

Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club

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

February 2017



Next meeting: February 11, 2017



“This and That” from Julie

Well, January has come and gone. We didn't get done what all we wanted to but tomorrow is another day. There are some “Thank You's” I need to send out to members of UCDC for the hard work and time given to the cause. They are in no particular order, but here goes:

A HUGE thank you to Wendy. For all you do to keep this club going, for the many hats you wear, for all the time spent keeping track of numerous areas, for helping me out in various ways....thank you.

To Jan, for all the time spent keeping our name out there for playdates, for the thankless job of pretty much begging to get players, for taking over at jams when needed, thank you.

To Paula, for another thankless job of nomination committee (of one), for all the time spent trying to get others involved, thank you.

To Mary, for taking over as music coordinator and helping out in jams, thank you.

To Don, for your past AND present representation in UCDC as Vice President, for all the time you spend helping others, never turning your back on the door, being the first to welcome visitors and never knowing a stranger, thank you.

To Sharon, for not only putting our music on paper and getting it to our web coordinator and NOW for volunteering as secretary, for teaching tunes and also helping out in jams, thank you so much.

To Pennye, not only for your Newsletter Editor position, but countless other areas in our club. I have required your assistance in knowing which course to take many times and you have always followed through, thank you ever so much.

To Barb, for being our time piece of UCDC. You keep us on track with what the club means and how it started, your strength and enthusiasm is what we can all strive to have, thank you.

To Karen, for keeping us on track with our web page, for keeping our music there when others delete it, for all you do and have offered to do for our club, thank you.

To Ann, for keeping us steady with the state with our paperwork, for going on playdates and more, thank you.

To Chuck, for keeping ME on track, for reminding me that I need to be patient and wait for players to get ready, thanks Chuck.

To Scott, for standing behind me and understanding when I offered to keep the Presidency of UCDC when no one else stepped up, for accepting that none of us wanted the club to fold and w/o a Pres. that WOULD have happened, for ALWAYS being there to help out wherever needed, thank you.

A Huge thank you to each and every person who helps out with the club; whether it be to arrive a little early and help set up the tables, make coffee, teach a tune, take out the trash, vacuum floors, dust mop, wipe down tables, clean out the sinks and check bathrooms, haul that cabinet out of the back room, unload and then reload and haul it back, make sheets of music for players, go on playdates, carpool players who can't drive, haul stuff to cars, stick around to make sure everyone is safe in their cars before locking the doors and leaving, and SO MUCH MORE! Thanks for all who remind me of why we're part of this club: to keep music alive and have fun.

Let's hope we continue as a thriving club for the 2017 year.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday

2 Don Johnson
9 Chris Sorell
14 Bill Scheiber
14 Barb Davis



Happy Anniversary

14 Steve & Ramona Hadley
20 Scott & Julie Mester
24 Terry & Sylvia Pow

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 Penny: 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 Penny Scheiber at 517-547-7448 or pennyescheiber70@gmail.com

2017 Campout



We're set! The Waffle Farm is expecting us for the last weekend of June (Friday 23 - Sunday 25). I have 12 sites available in my name.

When you call to make reservations, just take my name off and put yours!

Easy Peasy!!!!

Weird that we're talking camping when it's freezing outside but it's nice to have the plan in action.

Looking forward to all the music, fun, food and sunshine!



Reminder—2017 Dues are NOW Due!

Upcoming Events

UCDC Play Dates

Feb 14—Gene Davis Banquet Hall, 3575 Francis, Jackson, 11:00 am

Feb 18 -Jackson County Medical Care Facility
2:30 (Saturday) 2017

Future Play Dates

May 5th Lansing Union Vets of the Civil War
7:00 PM (Saturday) 2017

Contact Jan Woodard—517-782-4396



BOARD MEMBERS 2017

President, Julie Mester

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Vice President, Don Woodard

djedje@live.com

Secretary, Sharon McAuliffe

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Treasurer/Membership/ Sunshine Coordinator

Wendy Conklin
wconklin22@gmail.com

Trustees:

Barb Borton, Marcia Fort
Scott Mester

Other:

Resident Agent, Ann Johnson
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Workshop Leader/Music Books

Mary Colgan
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Newsletter Editor

Penny Scheiber
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Web Site / Dropbox Manager

Karen Turner
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Tune of the Month

Our February 2017 Tune of the month was written by Bill Robinson.

Bill has 'written' (he doesn't read/write musical score!) many dulcimer tunes that we love to play. "Steppin' Out With George" is one tune that's been on the UCDC play list for a while, yet, several still feel a review would help them play it more 'comfortably'... No one can play it like Bill <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDenzBM7Lxk>, but we'll do our best!



