



Dedicated to the preservation of folk, traditional and acoustic music.

Quarter Notes

www.plankroad.org ♪ Winter Issue, January 2011

Plank Road's Regular Events

SING-AROUND

Two Way Street Coffee House
1st and 3rd Saturdays - 2:00-4:00PM

BLUEGRASS JAM

Two Way Street Coffee House
4th Saturday - 2:00-4:00PM

Plank Road All Volunteer String Band practice

First Church of Lombard
630-889-9121
2nd Saturday - 2:00-4:00PM

LAST THURSDAY Open Mike

@ Two Way Street Coffee House
7:00 - 9:30PM

Last Thursday of every month.
A monthly unplugged open mike for high school and college age students only.

Go to www.plankroad.org and/or www.twowaystreet.org for full details!

Upcoming Events

PRFMS Annual Membership Meeting and Jam

Sat., January 22nd, 2011

Doors open at 7:15pm
Music starts at 7:30pm
See bottom right for details.

Old Time Barn Dance Party and Downers Grove Annual Ice Sculpture Festival/ All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast

Sat., February 12, 2011
See bottom of page 5 for details.

Folk Alliance International Conference Memphis, TN

February 16-20
www.folk.org
See bottom of page 2 for details.



Bob O'Hanlon

President's Message – Winter 2011

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you had a nice holiday season and are looking forward to a great 2011. Plank Road is coming off of a very exciting year, where we built on all of our traditional events and added a few others; our membership and reputation is growing. Our activities in 2010 began with our annual meeting at the log cabin in Lombard and during the course of the year we hosted over fifty events including our Saturday afternoon sing-arounds and jam sessions. Other events included barn dances throughout the year, "music by the yard" summer jam sessions, a campout in August, hosting the music stage at the October Danada Festival and caroling the streets of Downers Grove in December. The most popular event was our 25th anniversary celebration in April. It was an excellent year.

Our members tell us what they want and what they like through their participation in our activities, as well as by expressing their opinions throughout the year, and we are listening.

I also want to mention that we continue to take steps to strengthen our relationship with other important music organizations in the area, such as NIBA, Fox Valley and, of course, our closest partner, the Two Way Street Coffee House. We joined with several of these groups and others, to sponsor a fund raiser for *Sing Out!* magazine, which was very successful.

Hopefully, you will all join us at the annual meeting on Saturday evening, January 22, at the log cabin in Lombard, for a spirited sing-around, good food and the introduction of the 2011 Plank Road board of directors.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed my time as President of Plank Road and am honored to continue in this position in 2011. —Bob O'Hanlon

Jan. 22nd

PRFMS Annual Membership Meeting & Jam

Everyone is gearing up for the PRFMS Annual Membership Meeting and Jam session at the log cabin in Lombard on Saturday, January 22nd. It'll be a fun evening so don't miss it!

- Bring a dish, dessert or snack to share and your instruments for a night of music and munchies.
- **Doors will open at 7:15pm and the music jam will start 7:30pm**, with George Mattson as our jam leader.
- You can help by not arriving too early so the board has time to get the cabin ready, the fire roaring, and conduct our board meeting.
- This is the time to renew your annual PRFMS membership. You can "pay your dues" at the meeting, so don't forget to bring your membership renewal form and payment (either cash or check - not credit cards) with you.
- The Annual Membership Meeting is primarily an event for members to celebrate another grand year at PRFMS. If you do bring a guest, we hope they will consider joining our organization while they are at the meeting.

7:30 pm Music Jam Session
Doors open at 7:15 pm

Lombard Park District's Log Cabin is located in Four Seasons Park on Main Street in Lombard between Roosevelt Road and 22nd St.

http://www.lombardparks.com/facility_list.htm

Please google: usda, potluck safety. Read the brochure if you plan on bringing a dish to the potluck! Help keep us all safe and healthy.



Sustaining Artist Feature

IDENTITY THEFT

By Mark Dvorak

By the powers of grace and love alone were any of us given the chance to walk around on earth in the first place. And in the end life is short. The arc of a lifetime is but a summer; a brief flash of light.

