



1995 -- 4th Quarter Newsletter

The Western North Carolina Dulcimer Collective is a member-supported group of players of mountain and hammered dulcimers, and those who enjoy listening to dulcimers and/or playing other traditional instruments with them. The group meets once per month to share tunes and information. Dues are \$5.00 per year payable to Carl Cochrane, 12 Pheasant Dr, Asheville, NC 28803.

WHAT IS THE WNCDC, ANYWAY?

I'm not sure when things got started, but I've got copies of WNCDC newsletters from 1983 when Katie Cunningham kept things humming. They met at homes and other meeting places around the area, even then with both mountain and hammered dulcimer. By 1986, Joy Metcalf was putting out the newsletter, with the format much the same. In 1989, I got the job of the newsletter, and we also started meeting in a single location - the Crowfields Condominiums clubhouse. In 1990, we started having music in the newsletter, albeit just the staff and a single melody note. In the middle of 1991 we started having more complete arrangements. Things stayed much the same until 1995, when we moved our meeting place to the Folk Art Center. Still, the point is to get together and learn and share music and fun. If you haven't visited with us lately, come on out and have some fun!

SONG REVIEW SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| OCTOBER 8: | Amazing Grace | (3rd Quarter, 1994) |
| | Chester | (3rd Quarter, 1994) |
| | Old Spinning Wheel | (3rd Quarter, 1994) |
| NOVEMBER 12: | George Collins | (1st Quarter, 1995) |
| | In Aimsir... Hay Cutting Time | (4th Quarter, 1994) |
| | Margaret Ann Robertson | (4th Quarter, 1994) |
| DECEMBER 10: | The First Noel | (4th Quarter, 1992) |
| | In The Bleak Midwinter | (4th Quarter, 1994) |
| | Suo Gam | (4th Quarter, 1994) |

The Banks of the Sacramento

Ho, boys, ho! for California, O!
There's plenty of gold, so I've been told,
On the banks of the Sacramento.

Ho, boys, ho! for California, O!
There's plenty of bones, so I've been told,
On the banks of the Sacramento.

(In the goldfields a song passed the time over pick and sieve or frying pan or over shirt and trousers having the vermin boiled out. The scramble for claims, belongings, pay dirt, was fierce. What is called "the mortality rate" ran high. They tried to laugh it off, sing it away. - Carl Sandburg, *The American Songbag*, New York: Harcourt Brace & World, 1927, p. 112)

Common Bill

I will tell you of a fellow,
Of a fellow I have seen;
Who is neither white nor yellow,
But is altogether green;
And his name it isn't charming,
For it's only common Bill,
And he wishes me to wed him,
But I hardly think I will.

He was here the other night,
And he made so long a stay
I began to think the gump-head
Would never go away;
Oh, he talked of devotion,
Of devotion pure and bright,
And don't you think the fool-killer
He nearly stayed all night.

And he wants me for to wed him,
And the very deuce is in it,
For he says if I refuse him
He cannot live a minute;
And you know the blessed Bible
It teaches not to kill,
And I've thought the matter over,
And I guess I'll marry Bill.

(The way of a maid with a man, the stratagems and maneuvers of women, their changing moods and fertile excuses are presented in the progress of this sketch dealing with Bill and the woman who was good to him, who could have been mean but who had mercy in her heart. - Carl Sandburg, *The American Songbag*, New York: Harcourt Brace & World, 1927, pp. 62-63)

Piri-miri-dictum Domini

I have three cousins over the sea,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.
Three or four presents send they me,
Pantrum quartrum paridies stantrum,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.

The first was a bird without a bone,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.
The second was a cherry without a stone,
Pantrum quartrum paridies stantrum,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.

The third was a book that no man's read,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.
The fourth was a blanket without a thread,
Pantrum quartrum paridies stantrum,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.

Can there be a bird without a bone?
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.
Can there be a cherry without a stone?
Pantrum quartrum paridies stantrum,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.

A bird in the egg's without a bone,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.
A cherry in the bud's without a stone,
Pantrum quartrum paridies stantrum,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.

