



StrathPotomac Fiddler

March 2010

In This Issue

- ◆ February Fiddle Club Meeting Report
- ◆ Newsletter Now Distributed Primarily Via E-Mail
- ◆ Celtic Cabaret and Play in Greenbelt
- ◆ Annual List of Summer Fiddle Camps
- ◆ Spotlight on Fiddling in Spain
- ◆ Review: *A Sheep at the Wheel*
- ◆ Scottish Country Dance Playing and/or Dancing
- ◆ Directions to the Next PVSFC Meeting
- ◆ Scottish Dance Party at Glen Echo on March 27
- ◆ Rehearsal Dates and Directions
- ◆ Upcoming Fiddle Club Meetings
- ◆ Goings On About Town
- ◆ Visit the PVSFC Web Site!

February Fiddle Club Meeting Report

by PVSFC President Becky Ross

A hardy crew of fiddlers braved the enormous D.C. snow piles and occasional lane closures to meet for Fiddle Club at Susanne Barr's in February. Elke's theme for this month was "Sheep Tunes," and because of the importance of sheep in Scotland she had no trouble finding enough material! We learned three tunes by ear. The first, "Ca the Yowes tae the Knowes" (call the ewes to the hills), is an air and a song. We sang the chorus to get used to the phrasing. Here are the words if you want to try this at home:

"Ca' the yowes tae the knowes, ca' them where the heather grows, ca' them where the burnie rows, my bonnie dearie."

The second tune was a Shetland reel with the unusual title "A Yowe Cam ta wir Door Yarmin" (A ewe came to our door, baa-ing), and Elke showed us how to add the "ringing strings" drones and gave suggestions on cross-the-bar bowing. The third ear tune was the lively jig, "The One-horned Sheep," a whisky

still reference as we learned in the whisky tunes workshop last year. The rest of the music included a number of great tunes including the lovely air/song "Ew-Bughts Marion" ("bughts" means sheep-pens and rhymes with spooks) and the driving reel "The Lambing Storm." The meeting concluded with a pot-luck and jam session.

Newsletter Now Distributed Primarily Via E-Mail

As we announced in December, the PVSFC Board has decided to reduce the number of paper copies of the *StrathPotomac Fiddler* as much as possible. Thanks to those who have responded to let us know you would like to continue receiving copies of the newsletter by U.S. mail.

If you want to continue receiving a paper copy and haven't responded yet, please write to newsletter@potomacvalleyscottishfiddle.org, or to StrathPotomac Fiddler, c/o Becky Ross, 9200 Brink Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20882.

Celtic Cabaret and Play in Greenbelt

The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Music and Drama club will perform *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* from February 19 to March 6, 2010. The play is written by John G. Fuller, based on the classic novel by Mark Twain. Before each performance there will be a Celtic Cabaret featuring traditional fiddle tunes and songs from England, Scotland, and Ireland. On-line ticket sales with payment by credit card can be made through MAD's web site, www.madtheater.org, which has performance location and dates. Ticket sale information is also available by phone at (240) 475-8800.