Upon birth you are given a name and your older brother's clothing. You are given crayons and toys and you learn which streets you are not to cross unaccompanied, a random and lengthy string of educators work at guiding and instructing you. They holler and cajole, reward and discipline you. And then they holler some more. Somewhere in there a navigation system, shaped by the beliefs and attitudes of your elders, gets handed down and finds its way into your waking hours. The preferences and biases begin to make themselves known while at some point, hair begins to appear mysteriously on different parts of your body and members of the opposite sex become permanent citizens of your daily reverie.

Then come the graduations, the career choices, the weddings, an adventure here or there, and a never ending responsibility to family. Then come the divorces. After a time, life as an adult tends to teeter-totter between owning stuff and making payments.

And after you catch your breath and are able to look back, the whole thing sometimes appears as though it were planned in advance by some guy with a bigger clipboard than an interrogator in an Orwell novel; who has no more sense of humor than your seventh grade literature teacher on book report day. And at these times, you wonder: Is something maybe missing here? Is it possible, I've been robbed?

Some come to this realization earlier, rather than later. But those of us who come to it at all begin the search for the missing thing. Not so many clues this time. And at first, not so much help or instruction is available. And now you have to buy your own clothes. We learn to navigate by a new and mystifying set of parameters, some of which are stashed way down there in the dark parts of human consciousness.

And we wander around in this darkness, looking for light, bumping into one another at the coffee house, the folk concert and the jam session. We scan the room for familiar eyes at the festival, the open stage and in music class. We practice. We work at polishing away another layer of the adult we had to become so the light of our true creative selves might shine again more brightly, more musically, than before.

As I write, my twenty-fifth year of teaching at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago is already begun. And after all that time, there is still so very little of which I am certain.



Mark Dvorak

I came to teaching like many others who look for something to do that might generate income. Over time one learns to watch and listen in different ways. One learns when to help and how much to help. And then you learn when to get out of the way.

I've mostly enjoyed the many students with whom I've crossed paths with over the years. A few have gone on to successful careers in music and I guess I'm a little proud of that, however fleeting the association. But many, many others have found a meaningful way to weave music into the fabric of their daily lives, and these are the folks I have been the most happy to work with. It's kind of a privilege to get the chance to watch them tinker and work and think and get excited, and sometimes discouraged too. And then they come back next week, or next summer and we pick up again. Their fingers more sure, their voices lighter and more tuneful. It's a neat thing to witness, and sometimes a little touching.

The music they make stands as hard evidence, a kind of proof that there is more to living than keeping up with a mortgage, or keeping up with the Joneses. With music, we get to tell ourselves and the world, who we really want to be and over time, who we really are.

So on we go, as my friend Art Thieme used to say. Hope to bump into you again soon. *See page 6.*

www.markdvorak.com



Folk Alliance International Conference

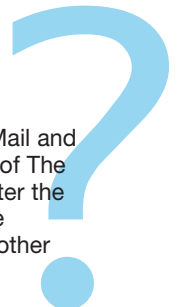
Feb. 16-20, Memphis, TN - www.folk.org

Earlybird registration is now open along with showcase entries, hotel bookings, exhibit hall reservations and sponsorship opportunities. The 2011 Keynote speakers include legendary Folk icon, David Bromberg, Jayhawks co-founder Mark Olson, and the founder of Elektra Records and Music Business Icon Jac Holzman in a special keynote interview with legendary music journalist Dave Marsh. There will also be a very special series of events paying tribute to the Life and Music of John Hartford and a spotlight on the work and artists associated with the Music Maker Relief Foundation.



Wonder what Pete Seeger is up to these days?

See the article "For a Folk Legend, a Time to Read Mail and to Split Logs," in the Sunday, October 3, 2010 issue of The New York Times; google the newspaper and then enter the date and Pete's name in the search space. The article includes three great pics. You can find many, many other great articles on Pete in this newspaper as well.



