

Blue Ridge Mountain Dulcimer Players Newsletter Issue #4 Spring 2022

CONNECTIONS IN A CONTINUING TIME OF COVID PANDEMIC

As the Blue Ridge Mountain Dulcimer Players Club approaches its tenth anniversary in 2022 and begins again to meet once a month for playing together, we offer this occasional Newsletter as a way of CONNECTING. In this Issue #4, we share reflections on our club's anniversary, report questionnaire results, and propose some plans for Club Activities for the Summer and Fall.



Covid-time adjustments to our gatherings!

A DECADE OF DULCIMERS TOGETHER BRMDC 10-Year Anniversary

Dear Dulcimer Friends,

The Blue Ridge Mountain Dulcimer Club is ten years old in 2022. It has been a decade of building friendships, learning new songs, hosting some awesome guest workshop leaders, and most of all, enjoying the healing benefits of music and playing together.

We are all aware that a global pandemic for the last two and a half years has created "Certain Uncertainty" and affected our ability to meet together.

During this decade, all of us have changed. Some of our original group members have passed on, some have ceased playing. New members have come to join in! Many have worked and played hard, increasing their skill! Some have increased physical limitations. All of us have aged.

These are the realities that affect us as a Dulcimer Club. These are some of the considerations that will enter into the decisions facing us as we plan for the future of our club!

OUR NEXT GATHERING

Saturday, June 18, at Maple Terrace, in the Bridgewater Retirement Community, from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. Bring your dulcimer, music stand and jam book. Currently, masks are optional, though of course, that could change!

OUR SPRING QUESTIONNAIRE

Recently Club officers sent you a questionnaire, seeking your input for both the Club's past activities and future activities. For those of you who responded THANK YOU.

Here's what we understand as most significant from your responses:

1. There is a desire to come together to play music, share ideas/experiences, and have fun.
2. There is a desire to branch out to play other music rather than playing exclusively from the Haas Jam Book.
3. There was high interest in again hosting workshops with guest leaders in the future.

WHAT'S COMING IN THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 2022

The club officers met in May for a brainstorming planning session. Here's a summary of what is proposed for the coming months:

WORKSHOPS - No workshops are planned for the summer and fall. An in-person workshop for the Spring might be a possibility. However, uncertainties at this time prevent actual planning, and we are taking our cues from some of our favorite dulcimer festivals that were planned for this year but did not have sufficient enrollment to take place. Many of our workshop leaders are continuing to host online workshops and jams, and information about upcoming online workshops appears on our website and Facebook page.

DULCIMER GATHERINGS - for the summer and fall of 2022, we will offer MONTHLY GATHERINGS in the time-slot of our Third Saturday Jams, 1:30 - 3:30. Each month will have a different emphasis or theme, and will include learning some new tunes with shared-in-advance tab, as well as providing opportunity to play tunes together from Haas jam book and other sources.

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JUNE GATHERING (June 18) - We'll celebrate JUNETEENTH with African-American spirituals. Tunes will be tabbed out and made available on website and email newsletter.

JULY GATHERING (July 16) - Let's celebrate our nation with a few patriotic tunes. References for tunes will be available on website and email newsletter.

AUGUST GATHERING (Aug. 20) - YOU are EACH asked to bring new tunes to share/play/teach. Either bring copies or share tab ahead of time for posting on our website and email newsletter. Reminder: tab that you bring needs to be non-copyrighted. Much tab is available for sharing on Dulcimer tab (<https://dulcimertab.com/>) and other websites.

SEPTEMBER GATHERING (Sept. 17)- Club members of one of the smaller groups in our area will be invited to share what they have been doing. They play regularly for Sunday services, and will share a few of their favorites, and offer opportunities to play along.

OCTOBER GATHERING (Oct. 15)- Introduction of holiday music with the possibility of playing for the public in December. How often have we said in late November "I wish we had started practicing these holiday songs earlier!"?

NOVEMBER GATHERING (Nov. 19) - November has traditionally been the month of our ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS. (See the note in the WHAT YOU NEED TO DO at the right about the need for new club leadership.)

DECEMBER GATHERING - TBD - Perhaps a holiday session, a concert, or sharing!



Some of our club members at the May Gathering at Maple Terrace in Bridgewater

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

You are needed to:

1. Show support for the club by participating in planned activities and gatherings. Your attendance is needed if the club is to continue into the next decade!
2. Step up to serve in leadership roles. Due to the pandemic, the current officers have been serving for about 3 years. Some of them have served for six to ten years. **New leadership is needed for 2023-24!** Lori is willing to continue web page and FaceBook updates, if other club members will step up to serve as club officers and serve on planning committees.

What can you do to help?

EVERYTHING THAT HAS A BEGINNING HAS AN END.
The next DECADE of BRMDP Club is YOUR CALL!

In gratitude for years of sharing music together
The Officers of the Blue Ridge Mountain
Dulcimer Club
Dinah Ansley
Vicky Germroth
Becky Chalam
Pasty Kislek
Lori Lineweaver

