



# QUARTER NOTES

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'89



# FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

FRIDAY JUNE 23 8:00 PM -- 10:30 PM

*Curtiss Street west of Main (in front of coffee house)*

*Buck's Stove and Range Company*

*Thursday's Child*

SATURDAY JUNE 24 10:00 AM -- 6:00 PM

*Fishel Park (behind coffee house)*

*Two or More*

*The Jones Family*

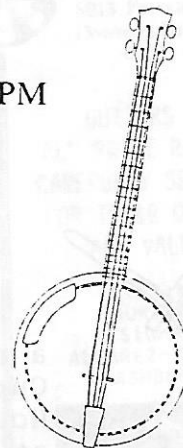
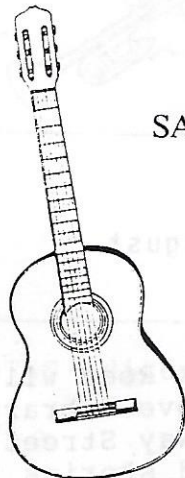
<i>Mike Casey</i>	<i>Roscoe Champ</i>
<i>Bryan Dagenhart</i>	<i>Mark Dvorak</i>
<i>Diane Ippel</i>	<i>Todd Kelley</i>
<i>Lisa Lilly</i>	<i>Marianne Mohrhusen</i>
<i>Lee Murdock</i>	<i>Pete Norman</i>
<i>Ron Simpson</i>	<i>Dwain Story</i>

SATURDAY JUNE 24 6:00 PM -- 8:00 PM

*Beer Garden -- Burlington Street near railroad station*

*Kathy O'Hara and Diana Laffey*

SUNDAY JUNE 25 4:00 PM -- 6:00 PM  
*North Stage -- Main Street south of Burlington*  
*Hear and Now*



All events are free and take place in downtown Downers Grove.  
In case of rain concerts will move into the coffee house, 1047 Curtiss Street.  
Presented by the Two Way Street Coffee House, Plank Road Folk Music Society and Heritage Festival

# Summer Events

June 17 12-6 PM	Singaround	Benny Trowbridge's Westmont
June 23 & 24	Heritage Festival	Downers Grove
July 15 12-6 PM	Plank Road Picnic	Fishel Park (behind Two Way Street)
July 16 12-4 PM	Singaround & barndance	Kline Creek Farm
Aug. 5 1 PM	Children's Show	Downers Grove Library
Aug. 19 Noon	Meeting	Two Way Street
Aug. 19 2 PM	Singaround	Two Way Street

## Children's Show in August



This summer on August 5th Plank Road will host a children's show at the Downers Grove Library (on Curtiss Street across from the Two Way Street Coffee House). This afternoon of songs and stories begins at 1 PM and features performer Marianne Mohrhusen and a storyteller from the Downers library. Admission is free, and the whole family is invited. Come in out of the August heat and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with us.



# The Plank Road Picnic and Woody Guthrie Birthday Celebration!

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling,  
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,  
As the fog was lifting a voice was chanting:  
This land was made for you and me.

Well, folks, it's that time of the year again. Take a Saturday afternoon break from all those chores around the old homestead, throw the kids in the trunk, strap those lawn chairs on the buckboard; it's time to have a little fun.

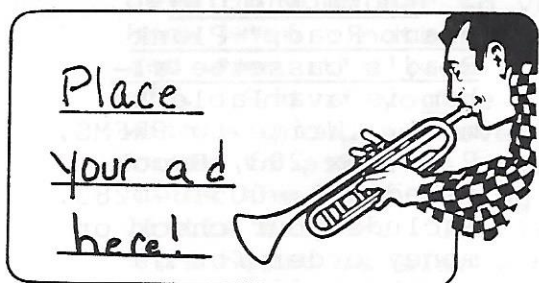
On Saturday July 15th from 12 noon to 6 p.m. Plank Road will host a picnic in beautiful Fishel Park located in Downers Grove on Grove St. 1/2 block west of Main St. (behind the 2 Way St. Coffeehouse).

Bring a picnic lunch and join us for an afternoon of music and friendship as we celebrate the birthday of Woody Guthrie. We'll be swapping songs and stories (bring your instrument or voice) and enjoying the great weather which will surely be present that afternoon. There's a nice playground for the children and plenty of shade.

As an added treat this year several members are planning on making up some real hand cranked ice cream. This particular group has won acclaim far and near for their craftsmanship and crankiness. If you would like to challenge them in either category please feel free.

Family and friends are welcome!

