



1991 -- 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.

The Meeting Format

This group was meeting long before Jean and I moved out to North Carolina, so I certainly don't want to be seen as running the show. I've always felt that the Host/Hostess should be able to decide the order of events at each meeting, unless the group decided otherwise. Well, the group seems to have decided otherwise!

I started putting music into the newsletter last year just to have something that the group might work on together. (By the way, if anybody would like to send me other music ready to put in, I'd love it! I enjoy doing this, but my taste doesn't match everybody's!) We seem to have settled into a regular pattern by now, and folks seem to want it more formalized.

So, for the time being, we will start promptly at 2:30 with a play-through of the current month's piece, followed by the group playing it several times over. Then, we will review the previous month's piece, followed by any other pieces the group wants to work on.

At this point, we'll have introductions and announcements, followed by the "play-around", a term borrowed from the *Indian Territory Dulcimer Celebration* in Tulsa. Anyone who wants to share a piece, whether new or an "encore presentation" will be encouraged to do so. After the "play-around" we will break for refreshments and chatting, with "jamming" encouraged. So, not too constrained, but some structure, at least!

A "Note" from Jerry Read Smith

A "bit" belatedly, I found a note from Black Mountain that begins, "Happy New Year to the Smiths from the Smiths!" Well, better late than never, I hope, I want to mention that Jerry Read Smith "is now offering lessons on the Hammered Dulcimer." Sorry about the timing, Jerry, but Happy New Year to you and yours, as well!

Music In This Issue

This quarter, I've arranged from a few sources. The first piece, "*Donkey Riding*," is a song to help a ship's company stow deck cargo, and was sung on Lancashire ships and schooners which ran from Liverpool and Glasson Dock to Canada for timber. It is one of a few chanties and sea songs given to me by Charles Norris, who was in my Spring '91 Mountain Dulcimer class at Blue Ridge Community College. Maybe I'll get some of the others in future "issues" of the newsletter.

"*Sweet Betsy From Pike*" is a melody that most people seem to know, with words describing the trip to California during the 1849 Gold Rush by a fictional young woman. Anita Baker Sherman of Memphis, who is also one of our members, sent me the melody and words from an arrangement by Jae Graves of Memphis. Anita has started a folk group there, and offered to share tunes in exchange for their using ours. Since I've arranged most of ours, I hope nobody minds that I told them it was OK!

For December, I figured we ought to have a Christmas piece. Even though all of us don't observe Christmas the same way, it's hard to avoid playing the music at least sometime during the season! The piece, "*O Come, Little Children*," was in **Dulcimer Players News** last year with its German name, "*Ihr Kinderlein, Kommet*." They had a finger-picked version for three- or four-string dulcimers in D-A-D, and had the words in German.

Donkey Riding

Chanteyman: Were you ever in Quebec
Stowing timber on the deck?
Where there's a King with a golden crown
Riding on a donkey.

Chorus: Hey! hol away we go,
Donkey riding, donkey riding,
Hey! hol away we go,
Riding on a donkey.

Chanteyman: Were you ever off the Horn
Where it's always fine and warm,
And seen the lion and the unicorn
Riding on a donkey?

(Chorus)

Chanteyman: Were you ever in Cardiff Bay?
Where the folks all shout "Hooray!
Here comes John with his three months' pay
Riding on a donkey!"

(Chorus)

Sweet Betsy From Pike

Did you ever hear tell of Sweet Betsy from Pike,
Who crossed the wide mountains with her lover Ike,
With two yoke of cattle and one spotted hog,
A tall Shanghai rooster and an old yeller dog.

They swam the wide rivers and climbed the tall peaks
And camped on the prairies for weeks upon weeks,
Starvation and cholera, hard work and slaughter,
They reached California spite hell and high water.

The Injuns come down in a wild yelling horde,
And Betsy got skeered they would scalp her adored,
So behind the front wagon-wheel Betsy did crawl,
And fought off the Injuns with musket and ball.

They camped on the prairie one bright, starry night,
They broke out the whiskey and Betsy got tight,
She sang and she shouted and romped o'er the plain
And she showed her bare bum to the whole wagon train.

The wagon tipped over with a terrible crash
And out on the prairie rolled all sorts of trash,
A few little baby clothes, done up with care,
Looked rather suspicious, but 'twas all on the square.

Sweet Betsy got up with a great deal of pain
And declared she'd go back to Pike County again,
Then Ike heaved a sigh and they fondly embraced,
And she travelled along with his arm round her waist.

They passed the Sierras through mountains of snow,
Till old California was sighted below.
Sweet Betsy she hollered, and Ike gave a cheer,
Saying, "Betsy, my darlin', I'm a made millionaire."

A miner said, "Betsy, will you dance with me?"
"I will that, old hoss, if you don't make too free.
But don't dance me hard, do you want to know why?
Doggon ye, I'm chock full of strong alkali."