MUSIC INSTRUCTION

Dulcimer for the Disabled

by Susan Urban with Phil Cooper ("February Sky")



Susan Urban and Phil Cooper

A few short years ago, I would never have dreamed that anyone would be asking me to write a lesson on playing the Appalachian dulcimer. I've always loved the sound of the Appalachian dulcimer, and in high hopes that I would be able to master the instrument, I bought a lovely McSpadden dulcimer around the early 1990's. However, I was frustrated with being able to play it in the way that was considered the "right" way to do so, that is, playing the melody on the first string (single or doubled) with the other strings acting as a drone. The problem was that I'm dyslexic and can't play any single-note succession without involuntary transpositions and "jump-aheads." I tried writing up post-it notes for different songs to place on the dulcimer with the order of the fret numbers I was supposed to be playing, but even that did not help. It was like typing (thank heavens for computers to type on!), where my eyes see one word ("from") but my fingers type another ("form"). For some mysterious reason I have always been able to play chords on the guitar and get them in the right order most of the time. But single note progressions, or even scales, are something I can't produce in the right order more than maybe three times out of ten on a good day. And this was not a matter of enough practice – I practiced until I thought my fingers would fall off. I finally had to conclude that the dyslexia is "hard wired" and unchangeable. I spoke with a few well-respected players of Appalachian Dulcimer, asking if I could possibly play the instrument with chords. They said it was never meant to be played that way. So I sadly sold my McSpadden dulcimer to someone who was already a good player.

However, in 2007, I was playing guitar backup for a workshop at Gebhard Woods Dulcimer Festival with Sandy Andina, a wonderful Appalachian dulcimer player and she demonstrated how she plays chords on the dulcimer and uses capos to change the key. Although there are not as many choices in this area as there are on guitar, it opened my mind to the idea that I might be able to learn how to play this wonderful instrument after all. I went home from that year's festival with a lovely low-toned Griebhaus dulcimer and a book with some chord charts and set to work.

Learning chords has always been fairly easy for me and Appalachian dulcimer chords are very easy, since the instrument has only three strings (four if the first string is doubled, but in that case it functions like a single string). Soon I was working with my partner, Phil Cooper, in the band "February Sky," playing rhythm backup for his expertly-played guitar tunes and songs and chords to accompany my own songs and singing. There are still things I can't do that chord-playing Appalachian dulcimer players use all the time, such as hammer-ons and pulloffs (dyslexia combined with slow arthritic fingers), but what I can do is perfectly adequate for rhythm backup for singing or for tunes where the melody is played by someone else. Phil and I have been told that what we do works well, since if we were both playing melody we would most likely get a "typewriter effect."

Phil and I will play a tune or song together many times, until my fingers find their way to strumming or picking patterns that fill in the spaces on his leads. It's a right brained approach! If you would like to learn to play the dulcimer in this way and are working with another musician who is playing the leads, you will have to find a musician who is patient enough to allow you to experiment until your fingers find their way to the right places, rather than getting it perfectly right on the first try. If you are doing a rhythm dulcimer accompaniment to your own singing, you will have to be patient with yourself, singing the song over and over until you find the right "fill ins" for the melody carried by your voice. But I guarantee you that once you find it, you will know, and your fingers will know, and the accompaniment will pretty much lock itself in permanently after you have played it a number of times.

Continued on page 7

There are a number of ways of tuning the Appalachian dulcimer, but the one that I use is called Mixolydian (DAD). The first string (bass string, farthest away from the player) is tuned to D. The second (middle) string is tuned to A. The third and fourth strings (closest to the player) are doubled and function as one string, and they are tuned to D (one octave above the bass D).

There is no one way to strum that is the only correct one. It depends on the song, and you can experiment with an out strum, or a back and forth strum, or you can even play arpeggios (where the strings are picked individually rather than strummed) as you hold a chord down with the left hand. Dulcimers are usually played with picks, I like a medium stiff triangular dulcimer pick, but this also varies depending on individual preference, the dulcimer you are playing and the type of sound you are aiming for. Some people finger-pick their dulcimers.

In the DAD Mixolydian tuning, the main chords that are used are in the key of D (D, G, A and Bm). Playing the in this tuning without pressing down any strings will give you a D minor chord.

See the web site, www.plankroad.org (Favorites/Readers' Write) for chord diagrams and a song to play in this tuning!

