



October 1, 2018

Dear Mountain Laurel Fans,

It's hard to believe, but the 29th Annual Gathering is just around the corner. This year we have redesigned our web site and developed a new on-line registration system which is more precisely tailored to our needs. An online system works well for us and we're doing everything we can to make it simpler and easier for you to use. Working with the State Park system creates some challenges that other festivals don't experience but we're really trying to keep things simple. Nearly 70% of the registrations last year used our old online system and we're hoping for greater participation this year. It gives you the opportunity to use PayPal, your credit card, or a personal check to pay. If you choose the PayPal option, you do not need to have a PayPal account. There are step-by-step directions in the on-line information, but if you are still of the paper and pen school, a mail-in registration form is included in this packet. You may also download the form from our website (<https://www.mlag.org>) by clicking on the link under the registration tab on the main menu. Please thoroughly review the information included as it will help both you and us to get things done efficiently so we can start playing music!

The dates for the 2019 Gathering are June 26 through 30 with the campground available to us after 3 p.m. on Monday, June 24. We will be able to stay until 12 p.m. on Monday, July 1. Pre-Gathering classes will start at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25. Tom Schroeder (Beginners), Bob Lewis (All Things Diatonic) and Bryan Bowers (Intermediate) will each present nine hours of small group instruction over Tuesday and Wednesday. All details are on pages 12 and 13 of this packet. Performers this year include Bryan Bowers with The Bryan Bowers Band (Danny Knicely & Geoff Goodhue), Tom Schroeder, Rick Fitzgerald, Bob Lewis, Allison Guinn, and Michael Poole, the 2018 Mountain Laurel Champion.

The Little Buffalo State Park "Rules and Regulations" will apply to us and you will find them attached. As part of the registration process we ask for your signed agreement to abide by all the campground rules and to indemnify both the State and the all-volunteer MLAG Board against claims for damage to property or personal injury while attending the Gathering. This signed agreement should be returned with your registration materials.

I encourage you to use our on-line registration if possible; it makes our job so much easier and ensures that your information is correct. The process is available at <https://www.mlag.org>. To provide direct contact with the people responsible for each of the areas, we have implemented a toll-free telephone "hot line." The number is: 844-994-9939. There is a menu to choose from, and by pressing the number for the information you want, you will then be connected directly to the individual Board member responsible for that area.

Sincerely,

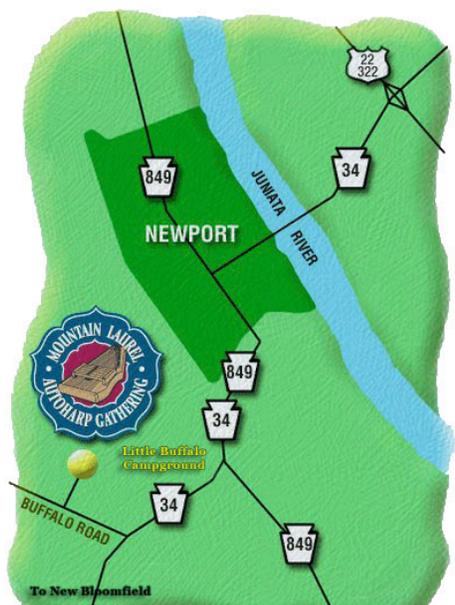
*Michael*

Michael E. Poole  
MLAG Registrar

8 Attachments:

1. Directions & Motel List - Page 2
2. Featured Performers - Pages 3
3. General Information - Pages 4 and 5
4. Registration Form - Pages 6 and 7
5. Assumption of Risk Agreement - Page 8
6. Campsite Map - Page 9
7. Campground Rules - Pages 10 and 11
8. Pre-MLAG Workshop Info - Pages 12 and 13

## Directions to Little Buffalo State Park



The actual address is 500 Black Hill Road, Newport, PA 17074; however, we know that some GPS systems will attempt to bring you down an old, and now non-existent road. The only current access is via Little Buffalo Road. The following written directions may be more accurate than following your GPS.

**From Harrisburg:** Take Route 322 West, then take the Newport/New Bloomfield Exit, and at the stop sign go left. This puts you on Route 34 South; follow this over the bridge into Newport. At the next stop sign, make a left onto 4th Street (there is a Little Buffalo State Park - 3 Miles sign), still on Route 34. Continue one mile passing Smith's Auto Parts on your right, and turn right on to Little Buffalo Road (there is another sign for the State Park). Go 2 miles, passing the main entrance to the State Park (which is on your left across the lake) and turn right at Black Hill Road (look for the MLAG sign) into the campground.

**From Carlisle:** Take Route 34 North, follow through New Bloomfield and go approximately 4 miles. There will be a car wash on your right. Make the next left on to Little Buffalo Road (there is a sign for the State Park). Go 3 miles, passing the main entrance to the State Park (which is on your left across the lake) and turn right at Black Hill Road (look for the MLAG sign) into the campground.

## Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering - Nearby Motels and RV Suppliers

- Best Western Harrisburg North, 150 Nationwide Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Phone: 717-545-9089 35 min.
- Hampton Inn and Suites, Harrisburg North, 30 Capital Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Phone: 717-540-0900 35 min.
- Springhill Suites, 25 Capital Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Phone: 717-540-5100 35 min.
- Econo Lodge: US 322/22 & SR35, Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717-436-5981) 30 min.
- Tuscarora Motor Inn: 142 Wm Penn Hwy, RR4 Box 142, Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717-436-2127) 30 min.
- Red Carpet Inn/Park: Route 4 Box 4913, Duncannon, PA 17020 (717-834-3320) 20 min.
- Bridgeview Bed & Breakfast, 810 South Main St, Marysville, PA 17053 (717)957-2438) 20 min.
- Days Inn: 3919 N Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717-233-3100) 35 min.
- Quality Inn: 501 N Enola Road, Enola, PA 17025 (717-732-0785) 40 min.
- Budget Inn: 142 Old US 22, Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717-436-2127) 30 min.
- Capitol Rentals & Sales: <http://www.cruiseamerica.com>, Carlisle, PA, Brian Yingling (717-386-5370) (will set up on site)
- Go PSU RV Rentals: <http://www.gopsurv.com>, Mark Lauer (800-519-8467) (will set up on site/have popups)
- Keystone, <http://keystoneRVcenter.com>, Joe Johnson (717-597-0939) (will not deliver)
- RV Value Mart (Martin's), <http://www.martinrv.com>, Heather or John (717-738-2622) (will set up on site/have popups)

Note for RV Renters: to ensure lowest rates and availability, book now! Mention you are with MLAG for a possible discount (sorry we can't guarantee that).

