

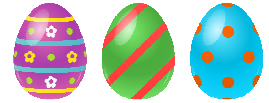
Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club

Website: <http://www.unclecarls.org>

April 2017



Next meeting: April 8, 2017



"This and That"

Wow! Spring is finally here! I heard different birds singing yesterday just before the rain. Sunshine here we come!!

We had a great Pre Club Slow Jam in Feb. 12 players in all showed up AND I'm getting information from other players who are very much interested! It made such an impact that we are opening the doors at 10:30 now! So, now there will be 2 hours of the PCSJ! 2 hours and lots of fun. It made it much easier to have a list of tunes posted beforehand to help get the newbies ready to play. So, if you have a tune or more that you'd like to play in the slow jam, how about sending it out to Wendy or myself so we can post them. As always, be prepared with a list of tunes you want to play to keep both the jams running smoothly. Murphy's Law.....pick more than 3 because someone will pick your tune!!

We also tried (during the regular jam) to play each tune a couple times slow and then a couple more up to speed. It seemed to satisfy the masses (I hope). Hey, it's a work in progress. Be patient as we work things out, OK?

Lots of things coming up in the next months. We have some playdates that need you. Take some time, pick one or two and get involved. No one says you have to be up front!

We've got some good campouts ahead with SSDS and UCDC. Not to mention Evert and Midland! Get your camping gear ready! See you in April!!



UCDC 35th Anniversary party in May

HOW TO PREPARE TO PLAY IN A GROUP SETTING

Are you a new player? Are you a player who just hasn't kept up? Are you getting back into playing? Whatever the reason, there's always a place for you in a jam! Don't know the tune(s)? How about chording along! How about all those arpeggios you once learned and possibly forgot? One good way to "get back into the saddle" is to just sit and noodle around at home. Make sure your instrument is in tune. It will sound more appealing if it's in tune! Start with simple chords, go around the dulcimer finding all the key chord notes (D, G, A, C) and make pretty music. Want something prettier? Try those arpeggios. Try going "up" those 7 notes and once you get that smooth, try going "down" those 7 notes. Start with D, then G, etc. The trick is to just START. Keep your instrument out (not in the case packed away). That way when the mood strikes all you have to do it sit and play. Pick a tune, any tune, but a simple one would be better to get started. If you're having trouble just work on 2 measures at a time. Get those 2 perfected and move on to the next 2. Make it easy. Don't try to struggle through a tune, break it down measure by measure.

If you're having troubles sitting in the middle of a group at a jam, try being off to the side so you can hear yourself better. Don't worry about making mistakes. That's how you learn! Be confident, be positive, be open to learn, look to others for help. We've all been there. It's an exciting adventure! AND, if you are feeling intimidated to be in a jam, start in a slow one and why not be there at our Pre Club Slow Jam! 10:30 - 12:30 on our regular day.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday

2 Jim Brown 5 Iris Richardson
4 Dianne Ballagh 14 Barb Borton
4 Marge Jacob 23 Julie Mester



Happy Anniversary

9 Marlin & Carol Harmon



If you have never seen your name listed here, we may not have your information. See Wendy.

UCDC Membership Dues: \$ 15/family - Please make checks out to UCDC and mail to Wendy Conklin, 7186 W. Sterling Rd., Litchfield, MI 49252. Covers January thru December 2017.

UCDC Name Tag: to order, contact Wendy Conklin 517-542-2291 or wconklin22@gmail.com

Hammered and Mountain Dulcimers for sale: Call Paula Brawdy at 616 240 0445 .

Practice with Pennye: 3 CD set plus 2 more of UCDC repertoire to practice with, or choose which tunes you want on one CD. Christmas tunes also available. Call Pennye Scheiber at 517-547-7448 or pennyescheiber70@gmail.com

Summer Events

Silver Strings Myers Lake Campout

June 9-11 2017

(invite received)

UCDC Waffle Farm Campout, Coldwater

June 23-25, 2017

Evert Funfest, Evert, Michigan

July 13-15, 2017

Midland Folk Music Festival

August 24-17, 2017



Upcoming Events

April 16 Easter Sunday, Queens Church, lunch
At 11:30 am, play at 1:00 pm

April 24 Spring Arbor Senior Center, 11:30 am
Set up, play until 1:00 pm.

