



# Voice of the Circle

The Northern California Flute Circle Newsletter

Spring, 2004

## Clan Calendar

Be sure to visit the NCFC's web site Calendar page, at [www.naflute.com/calendar.html](http://www.naflute.com/calendar.html). Each regional clan has roughly committed to the following monthly flute circle dates:

### BAY CLAN

Fourth Sunday of every month;  
January–October.  
Contact: Mike Oitzman at  
650-279-7065; email:  
[bayclan@naflute.com](mailto:bayclan@naflute.com)

### CAPITOL CLAN

First Sunday of every month.  
Contact: Pam Akins at  
916-966-5520; email:  
[capitolclan@naflute.com](mailto:capitolclan@naflute.com)  
or Stephen Two Feathers at  
530-677-8378

### JOAQUIN CLAN

Fourth Sunday of every month.  
Contact: Dan Ricketts at  
209-527-0363; email:  
[joaquinclan@naflute.com](mailto:joaquinclan@naflute.com)

### SIERRA CLAN

Second Sunday of every month.  
Contact: Shivani Aum Datri;  
email: [sierraclan@naflute.com](mailto:sierraclan@naflute.com)

### VALLEY CLAN

Fourth Saturday of every month.  
Contact: Lynn Peck at  
707-255-7425; email:  
[valleyclan@naflute.com](mailto:valleyclan@naflute.com)

### Remember...

Check the online calendar at:  
[www.naflute.com/calendar.html](http://www.naflute.com/calendar.html)

## Membership Has Its Benefits!

We have added several new features to enhance your online NCFC experience. First of all, we have added an NCFC email listserv. This is an opt-in email list for all members to use to communicate with each other electronically. Admission to the list is restricted to current NCFC members and any topic related to the Native American Flute or life in Northern California is appropriate. To subscribe to the list, visit the [www.naflute.com](http://www.naflute.com) web site and follow the online directions. Once you have subscribed, posting a message is simple; send an email to [flutecircle@naflute.com](mailto:flutecircle@naflute.com).

The other exciting new feature is the Classified Ads section. In response to your many requests to post items for sale online, we have set up a classified ads section on the NCFC web site at [www.naflute.com/classifieds.html](http://www.naflute.com/classifieds.html). We will accept ads with content related to Native American culture (i.e. pow wows, concerts, etc.), Native American Flutes and any other music related items. To initiate this service, ads will be *free* through July 30th.

### Details:

- Noncommercial submission of ads will always be free for members.
- Nonmember and commercial submissions (i.e., vendors) are \$5.00 per two-week period.
- Send your text submission, including contact information (250 characters max) to [classifieds@naflute.com](mailto:classifieds@naflute.com).
- Ad content will be updated/published on the first and third Mondays of the month, and will persist for two weeks, unless a subsequent submission is made prior to the publication date.

## Clan News

### Joaquin Clan

The Joaquin Clan, centered in Modesto, continues to meet regularly. We were privileged to have a mountain dulcimer player, George Osner, join us at a recent clan meeting. According to George, the mountain dulcimer is one of two instruments invented in America, the other being the Banjo. The dulcimer plays a minor scale and George tuned his so we could play along with a D flute, and let some of us play the instrument. It was great fun. Plans have been made to invite an electric bass player to join the circle, as well as a visit from a young percussionist. We look forward to trying our hand at playing along.

### Bay Clan

The Bay Clan, centered in the San Jose/Bay Area, continues to meet regularly. The Bay Clan has announced the dates for the **NCFC camping trip** this year: **September 17–19** in the Santa Cruz mountains, and is proud to host this annual event for another year. For more details, check out the NCFC calendar on-line, and mark your calendars now!

### Capitol Clan

The Capitol Clan, centered in the Sacramento area, is active again, and met in March at the

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## New CD Releases!

**Mary Youngblood's** *Feed the Fire* is another in a series of great musical works by the "first lady of the flute," taking her music to another level. The CD includes vocals with her wonderful singing voice, and shows her musical virtuosity on keyboard and flute. Other artists include Ian Andersen on silver flute, and good friend Joanne Shenandoah lending her lovely voice.

**Mark Holland** is one of the most skilled players on the contemporary NAF scene. His second solo flute release, *For Such a Time As This*, skillfully uses 22 different NAF keys, featuring Spirit of the Woods Flutes. On one track Mark uses four complimentary keys forming a very unique sound. As a "thank you" to the NCFC family, postage is free if you mail a copy of this page when ordering the CD from Mark's web site at [www.cedarnsage-music.com](http://www.cedarnsage-music.com).

