



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

# Quarter Notes

www.plankroad.org ♪ Summer Issue, July 2011

## Plank Road's Regular Events

### SING-AROUND

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

### BLUEGRASS JAM

Two Way Street Coffee House  
4<sup>th</sup> Saturday - 2:00-4:00PM

### Plank Road All Volunteer String Band practice

First Church of Lombard  
630-889-9121  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday - 2:00-4:00PM  
No summer practice  
Resumes September 10

### 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](http://www.plankroad.org) and/or [www.twowaystreet.org](http://www.twowaystreet.org) for full details!

## Upcoming Events

July 17

**Woodstock Folk Festival**  
[www.woodstockfolkfestival.org](http://www.woodstockfolkfestival.org)  
815-479-9933

August 5 - 7

**PRFMS Campout & Jam Session**  
*See article in right column*

August 13

**Music by The Yard - Members Event**  
*See page 2*

September 4 and 5

**Fox Valley Folk Music & Storytelling Festival**  
[www.foxvalleyfolk.com](http://www.foxvalleyfolk.com)

September 17

**Log Cabin Jam & Party**  
*See page 8*

September 18

**Lombard Prairie Days**  
*watch our website for details*  
[www.lombardparks.com](http://www.lombardparks.com)

September 22 - 25

**2011 FARM Gathering**  
[www.farmfolk.org](http://www.farmfolk.org)

October 9

**Danada Fall Festival**  
*watch our website for details*

October 22

**Fall Old Time Barn Dance Party**  
*watch our website for details*



## President's Message

Plank Road is in the midst of a very successful year, with dozens of sessions behind us and many more to come. We strive to have plenty of interesting events for all our members and keep track of attendance at each one, plus comments and suggestions received. One thing we do in the nicer weather, mainly the fall, is participate in local festivals where we provide music and atmosphere to enhance the experience for all attendees. We are proud of this particular activity, as it is a chance to showcase the talent that

is within our organization. So, stay alert for announcements of upcoming festivals, specifically the Fox Valley Folk Music and Storytelling Festival in Geneva on Labor Day weekend and the Danada Fall Festival in Wheaton in October.

Regarding the state of the Plank Road organization, we are strong and viable, with well over 100 members participating in over 50 activities each year. George Mattson hosts Saturday sing-arounds at the Two Way Street Coffee House in Downers Grove that are especially popular, as are the all volunteer string band get-togethers. The annual campout is coming soon, too. We will be hosting a mid-September party at the log cabin in Lombard, similar to what we did last year, which we all enjoyed.

So, check the Quarter Notes and Plank Road web site for information on all these things, and come to as many as you can. We are a very interactive group and organize these activities for your enjoyment. As always, if you have ideas, suggestions (or complaints) or if you want to get more involved with Plank Road, talk to me or any of our board members.

I hope to see you all sometime soon. —Bob O'Hanlon

## Annual Plank Road Campout - August 5-7th!

The Plank Road Folk Music Society will hold its 2011 Campout on Friday 8/5 through Sunday 8/7 at **White Pines Forest State Park near Oregon, Illinois**. This is a beautiful park about 90 minutes west of Downers Grove.

We will gather in the **Cedar Ridge Family Camping area**. This is the only area with a shower building. There are no electric hookups in this area. It's a very nice, intimate area on high ground with trees.

### How do I make a reservation?

You may go directly to [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com) web site to make your reservations.

The Reynold's and Clark's have reserved sites 6 and 7. Please try to reserve a site next to or close to these. We recommend that you reserve ASAP.

### When does it start?

People usually arrive early Friday evening. We set up our tents, make dinner if we haven't had one. We have a get acquainted campfire with the obligatory songcircle around the fire.

### What is the legendary Saturday morning pancake breakfast?

We have a community breakfast combining our stoves and skills creating a wonderful variety of pancakes and breakfast foods. Bring your specialty and share with the group.

### What do I do during the day Saturday?

Relax, enjoy the park, hike, fish and play some tunes. Walk off breakfast.

### Saturday night?

Dinner on your own. Big campfire, big songfest, smores, snacks and sticky guitar strings.

### Sunday morning?

Sleep late (if you want). Breakfast on your own. Break camp. Hit the road.

The White Pines Inn located in the park offers a breakfast buffet from 8am to 11:30am for \$9.99 per person. Some of us may take advantage of the buffet.

If you do make reservations please let me know when you have reserved and the site you have chosen. I would like to keep in contact with those who are attending.

