



TRAILER TRACKS

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MONTHLY MEETING

Chapter 9 members meet the second Wednesday of each month at 9 am, during breakfast, at Abby's Legendary Pizza, 1011 W. Central Avenue in Sutherlin, Oregon.

A signup sheet is located in the Timber Valley SKP clubhouse, as we need to know by Tuesday how many are planning to be there.

**All Escapees
are welcome!**

Other Chapter 9 events will be announced in *Trailer Tracks* or on the Chapter 9 page of our website,
www.timbervalleyskp.com

Happy New Year!

By Betty Bush

Happy New Year! As we begin a new decade I wish everyone many Blessings, which could come in many forms: Love, Health and Financial.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. Don and I spent a week in Parker, Az. And enjoyed our friends and family and food-we can't forget food! Our drive home was an adventure with snow and traffic from _ _ _ _ , but with Don's great driving we made it home safe.

A lot happened in December: Festival of Trees at Seven Feathers, Becky's Vegan demo, Festival of Lights, Lighted Truck parade. A good time was enjoyed by all who attended.

Upcoming Escapees events are The Big Easy Hop, New Orleans, March 22 to March 27, and the big one, 60th Escapade, Rock Springs, Wyoming, June 21 to June 28. If you want to participate there are sign up forms in the office.

As Escapees there are many ways we can give back, annually we donate \$500 to C.A.R.E. I think our Chapter should look at some ways to do some fundraisers to raise money to pay this and do some things we enjoy. What are your thoughts, open for suggestions.

We should give a shout out to our Becky Holm who is now a proud Grammy, congratulations!

Terry and Chuck are planning January events and I'm sure they will divulge soon.

As the song says for this time of year, "The weather outside is frightful" but put a smile on your face and get out and be sociable. Join us for our monthly breakfast at Abby's, January 8 at 9 am.

Happy New Year to all the Snow Birds who are not with us, we hope you are enjoying yourselves.



Diary of a Reluctant Ukulele Student

By Jackie Deal

NO, No, No! Never! Never! I don't wanna play a stringed instrument. All those teeny strings. And the music. It looks like a patch-work quilt that some seagulls flew over. Nope. Not me.

Here's how it happened: I heard funny noises coming out of the clubhouse and I opened the door to investigate. Just to peek. "Come on in. Have a chair." No, nuh uh. "AW, come on, sit down." So I sat down. Gingerly. There was a semi-circle of about 8 folks with little toy guitars and a couple teachers, helpers, who knows.

"Here, hold one." Nuh uh. I recoiled but she thrust one of those baby guitars into my hands. I held the baby far away from me. What if it was wet? It wasn't. But I was afraid I'd break the neck and its little head would fall off. I supported both its little bottom and its neck. This must be how a man feels when he holds his first baby. If he doesn't support the neck its head might fall off. And what if the bottom is wet?? Or worse?

The guy sitting next to me said, "Try it." Nuh uh. I don't know how. "Okay, just cover all the strings with your fingers and strum. It won't make any sound. You can strum, can't you?" Well, okay, I can keep time to music. I guess I could strum. How should I do it? "Just do it any way you like." Hm, okay. The class played on and I strummed. Strum. Strum. Hey, this isn't bad. Strum, strumity, strum.

"Put your finger on that string right there. That's C. Now strum." I did.

Strum, strumity, strum. That's the last thing that made sense. I know a wee bit about piano keys and piano music. Whenever you have two black keys the white keys are C, D, E. And the notes on the paper run up the scale just like the keys. But those seagull splotches made no sense at all.

"Two chords, that's all you need to play a song. Look, that's C and that's G7". C was simple but G7 was impossible. My fingers think they're a unit. They all move and grasp together. Now I'm trying to tell them to find those itty bitty strings in a weird configuration. They don't move independently and the little finger pops upright just like a socialite at tea. "Take it home and practice." Nuh uh. No. No. Never.

The baby has now resided with me for two days. I've tried repeatedly to teach the fingers of my left hand to cover-(hey, Fellows, one string at a time) - and slurp around from C to G7. Is it getting any easier? Maybe. At least I'm not afraid the head will fall off. But music? Hardly.

Two more days have passed: once in a while I can move from C to G7 but then my fingers rebel. Does it sound like music? In between the squawking and scrapping it might—someday. Oh joy! I've discovered one more key: C7 only takes one finger. The Beatles talked of writing a song with only one note; did they ever write a song with only C and C7? If so, I might be in luck.

"Baby" (that's its name) reposes smugly in the corner of my sofa; reproachful when I don't pick it up and stroke it. I try to tell it (or my

conscience?) that I have more important things to do; like writing this.

Bright idea! Let's see what the internet has to offer; I google Ukulele chords and strings. After plowing through a mishmash of information I came upon "Ukulele for Dummies", aw, just what I need. Not. Is there a classification below "dummies"? Back to practicing chords. Maybe I don't need to understand what I'm doing. Just do it.

Becky's CoRNeR

OH Happy, happy, happy day, my friends! I'm a GRAMMY and I'm completely smitten!!! I didn't think it was true, all y'all who said it would happen, but it was!

Here's my perfect little boy – David Vaughn Dean Wright, born Dec 28. 3-1/2 weeks early and 7lbs 8oz, 21" long... Just perfect!

