

## **Fiddleheads Jam Camp 2024 Workshop Descriptions**

Saturday, 9:15 – 10:30 am

### **Beginning Sung Jam (Retreat House Main Hall) – Darrell & Bruce**

#### **Beg, All Instruments**

Play through your 2 or 3 chord songs of many genres at slower tempos.

### **Fiddle Chops (Retreat House Chapel) – Melissa**

#### **Beg/Int, Fiddle & Cello**

Rosin up your frog and we'll explore the chop! We will learn the basic chop and how to incorporate it into rhythmic backup & simple chord progressions.

### **Beginning Flatpicking Guitar (AV Room) – Alex**

#### **Beg, Guitar**

In this introductory class, we will learn the differences between flatpicking and strumming at its most basic levels. This will include an introduction to both rhythm and lead playing in some of the roots music styles (folk strumming generally, old-time, and bluegrass).

### **What Was that Chord? Tips to Identify Chords on the Fly (Game Room) – Steve Roy**

#### **Beg/Int, All Instruments**

Chords are VERY important for becoming a better jammer. Sometimes, it's tricky to figure out a chord in the middle of the jam. Come learn Steve's technique for helping to find the chord.

### **DADGAD Guitar -- Part I (Sun Room North or Tent North) – Bethany**

#### **Beg, Int – Guitar**

Learn a dead-simple D tune to get the movable magical D-shape going. Kinda blows the fingerboard wide open and sounds great instantly.

### **Vocal Exercises (Sun Room South or Tent South) – Susie**

#### **All – Voice**

We'll go through some fun warm-ups and exercises, talk about taking care of our voices through time, sing a few rounds, and maybe do some vocal play games if we have time.

### **Maximize Your Capo-bilities for Bluegrass Banjo (Meeting Room 209) – Scott**

#### **All Levels, Banjo**

What every banjo player needs to know about using their capo.

**Irish Ornamentation (Meeting Room 217) – Ellery**

**Int – Fiddle**

Ellery will take two common session tunes and work through the different ways one could ornament it to make it sound authentically Irish, talk about the concept of "micro improvisation" (as opposed to "macro improvisation" that happens over chord changes, like in bluegrass or jazz). Rolls, grace notes, cuts, bowed triplets, double stops, and Ellery's favorite ornament of all: the officially named "slowly-putty-down-the-second-finger for that nyaaaaa sound Martin Hayes is always talking about" technique.

**Warming Up With Arpeggios and Pentatonic Scales for All Instruments (Cafe) – Ellen**

**All levels – All instruments**

Scales and Arpeggios are what make up any tune or song. Get your ear and fingers used to playing these patterns and fun things that can come out of relaxing practice.

**Learn a Fiddle Tune (Fire Pit) – Steve Muise**

**Int – Fiddle, Mando**

Learn a maritime/Acadian or Québécois tune.

Saturday, 10:45 – 12:00pm

**Bluegrass Harmony Singing (Retreat House Main Hall) – Ellen, Scott, Darrell**

**All Levels, Voice**

Bluegrass Harmony are unique with the close harmonies of melody, tenor and baritone. Learn to find and sing your parts.

**Learn the Tune Dixie Hoedown for All Instruments (Retreat House Chapel) – Melissa**

**Int, All Instruments**

Dixie Hoedown is the featured tune for Jam Camp 2024! Come learn (or practice) the melody on fiddle or mandolin – or learn the chord progression on your favorite rhythm instrument!

**Beginning Fingerpicking Guitar (AV Room) – Paul**

**Beg, Guitar**

Learn the first patterns for fingerpicking if you have no experience with this style.

**Carter Family Jam-a-long (Game Room) – Steve Roy & Susie**

**All Levels, All Instruments**

Informational jam, including facts about the Carter Family, the first vocal group to become country music stars.

### **7 Dimensions of the Bow (Sun Room North) – Ellery**

#### **All levels, Fiddle**

The bow: just a stick, right? Many fiddle players are surprised to learn how difficult it can be to master the bow in order to get the best playing possible. Ellery has outlined seven different aspects of using and controlling the bow, and as we go through them, we'll try some practice exercises to physically demonstrate and work on these skills.

