

Keeping Tabs On

North Harris County Dulcimer Society



January 2012

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**Schedule for Saturday,
 January 21, 2012**

- 2 p.m. – Beginner Hammer Dulcimer – Linda Marquez
 – No Intermediate Hammer Dulcimer
 – Beginner Autoharp – Gene Hatten
 – Intermediate Autoharp – Craig Harrel
- 3 p.m. – Beginner Mountain Dulcimer – Mary Nelis
 – Intermediate Mountain Dulcimer – Jam
- 4 p.m. – Break
- 4:30 p.m. – Business Meeting
- 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. – Serious Jamming!

NHCDS Board 2011-2012

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From the President:

Happy New Year everyone! I hope ya'll had a safe and happy holiday.

How about some dulcimer related New Year's resolutions: to practice every day, to sign up for a play, to make it to every meeting, or maybe to volunteer to teach a class. This month we are going to jam in the room where we had the Christmas program, so instead of coming in through the main doors, park to the left a bit and use the entrance on that side, or drive around to the back and come in through the back door.

See you there!

Happy Strummin'

---Mike



From the Music Director:

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I've received many compliments on the Christmas Party program. The success of the program belongs to you who entertained, and I pass on the good thoughts.

I just want to remind everyone, that there is tab attached to the newsletter. Be sure you scroll through the entire letter so you don't miss it.

Another reminder, we will be meeting at Steve Heiser's house in February. There will be no lessons. Please, those of you who come for lessons, come on out to Steve's. The company and the jamming will do you good.

This month we have the regular class schedule. I hope to see all of you there.

---*Marianne*

From the Play Director:

Hope your holiday season was the best ever and your 2012 is getting off to a great start. It seems mighty calm now compared to the frenetic activity in December. We do have a few plays scheduled for March and later, but there is nothing else at this time.

I am planning something a little different for the Texas Independence Day and for the Katy Folk Life plays. I will lead one day at the first one and will also lead at Katy. I will put out a list of "club standard" tunes to be played at a reasonable speed for one hour sets. Those sets will be interspersed between the crazy fast sets. The idea is to provide an opportunity for all of our players to join us for both of these fun events. So, if you want a more relaxed play, you have two chances in March. Look for the playlist which will be coming out soon.

To participate in any of the following plays, you can sign up at the meetings or contact me via email at bdamewoodpub@sbcglobal.net or cell phone 832-541-1357.

---*William*

Upcoming Plays

Texas Independence Day Celebration; Sat - Sun, Mar 3 - 4, 10:00 - 5:00

Washington on the Brazos State Historical Site, near Navasota

This is a big weekend of playing. We have been invited back again to help celebrate Texas independence. Pioneer dress is needed for this play. No word on whether we will be down on Barrington Farm or somewhere in the upper park area. Pray for warm weather.

Katy Folk Life Festival - Sat, Mar 31, 9:00 - 5:00

Kenneth D. Welch Outdoor Learning Center, 6301 S Stadium Lane, Katy

I wasn't sure this one was going to continue on after the retirement of Ray Wolman who was in charge for so many years. Anyway, folk life goes on and so goes the festival. We have played this one for quite a few years and it is one of my favorites. We usually end up picking under the trees outside the house or on the porch. As before, McDonalds will be providing plate lunches for us (hamburgers, of course). Pioneer dress for this one.

San Jacinto Day - Sat, April 21, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

San Jacinto Battleground near La Porte

We have played this festival for several years now. Lately we have been joined by the BAD&SS group. It's on our meeting day, but there is time early in the day to go and play some. That's what I am planning to do. It's a ways off, but mark your calendar and see if you can play at this one. It's lots of fun! Pioneer dress for this festival.



Advent's Gathering - Fri, July 20, 11:15 a.m. – noon
Advent Lutheran Church, 5820 Pinemont Dr.

If only other organizations could plan this far in advance! This is the same church where we meet – we need to have a good showing here. The Gathering is a program for those with early dementia or Alzheimer's. We played for them this year and had quite the appreciative audience. Again, they will provide lunch. Casual dress will be fine. Mark your calendars now, or if you don't have your 2012 calendars yet, just use a post-it note.

From the Treasurer:

December 2011

Checking Account

Beginning

Balance \$3,779.84

Income:

Dues 459.00

Deposit

459.00

Ending Balance: \$ 4,238.84

---*Peggy*

– Special Message –

Dues are Due!