**Kenneth Hooper and Garth Brooks'** *Shapeshifter* (of the group Elysium Calling), is a fine debut album featuring native flute and guitar in a contemporary, melodic and interesting way, presenting the NAF in a completely unique style. Members of the Joaquin and Sonora clans, Kenneth and Garth may be the best musicians the NCFC has produced since Mary Youngblood. Dan Ricketts, Joaquin clan facilitator, will feature them in an upcoming INAFA newsletter. The article will include a tab and finger chart, of one of the songs, so you can play along. Order at [www.elysiumcalling.com](http://www.elysiumcalling.com).

## Flute News

We at NCFC felt all our members would want to be aware of the 2004 signature flute offered by **Mark Holland** and **Ed Hrebec** of Spirit of the Woods flutes. See Ed's web site at [www.spiritofthewoodsflutes.com](http://www.spiritofthewoodsflutes.com) for photos and details of the flute, offered in the key of E. **Mary Youngblood** has formed a new collaboration with **Colyn Peteresen** of Woodland Voices flutes. This signature flute will be in the key of low D. See Colyn's web site for details, at [www.woodlandvoices.com](http://www.woodlandvoices.com), as they become available. Each maker will only be producing 50 of these special flutes this year.

### Featured Maker

**Marvin and Jonnette Yazzie** grew up on the reservation in Lukachukai, a small town in the four corners region. Marvin is an enrolled member of the Navajo nation, and was taught the art of flute making by a relative, W.F. Coyote, offering well voiced and tuned flutes in a variety of keys. Scott August introduced us to his line a few years ago, during his workshop at NCFC. Scott has used their flutes in his performances and recordings.

Marvin uses power tools to form the inner chambers of the flute, but shapes them by hand with a spoke stove. His flutes have been a favorite in the Joaquin clan as several members own and play them. In addition to various types of wood, the flutes can be complimented with end caps, and a new line of carved blocks add additional beauty and interest to the flutes. Jonnette offers support and the best customer service you will ever experience. It is worth the experience of ordering a flute just to get to know her. A true team in this flute enterprise, they offer a yearly flute making class in the scenic mountains near Idyllwild, California.

If you are particularly interested in owning a high quality flute by a native artisan, at an affordable price, visit the Yazzie's at [www.yazzieflutes.com](http://www.yazzieflutes.com). For more information about a particular flute maker drop us a line and we will feature them in future *Voice of the Circle* issues.

### The Flute Case Store

**Mark Slater** lives outside Dallas in the suburb of Rockwall, Texas, and has been a confirmed fluteaholic since 1993. We met Mark last summer at the INAFA convention in Taos, New Mexico, where he displayed his cases. To help finance his flute addiction, his on-line store offers high quality cases, in a variety of sizes and colors, at an affordable price. A number of professionals, such as Mark Holland, have been using his cases, including several NCFC fluties who are very happy with them. Check them out for yourself at [www.flutecase.com](http://www.flutecase.com), or call 972-772-0371.

### Great Web Site Resource

**Clint Goss**, best known in the NAF community for being the transcriber of the music of Mary Youngblood into tab and finger charts, has a wonderfully informative web site at [www.flutekey.com](http://www.flutekey.com). You will find finger charts for minor and major flutes, historic information, and insights into how flutes work and are crafted, to name just a few topics. We recommend you bookmark this site.



## Clan News, cont.

home of Two Feathers. It was fun day of flute music, highlighted by a meal of Indian Taco's with fresh fry bread.

### Valley Clan

The Valley Clan, centered in the Sonoma/Napa Valleys, continues to meet at their regular venue.

### Sierra Clan

The Sacred Sounds of the Sierra, continues to meet on a regular basis, supported in part by members of the Joaquin Clan. They are developing a core group of flute enthusiasts.

# Duet Workshop

By Mike Oitzman

Without a doubt, one of the most enjoyable flute circle activities is playing with other folks. Over the years, I have developed several structured exercises to encourage beginners—and advanced players alike—to participate in this experience.

## INTRODUCTION

The premise of this workshop is to introduce some ‘mechanical’ exercises that will help build your skills in playing with other flute players.

## GROUND RULES

Some simple ground rules to encourage success:

1. Initially try and find someone of similar skill level to practice these exercises.
2. Take turns with the ideas of “lead” and “follower,” but make sure you are clear on who is “leading” each exercise.
3. It is easiest to start with flutes in the same key (for example both flutes in the key of A).
4. Flutes that are an octave apart, in the *same* key, are a viable choice for any of the exercises.
5. Don’t be afraid to experiment, that’s what improvisation is all about. There are no “mistakes.” If you play something discordant, log it in your memory for the future but keep playing (i.e., play through it, and don’t stop).
6. The exercises are meant to inspire not constrain. Let the moment take you away, that’s the best reward in improvisation.