### **Bass for Beginners (Sun Room South) – Zac**

#### **Beg, Bass**

There will be a few basses available for people to use. Learn some basic bass skills as every jam could use a bass player.

### **Intro to Old-Time Banjo (Meeting Room 209) – Kevin**

#### **Beg, Old-Time Banjo**

Learn the basics of old-time banjo, including the use of different tunings, basic clawhammer techniques, and an overview of other old-time banjo styles (two-finger thumb lead, up-picking, etc.).

### **Mandolin Basics (Meeting Room 217) – Skip**

#### **All levels, Mandolin**

Skip will share some mandolin skills that are critical for anyone wanting to improve their mandolin playing.

### **Fiddle Tune Jam (Cafeteria) – Bethany & Shana**

#### **Int, All instruments**

Jam on tunes in many styles.

### **Tips and Tricks for Bowed Instruments, Shifting, Vibrato and More (Fire Pit) – Steve M**

#### **Int, Fiddle, Cello**

Steve will work on intonation, shifting, vibrato, double stops etc.

Saturday, 1:00 – 2:00pm

### **Band Masterclass (Retreat House Main Hall) – Steve R, Shana & Bruce**

#### **All can observe**

Two bands will perform two numbers and be evaluated by staff on their performance.

### **Playing Fiddle in a Band (Retreat House Chapel) – Steve Muise**

#### **Int, Fiddle (other instruments ok)**

Learn how to play in a country, swing or bluegrass band from style, fills, and solos.

**Boom-chuck Rhythm Guitar (AV Room) – Alex**

**Beg, Guitar**

The primary rhythmic method for old-time and bluegrass, we will learn the basics of the boom-chuck rhythm on guitar and how we can use them as a springboard for the rest of our guitar playing.

**Intro to Blues for All Instruments (Game Room) – Melissa and Darrell**

**Beg/Int, All Instruments**

Improvising over the blues is easier than you think! Join us in playing a common chord progression and learning how to improvise using the blues scale.

**Old-Time Jam (Sun Room North or Tent North) – Kevin & Zac**

**Int, All Instruments**

Jam on some common old time tunes and songs.

**Monroe Style Mandolin (Sun Room South or Tent South) – Skip**

**Int, Mandolin**

Bill Monroe is the father of bluegrass music with his own style of playing. Skip is an expert at this style of mandolin.

**Music Theory (Meeting Room 209) – Scott**

**Beg/Int, All instruments**

Understanding even a little bit of Music Theory can help your playing tremendously. Scott is a public school music teacher who knows how to put this topic into easy to understand terms.

**DADGAD Guitar Part 2 (Meeting Room 217) – Bethany**

**Int, Guitar**

DADGAD II could be "not D". The tuning is great for G and A too! But one-off workshops rarely get there. Learning your G-shapes and A-shape families + capo and how that translates to getting you most keys. Or even normal keys, but coming at 'em with maybe not-the-obvious set of shapes, just for variety! Capo the "tool", not a "crutch"!

**Learn to Fingerpick Deep River Blues on Guitar (Cafeteria) – Paul**

**Int, Guitar**

Learn a classic blues song done in many styles. Here you will learn how to fingerpick it.

**Django Style Guitar (Fire Pit) – Brian Killough**

**Int/Adv, Guitar**

Django Reinhardt is known for his amazing guitar style that is used in gypsy jazz music. Django played with the Hot Club of France with Stephane Grappelli and has an interesting background.

Saturday, 2:15 – 3:15pm

**Country & Blues Sung Jam (Retreat House Main Hall) – Skip, Paul, Bruce**  
**Int, All Instruments**

Sing songs from the greats of country and blues and country blues.

**Chords for Fiddlers (Retreat House Chapel) – Ellen**  
**Beg/Int**

Chords don't come easily for fiddlers – we can't even make a chord on our instrument! BUT, they certainly help to become better at picking up fiddle tunes by ear, playing with singers and improvising. Don't ignore chords anymore!

