



WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA DULCIMER COLLECTIVE

2026 – 1st 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 *WNCDC* – Mail checks to Carl Cochrane, 3239 Heritage Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739-3553.

DULCIMER CLUB NEWS

MONTHLY TUNES:

January 11th: *A Ja Sam / I Alone*. A popular Czech polka, this happy upbeat song is actually about someone whose lover left him. In Texas a century ago, folk music and dance were a crucial part of Czech ethnic and national identity, inviting the participation of all. Most tunes required only common instruments such as clarinets, accordions, and horns, but traditional instruments such as the cimbalom (the Czech hammered dulcimer) were utilized occasionally.

February 8th: *What Was Your Name in the States?* From the California Gold Rush, where miners from the East called their homes “the states” even though California was already in the Union. Can be found in Carl Sandburg’s “The American Songbag”.

March 8th: *The Cumberland Mountain Deer Chase*. An American fiddle tune made popular by folk legend Uncle Dave Macon. He learned it in the 1880’s from Black stevedores on the Cumberland River in Tennessee. (Too many words in the lyrics to fit on the music page, but I’ve included them on the lyrics page.)

SONG REVIEW SCHEDULE

January:	Reuben Ranzo	(2 nd Quarter, 2005)
	Rich and Rare	(4 th Quarter, 2019)
	Riding In The Buggy, Miss Mary Jane	(1 st Quarter, 2003)
February:	Ring, Ring The Banjo	(3 rd Quarter, 2008)
	Robin Hood and Little John	(4 th Quarter, 2005)
	Roll on the Ground	(4 th Quarter, 2017)
March:	Romanze	(1 st Quarter, 1998)
	Root Hog Or Die	(3 rd Quarter, 2009)
	Rothsay Bay	(4 th Quarter, 2018)

A Ja Sam / I Alone

A ja sam vzdycky sam,
sve konicky osedlam
A ja sam vzdycky sam,
sve konicky osedlam
Sve konicky, oksiruju,
svou panenku pomiluju
A ja sam vzdycky sam,
sve konicky osedlam

All alone, by myself,
with my horse and no one else
All alone, by myself,
with my horse and no one else
Girl you loved me, then you left me
Where did you go to forget me
All alone, by myself,
with my horse and no one else

A popular Czech polka, this happy upbeat song is actually about someone whose lover left him. In Texas a century ago, folk music and dance were a crucial part of Czech ethnic and national identity and of their daily lives, inviting the participation of all. Most tunes required only common instruments such as clarinets, accordions, and horns, but traditional instruments such as the cimbalom (the Czech hammered dulcimer) were utilized occasionally.



<https://www.czechcenter.org/blog/2024/6/27/strings-of-heritage-exploring-the-cimbalom>

What Was Your Name in the States?

Oh, what was your name in the States?
Was it Thompson, or Johnson, or Bates?
Did you murder your wife
and fly for your life?
Say, what was your name in the States?

Many who left their Eastern homes for the California Gold Rush were of unsavory reputation. Others were previously respectable men who caught the gold fever and took off without a word of leave to their dear ones. No matter their social status, most forty-niners had ample reason for changing their names. The tune and text may be found in Carl Sandburg's "The American Songbag".

The Cumberland Mountain Deer Chase

(Chorus)
Away and away,
we're bound for the mountain,
bound for the mountain,
bound for the mountain,
Over the mountains,
the hills and the fountains,
Away to the chase, away, away.

1. We heed not the tempest,
the toil nor the danger,
As over the mountains away goes Ranger,
All night long till the break of dawn,
Merrily the chase goes on.

(Chorus)

2. Now we're set just right for the race,
The old hound dogs
are ready for the chase,
The deer is a-boundin',
the hounds are a-soundin'
Right on the trail
that leads to the mountain.

(Chorus)

3. Listen to the hound bells,
sweetly ringing,
Over the mountains
the wild deer's springing,
All night long till the break of dawn,
Merrily the chase goes on.