Dave Reynolds - [plankroad@ameritech.net](mailto:plankroad@ameritech.net).



## Nashville Tuning or High-Stringed Guitar

By John Ratajczak, Back Porch Moon

Either way...you play it the same way!!! Back in the "Good Old Days" (by that I mean the 70's) I was part of a group, "Poet & Goldsmith," named after a Wm Wordsworth poem about the sun. We played mostly originals by my band-mate Douglass Udell, with some Steve Goodman & Beatles covers mixed in. We even got to open for Claudia Schmidt at Wisdom Bridge. The band enjoyed rehearsing (musical brainstorming) just as much as performing. During one of those "rehearsals", I had the idea to use the octave strings I had taken off of my 12-string as I was re-stringing it and put them on a 6-string. It was a "rescue guitar" I had picked up at the Fret Shop in Hyde Park (a small body Gibson for \$30...I just had to add a back!). We called the high-string guitar the "Rataphone" and I thought I had invented it!! Fast-forward 35 years, and come to find out that high-string guitars were used for years in recording studios in "Music City" to create a bell-like guitar sound or to complement a regular-tuned guitar for a 12-string effect...thus, the "Nashville Tuning" moniker...so much for my "invention"!



Currently, I use my "High-string/Nashville Tuning" guitar in most every performance in my band "Back Porch Moon." Since two of us play guitars, it adds variety and a "12 string" sound to our songs. I use this tuning on my Epiphone EJ-200 (the "copy" of the famous Gibson jumbo) which, due to its larger body size, gives adequate volume to the higher toned, lighter strings. The tricky part is the set-up on a regular guitar isn't always compatible with those

octave strings, and sometimes you have to make some nut adjustments or just keep your fingers crossed (that nothing buzzes and the intonation is o.k.). Now, I find that there is a guitar model built specifically for this tuning by Wechter, so there's no need to mess with the nut or cross your fingers. It's reasonably priced, and you can find it at Tobias Music, 5013 Fairview Ave., in Downers Grove; [www.TobiasMusic.com](http://www.TobiasMusic.com). If you want to hear how we use the "Nashville" tuning in our repertoire, "Back Porch Moon" plays most of its gigs in historic Long Grove during its Fests (named after things like chocolate, strawberry, and apple...yum!). You can access info about those at [longgroveonline.com](http://longgroveonline.com) or contact me on my e-mail, [Bjeepin@aol.com](mailto:Bjeepin@aol.com)...and I'll let you in on a little "secret" about every Fest Sunday.

## About Back Porch Moon



"Back Porch Moon" with current members Sandy Roelofs (vocals & guitar), Mark Robinson (harmonica & vocals), and John Ratajczak (guitar, dobro & vocals) began five years ago as "Wish I May," and performed only traditional and children's music in and around Long Grove. As people urged the group to expand their style and repertoire, Sandy wrote some original material and song selections were made with a wider range. We included "edgier" tunes by John Prine, Steve Goodman and Dylan "covers" along with our own versions of "Bye, Bye Love," "Down on the Corner," and Gospel tunes. As time passed, gigs were played for various audiences who felt the name didn't quite fit. Sandy expanded her writing to a couple of bluesy tunes, exchanged her recorder and rhythm-makers for a guitar and the quest began to find a new name for our new sound.

Even though we always found it easy to agree on gigs and song choices, finding the new name was a challenge until Karen Krahn, friend and owner of the "Beans and Leaves Coffee & Tea Café," suggested the title of Sandy's latest song, "Back Porch Moon" would be a fitting name, since our music is the kind you might enjoy (and play) on the back porch under the moon. Then, last summer, when original member Ralph Dudziak moved to part-time status, Mark Robinson was invited to sit in on harmonica, added an occasional vocal harmony, and quickly became a permanent member of the band. Mark is now adding his original songs to the ever-expanding set list which the band performs in the northwest suburbs where, we are happy to say, we've been asked to play every Fest in Long Grove each of the last five years! -John

**Saturday, August 13 - Music and socializing starts at 2PM**

## PRFMS Music By The Yard

Members Event

Bring your instruments of course, no pressure to play, but we'd love to have you join in. If you prefer to listen, you can always request your favorite tune or song from the group.