Those Among Us

Living in the western suburbs, hanging out with folkies, you just never know who you might be sitting next to at an event or who you might be sharing the “green room” with before a performance. At least a dozen times in the past several years, I was pleasantly surprised at the company surrounding me. Last November, Rich and I happened to sit next to accomplished acoustic musicians Pete Norman and his band-mate DK Kolars at a house concert featuring Michael Smith, and we had a delightful conversation.

Before that, Rich and I were on the WDCB (90.9 FM) festival grounds for a September “sampler” of singer-songwriters, created and hosted by creative radio DJ, Lilli Kuzma. While all of us waited in the lounge area for our turn to go on the air, we struck up a conversation with “Amy” - a pleasant, friendly woman whose face I didn’t know and whose name I didn’t recognize, I’m sorry to admit. Little did I know...



Amy Dixon-Kolar

Amy Dixon-Kolar is one of the great female singer-songwriters among us. Amy performs mostly acoustic folk music – original, traditional, contemporary and Celtic. With a father who was an amateur jazz drummer and a mother who introduced the family to all types of musical genres, from classical to world music, opera to folk, Amy came to a love of music naturally. She has traveled the country, playing coffee-houses, clubs, schools, college campuses, festivals and house concerts.

She recently finished a successful tour of the northeast and was chosen to appear in the juried showcase for the Folk Alliance Region Midwest gathering. Amy’s first CD, “Now It’s Time”, was released in 2008 and is a celebration of finding one’s voice, of coming back to what gives the soul joy and purpose.

Amy’s song, “Rosa Sat,” (not yet released on CD) was **first runner-up** in the 2010 Music2Life: **Songs for Social Change contest**. Music2Life is sponsored by the Public Domain Foundation, established by Noel Paul Stookey to work with musicians and non-for-profit organizations. Nine judges (including a number of Amy’s life-long musical heroes) whittled down **three-hundred and forty songs** to ten. The competition is stiff for this contest - first runner-up is an incredible accomplishment! Congratulations, Amy!

If you haven’t heard Amy’s songs, I encourage you to look her up – you’ll be glad you did. Go to the Plank Road website and click on “Favorites” for the words to “Rosa Sat” and some background information about the song. And, to hear more about Amy and her music, visit <http://amydixonkolar.com>.

Two Way Street Coffee House Celebrates 40 Years!

by Dave Humphreys

Thanks to all who joined our huge celebration on November 6th! It was a great afternoon and evening festival for all our musical communities, performers and audiences. Our entire building pulsed with music all afternoon as more than 20 Chicago-area folk music organizations and several hundred persons participated in jam sessions, sing-alongs, concerts, songwriter circles, an Irish session, a barn dance, an open mike, and more.

We had food served by Another Round Bar & Grill, and an exhibit of Taylor Liberty Tree Guitars by Tobias Music. WFMT’s Rich Warren broadcast live from the festival from 7pm until Midnight.

And then a sellout crowd of more than 350 cheered Small Potatoes, Kate MacLeod & Kat Eggleston, Patchouli and Mark Dvorak at our packed evening concert. (We apologize to those we sadly had to disappoint when we hit our occupancy limit.)

Join us as we begin our next 40 years!



Top Left - Julie Patchouli and Bruce Hecksell, Patchouli
Top Right - Tim Kendall and Dave Humphreys



Top Left - Rich Prezioso & Jacquie Manning, Small Potatoes & Kat Eggleston
Top Right - Mark Dvorak
Bottom Left - Kate MacLeod & Kat Eggleston



Photos by Jennifer Shilt

See more of Amy’s article on www.plankroad.org

Readers Write!

Go To: > www.plankroad.org > click on Favorites
Readers Write > “Those Among Us”

Quarter Notes

Vicki Ingle | Editor
Jennifer Shilt | Graphic Design

We welcome ideas for articles or photos you’d like to share, please send them to vingle@comcast.net

House Concerts

Jamie O'Reilly's Roots Salon: Art That Digs Deep



JAMIE'S ROOTS - the O'Reillys, Chicago, early 20th c, approx 1909:
 (left to right) Nell O'Reilly Tucker, Mary Ann Murphy O'Reilly (center)
 Mame O'Reilly (back row) Edward "Tex" O'Reilly, James Daniel O'Reilly
 (Jamie's Grandfather)

In 2006, Jamie started the Roots Salon that was based on the family model, continuing a century-old tradition of the O'Reilly clan. She adapted the living and dining rooms of her Ravenswood home into a performance, gallery, and creative development space where artists and audiences can gather together.