Can there be a book that no man's read?
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.
Can there be a blanket without a thread?
Pantrum quartrum paridies stantrum,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.

A book in the press, that no man's read,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.
A blanket in the wool's without a thread,
Pantrum quartrum paridies stantrum,
Piri-miri-dictum Domini.

(When in the 16th century the Church of England banned the use of Latin in churches, a portion of the English population remained obdurate in the face of official orders and royal decrees, and that portion went right on using Latin wherever possible, particularly if it would irritate the authorities... For years macaronic poems - poems in English and Latin - were written, published, and sung. Some were religious, some were love poems; many were uninhibited and bawdy. It is not surprising that the idea of the riddle song was taken over and employed as the basis of a very effective set of macaronic lyrics. Today, as "Piri-miri-dictum Domini," it is widely sung in the schools of the United States. - *The Ballad Book of John Jacob Niles*, New York: Dover, 1960, pp. 8-9)

WHAT IS ALL THIS MUSIC, ANYWAY?

I've had some folks ask me about how I arrange the music for the newsletter, so here's an attempt to explain what I'm trying to put on the page...

There are five sections to each piece of music I've worked up for the Club since the 4th Quarter of 1992: Standard Notation, Chords, Notes, and D-A-dd and D-A-AA Mountain Dulcimer Tablature. Standard Notation is the easy part - the computer does most of the work for me and makes it pretty. (Even if a book has a tune in another key, I enter it in that key and tell the computer to transpose it to "D" for me!)

Chords are often my best guess at what sounds good. If the tune isn't in a book, I look at my fingers when I'm playing what sounds right and see what chord I'm playing! Sometimes they aren't straightforward, but I can count on John Carter to help me find out when I guess wrong. (And doesn't he make them sound nice once we do get them figured out!)

The "Notes" line is for the hammered dulcimer folks but, of course, applies to all of us! The dashes (or dots, when there isn't enough room for dashes) are to help with the timing, only. If the song's quickest notes are eighth notes, I have either a note or a dash in place for each eighth note of timing in the tune. (For sixteenth notes, if any of them sneak into a piece.) You could play from the tablature, counting out notes and "spaces" and completely ignore the staff, other than to know whether a "D" is "high" or "low", etc. (I guess you could even peek at the mountain dulcimer tablature to figure that out!)

The two Mountain Dulcimer Tablature lines are led off by a representation of which row of fret numbers refers to which dulcimer string. (If you don't have doubled melody strings, don't worry. The tuning's all that's important.) Just remember that each line of music is set up the same way, so if you're tuned in "Ionian" you'll always play the bottom line of tab, etc.

I get most of my songs and tunes either from books, records/tapes or the radio. When I get them out of a book then I can be more sure of (or at least have someone else to blame for) the timing, notes and possibly the chords. In any case, I have the computer play the melody back to me and I play through both of the mountain dulcimer arrangements to see if it all sounds right to me. Hopefully, it sounds right to most everybody else, as well!

OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY MUSIC

The fall and winter provide lots of chances to get out and play music. Crafts shows are all around and love our type of music. Later on the Christmas events kick in, and there's not much easier music to be played. Churches, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, museums, parties and other places would love to hear you, and it's fun, too! The WNCDC has played a few events as a group, and will be doing at least one this season. On Monday, Dec. 18th a bunch of us will be playing for the "Delightful Diners" group at the Cedars in Hendersonville at about 8pm. If you'd like to join us, contact Nancy Koski for more details. And pay attention at the meetings - we'll probably have more chances come up from time to time!