## MLAG 2019 - Featured Performers



**The Bryan Bowers Band** – For over five decades, Bryan Bowers has been to the autoharp what Earl Scruggs was to the five-string banjo. He presents instrumental virtuosity combined with warmth, eloquence, expression and professionalism. **Danny Knicely** is a multi-talented musician and music producer from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He is constantly active, performing and recording his own music and working with other musicians and dancers. As a multi-instrumentalist, Danny has won many awards for his mandolin, guitar, and fiddle expertise, including first place in the mandolin contest at the prestigious Telluride Bluegrass Festival. Danny has the chameleon-like ability to blend into almost any musical situation and has appeared with many top performers of Bluegrass, Old-time, Swing, Jazz, Blues, Rock, Folk, Latin, Country, Irish, Americana, and World Music. **Geoff Goodhue** took up violin at age 5 and went on to graduate from Ohio University in 2004 with a B.F.A. in Percussion Performance. Now living in New Hampshire, Geoff sings and plays mandolin with Beg, Steal or Borrow who performed at the 2017 Grey Fox Festival. He also serves as drummer for the Vermont Vaudeville house band. Geoff's family outfit, The Goodhues Band, was featured at the 2016 Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering. As a member of Athens, Ohio's, Realbilly Jive, Geoff recorded drums on J.D. Hutchison's *You and the World Outside*, released on Howdy Skies Records last September with Tim O'Brien. The band

performed on Mountain Stage last January.

**Rick Fitzgerald** is a self-taught folksinger/songwriter, and is a mechanical engineer from Franklin, Wisconsin. An accomplished 6- and 12-string guitar player, he grew up influenced by the music of people like Peter, Paul & Mary, The Kingston Trio, and John Denver. He took up the autoharp in 1977 after seeing Bryan Bowers perform. Almost immediately, Rick bought a 'harp, began tweaking it to emulate "that sound" and soon arrived at a diatonic layout with fewer chord bars and doubled strings. He primarily played and sang for his own amusement until 1999, when he attended a workshop at the Warrenville Folk Festival, where it was again Bryan Bowers who introduced him to the wider world of autoharp players through the Autoharp Quarterly magazine, luthier George Orthey, and the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering. Rick attended his first MLAG in 2005, absorbing the workshops and sitting in on jams with other musicians for the first time since college days. He entered the MLAG contest as a way of challenging himself to improve as a player. Four years later he was the 2009 Mountain Laurel Autoharp Champion. When not working or performing, Rick volunteers his time as an educator, deckhand, and sometimes musician, aboard Wisconsin's own tall ship, the schooner S/V Denis Sullivan. He also serves on the board of directors for the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering, and is chairman of the Make Our Own (MOO) Music Gathering, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to teaching and preserving acoustic "living room music" in the American folk tradition. Rick is known for his rhythmic, diatonic playing style. He has recorded two CDs, *Living Up to a Dream* and *Crossing the Water*. He teaches privately and has taught at festivals around the country, including the MOO Music Gathering, MLAG, Buckeye Dulcimer Festival, and the Northwest Autoharp Gathering. He and his wife Erina have two grown sons and a lovely granddaughter. They also raise and show Great Pyrenees dogs.



**Bob Lewis** - Originally from southern Pennsylvania, Bob Lewis began playing the autoharp after purchasing one of the very first 21 bar models in 1975. Bob won the second Mountain Laurel contest in 1992 after placing third the year before. He won the International Autoharp Championship in Winfield, Kansas, in 1996 after placing second in 1995. Bob has performed and/or led workshops at a number of festivals including Mountain Laurel (MLAG), the Willamette Valley Autoharp Gathering in Oregon (WVAG), and the Cranberry Dulcimer Gathering. Carolan tunes played cleanly and with authenticity are central to Bob's music. That Celtic theme also often carries over to choices in songs. Rounding out the programs are some fast fiddle pieces taken mainly from Bob's contest material or other fiddle jam tunes. He avoids autoharp stereotypical material. An important element of Bob's music, aside from precisely prepared instruments, is the special way his instruments are tuned. Without consideration for playing with other instruments, Bob is able to find an instrument's best voice by way of temperaments that are sweeter sounding than conventional equal temperament application and keys that may not be encountered often in day to day playing with others.



**Tom Schroeder** is an internationally recognized author, instructor and performer on the autoharp. Thousands of autoharp players have read Tom's instructional articles and play his published musical arrangements. For over thirty years he has regularly contributed instructional articles in *The Autoharp Quarterly Magazine*, *The Autoharp Clearinghouse Magazine*, and *The Autoharpoholic Magazine*. He is the author of four books of music for the autoharp. He is also the author of the autoharp section in *AMERICAN FOLKLORE: An Encyclopedia* (1996 Garland Publishing). As a performer and teacher, Tom has been referred to as "a master of the autoharp." Tom's dynamic playing style can be heard on his YouTube Channel, "TSchroeder Autoharp". It can also be heard on his recording, *An Artistic Autoharp*, where he plays solo and with the American/Celtic group, Calliope. He is a two-time winner of The International Autoharp Contest. Tom performs and teaches at major festivals throughout the United States. With Charles Whitmer, he has organized the Midwest Autoharp Academy. He has taught the autoharp in the Kansas City Area for over 30 years. His beginning, intermediate and advanced students have gone on to win the International, National and Mountain Laurel autoharp contests. In 2017 he was inducted into the Autoharp Hall of Fame.