**How to Start Improvising on Guitar (AV Room) – Alex**  
**Int, Guitar**

Using one or two important exercises, we will learn what it means to start improvising in the context of roots music. It is a little challenging at first but even beginners will be able to understand the method involved.

**Basic Strumming and Walking on Guitar in G (Game Room) – Lisa**  
**Beg, Guitar**

We will use Hand Me Down My Walking Cane to learn and practice some good strumming patterns and some walking scale lines from chord to chord.

**Songwriting Discussion & Sharing Songs (Sun Room North) – Susie**  
**All Levels and Instruments**

Bring your own songs to share with the group and to discuss songwriting strategies and ideas.

**Learn a Tune on Clawhammer Banjo (Sun Room South) – Kevin**  
**Int, Banjo**

Learn this year's camp tune, "Dixie Hoedown," in clawhammer style. Tablature provided.

**Learn a Klezmer Tune for All Instruments (Meeting Room 209) -- Shana**  
**Int, All Instruments**

Klezmer music comes from the Ashkenazi Jews of Central and Eastern Europe. Learn a tune from our expert in the genre, Shana.

**Steve's Favorite Mandolin Licks (Meeting Room 217) – Steve Roy**  
**Int, Mandolin**

Steve has some awesome licks. He will teach just a few here.

**Fiddle Tune Jam (Cafeteria) – Melissa, Bethany, Zac**

**Int, All Instruments**

Play through tunes of many styles.

**How to Start Swinging on Guitar (Fire Pit) – Brian Killough**

**Beg, Guitar**

Swing guitar can be intimidating. Brian will give you some techniques for getting into this style of music.

**Learn a Tune (Irish or Swedish) (Main Chapel past the Cafeteria) – Ellery**

**Beg, Fiddle**

Lots of options! Could do Irish tunes, especially fiddle-based ones like Ed Reavy tunes or Donegal fiddle with octave playing. Or "two common Irish session tunes" or unusual but fun and easy tunes like mazurkas, slides or polkas. Or, I often teach the simple but fun Swedish walking tune Appelbo Ganglat. Swedish tunes are fun as the harmonies are so satisfying.

**Saturday 4:00 – 5:30**

***FIDDLEHEADS BANDS***

**All meet in the Main Hall to hear the band choices and locations.**

**Coaches will offer various band styles. You choose which band you would like to be in & rehearse with them during this time period. All Fiddleheads Bands will perform during the Saturday evening concert.**

**Sunday, 9:15 – 10:15am**

**Country & Bluegrass Slow Jam (Retreat House Main Hall) – Darrell & Bruce**

**Beg, All instruments**

Wake up slowly playing the classic slow songs of George Jones, Merle Haggard, Bill Monroe and more.

**Creative Ability Development (Retreat House Chapel) – Ellery**

**All levels, All Instruments**

Creative Ability Development: improvising to foster creative thinking and playing CAD was developed by Alice Kanack in Rochester, NY, and is a method of teaching creativity through musical improvisation, using games and exercises that create safe and

fear-free, fun spaces for players to create together without stress, or a high level of technical competence. This is a class that offers a "music as yoga practice" where we can all be judgement-free, challenge ourselves at the level we're at (come as you are) and enjoy being together and communicating musically, even if we don't share a note of repertoire! Ellery loves using this class to bring classical and fiddle students together to create. When she brought it to Fiddle Hell in fall 2023, it turned into quite a magical hour for all! Come and remember rule #1 of CAD class, there's *no such thing as a mistake!* (And what happens in CAD class does *not* need to stay there....)

#### **4 Licks and How to Use Them (AV Room) – Ellen**

##### **Beg, Int/All Instruments**

Ellen will share her 4 favorite licks and how to put them in songs.

#### **American Fiddle Tunes in Cross Tunings (Game Room) – Skip**

##### **Int, Fiddle**

Cross tuning can open up a world of new tunes and sounds to you. Skip will get you going in this area.

#### **3 Finger Chords on Mandolin (Sun Room North) – Shana**

##### **Beg/Int, Mando**

You can do a lot with 3 finger chords on the mandolin. It allows you to create a lot of cool chords you never knew you could make!

