



Cowboy Campfire Songbook

Version 1.0

Black Rose Acoustic Society's **Cowboy Campfire Jam Book**

Version 1.0

Back in the Saddle Again	2
Blue Montana Skies	3
Bury Me Not On the Lone Prairie	4
Cattle Call	5
Cool Clear Water	6
Don't Fence Me In	7
Ghost Riders In the Sky	8
Git Along Little Dogies	9
Home on the Range	10
I Ride an Old Paint	11
Last Train from Poor Valley	12
Night Riders Lament	13
Oklahoma	15
Red River Valley	16
Someday Soon	17
Song of Wyoming	18
Streets of Laredo	19
Sweet Baby James	20
Take Me Home, Country Roads	22
Tennessee Waltz	23
Tom Dooley	24
They Call the Wind Mariah	25

Songs to maybe be added:

Buffalo Gals
Crawdad Song
I'm an Old Cowhand (from the Rio Grande)
Miles and Miles of Texas
Rose of San Antone
San Antonio Rose
Shenandoah
Tumblin' Tumbleweeds

Back in the Saddle Again (Key of C)

C **G7** **C** **C7**
I'm back in the saddle again
F **Fdim** **C** **C7** **Fdim=x-x-3-1-1-1**
Out where a friend is a friend
F **Fdim** **C** **A7**
Where the longhorn cattle feed / On the lowly gypsum weed
D7 **G7**
Back in the saddle again

C **G7** **C** **C7**
Ridin' the range once more
F **Fdim** **C** **C7**
Totin' my old .44
F **C** **A7**
Where you sleep out every night / And the only law is right
D7 **G7** **C**
Back in the saddle again

F **C**
Whoopi-ty-aye-oh / Rockin' to and fro
G7
Back in the saddle again
F **C**
Whoopi-ty-aye-yay / I go my way
C **G7** **C**
Back in the saddle again

<Repeat all>

Blue Montana Skies (Key of A)

Intro: D A D Bm E (Intro can be yodeled or fiddled)

A D A Bbdim=x-1-2-0-2-x
Riding alone under blue Montana skies

E A Bbdim B7 E
Not caring where my pony carries me

A D A
Feelin' at home under blue Montana skies
E A

Where nature sings her song in harmony

<bridge:>

E B7 E B7
The law of the land is to mortgage on your soul
C G C E
But the code of the west is to be free

A D A
Don't know where I'll roam under blue Montana skies

E A
I'll be ridin' 'till I meet my destiny

D A D Bm E
(.....yodel.....)

A D A
Free as the eagle flies in blue Montana skies

E E7 A
With him my spirit soars and will be free

<breaks> (yodel or instrumental over verse then DADBmE)

A D A
Free as the eagle flies in blue Montana skies

E F A
With him my spirit soars and will be free (last time)

Bury Me Not On the Lone Prairie (Key of G) (or capo 7 to D)

Em **G**
'Oh, bury me not on the lone prairie
Em **G**
These words came low and mournfully
G **G**
From the pallid lips of a youth who lay
Em **C** **G**
On his dying bed at the close of day

Well he'd wasted and pined 'til upon his brow
Death's shades were slow - ly gathering now
As he thought of home and his loved ones nigh
All the cowboys gathered to watch him die

"O bury me not on the lone prairie
Where the coyotes howl and the wind blows free
In a narrow grave just six by three—
O bury me not on the lone prairie"
<break>

"I've often wished to be laid when I died
In a little churchyard on the green hillside
By my father's grave, there let me be
O bury me not on the lone prairie."

"Oh let me lie where a mother's tear
And a sister's prayer can linger there
O take me home for they'll want to see
Their boy who died on the lone prairie."
<break>

"O bury me not" and his words fell bare
But we gave no heed to his dying prayer.
In a narrow grave just six by three
O we buried our boy on the lone prairie
O we buried our boy on the lone prairie

Cattle Call ($\frac{3}{4}$ time in key of D)

Refrain:

D **A**
Woo-hoo-woo-ooo-ti-dee / Woo-hoo-ooo-oop-i-dee-dee

D **A** **D**
Woo-hoo-woo-ooo-ti-dee / Yodel-odel-lo-ti-dee

D **G**
The cattle are prowlin' / The coyotes are howlin'

A **D**
Way out where the doggies ball.