Jamie found information about her family's history of hosting house concerts, more commonly referred to then as salons, in the family archives at the Library of U of I Chicago. The O'Reillys were (and continue to be!) a vivacious clan of 'Bohemians' - newspaper writers, poets, activists, music and theater folk who came to Chicago at the end of the 19th century. Jamie's grandparents and later her aunt and uncle, hosted performers in their Northside homes, beginning in 1909, including the family home on Evergreen Street in Chicago's Humboldt Park. An aunt's memoir says that among the performers were Fenians from Ireland, and Russians who were fleeing the Czar, labor union organizers and School of the Art Institute students - all who recited poetry, played music, shared stories from "The four heavens and the four hells."

Today's Roots Salon programming is about fine aesthetics and building community. The venue serves the community at large - people who are interested in art that "digs deep." Events are not published for the general public - Roots is a word-of-mouth animal, with postings via Facebook and the e-news Jamie sends once a month." Invited audiences are exposed to a fine lineup of talented artists.

Musicians who've appeared at Roots include Michael Smith, Anne Hills, Jon Spiegel, June Shellene, Peter Swenson's Baroque ensemble, Paul Amandes, Jenny Magnus, Crooked Mouth String Band, James Lee Stanley, and Al the Liar from California. Sad Brad Smith (heard in the film, *Up in the Air*) was this year's RootsFest headliner. The 'house' band is The Jamie O'Reilly Trio with Jamie on vocals, Bob Weber (cello), Michael Smith and Peter Swenson (guitars).

Want to know more about Roots events?

Get on the e-mail list: roots@jamieoreilly.com
 Or become a fan of Jamie O'Reilly, Musician on Facebook.



Winter Old Time Barn Dance Party

and Downers Grove Annual Ice Sculpture Festival

Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 8:00pm - \$5.00 admission for everyone 5 years of age and older
 Doors open at 7:30pm - Musicians arrive at 7:00pm to warm-up

Two Way Street Coffee House, 1047 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, IL (Across from the Public Library)

Enjoy a fun-filled evening of music and dancing for the entire family. Dance the night away and/or play with the Plank Road All Volunteer String Band. Dances are informal, with no costumes needed. In fact, you don't even need to bring a partner! Refreshments available.



All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 8:00am to 11:00am

First Congregational Church in Downers Grove | 1047 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, IL

The Plank Road All Volunteer String Band will play from 9:00 am to around 10:30 am

After the Pancake Breakfast and before the dance, be sure to check out the amazing ice carvings and fun events happening at the **Downers Grove Ice Sculpture Festival**.



For more information visit
<http://www.downtowndg.org>



Thank You to our Sustaining Artists

mark dvorak
 TIME AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' ON ME

COMING SOON
 12 NEW SONGS
 AN ALL-STAR CAST
 PRODUCED BY JOHN ABBEY
 GET THE NEWS
 GET ON THE LIST
 GET THE CD

www.markdvorak.com

Studio A Recording and Sound

Performers and audiences in northeast Illinois have benefited from Maurice Smeets' skill and talent as a sound engineer from many venues and events. He is the house sound engineer for Acoustic Renaissance Concerts, and for many years also held that position with the Maple Street Chapel



Concert Series. He also provides sound for other special events like those at the Two Way Street Coffee House, the Downers Grove Heritage Festival Folk Stage, and the annual Gebhard Woods Dulcimer Festival.

Maurice Smeets has been the Main Stage sound engineer for the Woodstock Folk Festival for many years, and for good reason. The Festival is all about coming to hear the musicians and storytellers being featured, and Maurice excels at making sure they all sound their best.

In addition to providing sound for music events, Maurice has a 24-track recording studio located in Batavia, Illinois.

