



Great Plains Dulcimer Alliance

Newsletter

GPDA meets at the Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, KS, on the second Saturday of each month, 9:30 - Noon

Volume XXVII, Number 2, February 2010

A Note from the Prez

When compared to December, January was a relatively quiet month. Most of us probably needed a chance to catch our breath anyway. We only had one play date, a Gospel Sing Along at the Derby Senior Center. It went very well, with the exception of one minor burp, but everyone had a good time. We also had a very successful Winter Retreat at Lake Afton. The weather actually cooperated, the day was beautiful. The music was delightful, the food delicious (and plentiful) and companionship heavenly. Based on my count we had 30 attendees. If you couldn't make it this year, put it on your calendar for 2011. I would like to thank those that arrived a little early and helped me set tables and chairs, and those that stayed a little late and helped with the cleanup.

For our first general meeting of the year, February 13th, I am planning something a little different. I recently watched a video entitled "Groove Workshop", by Victor Wooten. Victor is the electric bassist for Bela Fleck and the Flecktones. In this video Victor discusses his philosophy of teaching and learning music. Rather than focusing on technique or playing the right note, Victor emphasizes many subtle and rarely taught aspects of making music, which, in my opinion are applicable to any musician or instrument. Even though the DVD was recorded using an actual workshop of 6 Master Bassists, I believe that all of us can benefit from the topics that Victor covers, which are:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| ♪ Notes | ♪ Rhythm/Temp |
| ♪ Grooving | ♪ Tone |
| ♪ Articulation | ♪ Phrasing |
| ♪ Technique | ♪ Space/Rest |
| ♪ Emotion/Feel | ♪ Listening |
| ♪ Dynamics | |

The total run time for the DVD is 5 hours and 40 minutes. My plan is to play one of two topics in the video as a workshop over the next few meetings. The first two topics (notes and grooving) will be played in February, following the general meeting. I hope that you all enjoy this as much as I did. Please plan on being there.

Richard

A Note from the Vice Prez

Thanks so much to all who participated in the winter retreat. I didn't get to stay long and it sounds like I missed a great afternoon and evening. Lunch was tasty and abundant. Thanks to all the cooks!

Don't forget the Kansas Bluegrass Association Winter Festival coming up at the Marriott on Feb.19 and 20. On Saturday the 20th, there will be a kids' showcase. Any kids under age 17 may participate. We'll have a jam room and refreshment table just for them, starting at 2pm. The youth start performing at 4:15, two songs each. They can solo, two or three together, whatever. Parents get into the festival free during the showcase to watch their kids perform. I am running the showcase, along with my son, Chris, so look for me to sign up.

Michelle

Gospel Sing-A-Long

Saturday February 20, 2010

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

1259 N. Buckner Derby, Kansas

Directions to Brookridge Plaza Apartments:

K-15 South to 63rd Street S. (Patriot Ave) Turn East (Left) to Buckner. Turn South (Right) on Buckner - Go past 1st stop light at Meadowlark (71st Street) for about 3 blocks - Turn West (Right) onto drive by Meritrust Credit Union and Brookridge is directly behind the Meritrust Credit Union. Parking is available in the parking lot North of the apartments, behind Pleasantview Baptist Church. We will be playing Play List II and they have armless chairs. Hope to see several of you there.

Jam Opportunities

Monday nights

- ♪ Old Chicago 7-9pm
- ♪ Ark City Country Bluegrass Jam
7-9pm,
Cherokee strip museum
620-447-2107

Tuesday Nights

- ♪ United Methodist Church 7-9pm
431 S. Woodlawn, Derby, Ks.

Thursday Nights

- ♪ Garden City Jam 3rd Thursday 7-9pm

Kadee's Coffee Break

- ♪ 210 E Spruce
Garden City Folk and Bluegrass

Friday Nights

- ♪ Emma Chase Café Every Friday 7:30
Cottonwood Falls, KS

Saturday

- ♪ Kansas Bluegrass Association
1st Sat. each month 10-1pm
Immanuel Baptist Church