The Banks of the Sacramento

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

	D						D															
	Ho,					boys,						ho!						for				
Notes	D	-	-	-	-	F#	-	A	-	-	D	-	-	-	-	-	C#	-	-	-	-	-
D	0					0		0			0						0					
A	0					0		0			0						0					
dd	0	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	6+	-	-	-	-	-
D	0					0		0			0						0					
A	0					0		0			0						0					
AA	3	-	-	-	-	5	-	7	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-

	G						D																					
	Cal-					i- for-						nia,						O!						There's				
B	-	-	C#	D	-	B	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	D	-	-	-	-	-						
5			5	5	5	5		5			0						0											
6			6	6	6	6		6			0						0											
5	-	-	6+	7	-	5	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-						
0			0	0	0	0		0			0						0											
6			6	6	6	6		6			0						0											
8	-	-	9	10	-	8	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-						

	G						D																																	
	plen-ty					of gold						so						I've						been						told,						On the				
B	B	B	-	B	-	B	-	A	-	-	B	-	A	-	F#	-	D	E	-	-	-	-																		
3	3	3		3		3		3			0		0		0		0	0																						
3	3	3		3		3		3			0		0		0		0	0																						
5	5	5	-	5	-	4	-	-	-	-	5	-	4	-	2	-	0	1																						
0	0	0		0		0		0			0		0		0		0	0																						
6	6	6		6		6		6			0		0		0		0	0																						
8	8	8	-	8	-	7	-	-	-	-	8	-	7	-	5	-	3	4																						

	D						A	D																				
	banks					of the Sac-						ra-						men-						to.				
F#	-	F#	D	F#	-	-	-	E	-	-	E	-	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-						
0		0	0	0		0		0			1		0				0											
0		0	0	0		0		0			0		0				0											
2	-	2	0	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-						
0		0	0	0		0		0			4		0				0											
0		0	0	0		0		0			0		0				0											
5	-	5	3	5	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-						

Common Bill

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

D	D	Bm				A			D			
	I will	tell	you	of a	fel- low,	Of a	fel- low	I have	seen;	Who is		
Notes	F#G	A - D - F#F#	F# - A - D D	E - G - C#E	D - - - F#	G						
D	0 0	0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2	1 1 1 1	0 0 2 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
A	0 0	0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1	0 0 2 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
dd	2 3	4 - 7 - 2 2	2 - 4 - 0 0	1 - 3 - 1	0 - - - 2	3						
D	0 0	0 0 0 0	5 5 2 2	4 4 1 1	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
A	0 0	0 0 0 0	5 5 1 1	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
AA	5 6	7 - 10 - 5 5	5 - 7 - 3 3	4 - 6 - 2 4	3 - - - 5	6						

D	Bm				A			D				
	nei- ther	white nor	yel- low,	But is	al- to- geth- er	green;	And his					
	A - D - F# F#	F# - A - D D	E - G - C# E	D - - - F# F#								
	0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2	1 1 1 1	0 0 2 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1	0 0 2 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	4 - 7 - 2 2	2 - 4 - 0 0	1 - 3 - 1	0 - - - 2	2							
	0 0 0 0	5 5 2 2	4 4 1 1	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	0 0 0 0	5 5 1 1	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	7 - 10 - 5 5	5 - 7 - 3 3	4 - 6 - 2 4	3 - - - 5	5							

A			D				A			Bm		
	name	it is-n't	charm- ing,	For it's	on- ly	com- mon	Bill,	And he				
	E - G - C#E	D - F# - F# F#	E - G - C# E	D - - - F#	G							
	1 1 1 1	0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1	2 2 2 2	1 1 1 1	2 2	2 2	2 2	1 1	1 1	2 2	2 2
	0 0 2 2	0 0 0 0	0 0 2 2	0 0	0 0 2 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
	1 - 3 - 1	0 - 2 - 2 2	1 - 3 - 1	0 - - - 2	2				0 - - - 2	2		
	4 4 1 1	0 0 0 0	4 4 1 1	2 2 2 2	1 1 1 1	2 2	2 2	2 2	1 1	1 1	2 2	2 2
	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
	4 - 6 - 2 4	3 - 5 - 5 5	4 - 6 - 2 4	3 - - - 5	6				3 - - - 5	6		

D			Bm				A			D		
	wish- es	me to	wed him,	But I	hard- ly	think I	will.					
	A - D - F# F#	F# - A - D D	E - G - C# E	D - - -								
	0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2	1 1 1 1	0 0 2 2	1 1 1 1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1	0 0 2 2	0 0	0 0 2 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
	4 - 7 - 2 2	2 - 4 - 0 0	1 - 3 - 1	0 - - - 2	2				0 - - -			
	0 0 0 0	5 5 2 2	4 4 1 1	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	0 0 0 0	5 5 1 1	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	7 - 10 - 5 5	5 - 7 - 3 3	4 - 6 - 2 4	3 - - - 5	6				3 - - -			