--Dave Reynolds



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QUARTER NOTES Editor:

Lisa Lilly

Special Thanks to:

Marianne Mohrhussen

Dario Fagnani

Dave Reynolds

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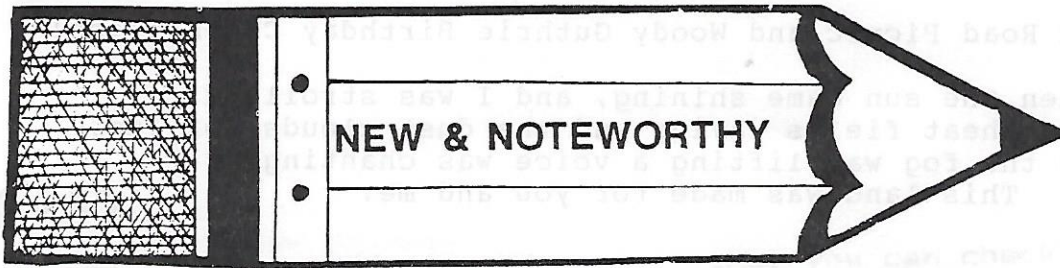
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This summer our singarounds will be moving around a bit. June's singaround, on the 17th, will be at the lovely home of Benny Trowbridge, 215 E. Traube, in Westmont (phone is 325-7385), from noon 'til 5 PM. Bring a picnic lunch or something to cook on the grills that will be set up. And don't forget your instruments! Our July singaround will be held at the Plank Road picnic in Fishel Park (behind the 2 Way St.). On Aug. 19th our regular schedule resumes with a meeting and singaround following at 2 PM. We hope you'll come out to both and get involved in another season of fun on the Plank Road.

This summer Plank Road will be holding a singaround at Kline Creek Farm (on County Farm Rd a ½ mile north of Geneva Rd. in Wheaton) from noon 'til 4 PM. A barn dance will follow at 4:30. Call the Jones' at 916-1356 for more info.

The Plank Road

board of directors is: Marianne Mohrhussen, president; Charlie Lewis, treasurer; Mary Nugent, secretary; Dave Humphreys, Cathy Jones, Paul Klonowski, Jeff Sands, Rick Rodriguez, directors. The Plank Road Booking committee consist of Dave Reynolds, Bill Fisher, Mary Nugent, and Anne Farnum.

There is still one seat open on the board. If you think you'd like to become a director, please contact Marianne at 387-9312.

Would you like to contribute to the Quarter Notes? Send any items of interest or articles on relevant events to QUARTER NOTES EDITOR, PRFMS, PO BOX 283, BROOKFIELD, IL 60513-0283.

The Fox Valley Folk Festival will be held this year on Sept. 4th & 5th from 11 to 7 each day. Many of the finest Chicago area and Midwest performers and storytellers will be appearing. There will be four stage areas in beautiful

Island Park (Rt. 38 and the Fox River) where you'll find a variety of concerts, workshops, and dances. Bring your instruments --there's always plenty of opportunity to jam. A \$7 donation per day is requested. Call 897-3655 for more information on this and other Fox Valley events.

Don't forget, for complete listings or area folk music events, call the "Folk Phone" at 844-3655.

"Down the Old Plank Road," Plank Road's cassette album is available by mail. Write to PRFMS, P.O. Box 283, Brookfield, IL, 60513-0283. Include your check or money order for \$9 per tape (includes postage and handling.)

Ad space in the Quarter Notes is available. Call 387-9312 or 485-5829 for details or write to the P.O. Box. We now have well over 300 members waiting to hear about you or your business.



## ARE YOU IN TUNE WITH THE UNIVERSE?



Sometimes the most difficult thing about learning to play an instrument is getting it in tune. It can be hard enough when you're just tuning up to practice, but when you're tuning to join in with a group or play on stage it can seem almost impossible. Personally, I'm convinced that nervousness directly affects the human brain's capacity to differentiate musical notes.

One thing I've learned is to always tune to pitch. It may not seem important if you're sitting around alone on the front porch or in the back room (or wherever the non-musicians in the house banish you to when you practice), but it will help develop your ear so you'll know when a note sounds right and when it's just a little off. And if you're playing with a group and everyone has tuned to pitch at home it makes the mass tuning a little easier. Getting into this habit is also a help as far as singing goes. If you're normally tuned up too high or low, when you do sing with someone else at pitch you might find some of the songs that sounded so good at home are now out of your range.

As far as what to tune to, some people use pitch-pipes or tuning forks, others tune to their pianos. The dial tone on the phone used to be a perfect A, but with the break up of the phone company and all the cheap non-Bell

tune than spend a whole night of picking wondering why it sounds like Cripple Creek is being played in C, G, and Eb simultaneously.

--Make sure your instrument is in good shape. You might be thinking there's something wrong with your ears when there's actually something wrong with your instrument. If you can't seem to get your instrument in tune, or keep it in tune, have it checked out. It can save you hours of frustration.