**We'll fire up the grill about 5PM. Please bring your own beverages and food to grill.**

**Also bring a potluck dish to share - a salad, side-dish, dessert, snack or what have you.**

**Don't forget to bring a chair.**



**RSVP** requested for planning purposes.

To get directions to Carol and Fred's home in Willowbrook, IL email: [CarolSpan1@hotmail.com](mailto:CarolSpan1@hotmail.com) or phone **630-816-5973**.

This is a rain or shine event. We will be inside in the A/C if it's too hot outside. **We look forward to seeing you!**



## Jack Williams “The High Road Home”

A CD Review by Vicki Ingle

It doesn't seem like that long ago I was sitting in my car in the grassy parking lot of the Fall Homecoming Festival held at the Museum of Appalachia in Clinton, Tennessee, pondering the creation of a sound track for my journey home. What to play?



Poking around through my large sack of CDs, the title “The High Road Home” jumped out at me. Perfect. Yes, that's what I wanted to do – take the high road home. I popped the CD into the number one slot, whispered goodbye to the festival grounds for another year and headed north, up interstate 75.

I turned the volume up on the player in anticipation of this treat – a new Jack Williams CD! Within seconds, Jack's strong, ever-familiar voice came through my speakers and I settled in for the ride with a feeling of traveling with an old friend.

As it turned out, I had more than one traveling companion with me. I had, in fact, a whole troupe! This CD had a different sound to it than I expected. Indeed, as I learned later, for the first time Jack gave accompanying musicians license to have their way with his music, freedom to complete his songs as they heard them. It shows. The vocal and instrumental harmonies weave themselves in intricate patterns around Jack's lead vocals and guitar on many tunes, bringing to each piece a variety of textures and hues that create a beautiful musical tapestry.

And, the variety continues in the subject matter covered by this project and runs the gamut; from politics to religion (would you expect anything less?) to romantic love and all points in between. You can choose to peel back the layers of Jack's melodies and messages and engage your mind, but it isn't required. You can just sit back and let the tones, the rhythms and the poetry take you away where it will. Either way, the music is equally satisfying.

Two tunes on the CD, “O, Chain Lightnin'” and “Atlantis Goin' Down,” concern Hurricane Katrina. One song is done a cappella, in a style similar to the work songs sung by the chain gangs in the 40's, and the other evolves into the sounds of a New Orleans Dixieland jazz tune – how perfect is that? This is just one small example of the thought and craftsmanship that goes into every aspect of the songwriting. Note that Jack co-wrote “Atlantis Goin' Down” with his wife, Judy.

On the lighter side, Jack takes us on the road with him as he drives to get home to his woman in “Road Dog Blues.” This tune is upbeat and downright fun. You'll crack a smile on “When You're Gone,” too.

All of Jack's songs are laced with ideas and images that bring the music home to your heart:

- The poignant question in “Hand Me Down”: “Is there a secret to belonging?”
- The warning in “A Dangerous Thing”: “If you touch what is wild, be wary be wise.”
- The melodious passage in “While the Sun Goes Down” that reminds me of a Mexican song, in sound and image: “Let's sit and talk of many things, maybe we can laugh and sing, while the sun goes down, while the sun goes down.”

There are tunes on the CD that I think of as pure Jack. The guitar work on “Bad Feeling,” an edgy song especially suited to Jack's vocal style, leaves me breathless.

Continued on page 7

## A Happening

So, you missed Bob Gibson at The Earl of Old Town, John Prine at The Fifth Peg and Steve Goodman at The Quiet Knight and you think that all the great moments of folk music are in the past? I was busy changing diapers myself and missed those live shows. But, there is good news! If you haven't caught a Jack Williams' concert with his “stream of consciousness” closer, then you have at least one magnificent moment left to experience, real time, that folkies will be talking about until folkies are no more –

At the Clark's house concert in Oak Park in June (and at the Maple Street Chapel concert, as well) the audience was gifted with not only a Class A concert of Jack's original material, but with a closer which – though probably impossible to do successfully – I will attempt to describe. “A roller coaster ride that is Pure Joy!” might work for starters.



Jack Williams with his wife, Judy Smith

The sentimental journey begins. Starting somewhere in the 1930's or 40's, Jack wanders through the many musical eras in his memory bank and you tag along. At some point, you visit Elvis, a salute to the years that Jack spent playing in an Elvis cover band. You are also likely to visit anybody from Johnny Mercer or Merle Travis to Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs. No two closers are the same.