#### **Choosing Great Easy Jam Songs (Sun Room South) – Paul**

##### **Beg, All**

There are SO many 2 and 3-chord songs out there that are great to bring to jams that allow everyone to participate without staring at an iPad or piece of paper and just look at EACH OTHER. Paul will help with some ideas or evaluating songs you bring to share.

#### **How to Improvise Over Chord Charts (Meeting Room 209) – Steve M**

##### **Int/Adv, All Instruments**

Whether you're playing swing, jazz, country, folk or bluegrass, looking at a chord chart and improvising on something you have never heard before is a great skill to have. Steve will help you hone this skill.

#### **Chord/Arpeggios Inversions and Triad Shifting for BG Banjo (Meeting Room 217) – Scott**

##### **Beg/BG Banjo**

Note – the title of this workshop doesn't sound beginner-ish but this is made for BEGINNERS (of course more advanced players can also get something here). Scott knows all the banjo tricks so come for some fun banjo secrets.

#### **Learn to Flatpick Wildwood Flower (Cafeteria) – Alex**

##### **Beg/Int, Guitar**

We will learn Maybelle Carter's beautiful *Wildwood Flower* for both lead and rhythm. The melody has a lot of opportunity for development for both beginning and intermediate players.

**How to Spice Up Your Bass Playing (Fire Pit) – Zac**

**All Levels/Bass**

Walks, runs, slides – just good outdoor fun with Zac!

**Sunday Morning Rising Songs (Chapel past Cafeteria) – Susie**

**All Levels/All Instruments**

Let your voices resonate with some great uplifting songs to start the day. Harmonies will fill the chapel!

Sunday, 10:30 – 11:30 am

**Bluegrass Jam (Retreat House Main Hall) – Steve, Steve & Zac**

**Int/All Instruments**

Jam through some of the standard bluegrass songs of Bill Monroe, Ralph Stanley, Molly Tuttle, Laurie Lewis, Sierra Hull and others.

**Flatpicking Fiddle Tunes on Guitar (Retreat House Chapel) – Alex**

**Int/Guitar**

We will learn how to flatpick the melody of a classic fiddle tune and develop our right hands for the form. Generally, fiddle tunes have many more eighth notes than vocal tunes and are an excellent opportunity to learn about the mechanics of the right hand.

**How to Fancy Up a Fiddle Tune (AV Room) – Ellen**

**Beg/Int, Fiddle, Mando, Guitar**

Are you sick of playing tunes the SAME way again and again? Ellen will give you some ideas to help fancy up tunes you've played for years.

**Old Time Mountain Ballads & Cowboy Songs (Game Room) – Skip**

**Beg/Int, All**

This is what Skip does and he's durn good at it. Learn some songs from the Cowboy repertoire.

**Crafting Irish Tune Sets (Sun Room North) – Ellery**

**Int, Fiddle/Mando**

So you know a bunch of Irish reels, jigs and hornpipes, but how do you put them together into a set? Why do people choose the tune order they do in sessions and on recordings and performances, and how do you get from one tune to another? Is there a difference between choosing a set for a session and choosing them for a band?



We'll talk about those little details that help you string two, three or even four tunes together successfully.

**How to Organize Your Music in OnSong (Sun Room South) – Paul**

**All**

OnSong is a program that many people use for organizing lyrics, chords and sets. Paul will help you navigate this app and the group can share their knowledge as well. You must already have OnSong downloaded.

**Basic Bluegrass Fills and Improv on Fiddle (Meeting Room 209) – Melissa**

**Beg/Int, Fiddle**

Bluegrass fiddling is all about patterns. Let's have fun learning some licks that will make it exciting to jump into those bluegrass jams!

**Beginning Jam from Fiddleheads Song/Tune List (Cafeteria) – Shana**

**Beg/All**

Check out the list on the web site. This will be the list jammers will choose from. Played at SLOW tempos.

**Practice Following Chords for All Instruments (Fire Pit) – Scott & Darrell**

**Beg/Int, All**

No looking at paper or iPads for chords. Practice following chords by listening and watching.

**Jam Featuring Songs with Good Sing-a-long Choruses (Main Chapel) – Susie**

**Int, All**