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**Allison Guinn** is an actor, singer and autoharpist originally from Erwin, Tennessee, in the heart of Appalachia. Her love of folk, country, and old-time music came from her Granny Daisy Dean Erwin, who taught her about singing and being funny. Allison has been lucky enough to make it to the "Great White Way" with the Broadway productions of "Hair" in 2009 and "On The Town" in 2014. She's been on television a bit too with "Inside Amy Schumer," "The Knick," "Boardwalk Empire," and "Divorce". She most recently has been touring North America with *Les Miserables* playing the infamous "Madame Thenardier". For more information, check out her web site.



**Michael Poole** is a native of North Carolina, lives in Chapel Hill, N.C., and is a recently-retired Physician Associate. As an autoharp player, he is self-taught in both the chromatic and diatonic styles but was mentored by many wonderful players. His autoharp experience began with playing on the street and then, in 2000, he began competing at local festivals, such as Fiddlers' Grove, Mt. Airy, and Historic Happy Valley. He has attended MLAG since 2005 and participates in the competition each year. Michael is the 2018 MLAG Champion. At the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas, he placed third in the 2017 International Autoharp Competition. His playing style is appreciated for its flowing diatonic arrangements, open note accuracy, musicality, and expression. In 2013, he was awarded the Cohen/Grappel Recording Endowment grant and recorded his CD, *Beneath Still Waters*. In 2018, he accepted the position of registrar for MLAG. He is a founding member of the Triangle Autoharp Circle based in the Raleigh area and has taught private students for ten years.



# MOUNTAIN LAUREL AUTOHARP GATHERING

## GENERAL INFORMATION - 2019

### REGISTRATION PROCESS/FEES/CAMPING

Included in this packet you will find everything you need to register for the Gathering.

A full-time ticket includes all workshops and concerts from Wed, June 26 through Sun, June 30. A partial registration ticket includes everything except the workshops. Tenting (or no connection) and water/electric connections have an additional fee and you will need to fill out the Camping Registration section of the form. **IMPORTANT: It will help us tremendously to know in advance if you have any physical or medical limitations which affect where you are placed in the campground. Please be concise but relevant with this information and understand that we will do our best to maintain your medical confidentiality. We also need to know if you have a preference for a "quiet area." If you are tenting or don't wish any hookups, MLAG personnel will assist you in finding a site which best fits your needs. Tent sites are not assigned in advance. We'll do our best but remember, this is a music festival.**

Included in this packet is a site map with numbers and information relating to the services on each site. If attendance in previous years is any indication, all sites will be shared. Experience has taught us that we can't guarantee any of the sites so you won't be informed in advance of your site number. **IMPORTANT: Each campsite has a 30 amp and a 20 amp breaker with a maximum of 50 amps available at each site. Many modern camper rigs use a 30 amp service. Experience has shown us that if campers can use an adapter and utilize the 20-amp service or can share or split time with their neighbors on the 30-amp box, this really helps to make the best use of the limited service in the campground. This is not a situation that is optimal, of course, but we have no control over it and we all must "make-do" as best we can.**

MLAG has arranged for the use of the campground from check-in at 3 p.m. on Monday, June 4 through check out at 12 p.m. on Monday, July 1. If you wish to arrive and set up before the Gathering officially begins (Wednesday, June 26) or stay on your site after the Gathering officially ends (after the concert on Sunday, June 30), please ensure that you fill in the arrival/departure dates section on our camping registration form to reflect the full time you'll be on site. Camping charges are on a per night basis.

**IMPORTANT: If you wish to arrive prior to check-in, which is 3 p.m. on Monday, or stay past the 12 p.m. check-out on the following Monday, you need to contact Tom Fladmark (844-944-9939, Ext. 2/fladmark@hughes.net). We cannot guarantee that the State will assign you to the site you'll have during the Gathering. Though we will do our best to avoid unnecessary moves, you may have to move if you arrive prior to Sunday. Also, keep in mind that, although we do have the campground starting on Monday, June 24, the Gathering does not officially begin until Wednesday, June 26. Even if you don't sign up for a Pre-Gathering Workshop, you can expect plenty of jamming if you do decide to arrive early.**

### CANCELLATION POLICY

1. A \$25.00 administrative fee will be withheld from the total amount due for cancellations prior to May 25. After that date, the full registration cost is non-refundable. Meals not cancelled prior to June 10 when the numbers are submitted to the caterer will not be refunded, and any PayPal fees that are not refunded by PayPal also will be withheld.
2. Emergency refunds will be considered on a case-by-case basis after May 25.

### PRE-GATHERING WORKSHOPS

There will be three 9-hour sessions of Pre-Gathering Workshops (for Beginners with **Tom Schroeder**, Intermediate with **Bryan Bowers**, and All Things Diatonic with **Bob Lewis**) on Tuesday, June 25, and Wednesday, June 26. The fee for these workshops is in addition to the normal Gathering registration fee. Workshop topics, pricing information, and registration procedures are included as Attachment 8 (Page 13) and are also available at [www.mlag.org](http://www.mlag.org).