\$15 – Single; \$20 – Family

\$12.50 - Associate

From the Secretary:

Our December Christmas party was well attended. Mike conducted a short business meeting before the program to allow members to vote on the following two items.

February Meeting: Because Advent has an event planned for the day of the club meeting, Mike asked for suggestions regarding time and location. The choices were to meet either the second or fourth Saturday in February, to cancel the meeting, or to meet at a private home if a member volunteers to host the meeting. The Heisers volunteered to host the meeting.

Campout Poll: The Club voted to move the fall campout to Sommerville. The park at Stephen F Austin State Park will be used if reservations cannot be made at Sommerville.

Membership Dues: Dues for 2012 will be \$20 for a family and \$15 for individual.

---*Michel*

Please send me articles and information that you think other club members would like to know. Email:

my.zither@att.net. Please mail by the second Saturday of the month or you may call me at 713-466-5063.

Playback

It was a dark and rainy day with serious street flooding throughout the city. It didn't deter the intrepid pickers and pluckers from their mission to spread the music of dulcimer (and autoharp). On January the 9th, Marianne Drabek, Jordie and Bill Chalupnik, Bonnie Chevront, and Brenda and William Damewood made their way down to Webster to play for the school teachers in Delta Kappa Gamma. That's a group that provides support to current teachers and scholarships to those who will become teachers. It was a more relaxed play than what is usually the case. In the middle of the set, Marianne talked about two of her antique dulcimers and demonstrated playing techniques while Jordie demonstrated the antique autoharp. Our audience seemed to appreciate learning about our instruments. It looked like a particularly stern-faced pedagogue was grading us during the play. She didn't say whether we passed or not, but smiled toward the end of our show. Guess we must have passed.

--- *William*

A Lazy Player's Lament

This page is an "extra" for our members who receive their newsletter via email. Teresa Moore, our poet in residence, kicked off our Christmas program with her original verses set to the tune of *Jingle Bells*. Many of you requested the words.

Dashing through the list
Of tunes we're going to play,
There're several that I've missed,
I'm fretting all the way.
Picks on strings do strike,
Making such a buzz,
I'm not sure what the tune sounds like . . .
I'll tell you why – because:
Practicing, practicing, practicing all day
Isn't something that I do –
I just want to play.
Learning tunes – in new keys just takes too much time.
I only want to go and jam, and fret, complain and whine!

A month or two ago
Someone handed me
A paper showing how
To play in any key.
I put it in my case
With every good intent.
Of course, by now, it's been misplaced
So I'm here to lament!
Oh, changing keys, changing keys, changing all the day.
Why can't we stay In faithful "D"
And call those tunes to play?
A and G, A and G, belong to A&M.
Let the Aggies learn those tunes; they can have all of them!

When it's time to jam,
My friends say, "Have no fear!
You can sit by me,
I can play by ear!"
Sitting next to them
Is no help at all!
It's no fun when I can't play
The tunes they like to call!
Oh, "Kitchen Girl" Is a whirlwind upon the strings!
"Booth Shot Lincoln" but I'm lost,
Back in "John Brown's Dream."
I find the paper in my case; but now, I'm feeling down.
I just realized that I've left my capo back in town!

Seasonal Tab

Our tab this month is a lovely love song to celebrate Valentine's Day in February. The melody is traditional Irish and the lyrics are a poem by Thomas Moore. The story goes that after Thomas Moore's wife contracted smallpox, she refused to let herself be seen by anyone, even her husband, due to the disfiguring effects of the disease to the skin on her body, and because she believed he could not love her after her face had been so badly scarred. Despairing at her confinement, Moore composed the lyrics of this song to reassure her that he would always love her regardless of her appearance. He wrote later that after hearing him sing to her from outside her bedroom door, she finally allowed him inside and fell into his arms, her confidence restored.

And who wouldn't respond after their beloved proclaimed the following:

Believe me, if all those endearing young charms,
Which I gaze on so fondly today,
Were to change by tomorrow and flee from my arms,
Like fairy wings fading away
Thou wouldst still be adored, as this moment thou art,
Let thy loveliness fade as it will;
And around the dear ruin each wish of my heart
Would entwine itself fervently still.

It is not while beauty and youth are thine own,
And thy cheeks unprofaned by a tear,
That the fervor and faith of a soul can be known,
To which time will but make thee more dear.
No, the heart that has truly loved never forgets,
But as truly loves on to the close:
As the sunflower turns on her god when he sets
The same look which she turned when he rose.



Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms

Thomas Moore
Irish Air

1. Be - lieve me, if all those en - dear - ing young charms, which I
2. It is not while beau - ty and youth are thine own, And thy

gaze on so fond - ly to - day, were to change by to - mor - row, and
cheeks un - pro - faned by a tear, That the fer - vor and faith of a

fleet in my arms, Like fair - y gifts fad - ing a - way Thou wouldst
soul can be known, To which time will but make thee more dear! No, the

still be a - dored as this mo - ment thou art, Let thy love - li - ness fade as it
heart that has tru - ly loved nev - er for - gets but as tru - ly loves on to the

will; And a - round the dear ru - in, each wish of my heart, Would en -
close; As the sun - flow - er turns on her god, when he sets, The same

twine it - self ver - dan - ly still!
look which she turned when he rose!

D G

D A D D

G A D

D D G

A D

6 8

3

6

9

12

15

Hit or Misc.

Copperfield Area Jam: Tuesdays - Copperfield Church, Room C-2, 8350 Hwy 6 North (just south of West Rd., behind U-Haul) The group meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Jenny Gonzales, gonzalezmj73@att.net, or Doris Coleman, doris@texascoleman.com.

Bread and Jam meets the 2nd Sunday evening 6:30-8 p.m. at St. Timothy's United Methodist Church, 8787 North Houston Rosslyn road in the fellowship hall. The Bread part - bring canned or staple food items for the food pantry. The Jam part - plays and sings gospel music. All instruments welcome. Beginners welcome. Singers/listeners also welcome. Contact Peggy Johnson at 713-466-8277 or peggy5020@sbcglobal.net for information.

Multimedia

NHCDS WEBSITE – Be sure to check the club website regularly for new information and other interesting pictures/articles. To submit pictures and/or information for the web site, email to: Carolyn Mounce at Carolyn@noracom.com

Club Website: [North Harris County Dulcimer Society – Houston, Texas](#) To get into the “Members Only” area of the website the user name is ‘oldtimey’ and the password is ‘cabbage’.

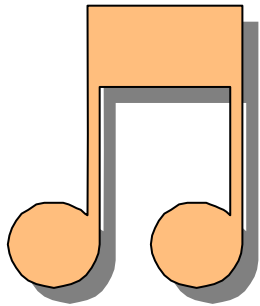
Internet radio show: The North Harris County Dulcimer Society sponsors an Internet radio show that is all dulcimer all the time. I'm not sure that a lot of y'all knew that. It is a very nice station that can be brought up, minimized, and enjoyed. The web address for that is. www.live365.com/stations/dulcimerradio

NEED MOUNTAIN OR HAMMER DULCIMER LESSONS

NEED AN INSTRUMENT?

Got Dulcimers? MDs and HDs new and used available for sale. Full line of instruction books and tune books for MD and HD with chords for other instruments. "Jammin' Up A Storm" is a great book for a jam session anywhere in the country... 100 of the most popular jam tunes from across the country.

Would web-lessons work for you? Try a free introductory lesson at www.peggycartermusic.co. I take Visa and MasterCard. **Peggy Carter (281-370-9495)**



MUSIC NEEDS? CONTACT Home Grown

- Instrument repairs
- Music accessories, strings, picks
- Festival photography
- Banjos, tenor guitars, autoharps and other instruments
- Recording studio

Contact Bo Allison – ph. 281-782-7715, email www.boallison@sbcglobal.net

NORTH HARRIS COUNTY DULCIMER SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE -

NHCDS meets the third Saturday each month

Advent Lutheran Church, 5820 Pinemont

- 2:00 – Classes
- 3:00 – Classes
- 4:00 – Business Meeting
- 4:45 – 5:00 Break
- 5:00 – 7:00 JAMMING TIME!

ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP- Dues are \$20.00 for a family membership, \$15.00 for single membership, and \$12.50 for an associate membership for someone who doesn't attend meetings or vote but does receive the newsletter. Also, donations are gladly accepted.

Building Protocols:

Enter by the doors for the office. That will be the doors to your right as you face the building.

Things to remember:

1. The doors lock automatically when they are closed, so someone inside has to open the door for you. Don't walk back out to your car if no one is there.
2. Don't leave the door propped open, that will compromise our security.

