



# Rhythm & Rhyme

## ***Rhythm & Rhyme* is a publication of the Columbia Chapter of the Western Music Association**

The Chapter includes performers, composers, authors, and friends of western and cowboy music and poetry. We're a group of folks who value our great western heritage. Opinions and viewpoints are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Columbia Chapter or the Western Music Association.

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## ***We've Arrived!***

Well, friends, it's been a long time a-comin', but we're there now. The papers are all filed and WMA is issuing our Charter. Our new chapter of WMA is off the ground and rollin'. There are forty some-odd WMA members in our states of Oregon and Washington, and 32 of them have joined the chapter thus far. I think we're off to a dandy start.

The launch committee – myself, “Cimarron” Sue Matley, Clark Crouch, and the tireless Lauralee Northcott (Horsecrazy) – have got ambitious ideas for us all. Our mission, as stated in our chapter by-laws, goes like this:

*To spread the mission and purpose of the WMA; to sponsor and support such activities as will recognize our great western and cowboy heritage and the traditions which that heritage embodies; to bring the WMA closer to the people and create better access for groups and individuals to support their mutual interest in Western Music and Literature; to promote the WMA outreach and educational programs; to facilitate performance venues for western music and poetry; to augment the number of memberships in the WMA and to support, enhance, and further those objectives and purposes as set forth in the articles of incorporation and WMA bylaws.*

A trifle wordy, I admit. Simple is good, I guess. So in simple terms, we want all of us to have more opportunities to perform, to spread our western music and poetry, and to network within WMA. We hope to recruit many many more folks into the fold, extending our reach up into British Columbia. We especially want to encourage and include cowboy poets, along with our musicians.

Now, to this end, Clark Crouch has created this newsletter, and the website is ready to go (also Clark's doing). Please, new chapter members, don't waste any time getting Clark a photo and bio info, together with a link to your own website. He's got a page to post that information. One note: you need to pay your chapter dues to get your info posted.

You are entitled to elect officers at the first chapter meeting, and we're trying to schedule that so that as many as possible can get to it. It will likely be somewhere in the Columbia Gorge, and likely in middle to late summer. Part of the trick is to find a time when those who are on the road a lot can make it, and those who hold down day jobs can be there too. We figure the Gorge is central enough for a first meeting/jam/performance.

As time moves on, we surely hope to schedule up to four meetings/events per year, each located in a different part of our territory. So, again, welcome! See you at that first meeting. In the meantime, you may correspond with any of us with questions and suggestions. If you haven't yet paid in your \$10 per person, \$15 per family, or \$25 per group chapter dues, please do so. You can send them to Sue at the address below.

### **Founding Committee:**

Bruce “Nevada Slim” Matley, President  
Lauralee Northcott, Vice President  
Clark Crouch, Secretary  
Susan D. Matley, Treasurer

Dues to: Susan Matley  
8780 Hart Rd.  
Prescott, WA 99348

---- Bruce “Nevada Slim” Matley, President



# House Concerts - Bringing the West Home

By Lauralee Northcott of Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band

Recently I decided to find out more about “house concerts” and how they provide performance opportunities for western entertainers. I started by asking other Western Music Association musicians via email. The general news is that everyone who responded thought House Concerts are worth the effort. If well managed they can really help to make a tour rewarding musically and financially.

Audrey McLaughlin of the wonderful western trio Journey West writes, “They are FUN, FUN, FUN.” Steve Jones of Yampa Valley Boys said he likes them too! Nevada Slim & Juni Fisher chimed in with positive feelings about well run house concerts. Off to a good start!

Next I heard from Rob Wolfskill of The Tumblin’ Tumbleweeds. He explained, “there are a lot of ways to have house concerts. If you can, find folks who have developed a network of house concert hosts. They either take a cut of the door or simply want the thrill of having live music performed in their living room for their friends. People will be asked for a donation (with a suggested amount of usually \$25) at some point during the evening.”

Marvin O’Dell, host of Heartland Public Radio’s “Around the Campfire”, with his wife Teresa, often host house concerts. Here are Marvin’s” Do’s and Don’t’s

1. Advertise the concert for free, but have a good pitch man who can motivate the audience to give (\$10-\$25) to the musicians.
2. House buys the food, but keep it light.
3. Building up a mailing list, using email and a sign-up sheet is great.
4. Ask entertainers not sell CD’s/Books until after the collection. Sometimes people feel purchasing merchandise excuses them making a donation.
5. Concert length about 90 minutes. Take a 10-minute break after 40 minutes.
6. If the host is a musician they shouldn’t take up much time themselves.
7. Don’t have poor entertainers because it will hurt you for several concerts after that..
8. Encourage CD/book sales at the end of the evening.
9. Get a free CD/book from performer and have a drawing.

Nancy from Katy Creek Band wrote about five pages of tips! She had many good ideas, here are just a few. “We have been having house concerts at our place for nigh on four years now and have got a pretty good routine going. We typically try to have our season booked by the end of April. We get anywhere from 15 - 50 attendees depending on the time of year and any competing event in the area. We have potluck refreshments and soft drinks. For advertising....I ask the entertainers to send posters for me to take around. We start a potluck at 6 sharp and the show at 7 sharp with few exceptions.”

KG of KG and the Ranger writes, “There is an online discussion group of house concerts on the web at <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/HouseConcert/> and reading the posts or asking questions there might inform you of a lot of stuff. There is also a great house concert resource website:

<http://www.concertsinyourhome.com/>. Both are “membership sites” but membership is free.”

