



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 3, March 2010

**A Note from the Prez**

The second month of the year is already almost behind us. From a performance stand point things were pretty quiet. We had two "Gospel Sing-Along" dates, one in Cheney and one in Derby. Both of the dates went well and, as usual, we received numerous complimentary comments. At this point we are focusing our attention on the upcoming Spring Fundraiser. As you all know, it is scheduled for March 13, at the Faith Lutheran Church, 214 S. Derby St., in Derby. We plan on serving dinner at 6:00 pm, with the concert starting at 7:00 pm. The last time I checked GPDAks, we had 5 performers signed up and 8 potluck supper items. It's not too late; go to GPDAks and signup. Admission is \$5.00 per person, over 18. Remember to invite your friends, relatives, neighbors or any else you know that would like to be fed and entertained for \$5.00

We are also conducting a "Poll" on GPDAks to determine the date for the Hammered Dulcimer workshop by Linda Thomas. Linda has offered three potential dates, October 23, October 30 and November 13. If you're planning on attending this workshop, please go to GPDAks and vote on the date of your choice. Please do not vote if you're not going to attend the workshop.

I wanted to mention that Henry Lippincott has updated our public website, [www.GPDA.org](http://www.GPDA.org). Updated features include the 2010 newsletters, list of current officers and a contact point (currently me). The website is linked to GPDAks as well as to the Carp Camp website. We thank Henry for his hard work.

Lastly, at the March meeting I'm planning on playing the next two chapters of the Victor Wooten, Groove Workshop. These chapters will cover Notes and Articulation. The DVD presentation will take about 33 minutes.

*Richard*

**Spring Fundraiser - March 13, 2010**

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## ***A Note from the Vice Prez***

Richard said something about submitting some sort of a bio, so that's what I guess I'll do. Here goes.

First of all, I want to say that the GPDA are my favorite people to play with. I just love this group, even though I don't get to be involved too much because of my kids and their activities. How did I get here? We'll go back a couple of years when I was camping at El Dorado Lake with my family. We like to ride the bike paths through town, and they connect to the campground at the bottom of the dam. Anyway, we rode to the oil museum and there was a very nice lady with a broken leg working the desk. She told us all about the museum and then proceeded to invite us downtown for the evening, as all the stores and art galleries would be open late for some sort of celebration.

We rode our bikes back to the campground and drove back downtown that evening. We went to a few stores, etc., and then to an art gallery where they made things with scroll saws. Lo and behold! (my grandmother used to say that) There was this same lady with her leg propped up, surrounded by these really cool looking instruments, playing and singing to everyone's enjoyment. She had never let on at the oil museum that she was part of the entertainment. Of course that was our very talented and very modest Theresa Bachman! She played us a wonderful concert, and when she found out we were from the Wichita Area, she told me about the GPDA.

I finally got brave enough to attend a meeting, and it's been nothing but fun ever since! That's my story and I'm glad you're all a part of it! Thanks for being such a welcoming and supportive group!

*Your VP, Michelle Yoder*

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## ***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

>>>440<<<

## **A Word on Tuning**

*(Richard Taylor)*

Towards the end of the jam one Tuesday evening someone picked a “G” tune, we had spent the entire jam in “D” to that point. As the mountain dulcimer (MD) players were retuning to “G”, it became obvious that Jim Warren (by the way Jim gave me permission to write this article) was having an unusually difficult getting his MD retuned, and was becoming quite frustrated with the entire process. So I asked if I could help, and he quickly accepted my offer. As I tried to tune the instrument I was looking at the electronic tuner and at same time Pat was plucking a G note on her mandolin. When Pat called out that’s it (meaning the note I plucked on the MD matched the G note on her mandolin), the tuner indicated the MD was still flat and when the tuner indicated it was “in tune”, it was not when compared to Pat’s. At this point I decided to go into the hall, peace and quiet, to further pursue my tuning endeavor.

I again started to tune the MD referring to the electronic tuner, three numbers on the tuner display, they read 441. I looked at the side of the tuner and found a button labeled “Calb” and pressed the button until the display on the tuner read 440. The problem was solved. But why?

Electronic tuners use a hertz (Hz) frequency as a reference to determine pitch. The “A” note above middle “C” has a frequency of 440. According to Wikipedia:

A440 or Concert A or Middle A is the 440 Hz tone that serves as the standard for musical pitch. A440 is the musical note A above middle C. The term literally means that the A above Middle C = 440 vibrations per second.

This is the reference frequency used by electronic tuners for “standard” tuning. The “calb” or calibration button changes the setting from 440 to another frequency to accommodate a different tuning desired by a musician.

The moral of this story is – Always check the calibration of your tuner, every electronic tuner that I’ve seen has it displayed somewhere on the screen. If it doesn’t read 440, find the “calb” button and change it to 440.

***Happy tuning!!***

### ***Gospel Sing-A-Long***

***Saturday March 27, 2010***

***2:00 pm - 3:30 pm***

***141 Sarah Ln, Haysville, Kansas***

***Directions to peachtree plaza tower apartments:***

Go south on seneca past 63rd st south. Go to sarah lane (old dairy queen building in on the corner) turn right (west) on sarah lane and peachtree plaza tower apartments will be on the left (south) side of the street. We will play play list 2.