

2008 WORKSHOP INFORMATION

It's time to start thinking about this year's WOTFA State Workshop and the class(es) you'd like to take. Dates for the 2008 Workshop are: Monday, July 28 through Friday, August 1, 2008. As usual, the event will be held at the Kittitas Elementary School facilities in Kittitas, Washington.

Enrollment this year will begin the first Monday of April. To be eligible to participate in the Workshop follow these two steps:

1. Make sure you have renewed your WOTFA membership. No application can be accepted without including a valid 2008 WOTFA membership number. You can take care of this by completing the WOTFA membership form (found on the website - <http://wotfa.org/membership.html> - or on the inside back page of the December/January 2007 issue of the *Evergreen Fiddler* newsletter) and mailing it with your check to John Grundstrom (address is on form).
2. Workshop enrollment forms MUST be postmarked ON OR AFTER the **first Monday in April** (*that will be April 7 this year*)! Enrollment applications postmarked before this date will be returned and must be resubmitted to be considered for enrollment. The workshop is very popular and this rule has been established to make enrollment fair and accessible to all. (The workshop fills very fast - in 2006 we received more than 385 applications the first day).

There will be a limit on class size and on total attendance to insure the classrooms and facilities are not overcrowded. When classes are filled up, a wait list will be established from which registration cancellations will be filled.

NEW THIS YEAR

Based on high levels of interest in *lower intermediate level* fiddle instruction, this year we will offer two classes. They will be taught by sisters: Leslie Beck and Donna Lemmelin, and there will be some opportunity for interaction between the two classes.

Our Advanced Fiddle – Swing class will have a new/old-hand instructor this year. Paul Elliott has other commitments during our workshop dates this year and so (at his suggestion) we have convinced Paul Anastasio to teach the class this year. Some of you will know that Paul Anastasio helped pioneer the class and was the original instructor. He taught for several years before his commitments prevented his coming and he recommended Paul Elliot for the class. The rest is history, as they say.

Pete Martin is taking a hiatus, or sabbatical, from the workshop for a year or two so we will not offer the Advanced Mandolin class this year. Tom Moran, our 2007 Intermediate Mandolin instructor is totally capable of teaching the advanced class but, on balance, we feel there is more need for him in the intermediate area. Some who were planning to take Pete's class again might want to consider Tom's class this year. He is an exceptional mandolin player and a professional teacher.

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM WORKSHOP CHAIRMAN:

Our experience during the past two years has been that as many as 400+ people apply for the workshop on the first day open for applications. When this happens we get several overbooked classes and must process the applications in a way that is fair to all.

I already have the mechanisms in place to work through that process but I want to let you know that it involves quite a lot of extra time to complete.

This means I may not be able to get messages out to let folks know whether or not they're enrolled as soon as many would wish. I commit to you that I will do my best to get the job done as fast as possible.

One thing that would help me immeasurably would be if you have an e-mail account to *please include it on the application form* and then regularly check your e-mail after about the third week of April for my message. Also it's very important that you *send me a reply immediately* to let me know you have received it. I spend a tremendous amount of time trying to verify whether or not roughly 400 people have gotten the information I sent. If you don't have an e-mail account I will send my message by snail mail and I will assume you have received it. As you can appreciate, the snail mail alternative takes a tremendous amount of my time.

I look forward to another great Workshop in 2008 and hope to see you there.

Bill Parker
2008 Workshop Chairman

FIDDLE WORKSHOPS:

Level/Duration: BEGINNING FIDDLE/FULL DAY

Instructor: CORRINE JUDD

Prerequisites: No experience required; must have playable fiddle and bow; no age limit BUT ... any students younger than age 7 must be accompanied by an adult – at all times.

Styles/Tunes Taught: We will be learning a variety of fiddle tunes such as Boil the Cabbage, Put Your Little Foot, and Lisa Jane.

Course Objectives: Teach the basics of holding the instrument; tuning and scales for different keys; learn basic fiddle tunes.

Materials provided: Beginning fiddle booklet and CD.

Level/Duration: ADVANCED BEGINNING FIDDLE/FULL DAY

Instructor: MARGRET BRANK

Prerequisites: Have played fiddle for a little while

Styles/tunes taught: Variety of fiddle and folk songs; jam session type tunes

Materials provided: CD or tape and handouts with the tunes taught in the class

Level/Duration: LOWER INTERMEDIATE FIDDLE/FULL DAY (*one of two lower intermediate fiddle classes*)

Instructor: LESLIE BECK

Prerequisites: This class is open to fiddlers who have played for a few months through a few years. It is designed for a moderate pace. (In the past some have found it too fast, some too slow and others just right, so ... it fits the title of lower intermediate.)