April 26 Ridgecrest Manor, Robinson near
McCain, Jackson 2:30 pm

Future Play Dates

May 5th Lansing Union Vets of the Civil War
Quality Suites, 901 Delta Commerce Dr.

Set up in the lobby, play 7:00—8:00 pm

May 20, 1-4:00 pm with Back Porch String
Band. All musicians are welcome to join in celebrating Grosvenor House Living History Event.
Contact Ann Johnson or Wendy Conklin.

BOARD MEMBERS 2017

President, Julie Mester

jandsenterprises@comcast.net

Vice President, Don Woodard

djedje@live.com

Secretary, Sharon McAuliffe

ypsi-ds@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer/Membership/ Sunshine Coordinator

Wendy Conklin

wconklin22@gmail.com

Trustees:

Barb Borton, Marcia Fort

Scott Mester

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Karen Turner

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AND, THIS IS HOW IT ALL BEGINS...!

You know how it is... you're in a jam... someone calls out a tune - but they don't want to 'start it'. Now *they* are the ones with the 'tune in their head'... others will be able to join in as soon as they 'hear it'... but, just HOW does that tune go?

Someone starts the tune, eventually. You're the one who called it - but, are finding it difficult to 'keep up the pace' that they've set. It sorta bugs you that you want to play it, but, are having trouble at that speed. But - you struggle through - the tune ends, but, you didn't really 'enjoy' it.

OR....

Have you ever started a tune, yourself, and found the speed 'different than you'd imagined it'? Maybe you even feel like the tune is 'dragging a dead horse'?? WHAT TO DO? WHAT TO DO? You really want to stop everyone and start it over to get the tempo 'right' - but, what will everyone *think*??

I heard someone say once "Every tune deserves a good beginning, and a good end." Starting a tune at a pace you're happy with is what brings enjoyment to the music in your strings. Sharon McAuliffe has agreed to help us with learning some techniques to 'start tunes' as we call them at the jam. We want everyone to enjoy the tune they have requested - and learning to *start* it at the speed you *can* enjoy, is where it all begins. :-)

It'll take some practice - and, for some - some GUTS! But, it just might enhance your participation in the club jamming! Let's give it a try. Bring your pencils, bring your courage, and join your friends in learning how to make the most of your musical experience! This 'workshop' will take the place of our 'learn a tune time' - so, come early and be prepared to learn and share! :-)

PS - According to Wendy - no one sent her any 'special requests' for tunes to learn... so HAHA-HA! No one can complain when they hear what we have up our sleeves! ;-) Hint, hint..... Don't miss the campout for our next 'learn a tune'... we won't have time for a new tune in May because of the potluck. :-) We'll be 'off' for the summer months- so, you'll have plenty of time to practice your 'starting techniques' before we meet up again in the fall!

Mary C

Starts Workshop - April 2017

There will be a starts workshop for Uncle Carl's at the April meeting. This workshop will help you to understand why starts are used and how to find them. This is something every musician should learn how to do. Bring a pencil to this workshop and your sheet music so you can make notes or bring your electronic device so you can highlight your sheet music. I will have handouts at the workshop. Sharon McAuliffe

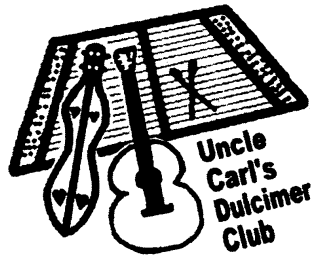


UCDC Membership list now available. See Wendy if you need a copy.

Happy
Spring!



Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club
c/o Wendy Conklin
7186 W. Sterling Rd.
Litchfield, MI 49252



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