Bill Robinson's friend, George Robertson began taking lessons at 76 years and achieved playing the dulcimer and composing a song for his nephew entitled Robbie's Waltz. He taught many children to play as well. George passed away in 2002, but his memory lives on with his contributions made to music and the lives he touched. Bill wrote the song, "Steppin' Out With George" in his memory. It was transcribed by Chuck Boody, for him, at the Evart 2002 festival.

If you'd like to learn more about Bill - check out his website:

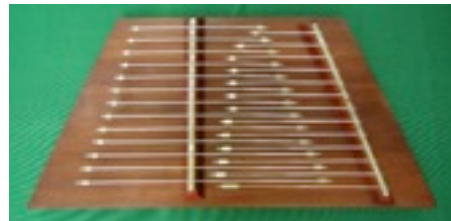
<http://www.billrobinson-dulcimer.com>

There's also a nice 15 minute documentary about Bill available online at YouTube! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzygOZ9lEA>. Or just type Bill Robinson Dulcimer Documentary.

Hammered Mbira

The hammered Mbira is a tuned percussion instrument that I developed over the last 15 years. It is based on the idea of combining the African Mbira with a hammered dulcimer. As in the Mbira, the sound of the hammered Mbira comes from vibration of steel rods. The hammered Mbira rods are clamped in brass bridges that are bolted to a soundboard. The rods are tuned to a western scale and arranged in a note pattern identical to contemporary hammered dulcimers. The hammered Mbira is played, in the same way as a hammered dulcimer, by striking the rods with small hammers. Hammering patterns of these two instruments are identical so it is easy for a musician to shift between them. Of the two instruments, hammered Mbiras are typically smaller, more rugged and, since their rods vibrate according to their length rather than tension, their tuning is less sensitive to changing environments. They go through several tuning steps at the end of the building process and retuning is seldom necessary. Hammered Mbiras make ideal traveling instruments. They are easy to carry along and you can play them whenever you have a few minutes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXyD6gLBmDA&feature=youtu.be> OR go to youtube and type in Ken Kolodner Mbira to hear it played.



ATTENTION PLAYERS:

Doors Open at 12:30, as usual, music will start no later than 12:45. There will be times when the doors open sooner for early jamming. We will let you all know in advance.

Tune of the Month at 12:45 followed by the slow jam. Be prepared with a list of songs you like to play so there's no interruption in our playing time.

Club Meeting at 2:00. Be prepared for 15 minutes.

Regular Jam at 2:15.

Open Jam starts at 3:30. Choose "any" tune. It's a time for others to hear just "what's out there".

Clean Up starts at 4:15. Please take the time to help out. It's everyone's responsibility to take care of the club.

SNACK TIME!!!!

Everyone likes snacks and goodies. It's a time to fill that void, stand over the water cooler and talk shop! If you bring a favorite item, be prepared to share the recipe!

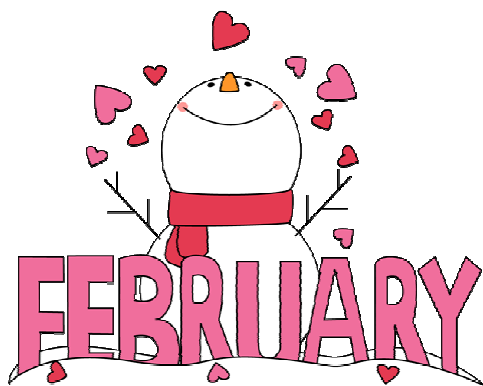
FOR COFFEE LOVERS:

Fill the kitty, every penny counts. It helps refill supplies for the cabinet.

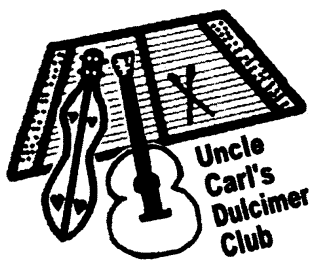
Steppin' Out With George

© Bill Robinson
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The musical score is written in treble clef, A major (three sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and is marked with chords A and D. The second staff has chords A, Bm, and E7. The third staff has chords A and D. The fourth staff has chords A, E7, and A, followed by a first and second ending bracket. The fifth staff has chords Am and A. The sixth staff has chords Am and E7. The seventh staff has chords A and D. The eighth staff has chords A, E7, and A, ending with a double bar line.



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c/o Wendy Conklin
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