Styles/tunes taught: As in years past, we will be learning hoedowns, waltzes and choice tunes. We will learn the basics of 20 tunes, allowing you to take them home and practice to perfection. Some theory and history will be included. I have had requested, through the years, that we learn harmony on some tunes. This year we will be able to accomplish this by working with the other Lower Intermediate Class (Donna Lemmelin) on some tunes. As in the past, if you have a request, please contact me by June 1 and I will try to include it in the repertoire.

Materials Provided: The material will be in tablature and notation form accompanied by a CD and guitar chords.

Miscellaneous: Please bring a music stand. Feel free to call or email me if you have any questions. 208-887-7712 lesliemeridian@cableone.net. Looking forward to fiddling with you!!

Level/Duration: LOWER INTERMEDIATE FIDDLE/FULL DAY (*one of two lower intermediate fiddle classes*)

Instructor: DONNA LEMMELIN

Prerequisites: This class is open to fiddlers who have played for a few months through a few years. It is designed for a moderate pace. It fits the title of lower immediate.

Styles/tunes taught: The week will be filled with learning up to 20 fiddle tunes, including waltzes, hoedowns and choice tunes. You will be introduced to some new tunes as well as some old favorites. By interacting some with Leslie Beck's class (also lower intermediate fiddle), we will learn some songs with harmony, and also hope to offer more review time for those students who need a little extra time and help, while at the same time moving ahead with those who learn at a faster pace. Some theory and basic playing techniques will be taught so you not only learn new tunes, but your playing will improve as well!

Materials Provided: Music, tablature and guitar/piano chords along with a CD will be supplied.

Miscellaneous: Please bring a music stand.

Level/Duration: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED FIDDLE/FULL DAY

Instructor: ROBERTA PEARCE

Prerequisites: One would do well to be able to sight read music and/or follow tab easily. Playing at the intermediate level would involve 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th playing positions, playing double stops in tune, and having knowledge of key signatures and chords within the key. This class over the years has become more slanted toward "advanced" instruction.

Styles/Tunes Taught: I will be teaching bow techniques, vibrato, driving rhythms, chording and harmonies. I will be teaching a variety of songs, which will include these different styles of music; Gospel, Celtic, Swing, Texas and show tunes. Some of the songs for this years workshop are: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", "Are you washed?", "Five Foot Two", "Minor Swing" (I did not get to that one last year, sorry) and "Sally Johnson". If someone would like a special tune taught this year, please email me at juniorjammers@aol.com I will do my best to include it.

Materials Provided: Workbook with notes, chords and tab, and a CD. Tapes are available upon request; please email me if you need one.

Level/Duration: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED FIDDLE/FULL DAY

Instructor: STUART WILLIAMS

Prerequisites: Be able to play at advanced beginning or intermediate level

Styles/tunes taught: Let's take a few classic old time fiddle tunes you already know and dress them up real nice for dancing, learn a few choice new tunes and have ourselves grand old time! I will give particular emphasis to details of style, especially bowing, that lend the tunes that delightful, dancey, fiddlely feel.

Materials provided: CD and notation provided.

Level/Duration: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED FIDDLE/FULL DAY

Instructor: VIVIAN WILLIAMS

Prerequisites: Be able to play at least intermediate level

Styles/tunes taught: At least a dozen tunes, mostly American, Canadian, and British Isles tunes, occasionally one from Europe, appropriate for old time dancing, including waltzes, hoedowns, reels, polkas, and two-steps.

Course objectives: Learning to play with authority, this requires solid rhythm, appropriate dynamics, and a reasonable tone, all of which can be achieved by proper control of bowing. Learning to think chordally to help develop the ability to "hear" chord changes, for playing backup on the fiddle, finding harmony parts, and improvising over a chord progression without relying on memorized licks. Making scales and arpeggios automatic to facilitate intonation, finger dexterity, improvisation, and learning new and more technically advanced tunes. Learning position playing, and playing in difficult keys such as B and B flat, using the "first finger capo" technique. Learning bowing patterns such as the "Nashville Shuffle" and the "Georgia Bow."

Materials provided: Packet of written music (no tab) and CD

Level/Duration: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED FIDDLE/FULL DAY

Instructor: MABEL VOGT

Prerequisites: Ability to play standard fiddle tunes in a group, plus some personal tunes you play as solos. Basic knowledge of scales and arpeggios in keys of A, D, G, C, F, and Bb. An interest in learning by ear.

Style/ Tunes taught: Students receive a CD and detailed instruction for traditional tunes Mabel has collected during 40 years of judging and playing at contests and festivals. She will demonstrate and teach the tunes one phrase at a time. You will enjoy our arrangements of tunes such as Ricketts Hornpipe (Irish.), Goofus (Swing), Chesletta Rag (Canadian) and From Frisco to Cape Cod (Scandinavian). After four days of learning by watching, listening, and playing you will be given written music to take home.

