



# Voice of the Circle

The Northern California Flute Circle Newsletter

Fall 2008

## Inside this issue:

Yosemite Flute Festival A Huge Success!	1
Thank you from YFF Director	1
2008 NCFC/ Loping Wolf Winter Gathering	2
Bringing Music/ NA culture to Schools	2
Bringing Drum Making and Flutes to Seniors and the Disabled	3
How to form a successful flute circle	4
Upcoming events	5
Annual Membership Survey	5

## Yosemite Flute Festival A Huge Success!

*By Cryss BlackWolf*

The Yosemite Flute Festival was a huge success! I am still pinching myself to see if it was all a dream. It was a great honor for me and all the members of the Northern California Flute Circle and its various Circles and Clans who attended to have helped sponsor this flagship event. Many of us gave from our pockets, while other gave selflessly from their busy times in volunteer efforts, which were so badly needed. Sure, we ran into a few unexpected challenges. Some even came down ill during the process. I even had to leave early because my wife had a dangerous

fall. However, we collectively pressed forward and, in the words of several vendors I talked to, "It felt like a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year festival due to how smooth it went and how 'together' it felt". We had over 300 attend and expect more next year due to the word that spread like wildfire. For each night of the concert we had over 200 each night. We also had 34 vendors in attendance. When I called the hotels the next day to see if I could reserve for next year, they told me they were already filling up!

I spoke to many who came early to partake in the beautiful sights and sounds of Yosemite, just a short

distance from Oakhurst. The stories I heard and the photographs I have seen blogged from the various experiences brought a warmth to my heart as it drove home the fact that the location of the festival couldn't have been better. I look forward to reconnecting to all the new "old friends" I made, and I have heard the same comment from dozens of others who walked away with the promise to return next year!

Please consider joining our official MySpace page to receive blog and press releases as they happen. As always, our website will have up to date information as well.

## Thank you from Yosemite Flute and Art Festival Executive Director

*By Rick Dunlop*

A special thank you from Yosemite Flute and Art Festival Founder and Executive Director, Rick Dunlop:

To all our performers, vendors and everyone who attended the first annual Yosemite Flute and Art Festival:

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone who joined us at the Yosemite Flute and Art Festival. The festival was an absolute success and everyone who attended was in awe of the joy and love they found here. The energy of the area, being so close to Yosemite National Park, supported the peace, harmony and reverence we all

experienced throughout the event.

Some of the peak moments included a magnificent drum circle on the grass under the trees on Saturday. The joy and delight that came from the drum circle filled the entire festival, bringing smiles to everyone in the park. We will definitely plan this every year. The



Yosemite Flute Festival: NCFC booth near the entrance 2008



### Has Your Email Address Changed?

If so, please contact Mike Oitzman, at [ncfc@naflute.com](mailto:ncfc@naflute.com), so we may update the NCFC membership database, and continue keeping you informed.

"The festival was an absolute success and everyone who attended was in awe of the joy and love they found here. The energy of the area, being so close to Yosemite National Park, supported the peace, harmony and reverence we all experienced throughout the event."

*Rick Dunlap*



**Founder, Executive Director Rick Dunlap hard at work at the Yosemite Flute Festival!**

### 2008 NCFC/ Loping Wolf Annual Winter Gathering

LOPING WOLF  
Lake of the Pines Wood Flute 'n' Drum Circle  
[www.lopingwolf.com](http://www.lopingwolf.com)  
(A Clan of NCFC - The Northern California Flute Circle) hosts our 3rd Annual 2008 WINTER GATHERING Saturday December 6 from 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Please note date change - thanks a lot, LOP!) at the beautiful Lake of the Pines Clubhouse, 10 miles north of Auburn, California

Music - Crafts - Culture - Flute Workshops, with a special workshop by two-time Grammy Winner MARY YOUNGBLOOD the First Lady of the Flute

\$10 General Admission for this one-day event  
(Workshops not included)

Catered Soup & Salad Bar (\$20 Prepaid for lunch - includes Admission)  
Lunch ~ 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 p.m. PREPAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY DEC 1, 2008. Workshop fees and other workshop availabilities are still being developed. Workshop slots are still available.

Vendor fee is \$65.  
Vendors are invited to apply

Lake of the Pines is a gated community, so please call to RSVP your intent. Directions will be sent to registered attendees.

Call Dan DiCicco at (530) 613-4197 or

Contact [flutecircle@lopingwolf.com](mailto:flutecircle@lopingwolf.com)

### Thank you from YFF Executive Director (cont)

open mic performances were so much fun and enjoyed by so many people throughout the weekend. Thank you to everyone who shared their gifts from the day stage.