Some songs last for only a few bars before turning to other delights. As Jack says, “you're welcome to sing along, just don't get attached...” Every once in a while, as a thought occurs to him, Jack tells you a story while strumming some chord progression that might be a jazz standard or a Beatles tune. By the end of what is a 30-minute event, people are smiling, laughing, humming, singing, and looking at each other with the memory of good-times-past in their eyes. And then you know more about that special transport-thing that music can do.

I remember looking at Maple Street Chapel folk music producer, Paul Zimmerman and his wife, Denise, who were sitting in the row behind Rich and me at the Clark's and we were all grinning from ear to ear. “This is a happening, man, and we are HERE!” – Vicki

## Jack Hardy

Something very, very cool is happening – right now! The friends of Jack Hardy are getting together in a volunteer effort to lay down some of his tunes and make them available to the public. Rumor has it this 2-CD collection (which quickly grew from one CD to two) will be available for three months as a free download before being sold by the Smithsonian. Keep your ears open for more information about a release date or check in periodically at [www.Jackhardy.com](http://www.Jackhardy.com).


Truly a labor of love spearheaded by producer Mark Dann with help from David Massengill (Jack and David were “The Folk Brothers”), the usual Fast Folks will be covering 24 of Jack's tunes, including Frank Christian, Ronnie Cox, Diana Jones,

Continued on page 7

## Stephen Collins Foster, The Father of American Music

July 4, 1826 – January 13, 1864

By Plank Road Member, Andy Malkewicz

 Stephen Foster's father, William Sr., was a successful Pittsburgh businessman. His mother Eliza (from society) described their Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania family home named White Cottage "like living in Eden." Stephen was the ninth child born to this family on July 4th, 1826 in White Cottage. Over time their good fortune turned and they lost this home.

The family liked to make music, but only considered it a hobby, not something for a career. His father played violin, his sisters played piano and guitar. Stephen was picking out simple tunes on the guitar at the age of two. At the age of seven while in a music store, he picked up a flageolet (flute) for the first time and in just a few minutes was able to play "Hail Columbia" nearly perfect. At the age of 14 he wrote his first piece of music, the Tioga Waltz (1839).

Though usually shy, he and his friends, "Five Nice Young Men," started doing their own minstrel show of which he was the star doing blackface dialect (Ethiopian) music. They made enough to go to the theatre on Saturday night. He took classical piano lessons, and was pulled to two very different musical influences; high culture parlor music and Ethiopian blackface (Minstrel) and spirituals. His first published song in 1844 was a parlor song called "Open Thy Lattice Love." His first published blackface song, "Lou'siana Belle," was written for the "Five Nice Young Men."

Foster was tutored and attended private academies in Pennsylvania. He briefly attended what is now Washington and Jefferson College in Canonsburg, though sources conflict on whether he left willingly or was dismissed.

Stephen was living with his family and not making money. His brother got him a job with a steamboat company in Cincinnati as a bookkeeper where he had only to look up to see and hear the docks and river men. As minstrel shows gained favor he entered a Pittsburgh competition for new original "Ethiopian melodies." His first song, "Away Down Souf," (NOT "Dixie") was well received. His second (1848) "Oh Susanna" won, and went on to sell 100,000 copies of sheet music (in this era, 5,000 was outstanding); Minstrel shows patrons, California gold miners, and even Europeans were singing it. His biggest hit and largest seller was "Old Folks at Home" (Swanee River, 1851), which became Florida's state song. "My Old Kentucky Home," written in 1853, became Kentucky's state song.

In 1850 Stephen married Jane McDowell and in 1851 they had a daughter, Marion. As the years went by, the Foster family had increasing financial difficulty as the music business was without structure and songwriters were not protected, not always compensated for their work; the total compensation made to Stephen Foster during his lifetime was \$15,091.08. The only real income he made was from royalties from sheet-music sales, nothing significant from other people's arrangements or performances of his songs. Jane and daughter Marion lived in Pittsburgh. While sick with fever, alone, in a New York City hotel, Stephen fell and hurt himself, dying several days later in Bellevue Hospital on January 13, 1864 with 38¢ in his pocket.

Stephen Foster is recognized as a pioneer and innovator in music and songwriting in particular, as this field did not yet exist in the modern sense.

For further information: The University of Pittsburgh, The Stephen Foster Memorial Museum and The Center for American Music.