HIGH	LOW
C	G
C#	G#
D	A
D#	A#
E	B
F	C
F#	C#
G	D
G#	D#
A	E
A#	F
B	F#

## COMPATIBLE FLUTE KEYS

The table at left lists compatible flute keys based on the “circle of fifths.” You can always choose to play two flutes in the same key, but choosing flutes that are a fifth (in musical terms) apart provide an additional element of harmony.

*Note:* The “High” and “Low” flute key combinations are a recommendation, not a hard rule.

## DUET EXERCISES

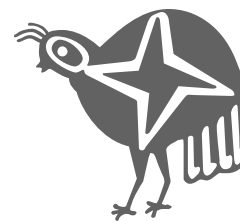
**Echo Canyon** is the simplest duet exercise for any skill level. The idea is for the leader to play simple, short, “mini-scales” while the follower repeats them exactly.

- **Lead Role:** The lead plays a short (3–4 note) mini scale, where all the notes are contiguous either up or down the scale. After the follower repeats the phrase, play a new one.
- **Follower Role:** Follow by watching the leads’ fingers and listening, then play the exact same notes as the lead played.

**Follow the Leader** is the next level of difficulty from Echo Canyon. The leader plays simple, short, phrases and holds the last note while the follower repeats the phrase exactly.

- **Lead Role:** The lead plays a short phrase of 3–4 notes and holds the last note. Holding the last note is the signal to the follower to repeat the phrase. When the follower gets to the note that the lead was holding, the lead then plays another short phrase, holding the last note. Breathe as necessary.
- **Follower Role:** Follow by repeating the exact same phrase, holding the last note while the lead plays another phrase. When the follower gets to the note that the lead was holding, the lead then plays another short phrase, holding the last note. Breathe as necessary.

For additional exercises, and a complete description of the workshop—including several advanced skill exercises—go to [www.naflute.com](http://www.naflute.com), and click on the **Education** link.



## Expired Memberships

Please check your membership expiration date, located on the top line of your address label, and consider renewing if it has expired. It’s simple...just fill out and mail the membership form on the back panel, or renew via the NCFC web site at: [www.naflute.com](http://www.naflute.com).

The NCFC thanks you for your continued support!

## Submission Deadline

Please submit articles or announcements for the next newsletter issue to [ncfc@naflute.com](mailto:ncfc@naflute.com) by: **June 30, 2004.**

## Go Paperless!

Did you know the *Voice of the Circle* newsletter is also posted on the NCFC web site?

Please help us save trees for making flutes, not printing newsletters, by sending an email to Eric Poelzl at: [eric@naflute.com](mailto:eric@naflute.com).

## Remember!

Check the NCFC calendar online for upcoming activities in all of the regions.



# Voice of the Circle

Northern California Flute Circle Newsletter

135 Brenton Ct., Ste B  
Mountain View CA 94043



Visit the NCFC web site, at [www.naflute.com](http://www.naflute.com), for the latest information on Native American Flute Events, Workshops, Concerts, Flute Circles and Music, or email us at: [ncfc@naflute.com](mailto:ncfc@naflute.com), or phone the NCFC at: **650-279-7065**

### Time to Renew your NCFC Membership?

Please take a moment to fill out the Membership Renewal Form, or pass it along to a friend, and invite them to experience the magic of the Native American flute!

**Security Guarantee:**  
No personal information will be given to anyone else, or used for any purpose other than sending you NCFC and other Native American Flute information.

**Questions?**  
Check out our web site at: [www.naflute.com](http://www.naflute.com), or call the NCFC at **650-279-7065**, or email: [ncfc@naflute.com](mailto:ncfc@naflute.com)

**Thank you for your support!**

## Membership Application for the Northern California Flute Circle

**1** **•• PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY, USING ALL CAPITAL LETTERS ••**

Renew  New Member Newsletter opt-out:  No  Yes (I'll get my news from the web site!)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

- It is important that you provide us with your email address, so we may send you last minute notifications •

**2** Please select only ONE of the following four categories:

**Individual Membership:**  
 \$15: 1 year, or...  
 \$25: 2 years

**Family/Household Membership:**  
 \$20: 1 year, or...  
 \$35: 2 years

**3** Please select your **Home Clan** (you are always welcome to attend any and all Flute Circles or meetings):  
 Bay Clan (San Francisco Bay Area, Lower Marin)  
 Valley Clan (Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Upper Marin)  
 Capitol Clan (Sacramento, Central Valley)  
 San Joaquin Clan (Fresno and Central Valley)  
 Sierra Clan (Tuolumne, Calaveras and Mariposa Counties)

**4** Please make your check payable to the "**Northern California Flute Circle**," and send it with this form to:  
 Northern California Flute Circle  
 135 Brenton Ct., Ste B  
 Mountain View CA 94043  
 OR...Pay for this or any NCFC expenses with a credit card through **PayPal** using [ncfc@naflute.com](mailto:ncfc@naflute.com) as the payment address.