You can reach Maurice Smeets at:
studioarecording@aol.com
 or by calling 630-269-9668.

A Special Thanks to our Membership Contributors!!

Sustaining Artists (\$200 - \$399)

Benefits: Feature article and picture in one newsletter; 1/4 page reserved space in four newsletters for name(s), contact information and upcoming performances; individual membership(s) in PRFMS.

- **Bruce Holmes**
www.bruceholmes.com
- **Comfort Food - Vicki and Rich Ingle**
www.comfortfoodmusic.com | 708-795-0695
- **February Sky**
 Phil Cooper and Susan Urban
www.februarysky.com or www.myspace.com/februaryskyfolk
- **Mark Dvorak**
www.markdvorak.com
- **Studio A Recording and Sound - Maurice Smeets**
studioarecording@aol.com | 630-269-9668

Supporting Artists (\$50 - \$199)

Benefits: Line listing in four issues with name of group, name(s) of member(s), contact information; individual membership(s) in PRFMS.

- **Heather Styka**
www.heatherstyka.com

Supporting Members (\$50 - \$199)

John J. Allan • Mary and Dan Anderson • Romaine Burbach
 Frank Clarke • Sheila and Joseph Gut
 Lilli and Robert Kuzma • Gregg and Elizabeth Morton
 Paul Zimmerman

NEW Release!



"In the grand tradition of Chicago singer/songwriters, Rich Ingle is the real deal." —Rick Kogan, Chicago Tribune, WGN Radio



Rich and Vicki Ingle
 (708) 795-0695
Rich@comfortfoodmusic.com
www.comfortfoodmusic.com



BRUCE HOLMES

...looks at our human foibles with a clear eye, no illusions and a loving sense of humor.

Banjo-Jim Foerch, Grand River Folk Arts

LIFE'S AN INTELLIGENCE TEST

A masterpiece of acoustic music!
Radio TeutoburgerWald

The Old King's Reel

Bruce has delivered a beautiful CD with great songs and beautiful music.
Freddy Cellis, Rootstime

WWW.BRUCEHOLMES.COM

Played by over 200 radio stations

"Dulcimer..." Continued from page 3

In early 2009, since I knew that Phil was able to play the Appalachian dulcimer in the "regular" way, I bought a beautiful FolkCraft courting dulcimer, so that we could play duets on the dulcimer on stage. A courting dulcimer has two necks facing in opposite directions. It used to be that a youthful courting couple could be left alone in the parlor as they played the instrument together as long as mom and/or dad could hear the music! On stage, we put our courting dulcimer on a keyboard stand and play standing up to make singing easier. The courting dulcimer pieces have been very popular with our audiences, but another advantage is that having a courting dulcimer makes for an instrument with a bigger voice because of the larger body that is needed to accommodate the two necks. No problem getting this dulcimer to hold its own soundwise against Phil's guitar or cittern! Also, I can put a capo on one side of the dulcimer and leave the other side open. This makes for smoother transitions between songs, since it is a bit more difficult to put a capo on a dulcimer and adjust it to sound right than it is on guitar.

I truly admire folks who can do more on the dulcimer than I can (for example, reading sheet music or tablature is out for me, since they look to me like ants marching across the page), but the right-brained rhythm approach might be a new thing to add to the list of techniques under the mastery of musicians who are more left-brained. And for those who have disabilities similar to mine, take heart. If you like the Appalachian dulcimer, you may be able to add that lovely sound to your list of musical possibilities after all!

See www.plankroad.org (Favorites/Readers' Write) for chord diagrams and a song to play in this tuning!

ON THE RADIO



90.9 FM, WDCB, PUBLIC RADIO
from College of DuPage

Online Streaming - www.WDCB.org

Folk Festival, Tuesdays 7 to 9 PM

Strictly Bluegrass, Wednesdays 7 to 9 PM

So how did Chris Smither get started in music?