### MARY LOU ORTHEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Mary Lou Orthey Memorial Scholarship Fund promotes the development and growth of the autoharp by providing financial assistance to people who would otherwise not be able to afford to come to the Gathering. Awards are focused on, but not limited to, first time attendees. To apply for a scholarship, complete an application form which is available on the MLAG website or by e-mailing a request to Cathy Britell ([cathy@larkpoint.com](mailto:cathy@larkpoint.com)), **our new scholarship coordinator**. The completed form must be postmarked by April 1, 2019.

### VOLUNTEERS

Our thanks to all of you who help out on-site each year; you really make the Gathering work! We encourage everyone to volunteer at least one hour during the course of the Gathering. There will be a sign-up sheet at Registration.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Be sure to leave this emergency contact information with your family: other than personal cell phones (service may be limited), there is no phone available at the Gathering site to receive calls. There is an emergency phone outside the Rec Hall that is available to make local outgoing emergency calls, i.e. 911, etc. During business hours

(9 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-F), your family may call Park Headquarters at 717-567-9255 and a ranger will be dispatched to the campground. If the emergency is after hours, they should contact the PA State Police at 717-567-3110. There is a barracks about four miles from the campground. They should use these numbers during the Gathering only in the event of an actual emergency. You are encouraged to call your family to let them know you arrived at the site; they should not need to call to check on you! The State's office phone is not available for our use. **You will also notice that there is space on the registration form for you to provide names and numbers for us to call in the event of an emergency at the festival... this information is vital and required.**

## **ON-SITE FOOD**

Meal plan tickets need to be ordered in advance. You may purchase our new Complete Meal Plan, which includes all lunches and dinners from Tuesday through Sunday (12 meals). Alternatively, you may purchase a Full Meal Plan, which includes Wednesday dinner through Sunday lunch (8 meals). Neither of these meal plans includes breakfast, but there are breakfast snack items available for purchase. Finally, you may purchase meals individually. The deadline for ordering meals is June 10 and meals canceled after June 10 are non-refundable. There is a possibility that a few individual meals will be available for purchase on-site, but including your meal order with your registration will ensure their availability.

### **Sample Menu**

**Lunch:** Chicken Cordon Bleu wraps or vegetarian wraps; pasta salad or broccoli salad; fruit; chocolate chip cookie.

**Dinner:** salad bar, pork chops with caramelized onions & smoked Gouda; risotto; sauteed vegetable medley; rolls & butter. All meals include a beverage.

**IMPORTANT: Gluten-free and vegetarian meals are available by special request. Order and pay for your meals with your normal registration but then you must e-mail Laurie at [Townsidecafe@aol.com](mailto:Townsidecafe@aol.com) or call her at 570-473-2233 (leave a message) to make your special meal arrangements. MLAG is not responsible for special meal arrangements.**

## **FESTIVAL MEMORABILIA**

Designed by Ivan Stiles, we think the MLAG T-Shirts – men's and women's sizes available – are always special and this year's will be no exception. To order your shirt(s), please complete the appropriate section of the registration form. We only make a few extras so, to guarantee that you get one, be sure to order by May 25. Your shirts will be waiting for you at the festival. We are also soliciting "pithy" sayings for use on a future shirt. If your entry is selected, you get a free shirt.

## **BAZAAR AUTOHARP**

The Bazaar Autoharp is a free forum for Gathering attendees to buy and sell their autoharp-related materials only. Space is limited and there are some necessary restrictions in place to protect our vendors. Rules for the bazaar are printed prominently in the Gathering program and also on the Gathering web site. Please note that you may have a maximum of three autoharps to sell.

## **VENDING**

The vending area in the air-conditioned main hall will feature the largest assemblage of the foremost autoharp luthiers, service, and accessory providers to be found anywhere. One may be assured of one-on-one consultation with the best custom harp builders around, ready to take your order for a tailor-made instrument. Additionally, Oscar Schmidt dealers are available with new and rebuilt factory harps. Expertise is on hand to perform conversions or repairs, or guide you in your own work. Almost all accessories and harp supplies are either available or can be ordered and a selection of autoharp-related books and recorded music will be for sale.

## **SILENT AUCTION**

This event, coordinated by Cindy Harris, helps raise needed funds for the Gathering and allows us to keep our reasonable registration fees in place. Don't forget to bring your creative items to add to the auction this year. Remember, donated services are also welcome. Thanks to all who contribute, either as donors or bidders.

## **VIDEO/AUDIO TAPING POLICY**

Still photography without flash is permitted but video or audio taping of MLAG concerts, including the Workshop Leaders' Concert, is not allowed. We also request no iPhone or iPad photos during concerts since they are very disruptive to the people sitting behind you. Workshop attendees may tape workshops with the explicit permission of the workshop leader. We do plan to live stream most of the concerts.

## **SEE YOU IN JUNE**

While we realize there is a lot of information included here, we hope it makes the process clear. Please share this information with others who may be interested. Additional copies of the registration forms are available at our web site (<https://www.mlag.org>) or you may copy the forms to share with others. We strongly encourage you to use the on-line registration process, which is very efficient and convenient and ensures that the registration information is as accurate as possible.

# Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering 2018 Registration Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please list all members of your party and print clearly (especially your E-Mail)!*

Last Name	First Name	Name or Nickname for Name Tag
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code or ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Emergency Contact Info for MLAG to use if it is needed while you are on site*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration Fees

*Full Gathering Pass Includes all workshops and concerts between 6/26 and 6/30. Single Day tickets include workshops and concert(s) for that day only. Full Non-Participant Pass includes all concerts and activities except workshops. These fees do not include camping. All Non-Participants must be accompanied by a full ticket registrant.*

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Tickets</u>	<u>Price Per Ticket</u>	<u>Totals</u>
“Early Bird” Full Adult (Prior to February 15)	_____	\$150.00	_____
“Early Bird” Full Non-Participant (no workshops)	_____	\$95.00	_____
Full Adult After February 15	_____	\$175.00	_____
Full Adult Non-Participant (no workshops)	_____	\$120.00	_____
Adult - Wednesday Only (Full/Non-participant)	_____	\$35.00/\$20.00	_____
Adult Thursday Only (Full/Non-participant)	_____	\$55.00/\$35.00	_____
Adult Friday Only (Full/Non-participant)	_____	\$55.00/\$35.00	_____
Adult Saturday Only (Full/Non-participant)	_____	\$55.00/\$35.00	_____
Adult Sunday Only (Full/Non-participant)	_____	\$30.00/\$15.00	_____
Children 16 and Under	_____	\$0.00	_____
<b>Total Gathering Registration Fees</b>			_____

## T-Shirt Orders (deadline May 25th)

<u>Size</u>	<u>Man/Woman</u>	<u>Number of Shirts (M/W)</u>	<u>Subtotal Per Size</u>	<u>Total</u>
3XL	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
2XL	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
XL	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
L	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
Med	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
Small	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
<b>Total T-Shirt Fees</b>				_____

## Meals (deadline June 10th)

<u>Description</u>	<u># of People</u>	<u>Price Per Person</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Complete Meal Plan (Tues. lunch thru Sun. dinner)	_____	\$149.00	_____
Full Meal Plan (Wed. dinner thru Sun. lunch)	_____	\$ 99.00	_____
<b>Lunches</b>			
Tuesday	_____	\$11.00	_____
Wednesday	_____	\$11.00	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 11.00	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 11.00	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 11.00	_____
Sunday	_____	\$ 11.00	_____
<b>Dinners</b>			
Tuesday	_____	\$14.00	_____
Wednesday	_____	\$ 14.00	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 14.00	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 14.00	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 14.00	_____
<b>Total Meal Fees</b>			_____

\* **IMPORTANT:** Gluten-free and vegetarian meals are available by special request. Order and pay for your meals with your normal registration but then you must e-mail Laurie at Townsidecafe@aol.com or call her at 570-473-2233 to make your special meal arrangements. MLAG is not responsible for special meal arrangements.

**IMPERATIVE:** Please read the information on camping in the General Information section before completing this form.

## On-Site Camping Fees

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (must be completed!)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Nights</u>	<u>Price Per Night</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Basic Tenting (or no connections)	_____	\$10.00	_____
Water/Electric Hookup	_____	\$20.00	_____

Remember, this is a State Park, not a level RV Campground. We do put 2 units on each site. Each electric site has a 20 and a 30-amp outlet. You may need to work out a sharing option with your site neighbor if both units need or want a 30-amp connection. On-site pumpouts will be available, information and instructions will be available at check-in.

**Please indicate camping details (must be completed if camping)**

Tent       Van       Pop-up       Truck Camper       Detached Trailer       Motor Home

Length of Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Slide Outs: Yes       Campsite Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, I would like to camp with or near \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Camping Fees** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Registration, T-Shirt, Meals and Camping Fees** \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Information

Special Physical Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteering:** the Gathering is completely run by volunteers, we need and appreciate your help!

Please mail form and check (made out to MLAG) to: Michael Poole, 1050 Whippoorwill Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

# Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering Assumption of Risk Agreement and Release

As most of you know, Mountain Laurel is run by a volunteer Board of Directors who provide their services and efforts for the benefit of us all. For obvious reasons, these volunteers cannot be held personally liable for damages to property or injuries to participants during the Gathering. For this reason, we require all participants to indicate their understanding and agreement with this principle by completing the following form. Please sign it and mail it with all completed MLAG registration forms and your check or money order (made payable to MLAG) to: **MLAG, c/o Michael Poole, 1050 Whippoorwill Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27517**

## ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

In consideration of the undersigned Attendee(s) being allowed to participate in the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering (“MLAG”), Attendee(s) releases MLAG, Inc., its directors, agents, and employees, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, DCNR, (“Releasees”) from any liability for all claims, including claims for the negligence and gross negligence of Releasees, whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, which may result or arise out of Attendee(s) attending and traveling to and from the MLAG. Attendee(s) give up all rights to sue or make a claim against releasees. I/we recognize this is a rustic camping experience, with risks of damage to property or injury to person that may occur while traveling to and from, and participating in activities at the MLAG. I/we will indemnify Releasees from claims of others against Releasees regarding any damage or injury that I/we either cause or receive. With regard to \_\_\_\_\_ who is/are under 18 years of age (“Child”), the undersigned adult Attendees certify that they are the parents of Child, sign this Agreement and Release on behalf of Child, and assume all responsibility for the supervision of and all risk of damage or injury that may occur to or be caused by Child while attending, participating in, and while traveling to and from MLAG, and I/we will indemnify Releasees from any claims made by or on behalf of Child or others arising out of such damage or injury, including claims for contribution and indemnification.