D **G**
Where spurs are a jinglin' / A cowboy is singin'

A **D**
This lonesome cattle call.

<refrain>

G **D**
He rides in the sun, / 'Til his days work is done.

E **A**
And rounds up the cattle each fall.

D
Woo - hoo - woo - ooo - ti - de

A **D**
Singin' his cattle call.

For hours he would ride. / On the range far and wide.
When the night wind blows up a squall.

His heart is a feather. / In all kinds of weather.
He sings his cattle call.

<refrain>

He's brown as a berry / From riding the prairie
And he sings with an old western drawl.

Woo - hoo - woo - ooo - ti - de
Singin' his cattle call.

Cool Clear Water (Key of C)

C **G7**
All day I've faced the barren waste

C **G7** **G7** **C** **C**
Without the taste of water, cool, water

F **G7**
Old Dan and I with throats burned dry

C **F** **C** **C** **G7** **G7** **C**
And souls that cry for water, cool, clear, water

C **G7**
The nights are cool and I'm a fool

C **G7** **G7** **C** **C**
Each star's a pool of water, cool, water

F **G7**
But with the dawn I'll wake and yawn

C **F** **C** **C** **G7** **G7** **C**
And car - ry on to water, cool, clear, water

C **G7**
<bridge:> Keep a-movin', Dan, don't you listen to him, Dan

C **G7** **C** **C**
He's a devil not a man, & he spreads the burning sand with water

F **G7** **F**
Dan can you see that big green tree where the water's runnin'

G7 **C** **F**
free and it's waiting there for you and me and

C **C** **G7** **G7** **C**
Water, cool, clear, water

C **G7**
The shadows sway and seem to say

C **G7** **G7** **C** **C**
Tonight we pray for water, cool water

F **G7** / **C** **F** **C** **C** **G7** **G7** **C**
And way up there He'll hear our prayer

F **C**
And show us where there's water, cool, clear, water

F **C**
<repeat bridge> <hold on water>... Cool, clear, water!

Don't Fence Me In (Cole Porter)

Written By: Cole Porter capo 2 for D

Chorus:

C

Oh give me land, lots land under starry skies above

G7

Don't fence me in

G7

Let me ride through the wide open spaces that I love

C

Don't fence me in

C

C7

Let me be by myself in the evenin' breeze

F

Fm

Listen to the murmur of the cottonwood trees

C

A7

Fm

Send me off forever but I ask you please

C

G7

C

Don't fence me in

Verse

F

Just turn me loose let me straddle my old saddle

C

Underneath the western skies

F

On my Cayuse let me wander over yonder

C

G

Till I see the mountains rise

C

C7

I want to ride to the ridge where the west commences

F

Fm

And gaze at the moon till I lose my senses

C

A7

Fm

I can't look at hobbles and I can't stand fences

C

G7

C

Don't fence me in

Ghost Riders in the Sky (Key of Am)

Am - C -
An old cowpoke went riding out one dark and windy day
Am - C -
Upon a ridge he rested as he went along his way
Am - - -
When all at once a mighty herd of red-eyed cows he saw
F - Am -
A-plowing through the ragged sky & up a cloudy draw

Their brands were stil on fire & their hooves were made of steel
Their horns were black & shiny & their hot breath he could feel
A bolt of fear went thru him as they thundered thru the sky
For he saw the riders coming hard & he heard their mournful cry

Chorus:

C Am
 Yippie-i-ay, Yippie-i-oh
 F Dm Am -
 Ghost Riders in the sky

Their faces gaunt, their eyes were blurred, their shirts all
soaked with sweat
They're riding hard to catch that herd, but they ain't caught
'em yet
'Cos they've got to ride forever on that range up in the sky
On horses snorting fire, as they ride on, hear their cry

As the riders loped on by him, he heard one call his name
If you want to save your soul from Hell a-riding on our range
Then cowboy change your ways today or with us you will ride
Trying to catch the Devil's herd, across these endless skies