Course Objective: Learn a dozen good oldtime tunes with authentic roots in the history of our tradition, suitable for a variety of settings—personal enjoyment, dances, contests, or entertaining. Experience a range of difficulty, with a variety of keys, slurring, chords and bowing techniques Gain confidence and skill in learning and playing by ear, the trademark quality of real fiddling. Enjoy the process of learning in a comfortable, supportive atmosphere.

Materials Provided: CD of all tunes on first day. Written transcriptions at end of fourth day, to help students remember, review and improve tunes after the week is over.

Level/Duration: “HOT SHOTS” – ADVANCE FIDDLE/FULL DAY

Instructor: JAY DEAN LUDIKER

Prerequisites: It is recommended you be able to tune and retune your fiddle quickly as we will go from standard tuning to cross tuning and back again frequently. It is required that you be able to play a few tunes in the keys of “F” and “B-flat” to apply for this class.

Styles/tunes taught: In this fast-paced advanced class, we will learn fun and fancy fiddle tunes. These tunes will incorporate techniques such as shuffle, double shuffle, double stops, and plucking.

Course objectives: Let’s have a lot of fun and bring out the showmanship in you and your fiddle!

Materials provided: Cassette tape and a booklet giving tablature and notation for class tunes

Level/Duration: ADVANCED FIDDLE-WESTERN SWING/FULL DAY

Instructor: PAUL ANASTASIO

Prerequisites: We will be exploring simple swing and western swing tunes. Sheet music and chord charts will be provided, and the ability to read them will be helpful. However, if students can learn melodies and rhythms fairly quickly by ear, they will be welcome. As swing improvisation depends on knowing chords, students will benefit by knowing how to arpeggiate (play up and down) the notes in major, minor and seventh chords. A love of the swing style and a desire to learn the fundamentals of improvisation are the only real prerequisites for my swing class.

Styles/tunes taught/course objectives: We'll start very simply, putting the emphasis on what we'll need to do to make a tune swing. As it's easy to get overwhelmed with complicated chord progressions, we'll concentrate on simple tunes — blues, western swing and easy swing tunes. Most all of them will have just two, three or four chords. Sheet music will be provided, but those who learn by ear are welcome too. I'll teach you some of the tricks I was taught by the great Joe Venuti. We'll learn about iteration, the "too-eem" bowing that was used to help 1940s-era string sections swing, blue notes, neighbor tones, and more. You'll be surprised to find that a few easy modifications can make any melody swing. Above all, we'll have big fun, so come and join us as we learn to swing! This class is coordinated with the Swing Guitar Backup classes.

Materials provided: Sheet music for the songs covered during the week; CD with historical and "play-along" versions of each song.

GUITAR WORKSHOPS:

Level/Duration: BEGINNING GUITAR/HALF DAY (MORNING)

Instructor: DOUG CHANDLER

Prerequisites: Have a guitar and the ability to hold it.

Restriction: Note that students will not be allowed to attend both the Beginning Guitar and the Advanced Beginning Guitar classes. Please choose the class that best fits your playing level and needs.

Styles/tunes taught: Will be teaching very basic beginning guitar playing skills: how to hold the guitar, how to fret the strings, the basics of how to strum the strings, and how to tune the guitar, with a tuner first, then by ear. Then we'll cover some of the easiest and most basic guitar backup chords and strums in the most common keys such as A, C, D, and G. We'll spend some time toward the middle or end of the week actually playing some backup to very simple fiddle tunes at nice easy tempo. If you have a chance, it might help you get more out of the class if you can do a little self-study ahead of the workshop (with any of the beginning guitar books available in music stores).

Course objectives: Help students get started in the process of learning to play guitar backup to basic fiddle and old time tunes.

Materials provided: Music for fiddle tunes covered in class, including chord diagrams for chords taught in the class.

Level/Duration: ADVANCED BEGINNING GUITAR/HALF DAY (AFTERNOON)

Instructor: DOUG CHANDLER

Prerequisites: Some knowledge of the guitar and ability to play basic chords

Restriction: Note that students will not be allowed to attend both the Beginning Guitar and the Advanced Beginning Guitar classes. Please choose the class that best fits your playing level and needs.

Styles/tunes taught: Will cover guitar tuning with a tuner first, then by ear. Will be teaching basic guitar chords and strums in familiar keys such as A, C, D, and G and will cover a few additional useful chords such as B7, Am, Bm, Em, Dm, and D7. Will focus on teaching students to listen to the melody of simple fiddle tunes and play the appropriate backup chords, changing chords at the necessary places in the tune.

Course objectives: Help students gain ability to play guitar backup to basic fiddle and old time tunes.