We were graced with magnificent performances at both evening concerts. I would like to extend one more huge THANK YOU to Mary Youngblood, Vince Chafin and his ensemble, Scott August, Mark Holland, and the Jeff Ball Band. We enjoyed not only the fabulous music, but fun and laughter as well. We were honored to have each of you join us for this first year event.

I look so forward to the 2009 event. We are excited and working on all the plans already. Mark your calendars and please join us for another magnificent opportunity to share with not only friends, but a chosen family of fluties, on a mission to play and live from the heart. September 25th - 27th, 2009! Destination: Yosemite Flute and Art Festival. Rick Dunlap: Founder, Managing Director

**For more information check out:** [YosemiteFluteFest.com](http://YosemiteFluteFest.com) and our new MySpace page at [MySpace.com/YosemiteFluteFest](http://MySpace.com/YosemiteFluteFest)

### Bringing Music and NA Culture to Schools

*By Lynn Peck*

Elementary kids are a fascinating audience - eager, excited, and interested in the Native American Flute and other native instruments.

I had the wonderful opportunity to share my enthusiasm for Native American Flute with some third and fourth graders last week.

They loved the flutes, the drum, the CA clapper sticks, and gourd rattles. Each group of 4 kids created a little ensemble and jammed away.

There were lots of activities at this Native American celebration, a culminating activity to the CA Native American unit, with lots of excitement. At the end, right before dismissal, they were chatting away as I began to play a final song. In less than 10 seconds it was silent as the flute grabbed their attention.

I gave an hour of my time to share the Native American Flute, exposed 25 children and 4 parents to new music, and was reminded once again of its power to engage.

Our schools have very little time for music. I would encourage anyone to volunteer an hour or less, to take their flutes to a school and offer to share them. Give them a little history, a little culture, a new experience with music. You will be rewarded with a wonderful experience.

## Fall 2008

### Sierra Raven Clan Flute and Drum Circle Bringing Native American Drumming and Flutes to Seniors and the Disabled

By *Cryss BlackWolf*

As a drum maker I have come to find the greatest joy in bringing drumming to peoples lives. During a conversation about drums and the Native American flute with Geoffrey Ellis of Earth Tone Flutes, he said something that really hit home. He said, "Flute and drums go together like ham and eggs". I've started bringing more percussion to the flute circles I facilitate or attend and find it to be a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between an individual taking his or her turn at the mic, and the entire flute circle participating, and supporting the flute player. Drums really do build the Community Spirit. Along with Native American style drums, I always have a Djembe, Udo, shakers, bells, percussion frog, clapper sticks, and anything else I can fit into the car handy with me.

There is a local weekly drum circle I attend that has about 40 members total. Half of those are members of the Senior Citizens center that allows us to use their facility for free each week. About 10% are members of WATCH, a local program that helps with life skills with those who have mental disabilities. About 10% also have severe physical disabilities. The remainder of the members are between ages of 12 and 45, or folks who have just come to see what all the buzz was about from the fliers at the college or the big sign in front of the library .

The voice of the drum transcends and unites all languages, ages, barriers and blood, and has been an interesting bridge to the Native American Flute. The act of beating the drum is just the vehicle. The same holds true when someone whips out a Native American flute, a didgeridoo, or anything else.

Before I started attending there were only a couple of folks with a Native American style hand drum, and none of them rarely even heard, let alone seen a Native American flute up close.

When I started attending and bringing my flutes and the drums I have made, it wasn't longer than by the second Circle I attended that I was asked to teach a drum making class.

Anyone can buy a drum. Making one puts you in touch with your creative self, with the animal, and with the natural components gifted to us by our Creator to lend life force the voice and rhythm of the drum. Our relationship with the flute or drum is almost as important as our interpersonal relationships, in my opinion. Like those, they must be nurtured and genuine. Experiencing the benefits of such nurturing has been a very unique experience as it is as if the instruments come alive.

In my most recent class our new drum makers were ages 55 to 95. We instilled a lot of life parallels and paradigms to the drum making experience, including patience as it

related to having to perhaps redo a portion of the lacing, to the 4 day wait before our Drum Birthing ceremony at the next Drum Circle. Other interesting things occurred such as a sudden well of strength that came over our eldest participant. Her 95 year old hands took on a strength she hadn't experienced in 30 years and she required very little assistance during the final tightening phases of the drum making. As such, I have committed to offering these drum making classes at about "cost" so that the initiation as a drum maker, and the experiencing of connecting to the drum is open to a wider audience. I have also found this experience to be a neat bridge to introducing the NAF to individual who normally wouldn't seek it out on their own, which I play throughout the 4 hour class.



Drum making builds a sense of community spirit and reinforces life paradigms.