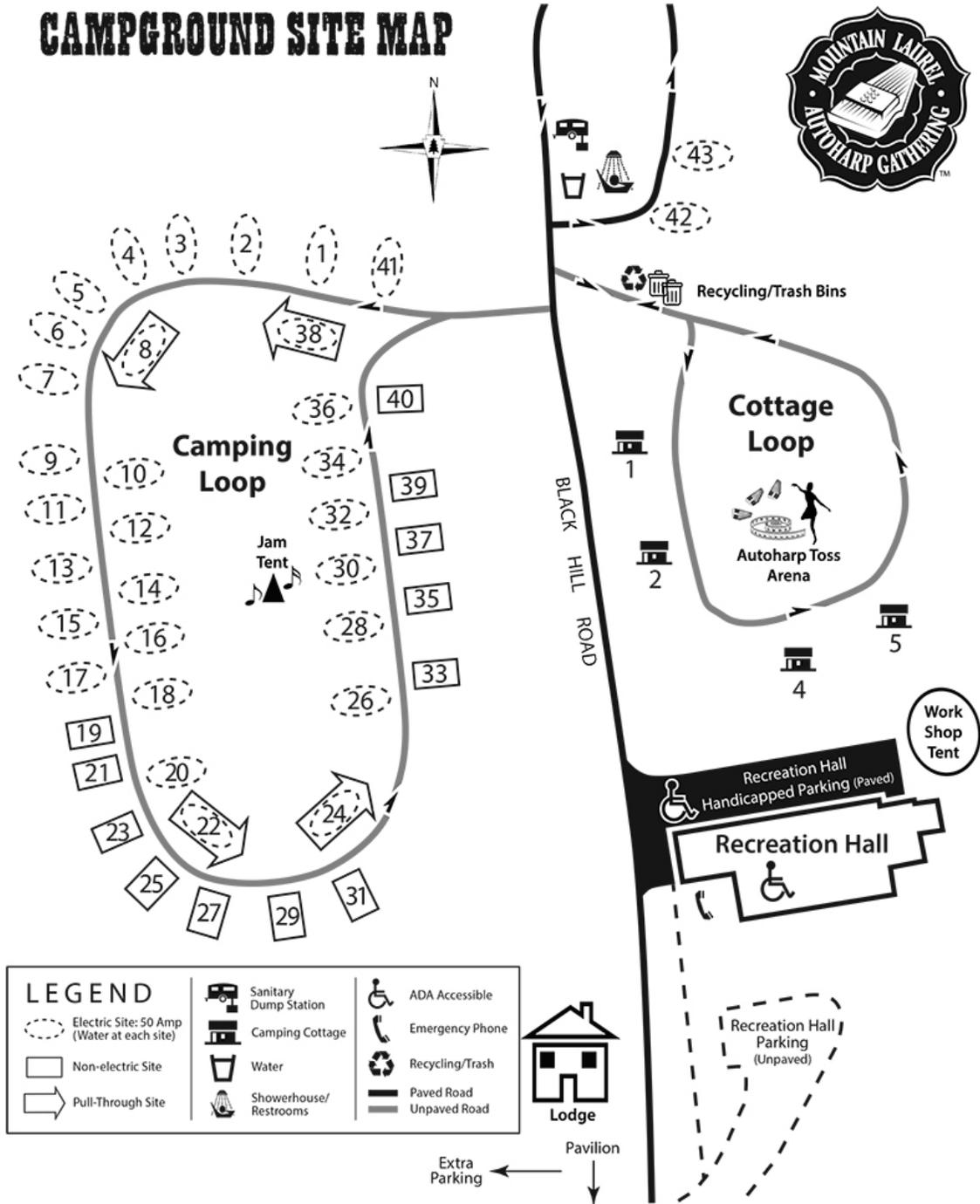
The undersigned, intending to be legally bound, has/have read this release and has/have executed it with full understanding of its meaning.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee \_\_\_\_\_

# CAMPGROUND SITE MAP



## Camp Site Map

Note: the park has a new bath house which is now located at the top of the hill near where we used to put the workshop tent. So it is a little further from the camping loop.

On the bright side, the workshop tent is now located behind the Rec Hall and it's generally agreed that is a good thing!



## SUMMARY OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS RULES AND REGULATIONS

WELCOME—ENJOY YOUR VISIT. Please be considerate of those who will use the facilities in this state park after you. To help ensure your safety and pleasure, please observe state park rules and regulations.

- I. This is a summary of the official Pennsylvania Rules and Regulations pertaining to State Parks. The official text is found in its entirety at 17 Pa. Code Chapter 11. This summary is therefore not complete and does not reproduce or represent the full official Code text. We have included here a number of provisions that are of more general or immediate importance to state park visitors. The complete rules and regulations are posted at the park office and an official copy of the Pa. Code Pamphlet is available for inspection at any state park office.
- II. All day-use areas are open to the public between sunrise and sunset throughout the year, unless otherwise posted.
- III. In the event of hazardous conditions endangering life or property, a state park or facility may be closed to public use at the discretion of the Park Manager.
- IV. The laws, rules, and regulations of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission apply to fishing, hunting, and boating except where modification of such laws, rules and regulations is determined necessary by the Department for the use and protection of resources under its jurisdiction.

### V. GENERAL

- A. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted except with written permission of the Department.
- B. Trash, garbage, and all other litter shall be placed in containers provided for this purpose and are limited to litter accumulated during use of the state park.
- C. Edible fruits, nuts, berries, and fungi may only be gathered in reasonable amounts for personal or family consumption. Exceptions include native wild plants listed as threatened, endangered, rare or vulnerable. Gathering dead and down wood is permitted for use in a fireplace or grill in the state park.
- D. Open fires are permitted only in fireplaces, grills, stoves or other facilities designated by the Department for campfires. Disposal of hot charcoal from grills is permitted only in facilities designated by the Department. Leaving a fire unattended is prohibited.
- E. Soliciting for any purpose or posting of signs is not permitted. The distribution, sale, servicing, or rental of any supplies, equipment, material, or commodity is restricted to authorized concessions.
- F. Operators of licensed motor vehicles shall obey posted official traffic-control devices and use only roads and parking areas open to public traffic unless otherwise designated by the park manager. The operation of other motorized vehicles is not permitted on state park roads, lanes, trails, and areas unless otherwise designated. Excessive speed or noise and reckless, careless, or negligent operation are prohibited. Commercial traffic is allowed on state park roads only when authorized by the Department.
- G. Horseback riding is permitted on the right (side) berm of roads open to public vehicles and designated trails and areas. This activity is not permitted on camping or cabin area roads or picnic, swimming, or cooking areas.
- H. Use or discharge of an airgun, slingshot, or explosive is prohibited. Target shooting with such devices is prohibited, except in areas designated by the Department for this purpose and in accordance with posted requirements and restrictions.
- I. Firearms and archery equipment may be uncased and ready for use by licensed hunters only in authorized hunting areas and during seasons state parks are open to hunting or under special conditions which may be established by the Department.
- J. Wildlife shall not be hunted, pursued, molested, or intentionally disturbed except that hunting and trapping are permitted within authorized hunting areas during the established Pennsylvania Game Commission seasons. Groundhog hunting is prohibited. The training of dogs is permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in authorized hunting areas.
- K. Outdoor recreational activity in state parks is restricted to locations where physical improvement or posting designates the appropriate purpose and use. Swimming is only permitted in designated swimming areas.
- L. Pets are permitted in state parks if they are on a leash not exceeding the posted maximum length or in a cage or crate. Pets must be attended and under physical control at all times. Pets are not permitted in swimming areas. Pets are prohibited in overnight areas unless that area is designated for pets by the Department.
- M. The use of an electric generator causing unreasonable or excessive noise and the use of a chainsaw are prohibited without a permit from the Department.
- N. Unorganized or organized instruction, exhibition, competition, demonstration, or special events require written application and approval from the Department.

