



HARMONICA HIGHLIGHTS

February 2024

www.milehighharmonicaclub.com

Notes from the Prez



Scott Paulding
MHHC President

THE NEWS FROM SCOTT

Since Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow this year, it can only mean that you're going to be learning your next favorite song faster than you usually do. Speaking of learning new songs, let's bring any new tune with the word "love"

in the lyrics this month to the **open mic** in honor of **Valentine's Day**.

The **Mile High Harmonica Club** is **celebrating our 30th anniversary** this year. It's amazing to think that we've been having fun and making wonderful music together for so many years!

On a sad note, we lost one of our longest members, Betty Taylor died last month. She led the ensemble for many years and will very much be missed.



MEETINGS

February 11, 2024
1:30 p.m.

Club Meeting
Historic Grant Avenue
216 S. Grant Street, Denver

February 25, 2024
1:30 p.m.

Club Meeting
Historic Grant Avenue
216 S. Grant Street, Denver

2024 Officers

President.....Scott Paulding 303-810-4655 (C)
Vice PresidentRichard Keller 720-701-8315
Secretary.....Dave Nielson 303-935-9345
Treasurer.....Ed Martin 303-770-2587
Member-At-Large.....Lloyd Williams 303-404-2219
Newsletter Editor.....Nancy Bale 303-829-6465
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Open Mic Songs 1/14/2024

Lee Taylor, Tim Winkelman, Roger Bale,
Ken Moyer, Gayla Michelin

"Little Brown Jug", Bouquet of Roses",
"Old Piano Roll Blues"

Shawn Massa

"Dust in the Wind" and Blues Jam

Myron Wilson

"America the Beautiful"

Myron and Freddie Alexander

"My Secret Love", "Everybody's Talkin"

Forrest Ernst

"Hallelujah"

Les Reitman

"Swing Low Sweet Chariot"

Ed Martin

"El Paso"

Dave Nielsen

"Blue Skies"

Eric Belsey

"Space Cowboy"

Roger Bale

"Sophisticated Lady"

Paul Davies

"Shabeg Shamoor"

Jim Bartlett

"Always Remember Us This Way"

Scott Paulding

"Bei Mir Bis Du Shein"

Freddie Alexander

"Come A Little Closer"

Open Mic Songs 1/28/2024

Roger Bale, Gayla Michelin,
Tim Winkelman, Lee Taylor

"Music, Music, Music", "Red Wing"

Barry Staver

"Fly Me to the Moon"

Roger Bale

"The Great Pretender"

Ed Martin

"Are You Lonesome Tonight"

Clay Kirkland

Piano and Harmonica Blues

Forrest Ernst

"Alouette"

Eric Belsey

"Tennessee Waltz", "Ashoken Farewell",
"Over the Waterfall"

Shawn Massa

"Stairway to Heaven", "Dust in the Wind",
"Winds of Change"

Les Reitman

"The Rose"

Dave Nielsen

"Moon River"

Scott Paulding

"Flagging a Train to Tuscaloosa"

Lloyd Williams

"Jimmy Crack Corn", "I See the Moon"

Freddie Alexander

"Black Magic Woman"

Harmonica Musings and Such:

Some folks say, "*Like sands in an hourglass, so are the days of our life.*" I'd like to end that statement with, "***so is the musical progress I seem to make.***" On one hand it seems that slowly achieving your goals can be frustrating, but on the other hand, every little bit of new music you make on your harmonica is another step towards being a better musician. With every song you learn and work hard to master, the next one becomes incrementally easier and sounds better than the last. Sometimes it's a couple of years and sometimes it's a decade, but it's so wonderful to know that you're more competent now than when you were "*young*". **Of course** you're thinking that you're going to be 100 years old before you're really great... but so what? Do you really have something better to do than to enrich your life (and maybe others) by following up with a musical hobby that you very much enjoy?

HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY TO THE HARMONICA CLUB

A couple of meetings ago Paul Davies reminded us that our club's inception was 30 years ago. Since the month July was the beginning we have time to plan a fitting celebration. Paul and I are the two remaining members of those days.

In 1954 while I was serving in the Medical Service Corps of the U.S. Army in Germany my mother sent me a Marine Band as a reminder of a humorous family story. I played it now and then but never seriously.

In early 1989 my wife saw an ad for harmonica lessons at Swallow Hill and she suggested my signing up as it would help get my mind off a stressful family event.

Paul was the teacher and had two requirements, 1. Bring a 'C'; harmonica and 2. Don't play "Oh! Suzanna"! All the students sitting in a circle playing the melody of the same song inspired me to play a harmony part. Hearing this prompted him to ask me to join a harmonica band he was contemplating. Several began the first sessions and four were left when "Boil The Cabbage Down" occurred. Mark Manning joined with three of us shown in the picture. We joined together for rehearsals at Mark's house. We called ourselves "Harmonica Madness."

In next month's installment of club history, we will talk about the trip to Chicago to attend our first SPAH (*Society for the Preservation and the Advancement of the Harmonica") National Convention (actually International).

Stay tooned. Lee Taylor



The picture shows L-R Bill Goldenstein, Lee Taylor, and Paul Davies.