#### How to read your address label:

The address label contains two important pieces of information:

- Your membership number is the number found in [ ]'s
- Your membership expiration date is the date next to your name.

"Our relationship with the flute or drum is almost as important as our interpersonal relationships, in my opinion. Like those, they must be nurtured and genuine."

*Cryss BlackWolf*



Drum made from Wolf and Raven Feathers at Sierra Raven Clan drum making class

## How to Form A Successful Flute Circle

By Dan DiCicco

At the Circle of Circles Breakfast on Sunday morning at the 2008 Yosemite Flute and Art Festival, I had to laugh to myself when it was mentioned 3 times from 3 different sources that if anybody had any questions about forming a flute circle or what to do at a flute circle to ask Dan DiCicco of LOPING WOLF.

So, out from under the watchful eye of the Spirit of the Flute, I hereby share with you all the "SECRET" to LOPING WOLF's success.

In just two words, it's (drum roll, please)

**MARY YOUNGBLOOD!**

Yep. "Mary Youngblood" is the secret to LOPING WOLF's success.

And don't think we haven't sat around thinking about and discussing this topic. I mean, there are times when, after a mind-blowing flute 'n' drum event we are basking in the sun the morning after, wondering how we did what we did and how we can duplicate it.

First of all, I am, like TOTALLY honored that anybody would even think to consider asking us how we do it. So here is a list:

1 - Seriously, the best way to jump start your flute circle is to become a Mary

Youngblood Groupie. Buy her CDs and books, play her music, go to her concerts and events and soak up every single drop of Mary Youngblood you can hold. Mary puts her soul out there and will lead you on a most fantastic journey.

Mary's music may be the single reason you allowed the Spirit of the Flute to bite you. Accept it, go with it, and "...let it under your skin...."

2 - Play your flutes - EVERYWHERE. Take your flutes with you. Play them in your car while you are waiting at a traffic light. Play them in a park while you are on a break. Take your flutes to special places, parks, rivers, parking garages, and play them. You will attract people who cannot resist the Spirit of the Flute. Be prepared to simply play your flute without worrying who is listening to you. Remember, you are playing YOUR song and nobody else's. If people do not like what they hear they will move on. But the people who DO like your flute playing will probably want to hang around for more flute music. If they already have a flute, then you have a flute circle.

3 - Consider purchasing 3-5 inexpensive flutes to hand out as "loaners." Poor quality flutes do not make good "loaners".

4 - Once you have a following of people who like to play flutes, contact Mary Youngblood and ask to hire her. Invite her to one of your gatherings. But consider this - chances are, your flute playing is at the "hobby" level. Mary is not at that level. Mary Youngblood is a professional musician who makes her living playing her flutes for and sharing her soul with people.

Offer to pay her, to cover her expenses, to allow her to sell her CDs and books. Offer to take her out to dinner. If your flute circle is out of town and would necessitate Mary traveling a long distance, consider inviting her to your community for a day-long event. A workshop in the afternoon, a lecture or a motivational presentation at a dinner, followed by a concert in the evening with a meet 'n' greet session after, sprinkled with private lessons and a chance to purchase Mary Youngblood "product" could result in a win/win situation for Mary AND your group that just might need to be repeated next year....

5 - Let your Flute Journey just happen. I am convinced there is no way you can anticipate what will happen and what you need to do to prepare for it. Once you have to worry about forming a flute circle or what to do at a flute circle, you are trying too hard. I find it very easy to remember that each fluter

and drummer is answering a private, individual calling. The Spirit of the Flute or the Spirit of the Drum makes the call - not me.

My goal is to try to allow every fluter and drummer a chance to play. By offering a time and a place to do that, and offering a chance to have Mary Youngblood join us, is all I can do. Anything more would be a forced situation that does not work.

6 - And finally, FINALLY, really, if the first five items do not work for you, here is #6 - luck. LOPING WOLF is blessed with being comprised of the most wonderful group of multi-cultured people I have ever met.

The Lion is the King of the Jungle because all the other animals ALLOW him to be King of the Jungle.

"LUCK", being blessed and being permitted to be the "leader" of LOPING WOLF are all gifts that comprise the #6 secret to LOPING WOLF's success.

Well, so much for my "two-word" secret, eh?

~Dan DiCicco

Lake of the Pines Wood Flute 'n' Drum Circle

## Other upcoming flute events

### NCFC / NoNahme Spring Flute Festival

**When:** May 9, 2009

**Where:** The Park in Garden Valley, California

**Time:** 9 AM — 6 PM

The Spring Flute Festival in 2009 will be a one-day event. Both previous Spring Flute Festivals sponsored by the NoNahme Clan were very successful. The location will be the Garden Valley Park in Garden Valley, California, in the beautiful forested foothills north-east of Sacramento.