Long Ike and Sweet Betsy got married, of course,
But Ike, who was jealous, obtained a divorce,
And Betsy, well satisfied, said with a smile,
"I've six good men waitin' within half a mile."

A Note About Dues

We don't have a bank account, so we really need your checks to be made out to **Carl Cochrane**, our Treasurer, and not to the WNCDC, etc. Carl's bank has been giving him some grief from time to time, and we don't want him to get mad and quit just before all of our dues checks start pouring in, right? Thanks, Carl!

From Boone and North Georgia

From the *North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association* Newsletter of August 1991, come these hints that Bill Buffington offered from Bob (Hutch) Hutchinson:

"When you make a mistake, don't let on. Just look very disgusted at the person to the right of you. The person on the right who makes a mistake should look left."

"When you forget what comes next, just strum away on open strings. It is optional to move your left hand over the strings. If you are totally lost, you can strum over the strings without touching them."

For you hammered dulcimer types, I'm sure the same you can come up with a similar technique for group playing! Should the truth be told, though, you really learn a lot more at Boone than this, and Bill and the rest of the gang down Georgia do a fine job in groups and in solo performances, but (obviously) they have lots of fun, too!

Another Note - This From LaRaye Cunningham

Warren Wilson College's Appalachian Music Program is offering Lap Dulcimer classes taught by LaRaye Cunningham on Mondays beginning Oct. 7th for 8 weeks. Beginners classes are at 6:30pm, Intermediate/Advanced are at 7:30pm. Cost is \$45. Bring a "playable" lap dulcimer, extra strings and picks. Call Holly Gage at 298-3325 for more information.

Time for Filler!

Well, even though the Public Radio Stations in the area have changed their schedules again, you know it, because you are now supporting them all, right? For now, something profound from a birthday card:

*If people say you're getting old, don't argue and complain.
'Cause you don't have to take that stuff - Just hit them with your cane!*

Donkey Riding

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

Arrangement: Steve Smith

D	G	D	A	A
Were you ev- er in Que- bec Stow- ing tim- ber on the deck?				
Notes	D - - E F#-F#-	G - E - F# - - -	F# - E - E - D -	F# - E - E - - -
D	0 0 0 0	0 0 0	1 1 1 1	1 1 1
A	0 0 0 0	1 1 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0
dd	0 1 2 2	3 1 2	2 1 1 0	2 1 1
D	2 3 4 4	5 3 4	4 4 4 4	4 4 4
A	0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0
AA	3 4 5 5	6 4 5	5 4 4 3	5 4 4

D	G	D	A	D
Where there's a King with a gold- en crown, Rid- ing on a don- key.				
Notes	D - D E F# - F# F#	G - E - F# - - -	F# - E - A - A -	D - - - D - - -
D	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0	1 1 1 1	0 0
A	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 0	0 0 0 0	0 0
dd	0 0 1 2 2 2	3 1 2	2 1 4 4	0 0
D	2 2 3 4 4 4	5 3 4	4 4 4 4	0 0
A	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0
AA	3 3 4 5 5 5	6 4 5	5 4 7 7	3 3

G	D	G	D	A	A
Hey! Ho! a- way we go, Don- key rid- ing, don- key rid- ing,					
Notes	B - - - A - - A	G - A - F# - - -	F# - E - E - D -	F# - E - E - D -	
D	3 0 0	0 0 0	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	
A	3 3 3	1 1 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	
dd	5 4 4	3 4 2	2 1 1 0	2 1 1 0	
D	0 0 0	0 0 0	4 4 4 4	4 4 4 4	
A	6 5 5	4 4 3	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	
AA	8 7 7	6 7 5	5 4 4 3	5 4 4 3	

G	D	G	D	A	D
Hey! Ho! a- way we go, Rid- ing on a don- key.					
Notes	B - - - A - - A	G - A - F# - - -	F# - E - A - A -	D - - - D - - -	
D	3 0 0	0 0 0	1 1 1 1	0 0	
A	3 3 3	1 1 0	0 0 0 0	0 0	
dd	5 4 4	3 4 2	2 1 4 4	0 0	
D	0 0 0	0 0 0	4 4 4 4	0 0	
A	6 5 5	4 4 3	0 0 0 0	0 0	
AA	8 7 7	6 7 5	5 4 7 7	3 3	

Sweet Betsy From Pike

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-D and D-A-A

Arrangement: Steve Smith

	D	A7	G6	D	
	Did you	ev- er hear	tell of sweet	Bet- sy from	Pike, She
D-A-D	0 0 0 0 0 1	0 0 0 0 0 0 2 - 2 - 2 -	1 1 1 2 2 2 4 - 3 - 1 -	0 0 0 1 1 1 1 - 0 - 0 -	0 0 0 0 0 - - - 0 -
D-A-A	0 0 0 0 3 4	0 0 0 0 0 0 5 - 5 - 5 -	4 4 4 4 4 4 7 - 6 - 4 -	3 3 3 0 0 0 4 - 3 - 3 -	0 0 0 0 3 - - - 3 -