--Don't be afraid to ask someone to help you. Most musicians are happy to give you a hand if you're having trouble.

--On a guitar, start tuning with the fifth, fourth, or third string. The sixth is sometimes too low to hear. Start with the same string each time, so that your ear gets used to hearing it. It also helps to pick a particular chord you always strum to check your tuning. Strum it backwards and listen to how it sounds. An E is good for this; it has a lot of open strings. I usually check a G chord as well, because most of the songs I play are in G.

--Try not to rely on tuning machines. They're nice when you have to tune a lot of instruments at once, but otherwise it's better to tune by ear. Tuning is an on-going process, and you want to develop your ear so

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phones out there it's hard to say if that holds true any more.

Along with these suggestions I decided to gather some outside advice on tuning. Mark Dvorak's been playing guitar and banjo for years, and he also teaches at the Old Town School of Folk Music. When I was learning to play guitar he was the one I'd always ask to check my tuning. I trusted his ears far more than my own, so it seemed only natural to ask him for his own "tips on tuning," paraphrased below:

--Make sure you can hear yourself. A lot of open stages are in noisy bars, but do your best to find a quiet corner, hallway, or staircase to tune in. The same applies when you're at a group jam session. Also, as Mark says, "It's perfect etiquette to say 'would everyone please be quiet so I can tune?'"

--Take time. Anyone can tune if they take the time to sit down and do it. Even if you're practicing alone make sure you get it right, don't settle for close enough. (My own experience is that your ears get used to "close enough" and it's that much harder to get it right when it's important.) If you're at an open mike give yourself plenty of time to tune before you go on. And remember, if you're with a group, people will wait. They'd much rather take a few extra minutes and have everyone in

that you can check your tuning after every few songs. It's not very often you can tune just once and play the whole evening. And tuning can help "warm up" your ears before you start to play.

So there you have it. I tried to think of a few more words of advice so I could use an eye-catching title like "Ten Tips for Better Tuning" but it looks like we'll just have to settle for seven. However, if you have any other tuning questions, or music questions in general, drop a line to the P.O. box and I'll try to find someone to answer them.

That's all for now.

- L. Lilly

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MAURICE SMEETS

## Pssst...You Need Some Tuning Done, Bub?

by: Dario R. Fagnani

Tuning? Tuning? Did I hear someone mention tuning? Well, if it's information on tuning you want you've certainly come to the right place. I've tuned everything from six-string guitars to mandolins to Speed Queen washer and dryer sets, and there's a story involving a Brazilian midget with a limp that would go good here but current censorship attitudes in this country make it impossible for me to relate.

It takes a special kind of person to tune their own guitar. It takes guts, determination, fortitude, courage, a pound of butter, and a couple fingers in reasonably good working order.

The first rule of tuning: take your left hand and place it around the mid-section of the neck. Hold the guitar upright, and in one smooth sweeping gesture place the whole thing in someone else's lap and say, "You do it."

OK. So you're feeling a little daring. You feel like a ride on the wild side, huh? All right then, I'll show you how to tune that guitar.

Find yourself a room in the downtown district of any metropolitan area supporting at least a working population of 8 million. An open window to a major thoroughfare is important. Close proximity to a leading transportation center would be ideal, i.e. Greyhound Bus Terminal, O'Hare Field, or Midway.

Next we must warm up our ears. A Kenwood SX-500 stereo with a Bose speaker system supplying at least 200 watts a side is a must. Turn this up full volume and press your ears against the tweeters for a full half hour. Afterwards there should be a slight buzzing. Tune to this.

Begin by plucking the sixth string. Next the fifth string, then the fourth, and on and on until you've struck all the strings sequentially. Randomly place your fingers on different areas of the fretboard and for God's sake look like you're concentrating. Intermittently, take your hand off the guitar and play with the tuning keys. Stop every once in a while to turn them in the other direction. As you go through these motions say things like, "oh," "ahhh," "yeaaa," and "hmmm."

And that's basically it. Wasn't as hard as you thought now was it? These rules should fit all your tuning needs except for Maytag automatic dishwashers manufactured before 1978. Check your updated owner's manual and warranty service brochure for further information.



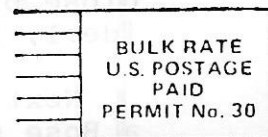
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A PLANK ROAD MEMBER?

Just fill out the information below and return it with your check or money order to PRFMS, P.O. BOX 283, BROOKFIELD, IL, 60513. Your membership entitles you to receive the QUARTER NOTES four times a year by mail and enjoy discounts on Plank Road events. Plank Road T-shirts are also available at a discount for members.

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