## VI. SWIMMING AREAS

- A. Swimming is permitted between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (unless otherwise posted) from Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day. Certain areas may be available for open swimming during posted hours. Swimming at other than posted hours or outside of designated swimming areas is prohibited.
- B. Use of underwater breathing apparatus or a snorkel is prohibited. With permission of the Department, this equipment may be used by an emergency or rescue unit conducting a rescue operation or training or by a diver certified by an organization approved by the Department.
- C. Beach and pool areas are provided for swimming and sunbathing. For the safety and enjoyment of all park visitors, other activities may be prohibited.
- D. Possessing or using a glass or breakable container or utensil in a designated swimming area is prohibited.
- E. Only appropriate swimming attire is permitted in state park swimming pools. The following are prohibited: Cut-off pants and attire which may damage the filtration system or pool surface or may otherwise cause damage or endanger the facility or visitors, clothing that is not leak-proof on an infant or on a child who is not toilet-trained, and clothing that displays lifeguard lettering or insignia.
- F. All children under 10 years of age must be accompanied and supervised competently and effectively in state park swimming areas by a responsible person at least 14 years of age. One responsible person shall supervise no more than five children.

## STATE PARK WATERCRAFT REGULATIONS

1. The launching or mooring of watercraft on Department waters requires that the appropriate valid DCNR watercraft permit be properly displayed. However, a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission number and current certificate of watercraft registration permits daily launching only. Launching of trailered watercraft is permitted at designated launching areas only.
  2. Storage of watercraft during the winter season may be permitted at approved locations for a fee. Contact the park office for information on facilities offered at specific parks.
  3. (A) In state parks having a horsepower limitation of 20 or less, larger internal combustion engines may be mounted on the boat but not used.  
(B) In state parks designated as electric motors only, internal combustion engines may be mounted on the boat but not used.
  4. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and U.S. Coast Guard regulations apply to boating on state park waters.
  5. The following types of watercraft are PROHIBITED on state park waters including frozen water:
    - (A) Watercraft propelled by air propellers.
    - (B) Seaplanes. Seaplanes may be taxied at a slow minimum-height-swell speed in the waters of Presque Isle State Park for the purpose of access to and egress from the park.
    - (C) Non-seaworthy watercraft.
    - (D) Inflatable devices, except those that are seven feet in length and have more than one separate buoyancy chamber.
    - (E) Equipment which is not constructed for the primary purpose of transportation on the water.
  6. (A) The use of inner tubes, body boards, surfboards, air mattresses and other similar non-watercraft devices is permitted in creeks, streams and rivers. Children 12 years of age and under shall wear United States Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices while engaged in this activity.  
(B) The use of body boards and surfboards at Presque Isle State Park is permitted only at locations where posting states that this activity is permitted. Personal flotation devices are not required.
  7. Swimming or diving from watercraft is not permitted.
  8. Operation of watercraft is not permitted within 100 feet of swimming areas or within areas marked by buoys.
  9. Requests for watercraft races, regattas, tournaments, and exhibitions held on state park waters require 30 days prior approval of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and must be submitted on Form PFBC 500 "Application for Permit-Special Activities."
  10. The following are PROHIBITED:
    - a. Operation of a watercraft which endangers a person, watercraft, property, or unnecessarily interferes with the use of the water by other persons.
    - b. Operation of a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
    - c. Overnight sleeping aboard watercraft except where authorized by the Department.
- VII. A COMPLETE SET OF RULES AND REGULATIONS IS POSTED AT THE STATE PARK OFFICE AND AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE PA CODE PAMPHLET IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION
- Violation of state park rules and regulations could result in cancellation of a camping permit, removal from the state park, as well as criminal prosecution.

## MLAG 2019 Pre-Gathering Workshops

MLAG is pleased to present three Pre-Gathering workshops. Though the Gathering proper does not begin until Wednesday, these Pre-MLAG workshops will provide some wonderful options for early arrivals. Tom Schroeder (Beginner), Bryan Bowers (Intermediate) and Bob Lewis (All Things Diatonic) will each present nine hours of small group instruction on Tuesday and Wednesday. The workshops will cost \$130 per person. We will be limiting the maximum number of students in each workshop to 20 so, if you're considering taking one of these workshops, you should register as soon as you can.

The workshops will be conducted in three 3-hour sessions beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25 with locations to be determined at a later date. You will be notified prior to arrival.

These workshops provide a great opportunity for some hands-on training with three of the best autoharp players and teachers in the world. For at least the next few years there will be a Patsy Tressler Memorial Award. A random drawing from the names of all Pre-Gathering participants (who are registered for the full Gathering) will be made on Wednesday night and one lucky individual will be given a check to cover the cost of the class.