(Chorus)

4. See there the wild deer,
trembling, panting,
Trembling, panting, trembling, panting,
Only for a moment,
For hunger standing,
Then away on the chase, away, away.

(Chorus)

An American fiddle tune made popular by folk legend Uncle Dave Macon. He learned it in the 1880s from Black stevedores on the Cumberland River in Tennessee.

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

Arrangement: Steve Smith
Czech Polka

D			D			D A					
All a-lone,			by my-self,			with my horse and no one					
Notes A - A - D - - -			A - A - F# - - -			A - - G G F# G A					
D-A-dd			D-A-dd			D-A-dd					
0 0 0			0 0 0			0 0 1 1 1 1					
0 0 0			0 0 0			0 0 2 2 2 2					
4 - 4 - 7 - - -			4 - 4 - 2 - - -			4 - - 3 3 2 3 4					
D-A-AA			D-A-AA			D-A-AA					
0 0 0			0 0 0			0 0 4 4 4 4					
0 0 0			0 0 0			0 0 0 0 0 0					
7 - 7 - 10 - - -			7 - 7 - 5 - - -			7 - - 6 6 5 6 7					

D			D A			G D					
else.			Girl, you loved me,			then you left me,					
Notes F# - - - - -			A - - G G - E -			B - - A A - F# -					
D-A-dd			D-A-dd			D-A-dd					
0 0 2			0 0 1 1			3 3 0 0					
0 0 2			0 0 2 2			3 3 0 0					
- - - - -			4 - - 3 3 - 1 -			5 - - 4 4 - 2 -					
D-A-AA			D-A-AA			D-A-AA					
0 0 5			0 0 4 4			0 0 0 0					
0 0 5			0 0 0 0			6 6 0 0					
- - - - -			7 - - 6 6 - 4 -			8 - - 7 7 - 5 -					

D A			G D			D					
Where did you go			to for-get me?			All a-lone,					
Notes A - - G G - E -			B - - A A - F# -			A - A - D - - -					
D-A-dd			D-A-dd			D-A-dd					
0 0 1 1			3 3 0 0			0 0 0					
0 0 2 2			3 3 0 0			0 0 0					
4 - - 3 3 - 1 -			5 - - 4 4 - 2 -			4 - 4 - 7 - - -					
D-A-AA			D-A-AA			D-A-AA					
0 0 4 4			0 0 0 0			0 0 0					
0 0 4 4			6 6 0 0			0 0 0					
- - - - -			8 - - 7 7 - 5 -			7 - 7 - 10 - - -					

D A			D								
by my-self,			with my horse and no one						else.		
Notes A - A - F# - - -			A - - G G F# G A						F# - - - - -		
D-A-dd			D-A-dd						D-A-dd		
0 0 0			0 0 1 1 1 1						0		
0 0 0			0 0 2 2 2 2						0		
4 - 4 - 2 - - -			4 - - 3 3 2 3 4						2 - - - - -		
D-A-AA			D-A-AA						D-A-AA		
0 0 0			0 0 4 4 4 4						0		
0 0 0			0 0 0 0 0 0						0		
7 - 7 - 5 - - -			7 - - 6 6 5 6 7						5 - - - - -		

⇒ FEBRUARY '26 ⇐ *What Was Your Name in the States?*

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

Arrangement: Steve Smith
California Gold Rush

		D			A			D		
Oh,		what	was	your	name	in the	States?			
Notes	A -	D -	D -	D -	D -	- -	E C#	D	- - - - -	- - - - -
D-A-dd	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 0	- -	1 1 0 2	0 0	- - - - -	- - - - -
D-A-AA	0 0 0	0 0 3	0 0 3	0 0 3	1 0 3	- -	1 1 0 0 4 2	0 0 3	- - - - -	- - - - -