House concerts seem to be a really good idea and help build new audiences for Western Music. Start one today!

---- *Signing off, your singing cowgirl friend, Lauralee*



Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band

## Promote Your Work

New CD? New book?

If you’d like to promote it to other WMA members, please send a copy to the editor.

We’ll secure a peer review for publication in the newsletter and on our website together with order information. Submissions are not returnable.

## Westerners: A New CD



We've just previewed *Westerners*, a newly released album of western and cowboy music by Nevada Slim and Cimarron Sue (Bruce and Sue Matley of Prescott, Washington). They offer some of their own compositions as well as a generous touch of traditional songs for a total of seventeen tracks.

Their selection of music and their unique renditions make it easy to understand why they are in such great demand on the Northwestern fair circuit, serving up more than 200 performances in a three month time period each Fall. Fans will love this album which concludes with a thirty-eight second flashback to years of yore as 4-year-old Slim sings his own composition, "Buddy and Me," and new listeners will certainly become fans.

My own bias leans toward "Border Affair" which is a musical rendition of a poem by a 1940 acquaintance of mine, Charles "Badger" Clark, the classic cowboy poet who was then Poet Laureate of South Dakota. Then, too, my wife and I especially enjoyed "Don't Fence Me In" which was our junior class theme song in 1944-45. Great stuff!

The tracks are: 1. I Ride the Range the Modern Way; 2. Show Me Mister; 3. Cattle Call; 4. The Cowboy That Made Me Blue; 6. They Call The Wind Mariah; 7. Common Wisdom; 8. Border Affair (Spanish is the Loving Tongue); 9. Don't Fence Me In; 10. Coyotes; 11. Home to You; 12. The West; 13. I've Got Spurs; 14. Waitin' For Ice Cream; 15. The Ranch That I Can't See; 16. Happy Trails; 17. Buddy and Me

This new album can be previewed and purchased at [CD Baby](#).

---- Review by Clark Crouch

## Help Wanted

Please help us keep members informed by letting us know of performance opportunities, coming events, CD or book releases, and other significant happenings.

Submit information by email to the editor. Submissions may be edited to meet editorial standards and space requirements.

## Our Web Site

The Columbia Chapter's web site is now on line at <http://wma-nw.webs.com/>. Its design is one which will allow members to enter their own information on some pages and, as we get going, we'll see that you have details as to how to access the site to do that.

Right now it's under construction and your comments are invited. The banner ad will disappear as soon as funds are available to upgrade the site to a premium level.

Please especially note the "links" page where you can promote yourself and link to your website.

## Member's Poems

Your original poem could be featured here in the next edition of *Rhythm and Rhyme*...western theme, family oriented, twenty line limit.

### Where are the Cowboys

I wonder where the cowboys are  
they've gone away it seems,  
ain't none of them live hereabouts,  
they live just in my dreams.

Yet their wit and wisdom lingers  
in poems they left behind,  
tales of the won'drous lives they lived  
bring cowboys back to mind.

They shore was fun-lovin' lads,  
who rode out for the brand,  
and suffered hardship on the way  
to tame this western land.

We miss them cowboys, that's for shore,  
but times have changed, I'm told,  
and only in verse do they live,  
reflectin' days of old.

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Please let your friends know about the new Chapter. Membership is open to everyone -- performers, musicians, poets, and all friends of our Great American Western Tradition.

## Poetry Publication

If you have an original western or cowboy poem you'd like to share, send it along by email and we'll consider it for publication in the newsletter and on the web.

We invite original poetry which reflects western themes, is family oriented, and has twenty lines or less. We prefer poetry in the cowboy tradition with consistent meter and true rhymes but other forms will be considered.

Submit your poem in the body of an email to the editor. We'll get back to you as soon as possible.

## Promoting Your New Book

A hint for cowboy poets. Make sure your published book is registered at [Google Books](#) and authorize Google to display limited previews. That will allow a viewer to preview 20% of the book's content.

Then, when your book is nominated for a WMA award, it will be available for preview by WMA members as they complete their ballots.

It makes sense since, unlike musical CDs which frequently get radio time, books simply do not enjoy the same level of exposure! There's no cost for the listing.

## Keep up-to-date

Keep up to date on venues throughout the U.S. and Western Canada by checking the calendars posted on the web at [CowboyPoetry.com](#) and [BC Cowboy Heritage Society](#).

## Comin' Up Soon...

### March 4-7, 2010

Sixth Annual Lee Earl Memorial Cowboy Gathering  
Lewiston, ID (listing at [CowboyPoetry.com](#))

### March 11-14, 2010

[14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kamloops Cowboy Festival](#) Kamloops,  
BC, Canada

### April 2010

[National Poetry Month](#)

### April 9-11, 2010

[7th Annual Columbia River Cowboy Gathering](#)  
Kennewick, WA

### April 18-24, 2010

[Cowboy Poetry Week](#)

### May 7, 2010

[Dollar Watch Cowboy Jamboree](#) Winthrop, WA

### May 28-30

[Ritzville Western Art Show](#) Ritzville, WA

### June 13, 2010

First annual meeting and performance venue of the  
Columbia Chapter. [Skamania County Fairgrounds](#)  
Auditorium (Stevenson, WA). Details TBA.

### July 24, 2010

[Sixth Annual Day of the Cowboy](#)