

Old-Time Times

JUNE 2004

Hosts Needed for 4th Sunday Jams

Please E-mail Darlyne Kent to schedule your home for a 4th Sunday Jam. We still need homes for the following months:

- July
- August

Darlyne's E-mail address is dkent@davidsonacademy.com.

EVENTS

Tennessee

Arthur Smith, Robert Spicer Memorial Fiddler's Contest

Held in Dickson on June 14. For complete information, call Lacy Beasley at (615) 446-2349, or go to "Festivals & Contests" at www.nashvilleoldtime.org.

Hillbilly Days

Held in Lafayette on June 19, 20, and 21. Please note that contestants must pay small entry fees. For complete information, call Barbara Blankenship at (615) 666-3994, or go to "Festivals & Contests" at www.nashvilleoldtime.org.

Kentucky

Seedtime on the Cumberland

Held in Whitesburg on June 4 and 5. For complete information, call (606) 633-0108, or go to "Festivals & Contests" at www.nashvilleoldtime.org.

Homeplace Pickin' Party

Held at the "Homeplace" in the Land Between the Lakes, just north of Dover, Tennessee, and just west of Cadiz, Kentucky, on June 12 and 13. For complete information, call Cindy Earls (800) 525-7077, Ext 2174.

North Carolina

Mt. Airy Bluegrass & Old-Time Fiddlers Convention

Held in Mt. Airy on June 4 and 5. Mt. Airy and Clifftop are probably the two foremost old-time music events of the year. For complete information, call (800) 286-6193, or go to "Festivals & Contests" at www.nashvilleoldtime.org.

North Carolina (continued)

Bluff Mountain Festival

Held in Hot Springs on June 12. For complete information, call (828) 622-7676, or go to "Festivals & Contests" at www.nashvilleoldtime.org.

Virginia

Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival & Guitar Competition

Held in Wilson on June 19. For complete information, go to www.waynehenderson.org.

Grayson County Old-Time & Bluegrass Fiddlers Competition

Held in Elk Creek on June 25 and 26. For complete information, call Jerry Testerman at (276) 655-4740 or go to "Festivals & Contests" at www.nashvilleoldtime.org.

NOTE: Events in Colorado, Oklahoma, and Idaho are also listed on our Web site.

MEMBER NEWS

May's 4th Sunday Jam

We had a great time in the beautiful open air May 23 when more than a dozen players gathered at Moss-Wright Park in Goodlettsville for the Fourth Sunday Jam.

The winds were brisk, keeping the temperature pleasant. The pickin' was fine, as were the picnic vittles everybody brought. We stayed a bit longer than usual and played more than three dozen tunes for the afternoon.

It was nice to see a few people from other areas sort of drift by, watching and listening from a discreet distance. One lady came up to our picnic shelter, asked who we were, and then told us her son plays fiddle. "This is our kind of music!" she said as she walked away with a bit of bounce in her step. She got our Web site address, so keep your eyes and ears out for a new face among the fretless.

The players who attended included: Don

Kent - fiddle; Darlyne Kent - guitar; Eddy Hudson, - fiddle; Julie Mavity-Hudson - banjo and flute; Mary Lou Durham - fiddle; Phil Sparks - guitar and fiddle; Kirk Pickering - guitar, fiddle, and mandolin; Dave Cannon - banjo; Kurt Anderson - mandolin and fiddle; Jeff Rohrbough - mandolin; Lilly Hsu - fiddle; Martin Fisher - fiddle, and Ed Gregory - mandolin.

We look forward to holding at least one more jam session in a park setting this year. Keep your eyes open for details.

~Ed Gregory

Concerned Citizens Launch New Offensive

Jenina Chamorro, Joe Cook, Andy Smith, Phil Sparks, and perhaps others have organized an old-time string band called The Yellow Dogs to perform at various Democratic Party events here in Middle Tennessee.

They performed for the Williamson County Democrats' Chili Supper in April where the majority of the tunes were in D, including "Kerry Dances" and "The 20th (8th) of January."

Come out and support them Memorial Day weekend at The Farm Alternative Schools Conference and Activists' Summit to be held at the Farm in Summertown, Tennessee.

~Jenina Chamorro

The NOTSBA Web Site

The NOTSBA Web site can become a reading and research tool for folks interested in old-time music, and that will include republishing selected stories from past editions of the newsletter.

Our site has been visited by approximately 1,500 different people. A look inside the details produces some of the following numbers, just for the month of April:

- 36, The average number of daily visitors.
- 108, The number people who found our site via search engines or links on other sites.
- 1,099, The total number of visits to the site, which includes repeat visits.
- 25,232, The number of kilobytes of

information delivered.

Since the site was launched in November 2002, over 115,450 pages of information have been downloaded by our visitors.

~Ed Gregory

A Penny Learned

While attending a recent fiddle workshop, I noticed that several of the more experienced attendees were using lightweight mutes on their fiddles.

What a good idea! It allows the attendees to hear themselves as they quietly struggle with a particular phrase. Meanwhile, the instructor's fiddle remains loud and clear.

~Phil Sparks

DIRECTIONS TO KURT ANDERSON'S HOME FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY JAM

Take I 24 West (toward Clarksville) to Exit 24 (Ashland City). At the bottom of the ramp, turn left onto Highway 49 (toward Ashland City). Go through one traffic light, and go past an HG Hill's (on the left) to Main Street. (You are now in Pleasant View.) Where Main Street crosses 49, you will see a Church of Christ on one corner and the Blue Springs Gift Shop on another.

Turn left on Main Street, and go until you see a Christian school on the corner of Main and Hicks Edgen Road, Turn left on Hicks Edgen. Go 1.1 miles and turn right on Pleasant Hill Road. Go to Copper Kettle and turn right. The next street to the left is Ridgeview. Turn left on Ridgeview and go until it dead-ends into Copper Kettle (again). Turn left on Copper Kettle. Kurt's house is the first one on the left, 3003 Copper Kettle. Kurt's phone number is 746-9955.

Contribute to Your Newsletter!

If you have ideas for improving the newsletter or if you have information you want to submit, contact Phil Sparks.

kpsparks@msn.com

(615) 797-4356

Phil Sparks
2020 Claylick Road
White Bluff, TN 37187

The *submission deadline* for July's newsletter is 9 AM, Tuesday, June 22.

NEW IDEAS

Julie Mavity-Hudson has suggested that members might submit reviews of a favorite CD to the newsletter. She has agreed to write the first one.

Phil Sparks likes the idea of sharing unique tidbits of knowledge through the newsletter. His little article on the muting of fiddles at a workshop is an example.

More and more fiddlers' contests are including a category for old-time string bands. We need to support that trend by creating more string bands to enter. Anyone interested? Remember, it's a matter of having fun, not of winning or losing. Contact Phil Sparks.