<http://www.pitt.edu/~amerimus/FosterProfessionalcareer.html>

### About Andy

I grew up in the Roseland area of Chicago playing lots of sports and getting into my share of trouble. My mom played the piano by ear and our family would gather 'round singing, especially Christmas songs. In the summer, we would go to Indiana just about every weekend. On the trip out there and home, my oldest sister would lead us in folk songs that were popular at the time... Freight Train, On Top of Old Smokey, etc. Usually at night we would sing around the campfire or listen to country music on the radio if we were able to get a signal. As I grew older, I learned some guitar and started leading our family in song at our campfires. To this day, our family still gets together around the campfire and makes music.  
-Andy



Andy Malkewicz

Other songs by Stephen Foster include: *Camptown Races*, *Angelina Baker* - 1850; *Ring Ring the Banjo* - 1851; *Hard Times Come Again No More* - 1854; *Old Black Joe* - 1860; *Beautiful Dreamer* - 1864.

*Rise Up Singing* has chords and lyrics for "Oh Susanna", "Camptown Races", "Old Folks at Home", and "Hard Times." His songs range from fun to pretty to heart-wrenching, and remain quite popular. Pick out a tune and sing!



### Readers Write!

The content of articles shared through Readers Write is the sole responsibility of the authors and not PRFMS.

Available Online!



## "Come For To Sing" Index

By Juel L. Ulven

Following is the link to the complete index of "Come For To Sing" which was published in Chicago by an all-volunteer crew of folkies from 1975 to 1987 and includes several dozen great interviews, hundreds of songs, way too many obits, tons of record reviews from the period and much more. Fox Valley Folklore Society holds the copyright for the magazine and the substantial archive of back issues which are for sale at a reasonable price. Issues 1 and 2 are sold out as is the memorial issue when Stevie Goodman passed on and the Stan Rogers memorial issue as well. We can arrange for PDFs of material from those issues at a small charge. Check it over for info on your favorite artist, music genre, song or just for a nostalgic look at the booming Folk Music scene in Chicago and across the country in the 70s' & 80s'.

[http://fvfs.org/CFTS/cfts\\_index.html](http://fvfs.org/CFTS/cfts_index.html)

## MUSIC INSTRUCTION

### Notes on the Recorder

By Bill Abler

The recorder is a member of the flute family. But, unlike the transverse flute, where you make the sound by blowing across an open hole, the recorder is a fipple-flute, where you make the sound by blowing through a channel and over a knife-edge. The fipple is the plug in the mouthpiece of the recorder. From what I have read, the word "recorder" comes from a Hindi word meaning "to sing".

Fine recorders are made from the wood of the pear tree or the birch tree, but a good plastic recorder is proof against the weather, and will stand up to a lot of use and abuse, and still play. The recorder is small, and will fit in your violin case (inside a sock, of course), or in your pocket or backpack, and will travel with you anywhere. I have taken my plastic recorder to the remotest deserts and swum wild rivers with it. I still have it and it still plays.

Of all the woodwinds, the recorder is the most sensitive to irregularities or inaccuracies in the shape of its bore, so you will want to buy a good recorder that will allow you to grow into it. The beginner's (and the expert's) best bet is the new line of Yamaha plastic recorders. These can cost \$15 plus tax if you buy them new in the store, but you can often find one at a thrift store or yard sale for a dollar or two. You will want five or ten of them, to keep in your pocket, and violin case, and at your friends' houses, so you will have music wherever you go.

If you are buying a recorder made of wood, you will want to select the best one possible. Even if the music store has, say, a dozen wooden recorders that all look about the same, there will always be a best one. If you are not an expert, take a friend with you who plays the recorder. Your recorder should play two octaves plus one note; and a good one will have a loud, clear sound throughout its entire range. The lowest note, the one with all the holes covered, usually gives the most trouble. If any notes are weak or unstable, try a different recorder.

Last, the octave jump from G in the lower register to G in the upper register (on the recorder in C) should be smooth and easy, with no squeaks. If not, try a different recorder. Your first recorder should be a soprano, or C recorder.

After you have your recorder, you will want to learn to play it. Recorders are often given to children and are sometimes thought to be a child's instrument. But Bach played the recorder; and, before the introduction of the clarinet, recorder orchestras of as many as three hundred recorders were popular at royal courts. The recorder is a fully chromatic instrument that will easily handle six major scales and two minor. It will change key instantly in the middle of the music, and in this respect is vastly superior to the tin whistle.