### Pre-MLAG Workshops • Tuesday 9-12 & 1-4 • Wednesday 8:30-11:30

**Beginning (Tom Schroeder)** - Do you enjoy singing but struggle with rhythm accompaniment patterns for the songs? Is your left hand frequently lost resulting in pushing down the wrong chord? Are you tired of just playing rhythm accompaniment for singing and want to learn how to play melodies? Have you started playing basic melodies but need help with accuracy? If any of these questions are true, then this class will benefit you. We will cover the ten essential skills you need to become a good autoharp player. You will learn the skills needed to accompany singing whether it is your own voice or someone else's. You will learn how to play a steady rhythm. You will learn the basic dynamics of the autoharp which you can use to make your accompaniment stand out. But wait, there is more! You will also learn how to organize your left hand over the chord buttons using good hand posture and the home position. You will learn simple exercises that will strengthen the muscles needed to play the autoharp. You will learn anticipation and rehearsing the pattern. And if that is not enough, there is even more! You will learn the basics of melody playing either to get you started right or to correct the bad habits you have picked up along the way. You will learn the elements that will make you an accurate melody player. You will learn how to accompany a song and then play a melody break just like those fancy musicians do. And if you think that is all we will do, well then you would be wrong! You will be learning melodies that are universally recognizable and are part of a basic autoharp repertoire. The music will help train your brain to recognize common note patterns that are used in many different melodies. You will be learning song accompaniments that can be applied to any standard song no matter what style you sing. Finally, you will be having a fun time with people who are part of a small subculture that loves this instrument and the people who play it. You will be learning from someone who started teaching the autoharp and writing instructional magazine columns back when the political scandal was Jimmy Carter having impure thoughts. I miss those days. So what are you waiting for? Join us!

**Intermediate (Bryan Bowers)** - Bryan's Intermediate-level pre-gathering class is geared toward autoharp players who are getting comfortable with their playing and starting to think about ways to get to the next step and share their music. Bryan's years of experience in performing have given him valuable insights, not only in playing but in presenting music to others, and he is very excited about giving his time-tested tips to you! Bryan will generously share what he has learned about such things as the importance of being in tune; making sure your repertoire fits your individual voice with his "key checking" technique; and improving playing techniques to make your music project well to your jam buddies or an audience, while you learn such songs as "Let It Be" and Bryan's own "Friend for Life" to practice performance techniques. This class will also enable you to draw on Bryan's vast experience in playing for audiences and situations of all kinds - informal groups of friends, church services, short concerts, nursing homes, background music, and more - and how to construct a set list that will fit the specific occasion and keep the audience engaged. If you'd like to spend a few hours with the one autoharp player who has the most experience at making a living with music, is an astute observer of what works, and has soaked up knowledge and stories along the way, Bryan has loads of information and wisdom to give you!

**All Things Diatonic (Bob Lewis):** Wouldn't you like to learn about "All Things Diatonic" from one of the most respected voices in that realm? Past MLAG and Winfield champion Bob Lewis will take students through his pre-gathering class exploring diatonic autoharp setups, conversions, unusual chords, open noting, how chord choices are affected, picking and chording strategies, some tuning, tunes especially well suited for diatonic autoharps, and how to play more smoothly. While the open noting technique usually requires lock bars or a single key instrument, this can be "faked" for the class by temporarily tuning down some notes for a second or third key, if you're not sure you are ready to make the permanent commitment. It will be a good chance for you to try open noting under a master's direction! For example, a G/D 'harp could have its Cs tuned up to additional C# notes, possibly a triple, leaving only a D scale and the ability to try open noting without any clinkers. It would help for students to have a G/D autoharp or some combination to include D (GDA, CGD, DAE, DA, etc.), but not absolutely necessary. Bring the autoharp you have in pretty sociable tuning but not necessarily exact equal temperament. If you're interested in taking the class but don't have an instrument with the key of D, it may be possible to have some instruments offered on loan. Bob's diatonic playing is noted for its smoothness, accuracy, and careful tuning tailored to sound the best in each configuration. His expertise is well known by folks who follow his writings on the internet and his wonderful playing on his YouTube channel. He will help you get the most from your diatonic autoharp and is eager to share his broad knowledge with you!

# MLAG Pre-Gathering Workshops Registration Form

I'd like to register for:

- Beginner - Tom Schroeder
- Intermediate - Bryan Bowers
- All Things Diatonic- Bob Lewis

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

I'm enclosing a check in the amount of \$130.00 made out to MLAG.

## Important Meal Note:

Tuesday lunch and dinner and Wednesday lunch will be available to all campers, including Pre-Gathering attendees. If you have registered for the Gathering proper and elected to purchase the Complete Meal Plan, you are all set. If you are only attending a Pre-Gathering class and want either of the lunch options and/or the dinner option, then check the appropriate box or boxes and enclose the extra money per meal (\$11.00 per lunch/\$14.00 per dinner – spouses are also welcome) in your check made out to MLAG. **IMPORTANT: Gluten-free and vegetarian meals are available by special request. Order and pay for your meals with your normal registration but then you must e-mail Laurie at [Townsidecafe@aol.com](mailto:Townsidecafe@aol.com) or call her at 570-473-2233 (leave a message) to make your special meal arrangements. MLAG is not responsible for special meal arrangements.**

Tuesday Lunch       Tuesday Dinner       Wednesday Lunch

I'm sending this check and this registration form to:

**MLAG, c/o Michael Poole  
1050 Whippoorwill Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27517**

Questions? E-Mail Michael at [mlagpoole@gmail.com](mailto:mlagpoole@gmail.com)  
or call the MLAG Hot Line at 844-994-9939