The last two years we have been blessed with memorable events. From performers such as Scott August to the range of vendors displaying their craft. 2009 promises to be another great event.

There will be workshops, flute makers and craft vendors in attendance.

To learn more about this upcoming event or to submit a request as a vendor, follow the link on the NCFC NoNahme Clan website page or contact Doc Cole (see info on the right sidebar)

### Yosemite Flute Festival 2009

**When:** September 25-27, 2009

**Where:** Oakhurst, CA

The event this past fall was a spectacular success. The event for 2009 is already in the planning stages, so mark your calendar now and plan to be there for all three days! The Northern California Flute Circle is a major sponsor for this event, and thanks to the membership, we helped make it a memorable weekend.

## Regional Clan Contact

### BAY CLAN

Contact: Frankie Sierra; email: bayclan@naflute.com

### JOAQUIN CLAN

Contact: Dan Ricketts at 209-527-0363; email: joaquinclan@naflute.com

### LOPING WOLF CLAN

Contact: Dan DiCicco  
email: lopingwolf@naflute.com  
www.lopingwolf.com

### SIERRA RAVEN CLAN

Contact: Cryss BlackWolf  
Email: sierraravenclan@naflute.com  
www.SierraRavenClan.com

### NONAHME CLAN

Contact: Doc Cole;  
at 530-621-3227

### VALLEY CLAN

Contact: Lynn Peck at 707-255-7425;  
email: valleyclan@naflute.com

## Annual Membership Survey

Included with this newsletter mailing is our annual membership survey. This survey is your opportunity to tell the Northern California Flute Circle leadership team how we're doing, and how we can improve.

We appreciate your input into the direction of the organization, it's your organization after all. As a grass roots, all volunteer organization, it's important that we spend our limited resources (both time and money) producing events that you want to participate in.

Please fill out and return the survey before December 20, 2009.

If you'd prefer to take the survey online, there is a link

to an online version of the survey on the NCFC home page. This link will be active until December 20, 2009.

All feedback from the survey will be compiled and we'll take a look at the results in the Spring Voice of the Circle newsletter

Everyone who returns the survey and includes their return address label on the envelope (and folks who add their email address to the online survey) will be entered in a drawing for one of the following thank you prizes:

- 1 Year NCFC Membership
- NCFC T-Shirt

### Join the NCFC Online!

You may already be familiar with the NCFC's website:  
www.naflute.com

But did you know that we now have an online discussion group and group calendar?

You'll find links to the new online group on the NCFC website. In addition, you should have received an invitation to join the online group in your email inbox.

If you choose not to join, you can ignore the invitation. If you accept the invitation, you'll be able to participate in the discussions.

Remember...  
Check the online calendar at:  
<http://www.naflute.com/calendar.html>

### Flutemaker Discount Program

The following fine craftsmen offer discounts for active NCFC members:

**Need to contact the NCFC:**  
Northern California Flute Circle  
578 Sutton Way, PMB 184  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Phone: 530-432-2716

**Earthtone Flutes**, Geoffrey Ellis, (707) 839-5199, <http://www.earthtoneflutes.com>

**Featherridge Flutes**, Randy Stenzel, [info@featherridgeflutes.com](mailto:info@featherridgeflutes.com)

**Love Flutes**, Stephan DeRuby, (800) 435-8837, <http://www.deruby.com>

**RV Flutes**, Russ Veneble, (505) 577-0394, <http://www.rvflutes.com>

**Stellar Flutes**, Tom Stellar, (888)427-8850, <http://www.stellarflutes.com>

**Wine Wood Flutes**, Brian Revheim, (707) 253-1325, [iswinewoodflutes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:iswinewoodflutes@sbcglobal.net).

**Woodland Voices**, Colyn Peterson, (402) 932-6894, <http://www.woodlandvoices.com>

**Yazzie Flutes**, Martin Yazzie, (951) 924-0926, <http://www.yazzieflutes.com>



### Time to renew your NCFC Membership?

Please take a moment to fill out the Membership 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 530-432-2716 or email: [nfc@naflute.com](mailto:nfc@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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Office Use Only 1.07  
Date RCV'd:  
Check #:

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)

Loping Wolf Clan (Sacramento, Yolo and Nevada counties)

NoNahme Clan (Garden Valley)

Sierra Raven Clan (Mother Lode and Southern Sierra)

San Joaquin Clan (Fresno and Central Valley)

Valley Clan (Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Upper Marin)

4

Please make your check payable to the "Northern California Flute Circle", and send it with this form to:

**Northern California Flute Circle**  
578 Sutton Way, PMB 184  
Grass Valley, CA 95945