sign is closer to the Fiddle and Pick building than it is to the Clock Shop.) The Fiddle and Pick's address (456) is above the front door. The full address is 456 Hwy 70, Pegram, TN 37143

Parking

You can park in front of the Fiddle and Pick or you can park around back. Also, the nice folks at Harpeth Clock and Quilt have given us permission to use their parking lot, but Gretchen has asked that we use their lot only after the spaces at the Fiddle and Pick are all taken (in front and out back).

Also, someone has just rented the residence behind their warehouse so we must never ever block the paved road that leads to their home (which is alongside the Fiddle and Pick parking lot and behind our lot).

Tunes of the Month

Number One

West Fork Gals

“West Fork Gals/Girls” is a classic D tune; it’s square, AABB, and widely recorded and played. It appeared in the repertoires of Ed Haley and French Carpenter early in the 20th century. According to Wilson Douglas, his mentor, French Carpenter, used to play the tune in the 1920’s with a man named Anderson Dawson who knew Ed Haley.

The tune is said by several sources cited by Andrew Kuntz in his *Fiddlers Companion* to refer to the west fork of a river in West Virginia, the Kanawha, where, according to Douglas, there was a community much into playing and dancing during the logging days when French Carpenter was a young man. According to Gerry Milnes the river flows through Gilmer County, West Virginia, and Calhoun County is cited by Krassen

as a place where the tune is popular among old-time players. There are notated versions in the *Fiddler’s Fakebook*, Brody, 1983; *Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern*, Silberberg, 2002; Phillips’ *Traditional American Fiddle Tunes*, vol. 1, 1994; Krassen’s *Appalachian Fiddle*, 1973; and *English Concertina*, Carlin, 1977.

There are many recorded versions of West Fork Gals. Hollow Rock String Band, Wilson Douglas, Fuzzy Mountain String Band, John Hartford, Gerry Milnes and Lorraine Lee Hammond all provide recorded versions of this tune that has gained a following among old-time players and is known most everywhere. Thanks always to Andrew Kuntz’s *Fiddler’s Companion*, an invaluable online resource. -MLD

West Fork Gals

A) DDGG AADD DDGG AAAD

B) DDDD AAAA AADD DADD

Old-Time
From NOTSBA Jam
Nt: Ray Mathes

The musical notation for "West Fork Gals" is presented in four staves. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 2/4. The first staff shows the main melody with a repeat sign and four measures. The second staff is a second ending with a repeat sign and four measures. The third staff is a third ending with a repeat sign and four measures. The fourth staff is a fourth ending with a repeat sign and four measures. Chord symbols D, G, A, and D are placed above the notes in the first and second staves.

Tunes of the Month

Number Two

Old Yeller Dog

This tune has more titles than you can shake a stick at: Andrew Kuntz refers the reader of his notes (*Fiddlers Companion*) to at least three titles that all have their own variants. Though here in Nashville we know it from the playing and singing of Charlie Acuff, who Kuntz says learned it from his grandfather, also named Charlie Acuff. In other parts of the country it is known as, "Old Grey Mare (Came Tearing Out Of The Wilderness)," "Old Blind Dog," "Out of the Wilderness," "Old Abe Lincoln Came Out of the Wilderness," "Johnny Stole a Ham," "Old Yeller Dog," "Old Blind Dog."

It is a square tune, AABB, key of G, usually. Rayna Gellert plays a version on her CD, *Ways of the World*, cross-tuned in F, saying that she asked her dad, Dan Gellert, to play it for her once when he was cross-tuned; "It worked so well I learned it on the spot and kept it that way."

Kuntz says it apparently was not unusual for people in the south, I'd guess the rural south, to let their dogs accompany them to Sunday services, hence the "trotting through the meeting house."

Kuntz says it first appeared in print in 1858 as "Down in Alabama," a phrase that also appears in the singing of the tune by Charlie Acuff. Samuel Bayard calls it a "good example of a popular tune that became traditional (or, if it was a traditional tune reworked by Warner (the 1858 published version), then a folk tune which became a popular one, which again reverted to folk form)."