<chorus>

<chorus>

Git Along Little Dogies (Key of D)

Intro: C F G7 C C F G7 C (and interludes after chorus)

C F G7 C₄ C₄--Repeats for each verse line

V1: As I was walking one morning for pleasure

C F G7 C

I spied a cowpuncher all-riding along

C F G7 C

His hat was throwed back and his spurs were a-jingling

C F G7 C

And as he approached he was singing this song

G7 G7 C C

Ch: Whoopee ti yi yo, git along little dogies

G7 G7 C C (C)

It's your misfortune and none of my own

C F G7 C

Whoopie ti yi yo, git along little dogies

C F G7 C

You know that Wyoming will be your new home

V2: It's early in the springtime we round up the dogies

Mark 'em and brand 'em and bob off their tails

Round up the horses, load up the chuck wagon

Then send the little dogies out on the north trail

<Chorus>

V3: Night comes on and we hold 'em on the bedground

The same little dogies that rolled on so slow

We roll up the herd and cut out the stray ones

Then roll the little dogies like never before

<Chorus>

V4: Some boys go up the long trail for pleasure

But that's where they get it most awfully wrong

For you'll never know the trouble they give us

As we go drivin' them dogies along

<Chorus>

Tag: You know that Wyoming will be your new home

Home on the Range (Key of D)

D - **G** -
O give me a home where the buffalo roam

D - **A** -
Where the deer and the antelope play

D - **G** -
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word

D **A** **D** -
And the skies are not cloudy all day

D **A** **D** -
chorus: Home, home on the range

Bm **E** **A** -
Where the deer and the antelope play

D - **G** -
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word

D **A** **D** -
And the skies are not cloudy all day

Where the air is so pure & the zephyrs so free
And the breezes so balmy & light
That I would not exchange my home on the range
For all of the cities so bright
<chorus>

The red man was pressed from this part of the west
It's not likely he'll ever return
To the banks of Red River where seldom if ever
His flickering campfires still burn
<chorus>

How often at night when the heavens are bright
With the light of the glittering stars
I stand there amazed & I ask as I gaze
Does their glory exceed that of ours
<chorus>

I Ride an Old Paint (Key of D)

D - - -
I ride an old paint, I lead an old Dan
A - D -
I'm off to Montan' for to throw the hoolihan
A - D -
They feed in the coolies, they water in the draw
A - D -
Their tails are all matted, their backs are all raw

Chorus:

A - D -
Ride around, little do-gies, ride around slow
A - D -
The fiery and the snuf-fy are rarin' to go

Bill Jones had two daughters and the song
One went to Denver, the other went wrong
His young wife died in a poolroom fight
But he tries to keep singing from morning till night

<Chorus> **and immediately to C**

C - - -
When I die take my saddle from the wall
G - C -
Strap it on my pony, lead him out of the stall
G - C -
Throw my bones on his back, turn our faces to the west
G - C - **immediately to D**
And we'll ride the prairie that we love the best

<Chorus>

Last Train from Poor Valley (Norman Blake, Key of D)

D **A** **G** **D**
V1: Well it was good one time everything was mighty fine

D **A** **D** **(A)**
The coal tipples roared day and night

D **A** **G** **D**
But things they got slow for no reason that I know

D **A** **D**
And ill winds they hove into sight

V2: Now the mines all closed down everybody laid around
There wasn't very much left to do
'cept stand in that line to get your ration scrip on time
And woman I could see it killin' you

Chorus:

D **D** **A** **D**
Now the soft new snows of Dece - mber

Bm (2) **Bm** **G** **D (2)**
Lightly fall my cabin 'round

D **D** **G** **G**
And the last train from Poor Valley

D **G** **D** **A** **D** **D**
Takin' brown haired Becky Richmond bound

<breaks>

V3: It's been a comin' on, that soon you would be gone
Leavin' crossed your mind every day
Then you said to me things are bad back home you see
I guess I better be on my way

<chorus?> <breaks?>

V4: Well I should blame you now but I never could somehow
A miner's wife you weren't cutout to be
It wasn't what you thought just some dreams that you'd bought
When you left your home and ran away with me

<chorus>

<last 2 lines of chorus>

Night Riders' Lament (Key of C)

Intro chords: **F F/c C/e C G G C C**

Intro walkup: g-b-d-g

Verse 1:

C C/g F F/c

As I was out a ridin'

C C G G

The graveyard shift, midnight 'til dawn

F F/c C/e C

The moon shone as bright as a readin' light

G G C C

For a letter from an old friend back home, and he asked me...