		D			A			D		
Was it		Thomp-	son	or	John-	son	or	Bates?		
D	E	F# -	F# -	F# -	F# -	G -	E -	F#	- - - - -	- - - - -
0 0	0 0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	- - - - -	- - - - -
0 0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- - - - -	- - - - -
0 1	2 -	2 -	2 -	2 -	3 -	1 -	2	- - - - -	- - - - -	
0 0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	- - - - -	- - - - -	
0 0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	- - - - -	- - - - -	
3 4	5 -	5 -	5 -	5 -	6 -	4 -	5	- - - - -	- - - - -	

		D			A			G		A	
Did you		mur-	der	your	wife	And	fly	for	your	life?	
D	E	F# -	F# -	F# -	E -	- - -	E -	D -	D -	D -	C# - - -
0 0	0 0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3	3	1	
0 0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	
0 1	2 -	2 -	2 -	2 -	1 -	- - -	0 -	0 -	0 -	- - -	
0 0	0	0	0	4	4	4	3	3	3	1	
0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	
3 4	5 -	5 -	5 -	4 -	4 -	4 -	3 -	3 -	3 -	2 - - -	

		G			A			D		
Say		what	was	your	name	in the	States?			
C# -	B -	B -	B -	C# -	C# -	A -	D	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
1	3	3	3	1	1	1	0	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
2	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
1	3	3	3	1	1	1	0	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
2 -	1 -	1 -	1 -	2 -	2 -	0 -	3	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -

⇒ MARCH 2026 ⇐ *The Cumberland Mountain Deer Chase*

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

Arrangement: Steve Smith

	D	G	D	A	D
	A -	D - D D B - B -	A - A A F#- F#-	G - G G E - E -	A - A A F#- F#-
D-A-dd	0 0 4 -	0 0 0 0 0 6 6 6 6 6 7 - 7 7 5 - 5 -	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 - 4 4 2 - 2 -	1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 3 - 3 3 1 - 1 -	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 - 4 4 2 - 2 -
D-A-AA	0 5 7 -	0 0 0 0 0 6 6 6 6 6 10- 10 10 8 - 8 -	0 0 0 0 0 5 5 5 5 5 7 - 7 7 5 - 5 -	0 0 0 0 0 4 4 4 4 4 6 - 6 6 4 - 4 -	0 0 0 0 0 5 5 5 5 5 7 - 7 7 5 - 5 -

	G	D	A	D
	D - D D B - B -	A - A A F#- F#-	G - G G E - E -	D - F#- D - - -
D-A-dd	0 0 0 0 0 6 6 6 6 6 7 - 7 7 5 - 5 -	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 - 4 4 2 - 2 -	1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 3 - 3 3 1 - 1 -	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 2 - 0 - - -
D-A-AA	0 0 0 0 0 6 6 6 6 6 10- 10 10 8 - 8 -	0 0 0 0 0 5 5 5 5 5 7 - 7 7 5 - 5 -	0 0 0 0 0 4 4 4 4 4 6 - 6 6 4 - 4 -	0 0 0 3 3 3 3 - 5 - 3 - - -

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

	G	D	A	D
	D - D D B - B -	A - A A F#- F#-	G - G G E - E -	D - F#- D -
D-A-dd	0 0 0 0 0 6 6 6 6 6 7 - 7 7 5 - 5 -	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 - 4 4 2 - 2 -	1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 3 - 3 3 1 - 1 -	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 2 - 0 -
D-A-AA	0 0 0 0 0 6 6 6 6 6 10- 10 10 8 - 8 -	0 0 0 0 0 5 5 5 5 5 7 - 7 7 5 - 5 -	0 0 0 0 0 4 4 4 4 4 6 - 6 6 4 - 4 -	0 0 0 3 3 3 3 - 5 - 3 -



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

MEETING DATES

January 11, 2026
February 8, 2026
March 8, 2026

MEETING LOCATION/TIME

Second Sunday of each month from 2:30-5:00 at
The Folk Art Center Upstairs Gallery, 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 upstairs gallery, across from 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 next to where we set up.