The tune is also noted by Vance Randolph in his list of Ozark mountain tunes published in 1954. Georgia fiddler Earl Johnson called the tune "Old Grey Mare Kicking Out of the Wilderness." Arizona fiddler Kenner C. Kartchner remembered the tune as a hoedown in the Southwest, c. 1900.

Of the many versions and the convoluted history of this tune, we have an excellent source in Charlie Acuff, and we can look forward to hearing him play and sing it at *Breakin' Up Winter* in March, 2009 out at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

- -thanks to Andrew Kuntz, *Fiddlers Companion*. -MLD

Old Yeller Dog

A) GGGG DDGG GGGG DDGG (2X)

B) GCGG GGee GCGG DDGG (2X)

Old-Time
From NOTSBA Jam
Nt: Ray Mathes

The musical notation is for the tune "Old Yeller Dog" in G major, 2/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first two staves show the melody with a repeat sign and first ending. The third and fourth staves show the bass line with a repeat sign and first ending. Chord symbols G, D, C, and Em are placed above the notes.

A Little Ornamentation:

🎵 BENEFIT WORKSHOP FOR BUTCH BALDASSARI

The Musical Heritage Center presents a benefit for Butch Baldassari to be held at the Fiddle and Pick in Pegram on October 11, 2008.

This benefit, with all proceeds going to the Butch Baldassari Medical Fund, will be a mandolin workshop hosted by highly acclaimed mandolin player and teacher, Matt Flinner. The cost will be \$50.

The workshop will be held from 1 to 4 PM and will feature Matt focusing on selections from Butch's new books, "Mandolin Hymns" and "Appalachian Mandolin". All levels of ability and interest are welcome.

Copies of both books with CD's included will be available for purchase at the workshop.

The Fiddle and Pick is located on Highway 70 in Pegram, Tennessee. Directions can be found on their website at www.fiddleandpick.com or by looking at the directions to the 4th Sunday jam which will be hosted there on October 26 on page one of the newsletter.

🎵 A PIECE ABOUT AN ANNUAL FEST IN MOUNTAIN VIEW, ARKANSAS:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=94076332&ft=1&f=2> Thanks, Kirk Pickering!

Notsba Board and Business

Welcome to Our New Members

We'd like to welcome four two new members for September, Tim and Gretchen Priest-May from Pegram, Tennessee, and Robin and Yolande Gottfried from Sewanee, Tennessee.

Gretchen and Tim are the owners of the Fiddle and Pick in Pegram, Tennessee and founded the Musical Heritage Center of Middle Tennessee. They will be hosting the October 4th Sunday jam there.

Rick and Yolande are associated with the University of the South in Sewanee.

Thanks to all four of you; we look forward to getting to know you better and playing music with you. We hope to see you at a future Notsba event.

And Renewing Member

Thanks to Ron Ault for renewing his membership this month. We always enjoy playing with Ron! -RW

Board Meeting October 6th, 6:30 pm at Buchanan Log House

As always, all members are invited to attend. See "The President's Corner," below, for business to be covered.

The President's Corner

In last month's President's Corner, I reviewed the planning workshop the Notsba board of directors held last November and the planned follow up to that meeting at the next board meeting scheduled for October 6. The purpose of the workshop and the follow up meeting is to chart direction for Notsba over the short term as well as the long term.

Several of the projects that the board discussed at the workshop last November are still open, and one of the keys to Notsba's success going forward is for each member to find a way to support Notsba to help accomplish some of the open projects. We will devote more time to the specific projects in the November newsletter so that you can hopefully find one that appeals to you.

One other thing we need your help on is input from you on specific things you would like to see done, or done differently within Notsba. These could be anything from the jam format we're using to workshops you'd like to see held to community outreach programs, to enhancements at Breakin' Up Winter, and more.

All members are invited to attend and are welcome at the board meetings. Our next meeting will be October 6 at 6:30 pm at the Buchanan Log House. If you're unable to attend, please send me any suggestions or input you would like during the board meeting to me at rwhitlow@comcast.net. Thanks for your involvement. -Ron Whitlow

The Newsletter

~ We'd love your input and any newsworthy information. Please email us.

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Nashville Old-time String Band Association.