The first thing you will need is a fingering chart, which tells you the finger placement for every note of the chromatic scale. There are no alternate fingerings. In spite of the internet, the best fingering chart is still the one you get with your recorder, or the one you get from a book such as the Trapp Family recorder book. I first taught myself the scales and arpeggios in C, D, E, F, G and A, then borrowed some Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem records, and spent about three hours a day every day for a summer learning to play along. The advantages to playing both by ear and from written music are numerous and enormous. It would be hard to exaggerate the amount of music that passes from hand to hand in the form of printed sheet music.

While the oboe and flute have changed quite a bit in the last three hundred years, the recorder has not; and Jacques-Martin



Bill Abler and Ben Stark at an Oak Park Farmers' Market event at the Buzz Café.

Hotteterre's Principles is still the standard work on the subject. I routinely violate only one of Hotteterre's principles, by holding the recorder out horizontally, instead of down. And this is only because Hotteterre's method hurts my neck. I also have a special move for removing my finger rapidly from one of the holes: Instead of lifting the finger vertically, I slide the fingertip back toward the knuckle by curling my finger toward my hand. That is my only move that is not in Hotteterre. To get the clearest notes, you must seal the finger holes so tight that no air leaks out. If you will inspect the last segment of your finger, vertically opposite the nail, you will find a part that sticks out so far that it almost comes to a point. Press that part into the hole so tight that it hurts, and you will get the necessary seal.

Feet on the floor, back straight, head up, recorder level, practice every day. Find someone to play along with you and I hope you enjoy playing the recorder as much as I do.



**References:** Go to [www.plankroad.org](http://www.plankroad.org) and click on Favorites, look under "Readers Write" for "Bill's References" where there will be additional resources for you.

## Book Recommendation

From Jeanne Halama

Check out this fun read for folkies: Such a Killing Crime by Robert Lopresti. This is a mixture of fact and fiction giving a glimpse into the coffee house/open mic scene of Greenwich, New York between the McCarthy era and the British Invasion. Tom Paxton was an advisor (he offered to be the villain but was rejected). Early folk icons wander through the pages of this nostalgic look at the past.

You will enjoy it!

Available at the public library or contact the publisher: Kearney Street Books, P.O. Box 2021, Bellingham, WA 98227 - (360) 738-1355 [www.kearneystreetbooks.com](http://www.kearneystreetbooks.com)



90.9 FM, WDCB, PUBLIC RADIO from College of DuPage

Online Streaming - [www.WDCB.org](http://www.WDCB.org)

For a program guide, call 630-942-4200

Folk Festival with Lilli Kuzma, Tuesdays 7 to 9 PM

Strictly Bluegrass with Larry Robinson, Wednesdays 7 to 9 PM

# Thank You to our Sustaining Artists

**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

**mark dvorak**  
 TIME AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' ON ME

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

[www.markdvorak.com](http://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](mailto:studioarecording@aol.com)  
 or by calling 630-269-9668.

## 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](http://www.februarysky.com)  
 or [www.myspace.com/februaryskyfolk](http://www.myspace.com/februaryskyfolk)

## 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.

- **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 and Helen Clarke  
Gregg and Elizabeth Morton  
Paul Zimmerman

## Transitions: I'll Fly Away...

### Hazel Dickens

**June 1, 1935 – April 22, 2011**

Hazel Dickens passed away at the age of 75 from complications of pneumonia. Ms. Dickens was a pioneer among women in bluegrass and always an advocate for coal miners and other working people. She received numerous awards during her career including the International Bluegrass Music Association's Merit Award and a National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2008.

[http://fvfs.org/CFTS/Hazel\\_Dickens\\_in\\_CFTS.pdf](http://fvfs.org/CFTS/Hazel_Dickens_in_CFTS.pdf)



### Joe Willie (Pinetop) Perkins

**July 7, 1913 – March 21, 2011**

Pinetop Perkins passed away at the age of 97, shortly after receiving a Grammy for the best traditional blues album of 2010; he was the oldest person to receive this award. During his lifetime, he played with such blues greats as Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson II, Robert Nighthawk and Earl Hooker and recorded with musicians as diverse in style as Odetta, Ruth Brown and Eric Clapton. Included among the awards Mr. Perkins received are a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Blues Foundation's award for the best piano player (repeated many different years).

### Jack Williams - Continued from page 3

Perhaps one of the most powerful songs on this complex album is the song with the most straight-forward presentation, "No Longer Headed Nowhere."

"I've gone face to face with demons, rejected angry ghosts.