In a 2008 interview on the DVD, "One More Night," Chris Smither talked about his earliest musical experience. At the age of 9, while playing in the attic of their home, Chris uncovered his mother's ukulele, which he took to be a guitar. Chris' Uncle Howard told him about the instrument and in 20 minutes taught him how to hear chord changes and how to play a song; his uncle tuned the uke to an open chord and taught Chris to bar the 1-4-5 chords. Chris said, "I've never gotten over this," that his uncle could teach him that much in only 20 minutes.




Vicki with Chris Smither at his October 30, 2009 concert at the Old Town School of Folk Music.

Uncle Howard told Chris, "**With three chords you can play almost any song you know. With four chords you can rule the world.**" Chris said that the guitar is "the only thing in my whole life I never put down, not even for a short period of time. I never stopped doing it."

February Sky

PHIL COOPER & SUSAN URBAN

Traditional, Modern and Original Folk & Celtic Music with Guitar, Cittern, Mountain Dulcimer, Banjo & Percussion



For details and touring schedule, see www.februarysky.com or www.myspace.com/februaryskyfolk

PRFMS @ Danada Fall Festival 2010



Photos by Jennifer Shilt



Photo by Carol Spanuello

Some of the performers from Danada Fall Festival in Wheaton, IL. October 10, 2010. Top left to bottom Right. February Sky, Westwind, Birdy, Thursday's Child. Bluegrass Escape, Natural Bob and Micky, Group jam at the end of the festival.



2010 PRFMS Officers

Bob O'Hanlon - President
reohanlon@gmail.com
(630) 325-7764

Charley Smart - Vice President
plankroad@comcast.net

Cathy Jones - Treasurer
cathy@jonesfamilymusic.com
(630) 889-9121

Cheryl Joyal - Secretary
clmjoyal@aol.com

2010 Board Members
Dave Humphreys
Jennifer Shilt
Kristen Shilt
Carol Spanuello

IMPORTANT PRFMS Membership INFORMATION

JANUARY 1st - 31st is The Annual PRFMS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME.

All memberships renew annually at this time. Your membership renewal date is in the top corner of your mailing label.

Included in this issue is your membership renewal form. Please update it and renew your individual (\$10/yr) or family (\$20/yr) membership by bringing the form and cash/check to the Annual Membership Meeting or by sending them to:

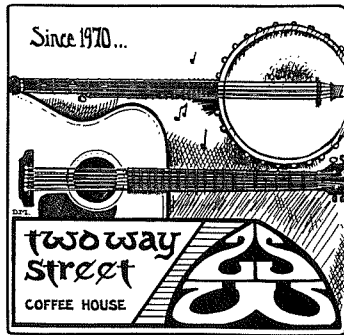
PRFMS
P.O. Box 176
Downers Grove, IL 60515

We hope you continue to be a part of the Plank Road Folk Music Society and keep up with group events through the newsletter. We wish you a joyful 2011 and the sound of acoustic music.

P.O. Box 176, Downers Grove, IL 60515

PRFMS Contact:
Bob O'Hanlon
Email: reohanlon@gmail.com





TWO WAY STREET COFFEE HOUSE

1047 Curtiss Street • Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

www.twowaystreet.org • 630-969-9720

(Across from the Public Library)

Folk Music Every Week since 1970!