Piri-miri-dictum Domini

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

Niles No. 1 C
M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

	D	D					G	D			
	I	had	three	cous-	ins	o-	ver	the	sea,		
Notes	F#	F# -	F# G	A -	A -	B	C#	D -	A - - -		
D	0	0	0 0	0	0	5	5	5	0		
A	0	0	0 0	0	0	6	6	6	0		
dd	2	2 -	2 3	4 -	4 -	5	6+	7 -	4 - - -		
D	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
A	3	3	3 3	5	5	6	6	6	5		
AA	5	5 -	5 6	7 -	7 -	8	9	10 -	7 - - -		

	D					G	D				
	Pi-	ri-	mi-	ri-	dic-	tum	Do-	mi-	ni.		
Notes	F#	F#	F#	G	A -	A -	B	C#	D -	A - - -	
D	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	
A	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	6	0	
dd	2	2	2	3	4 -	4 -	5	6+	7 -	4 - - -	
D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
A	3	3	3	3	5	5	6	6	6	5	
AA	5	5	5	6	7 -	7 -	8	9	10 -	7 - - -	

	Bm					Em				D	A7	
	Three	or	four	pres-	ents	they	sent	me,	Pan-	trum	quar-	trum
Notes	D	D	D	- F#	- F# -	E	- F#	- G - - -	D	- F#	- E	- F# -
D	5	5	5	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
A	5	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
dd	7	7	7	- 2	- 2 -	1	- 2	- 3 - - -	0	- 2	- 1	- 2 -
D	9	9	9	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	4	4
A	8	8	8	5	5	4	4	4	0	0	0	0
AA	10	10	10	- 5	- 5 -	6	- 7	- 8 - - -	3	- 5	- 4	- 5 -

	D	Bm					Bm				A7	D		
	pa-	ra-	dise	stan-	trum	Pi-	ri-	mi-	ri-	dic-	tum	Do-	mi-	ni.
Notes	D	D	F#	- E	- F# -	D	D	D	D	F# -	F# -	E	- E	- D - -
D	0	0	2	2	2	5	5	5	5	2	2	1	1	0
A	0	0	1	1	1	5	5	5	5	1	1	0	0	0
dd	0	0	2	- 1	- 2 -	7	7	7	7	2	- 2 -	1	- 1	- 0 - -
D	0	0	5	5	5	9	9	9	9	5	5	4	4	0
A	0	0	5	5	5	8	8	8	8	5	5	0	0	0
AA	3	3	5	- 4	- 5 -	10	10	10	10	5	- 5 -	4	- 4	- 3 - -

MEETING DATES/HOSTS/HOSTESSES

The following people have volunteered to host the upcoming meetings. We always need volunteers - you will need to show up about 1/2 hour early to make sure everything is set up. You will also need to arrange for refreshments, but not necessarily bring them.

October 8, 1995 - Walt and Carli Coddington

November 12, 1995 - John and Diane Carter

December 10, 1995 - Steve and Jean Smith

MEETING LOCATION/TIME

Second Sunday of each month from 2:30-5:00 at
The Folk Art Center Library, Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville

The Folk Art Center is located on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 382, about 1/2 mile North of US 70, just East of Asheville. Take I-40 Exit 55 to Highway 70, then left to the Parkway, or take I-240 Exit 7 and go East on Highway 70 to the Parkway. The Club meets in the Library, at the top of the ramp as you enter the Folk Art Center.

Handicapped Access is available: From Highway 70, go West from the Parkway just past the VA Medical Center to Riceville Road. Go to the Folk Art Center Service Entrance. A ramp leads to a second floor entrance.

Western North Carolina
Dulcimer Collective
c/o Steve Smith
607 East Blue Ridge Road
East Flat Rock, NC 28726