I've rattled the bones of devils past, the ones I feared the most.

I will lay all my secrets open wide, 'till the past will have nothing left to hide.

I'm coming to a place I've only dreamed about.

I've turned away from anger and despair.

This could be the hardest road I've traveled, Babe, but I'm no longer headed nowhere...I would never have found you there."

The CD closes with a confession and a plea. "Invocation," by Dayna Kurtz, is the only song on the album not written or co-written by Jack. This tune reverberates with string and choir-like vocal harmonies.

No, this can't be over yet! Spontaneously, I quickly reached up and hit the replay button.

Visit Jack's website at <http://jackwilliamsmusic.com>

Note: "The High Road Home" is a top-of-the-heap keeper, but don't stop there. If you are new to Jack's music, you'll want to check out his catalogue. When it's all said and done, "Laughing in the Face of the Blues" will have to be pried from my cold, dead hands, so to speak.

-Vicki

### Jack Hardy - Continued from page 3

Lucy Kaplansky, John Gorka, Christine Lavin, Richard Shindell, Suzanne Vega, and Jack Williams; Jack Hardy recorded two tunes himself before he passed on March 11, 2011, that will close each CD. David told of Mark's genius in the studio and his generosity in bringing people together to record tunes for this double CD. This project seems particularly fitting as Jack devoted his life to fostering the development of singer-songwriters. Our hats are off to these musicians who, through their generous contributions, will help keep Jack's music present on the folk scene.

Besides the CDs, a book will be available as a download that will include song lyrics, articles by Jack that were published in Sing Out! Magazine, tribute poems and articles by the singer-songwriters who appear on the album, and, photographs. What's in store for the future? Perhaps a video and more CDs will be produced at some point. And, there are dreams of putting together a Jack Hardy Folk Festival, ideally in New York. Who knows? It's wide open. So many people admired him. "I hear his music living on for a long time," says David Massengill.

## 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](mailto:vingle@comcast.net)

PRFMS Members Event

# Log Cabin Jam & Party



**Saturday, September 17,**  
**from 4:30-10PM DROP IN ANYTIME**



Spend the last weekend of Summer singing, playing, jamming and eating.

Just like a **Music by the Yard** party, bring your family and friends, instrument(s), beverages (non-alcoholic - Lombard Park District facility rules), a dish, dessert or snack to share, folding chairs, bug spray and a flashlight. Plank Road will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments and s'mores.

Jamming will be held inside and outside of the cabin.  
We'll build a campfire in the evening.

Lombard Park District's Log Cabin is located in Four Seasons Park on Main St. and 16th St. in Lombard - between Roosevelt Road and 22nd street.

**Please RSVP** so we know how many burgers and dogs to grill.  
j.shilt@comcast.net or 630-620-0688

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.



Folk Resources  
Next Door  
See [www.plankroad.org](http://www.plankroad.org)  
Click on Favorites



## 2011 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

**Carol Spanuella - Secretary**  
carolspan1@hotmail.com

**2011 Board Members**  
Dave Humphreys, Cheryl Joyal  
Jennifer Shilt, Kristen Shilt

[www.plankroad.org](http://www.plankroad.org)

Membership info is available online at

Thank you!

Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

P.O. Box 176

PRFMS

You can get an individual (\$10 year) or family (\$20 year) membership by sending a check to:

## PRFMS Membership INFORMATION

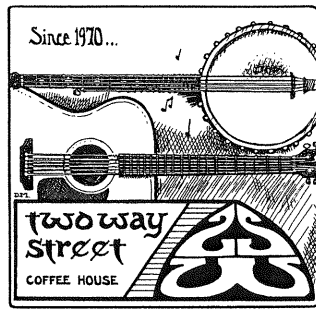


P.O. Box 176, Downers Grove, IL 60515

PRFMS Contact:  
Bob O' Hanlon  
Email: [reohanlon@gmail.com](mailto:reohanlon@gmail.com)







## TWO WAY STREET COFFEE HOUSE

1047 Curtiss Street • Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

[www.twowaystreet.org](http://www.twowaystreet.org) • 630-969-9720

(Across from the Public Library)