Materials provided: Music for fiddle tunes covered in class, including chord diagrams for chords taught in the class.

Level/Duration: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED GUITAR BACKUP/ FULL DAY.

Instructor: PHIL WILLIAMS

Prerequisites: Knowing the rudiments of flat picking and being reasonably familiar with basic chord formations in A, C, D, E, F, G, and the 7th chord formations in these keys. The chord formations we will be using may be different in some respects from those commonly found in the "Mel Bay" type chord books. We will also be working with closed chord formations and integrated backup systems not commonly found in instruction books, and playing in every key without a capo. It is helpful to have some knowledge of the different fiddle styles used for traditional dancing and old-time singing in the U.S., though these will be demonstrated in the class.

Styles/tunes taught: The style taught is the traditional backup style used by old time string and dance bands in the U.S. for about the past 150 years. The styles range from that of influential old-time guitarists such as Riley Puckett and Jimmie Rodgers, to those used by noted dance players - square, waltz, polka, two-step, foxtrot, schottische, contra dance, etc., to country and bluegrass, with the techniques used to be effective in backing up the wide range of traditional American dance tunes and songs. This ranges from open chords with flowing bass lines, to the closed chording of foxtrot, one-step, and similar dances that became popular in the 20th century. Picking techniques will be emphasized. We also will be backing up some of the fiddle classes, who will come in during the week and play with us.

Course objectives: Becoming familiar with the diverse backup techniques required of an old-time dance and song backup guitarist. To provide effective backup at whatever level you feel you can play. A major objective of this week is to make everyone aware of the styles and techniques for old-time dance guitar. The materials will help you learn at home all the techniques you could not quite get in the class.

Materials provided: Phil's Guitar Workshop Notebook with all the techniques, chords, chord systems, bass lines, etc. set forth. A CD of representative recordings of guitar players from whom I learned and who

influenced me, and a CD of the fiddle tunes being taught by some of the fiddle instructors, along with music and chord charts for same.

Level/Duration: BEGINNING SWING GUITAR BACKUP/HALF DAY (MORNING). You may audit the intermediate swing guitar class.

Instructor: PAM BORSO

Prerequisites: Able to play basic chords, some barre chords. Call for questions 360-366-4025.

Styles/tunes taught: Swing, Western Swing, Blues, Country

Course objectives: Learn basic music theory using 4-note closed chords to illustrate the Circle of Fifths using jam standards. Some swing styling. Some Jam etiquette.

Materials provided: Workbook with music, chords and a practice CD.

Level/Duration: INTERMEDIATE SWING GUITAR BACKUP/HALF DAY (AFTERNOON). You may audit the beginning swing guitar class.

Instructor: PAM BORSO

Prerequisites: You have completed previous swing guitar class at WOTFA or you are comfortable with 4-note closed chords. Call for questions 360-366-4025.

Styles/tunes taught: Swing, Western Swing, Blues, Country

Course objectives: Continued exploration of basic music theory using 4-note closed chords. We will take the basic tunes and arrange them to add complexity with substitute and passing chords. There will be some discussions of styles and history as well.

Materials provided: Workbook with music, chords and a practice CD to be coordinated with the Swing Fiddle Class.

MANDOLIN WORKSHOPS:

Level/Duration: BEGINNING MANDOLIN/FULL DAY

Instructor: DARCY KJOLSO

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this class, all you need is a Mandolin and a desire to learn. This class is for the very new beginner and those who have had very little playing time on the Mandolin.

Styles/tunes taught: The tunes will be simple and straight forward. I will include simple fiddle tunes and familiar old favorites, i.e. Old Joe Clark, Buffalo Gals, Oh Susanna etc.

Course Objective: To introduce the student to the Mandolin and the basics of playing the instrument.

Material will cover tunes in common keys, such as A, D, C, G etc... with emphasis on fingering, scales, chords, backup and picking techniques so that the students can increase their skill in playing in the different keys. Tablature reading will also be covered.

Materials Provided: A book of tunes in tab and a CD will be provided.

Level/Duration: INTERMEDIATE MANDOLIN/FULL DAY

Instructor: TOM MORAN

Prerequisites: Be able to comfortably play the melody and the back-up rhythm to several fiddle tunes. (The ability to read musical notation and/or tab and a basic knowledge of music theory are helpful, but are not by any means required.)

Styles/tunes taught: After a review of the basic techniques covering hand position and pick motion, the emphasis will be on two areas: (1) adding to your repertoire of tunes from the old time and bluegrass traditions and (2) using double stops to enhance and extend your ability to create interesting solos for both instrumental and vocal accompaniment.

Course objectives: To provide a solid background for intermediate players to raise their playing to the next level

Materials provided: Musical notation and tablature provided

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