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

- Friday January 7 8:15pm \$7 **PETE NORMAN'S Post-Christmas Blues Fest!** — 26th annual show sure to banish *your* post-Christmas blues! Folk, blues & fun songs with guitar, fiddle, banjo, plus Chicagoland's premier Hawaiian band, The Wacky Keys!
- Friday January 14 8:15pm \$7 **JEFF FRIEDLANDER & ED HALL with Doug Lofstrom** — National prize-winning guitarists & long-time collaborators in a revival tour! Great guitar, banjo, vocal reprises plus new tunes by the Doors & Beatles. Doug adds masterful bass.
- Friday January 21 8:15pm \$7 **DEAN MILANO** — CD release party for his newest: *Something To Think About* (Kira Records). Original folk, country & more by a veteran of rock, blues, folk & jazz bands. Joined by guitarist Jay Whitehouse & other guests.
- Friday January 28 8:15pm \$7 **GREENCHOBY** — Carolyn Green & Mike Choby sing about things that matter, and have fun doing it! Their rootsy-style wonderfully combines the grit of the inner city with the sweetness of life based on hope. Guitar & bass.
- Friday February 4 8:00pm \$7 **OPEN MIKE** — Anyone is welcome to perform, and we always have a great variety of acoustic performers! So popular we must limit the number of acts. **1-2 songs, 10 minutes max.** Doors open at 7:30 for signups - first come, first served. **Show starts 8:00.** For more information, phone 630-968-5526.
- Friday February 11 8:15pm \$7 **SWITCHBACK** — Marty McCormack & Brian FitzGerald play an exciting fusion of American roots & Celtic soul across the US & around the world! Mandolin, guitar, bass & vocals. Newest CD: *Ghosts of the River Folk*.
(Ice Sculpture Festival!)
- Friday February 18 8:15pm \$7 **DENNIS JOHNSON & DUANE LARSON** — Entertaining and popular duo returns with pop, folk, gospel, country and original songs with fingerstyle and flatpicked guitar, banjo and bass. Semi-finalist in American Song Festival.
- Friday February 25 8:15pm \$7 ***BOB FRANKE** — "Among the most prolific and important folk songwriters to emerge since the commercial revival of the 1960s." (Scott Alarik, *Boston Globe*). Even if you don't know him, you know his classic songs. Don't miss!
- Friday March 4 8:15pm \$7 **DANNY SCHMIDT** — From Austin TX, he's a songwriter's songwriter with understated sincerity and wry, topical relevance. "Perhaps the most poetic and powerful singer/songwriter of the past 20 years." (Rich Warren, WFMT)
- Friday March 11 8:15pm \$7 **CHUCK CHEESMAN** — A performing songwriter from Flagstaff AZ, he releases a new CD! His contemporary folk/pop songs are often inspired by nature and wild places. A former teacher at Chicago's Old Town School.
- Friday March 18 8:15pm \$7 **LEE MURDOCK** — *From Auld (Old) Sod to New Prairie, The Irish in America* Best-known for his Great Lakes maritime songs, this week he sings of America's Irish immigrants, plus a few boisterous pub songs for St. Patrick!
- Friday March 25 8:15pm \$7 **EDDIE HOLSTEIN** — A stalwart of Chicago's folk music scene, he and brother Fred sang at their own legendary club. He performs folk, blues and humor, and his songs are covered by Bette Midler, Bonnie Koloc & Steve Goodman.

** Will be featured the next night on WFMT 98.7 "Folkstage" with Rich Warren.*

Saturday February 12 8:00 pm \$5 <i>(Ice Sculpture Festival!)</i>	Old Time Barn Dance Party! — Reels, squares, line dancing, waltzes and more, plus music of our great live band. Fun for the whole family! All dances taught and called by our expert leaders. No experience, costume or partner needed. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor.
Saturdays Jan 1 & 15 Feb 5 & 19, Mar 5 & 19	Sing-Arounds! — Our popular song circles where beginners and experienced musicians can learn and/or share songs. Listeners and singers welcome too! Songbooks provided. Plank Road Folk Music Society co-sponsors. First and third Saturday afternoons of every month at 2:00 pm.
Saturdays Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 26	Bluegrass Jam! — Musicians of all experience levels gather to improve skills, learn/share tunes, & have fun! 4th Saturdays, 2:00-4:00pm. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor.
Thursdays Dec 30 Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 31 7:00-9:30 pm Free!	LAST THURSDAY! — Monthly open mike for high school & college age students. Last Thurs of every month. Music, poetry, any performance art - 10 min. max. Signups begin 7pm - first come, first served. Info at twowaystreet.org , on Facebook, or call 630-968-5526.
Live entertainment is featured every Friday night beginning at 8:15. Doors open 7:30. \$7.00 donation requested. Beverages and snacks available. The Two Way Street Coffee House is a not-for-profit community project of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Downers Grove. Member: Plank Road Folk Music Society, Fox Valley Folklore Society, Old Town School of Folk Music, Aural Tradition, and Folk Alliance International. Please call us at 630-969-9720 for current entertainment listings and updates, or visit us on the web at www.twowaystreet.org	