	D	G	A	A	
	crossed the wide	moun- tains with	her lov- er	Ike, With	
	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 2 - 4 -	5 5 5 6 6 6 7 - 7 - 7 -	4 4 4 4 4 4 6+ - 4 - 4 -	4 4 4 4 4 - - - 4 -	
	0 0 0 0 0 0 3 - 5 - 7 -	10 10 10 8 8 8 10 - 10 - 10 -	8 8 8 7 7 7 9 - 7 - 7 -	8 8 7 7 7 - - - 7 -	

	D	F#m	G	D	
	two yoke of	ox- en and	one spot- ted	hog, A	
	4 4 4 5 5 5 7 - 7 - 7 -	4 4 2 5 5 2 6+- 4 - 2 -	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 - 4 - 5 -	0 0 0 3 0 0 4 - - - 0 1	
	7 7 7 0 0 0 10 - 10 - 10 -	8 8 6+ 0 0 0 9 - 7 - 5 -	7 7 7 0 0 0 6 - 7 - 8 -	0 0 0 5 0 0 7 - - - 3 4	

	D	A7	G6	D	
	tall Shang- hai	roos- ter and an	old yell- er	dog.	
	0 0 0 0 0 0 2 - 2 - 2 -	1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 4 - 3 - 1 1	0 0 0 1 1 1 1 - 0 - 0 -	0 0 0 0 0 - - -	
	0 0 0 0 0 0 5 - 5 - 5 -	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 7 - 6 - 4 4	3 3 3 0 0 0 4 - 3 - 3 -	0 0 0 0 3 - - -	

O Come, Little Children

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

Arrangement: Steve Smith

	D				D				G	A	D						
Notes	A	A	-	F#	A	A	-	F#	A	G	-	E	G	F#	-	-	A
D-A-dd	0 3 4	0 3 4		0 3 2	0 3 4	0 3 4		0 3 2	0 3 4	0 1 3		1 0 1	1 0 3	0 0 2			0 0 4
D-A-AA	0 5 7	0 5 7		0 3 5	0 5 7	0 3 5		0 3 5	0 5 7	0 4 6		0 2 4	0 4 6	0 3 5			0 5 7

	D				D				G	A	D					
Notes	A	-	F#	A	A	-	F#	A	G	-	E	G	F#	-	-	F#
D-A-dd	0 3 4		0 3 2	0 3 4	0 3 4		0 3 2	0 3 4	0 1 3		1 0 1	1 0 3	0 0 2			0 0 2
D-A-AA	0 5 7		0 3 5	0 5 7	0 3 5		0 3 5	0 5 7	0 4 6		0 2 4	0 4 6	0 3 5			0 3 5

	A				G				D	G						
Notes	E	-	E	E	G	-	G	G	F#	-	F#	F#	B	-	-	B
D-A-dd	1 0 1		1 0 1	1 0 1	0 1 3		0 1 3	0 1 3	0 3 2		0 3 2	0 3 2	3 3 5			3 3 5
D-A-AA	0 2 4		0 2 4	0 2 4	0 4 6		0 4 6	0 4 6	0 3 5		0 3 5	0 3 5	0 6 8			0 6 8

	D				D				G	A	D					
Notes	A	-	A	A	D	-	A	F#	G	-	E	C#	D	-	-	
D-A-dd	0 5 4		0 5 4	0 5 4	0 5 7		0 5 4	0 3 2	0 1 3		1 0 1	1 2 1	0 0 0			0 0 0
D-A-AA	0 5 7		0 5 7	0 5 7	0 7 10		0 5 7	0 3 5	0 4 6		0 2 4	0 2 2	0 0 3			0 0 3

MEETING 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 13, 1991 - Steve and Jean Smith

November 10, 1991 - Mary Clute

December 8, 1991 - Carl Cochran

MEETING LOCATION/TIME

We are still meeting at Crowfield's Condominiums in Skyland.
Look for the BIG sign out front - you can't miss it!

**Second Sunday of each month from 2:30-5:00 at
Crowfield's Condominiums Clubhouse, Hwy 25, Skyland
(1st building on the left as you go in.)**

Directions from the North and East: Take Highway 25 South from I-40. 1 mile South of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Crowfield's will be on your right, across from Turtle Creek Shopping Center.

Directions from the South and West: Take I-26 to Exit#6, "Skyland". Go East to Highway 25. Turn left and go about 1-1/2 miles. Crowfield's will be on your left, across from Turtle Creek.

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