*Folk Music Every Week since 1970!*

### ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

- Friday July 1 **ERNIE HENDRICKSON** — Classic 70's country sounds, heartfelt ballads, blues & tribal beats from a young Chicago singer/songwriter whose latest album spent 40 weeks on roots music charts! "Groundbreaking!" (*Ill. Entertainer*)  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday July 8 **GREG BOERNER** — Energetic and passionate guitarist-singer-songwriter originally from Georgia. Southern style blues, country, & folk originals from his brand-new (4<sup>th</sup>) CD: *Prophetstown*, plus a few from Tom Waits and Ray Charles!  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday July 15 **DOUG & TELISHA WILLIAMS** — From Virginia: stunningly honest songwriting in a beautiful, gritty, neo-traditional Americana wrapper. Quick wit, fearless delivery. Critical acclaim; 15 weeks on Americana top-40 chart!  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday July 22 **DAN ZAHN & KATE MORETTI** — Swing, bluegrass, folk, & originals, sung from the heart with outstanding musicianship. "Dan's adept guitar work & Kate's sultry vocals are a combination that smolders and swings!" (*Chris Vallillo*)  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday July 29 **RONNY COX** — Hollywood actor (starred in *Deliverance*, *Bound for Glory*, *RoboCop*, many more) and acclaimed singer-songwriter (80 clubs/festivals a year), Sophisticated, lyric-driven, funny, touching, insightful and compelling!  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday August 5 **SUNNYSIDE UP** — Bluegrass, swing, and American roots music, plus great songwriting and harmonies. Fiery instrumental work too! Trio with Colby Maddox, mandolin & fiddle; Mike Church, guitar; Steve Hartley, bass.  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday August 12 **LONG JOURNEY HOME** — Classic "brother style" country duo featuring Keith Baumann on mandolin & Chris Walz on guitar. Close vocal harmony and great picking; beautiful haunting ballads and hard driving breakdowns!  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday August 19 **PATTY STEVENSON & CRAIG SIEMSEN** — Two fine Milwaukee songwriters in an terrific duo show. Both acclaimed musicians: Craig is a powerful guitarist, Patty plays piano, guitar & harp. Great lyrics, voices. Great CDs!  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday August 26 **MICHAEL RENO HARRELL** — Award-winning songwriter & storyteller from the Southern Appalachians. Often funny, sometimes scary, he plays numerous major festivals & his recordings top the Americana charts. Entertaining!  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday September 2 **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.  
8:00pm \$7
- Friday September 9 **BILL CAMPLIN** — Outstanding singer/songwriter/guitarist and co-owner of the legendary Café Carpe music venue in Wisconsin. "Rich, deeply felt musical portraits and journeys." (*Andrew Calhoun*) "Pure poetry." (*Kevin Lynch*)  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday September 16 **\*ROBIN GREENSTEIN** — Contemporary singer-songwriter from NYC whose music fuses folk, pop, blues, Afro, Anglo, and country into a blend she calls *Acousticness* ... also the title of her second CD! Guitar, banjo, uke.  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday September 23 **ADLER & HEARNE** — Texas singer-songwriters Lynn Adler & Lindy Hearne met in Nashville on separate musical journeys. Now the duo plays a spirited mix of folk-jazz blues-grass with guitars, mandolin & harmonica.  
8:15pm \$7
- Friday September 30 **KITTY DONOHOE** — Michigan songwriter merges her Irish and American roots in music that is rich, and compelling. She sang her Emmy-winning song "There Are No Words" at the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial dedication.  
8:15pm \$7

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

Labor Day Weekend Sunday & Monday Sept 4 & 5	<b>Fox Valley Folk Festival</b> — More than 40 great folk musicians and storytellers perform on six stages on beautiful Island Park in Geneva, Illinois. Stop by the <b>Two Way Street Stage</b> for some of your coffee house favorites! More information: phone 630-897-3655. <a href="http://www.foxvalleyfolk.com">www.foxvalleyfolk.com</a>
Saturdays Jul 2 & 16 Aug 6 & 20, Sep 3 & 17	<b>Sing-Arounds!</b> — 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 Jul 23, Aug 27, Sep 24	<b>Bluegrass Jam!</b> — 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 Jul 28 Aug 25, Sep 29, Oct 27 7:00-9:30 pm <b>Free!</b>	<b>LAST THURSDAY!</b> — 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 <a href="http://twowaystreet.org">twowaystreet.org</a> , 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 <i>Two Way Street Coffee House</i> 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, Folk Alliance International. Please call us at 630-969-9720 for current entertainment listings and updates, or visit us on the web at <a href="http://www.twowaystreet.org">www.twowaystreet.org</a> or on Facebook.	