



ARKANSAS DULCIMER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April, 2010

Welcome to the Arkansas Dulcimer Society Newsletter! Please feel free to send me any information about other dulcimer activities, instruments that anyone may have for sale, or any other information that may be of interest to our members. My home e-mail address is bthatcher12@centurytel.net

Rita Thatcher

Club Meetings – Next meeting is May 1, 2010

*The Arkansas Dulcimer Society meets the first Saturday of each month from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Pulaski Heights Baptist Church, 2200 Kavanaugh, Little Rock, Arkansas, **except** when the first Saturday falls on a holiday weekend. In those months, we meet on the second Saturday of that month. **NOTE:** We will be meeting on the second floor – park out front on Kavanaugh and enter on the second floor.*

For the May meeting Connie Pritchett and myself (Rita Thatcher) agreed to lead the mountain dulcimers. However, I forgot that I was going to be out of town that weekend, so I need someone else to step up and volunteer in my place. You don't need to bring a new song – pull one from our archives. One of the things we did at the last meeting was to practice a song we had received in the past and everyone liked that – if you are like me, sometimes you get a new song and then after you get home you have forgotten the tune or you don't really have a chance to practice it. If anyone wants to help Connie lead the group, please let Jim Munns know ahead of time.

For the May meeting Eric Frazer will be out of town (he will be in Romania on a mission trip), and Leah Goodwin will lead the hammerededs. Leah has expressed an interest in learning Crooked Ridge, so maybe one of the mountain dulcimer players could join the hammerededs to help them learn it.

Be thinking of the tune you want the group to play in the jam session in our second hour at our

monthly meeting. You may also play a solo or duet during the jam.

Club Meeting Schedule for the Remainder of the Year

Mark your calendars now for the following dates:

May 1	September 11*
June 5	October 2
July 10*	November 6
August 7	December 4

*Meeting on 2nd Saturday of month.

Have you been receiving your postcards each month? If you have not been receiving your postcard, check to make sure that your membership is current. You can email Jim Munns at JMunns@phbclr.com

Announcements

Linda Brockinton has books and CD's for sale. Check out her website: www.lindabrockinton.com . You can also check out her schedule there and get some free tab.

Need a dulcimer stand for sitting or standing to play your mountain dulcimer? At the last meeting Jim Munns demonstrated how to take a handicap walker and use it as a stand. These walkers can be found at yard sales, flea markets, and Goodwill stores. If you missed the meeting and want to know how, just email Jim or ask him at any monthly meeting.

One of our members, Ellen Justus, is interested in playing mountain dulcimer with other new beginners in the Little Rock area, just for fun and the experience of playing dulcimer with a group. Please email her if you are interested at erjustus@aol.com

Upcoming Dulcimer Festivals

Dulcimerville, June 7 – 12, 2010, North Carolina

This week-long event is produced by Lois Hornbostel and will be held at Black Mountain, North Carolina from Monday, June 7 - Saturday, June 12, 2010. It offers over 200 hours of mountain dulcimer class choices and an awesome line-up of instructors, including our own Linda Brockinton. Visit their website <http://Dulcimerville.com> for more information.

The Seventh Annual Little Rock Dulcimer Getaway! August 20 & 21, 2010

Our own festival, held at Pulaski Heights Baptist Church, 2200 Kavanaugh Blvd., Little Rock, Arkansas 72205. There will be a concert Friday night featuring the instructors, followed by a BIG Jam!!

Mountain Dulcimer workshops on Saturday featuring Linda Brockinton & Don Pedi!
Hammered Dulcimer workshops on Saturday featuring Weesa Boyd, Eric Fraser and Russell Cook!

And a huge raffle at the end of the day Saturday!

Registration forms are available at our website: www.arkansasdulcimersociety.org For more information, contact Jim Munns. We will be talking about all the details at each month's meeting and will soon start looking for volunteers to handle all the tasks involved.

Pass the word to everyone you know who might be interested. If you know other people in other dulcimer groups, send them the information. Also, be on the lookout at all times for raffle items – gifts you may receive that you don't really want/need; prizes you may win at other events that just aren't what you need. If you are handy with crafts, now is the time to start working on items to donate. August will be here before you know it, and the money we make from the raffle helps to pay our instructors.

Web Sites of Interest

Visit the Shelley Stevens web page for free tab at: <http://shelleystevens.com>

Lessons

Linda Brockinton: At my studio in Bryant. \$20 an hr or \$65.00 a month. These are hour lessons not 1/2 and I do teach bi-monthly or can do once a month. 2hr/\$40 3hr/50 501-231-8212.

Other Opportunities To Play

There are several other venues around town to either play or listen to dulcimer music.

Rackensack – Meets the first Monday of each month in the large auditorium at the Arkansas Arts Center, 9th and Commerce Streets in Little Rock. You don't have to be a member - everyone is welcome to play, but the songs should be from the 1940's or earlier, since the purpose of Rackensack is to preserve the heritage of old-time acoustic folk music. They have fiddle, mandolin, guitar, banjo, and dulcimer players. The program starts at 7:00 with a hoedown of three or four songs that everyone can join in. Then individuals or groups who want to play or sing perform 1 or 2 songs for the audience. When everyone has had a chance to play, they end with another hoedown. Admission is free – anyone can come and play or just listen. Lonnie and Peggy attended the April Rackensack meeting. They had a great time and were impressed with the many different styles of music.

Hootenanny – Meets the third Monday of each month at Parkhill Baptist Church, 201 East C Street in North Little Rock. This is just a group of people who love music who get together to play and sing. You are not restricted to any particular type of music – we all sit in a big circle and go around and take turns playing. If you know the song you can join in. It's a fun time. Starts at 7:00 and usually goes till 9:30 or so. Use the handicapped ramp entrance on the side – go in this entrance and turn right and the room where we play is on your right.

The Celtic Music Society meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at Creghan's Irish Pub at Broadway and Main streets in North Little Rock.