Chorus:

F G C C/e

Why do you ride for your money

F G C C/e

and why do you rope for short pay

F G C Am Em Dm (or F)

You ain't gettin' nowhere & you're losin' your share

G G C C

Boy, you must have gone crazy out there

Walkup: g-b-d-g

Verse 2:

He said last night I run in to Jenny

She's married and has a good life

And boy you sure missed the track when you never come back,

She's the perfect professional's wife

Chorus:

And she asked me "Why does he ride for his money?

And why does he rope for short pay?

He ain't gettin' nowhere and he's losin' his share

Boy he must've gone crazy out there!"

Bridge:

F G C C
 But they've never seen the Northern Lights
F G C C/e
 They've never seen a hawk on the wing
F G C Am Em/g Dm (or F)
 They've never seen spring hit the Great Divide
G G C C
 And they've never heard ole' camp cookie sing
 <breaks>

Walkup: g-b-d-g

Verse 3:

Well I read up the last of my letter
 And I tore off the stamp for black Jim
 And when ol' Dougie come out to relieve me
 He just looked at my letter and grinned

Chorus:

He said: "Why do we ride for our money?
 Tell me why do we ride for short pay?
 We ain't a'gettin' nowhere and we're losin' our share
 You know they must think we're crazy out there!"

<bridge>

Optional yodel ending:

F F C C
 Yodel-a-ee oh, Boh-da-lo-tee
G G C C
 Yoh-dee a lo a diddle doo

F F C C
 Yodel-a-ee oh, Boh-da-lo-tee
G G C C
 Boh-dee a lo a diddle doo

Oklahoma (Key of C)

C - - - **G** - - -
O - klahoma, where the wind comes sweepin' down the plains

C - **F** **Fm**
And the wavin' wheat can sure smell sweet

C **A** **D** **G**
When the wind comes right behind the rain

C - - - **G** - - -
O - klahoma, every night my honey lamb & I

C - **F** **Fm**
Sit alone & talk & watch a hawk

C **G** **C** -
Makin' lazy circles in the sky

F - **C** -
We know we belong to the land

G **D** **G** -
And the land we belong to is grand

C - - - / **D** - - -
And when we say "Yeeow! A-yip-i-o-ee-ay!"

C **E** **Am** **D**
We're only sayin' "You're doin' fine, Oklaho - ma

C **G** **C** -
Oklahoma - OK!"

Red River Valley (Key of D)

D **A7** **D** -
From this valley they say you are leaving
D - **A7** -
We shall miss your bright eyes and sweet smile
D **D7** **G** -
For they say you are taking the sunshine
A7 - **D** -
That has brightened our pathway a while

Chorus:

D **A7** **D** -
Come & sit by my side if you love me
D - **A7** -
Do not hasten to bid me adieu
D **D7** **G** -
But remember the Red River Valley
A7 - **D** -
And the cowboy that loved you so true

V2: Won't you think of the valley you're leaving
O how lonely, how sad it will be
O think of the fond heart you're breaking
And the grief you are causing to me

<Chorus>

V3: As you go to your home by the ocean
May you never forget those sweet hours
That we spent in the Red River Valley
And the love we exchanged 'mid the flowers

<Chorus>

Someday Soon (by Ian Tyson, Key of G)

G - ↓ C G
There's a young man that I know, his age is 21

Bm - C D
He comes from down in southern Colorado

G - ↓ C G
Just out of the service & he's looking for some fun

Am D G -
Someday soon, I'm going with him, someday soon

G - ↓ C G
My parents cannot stand him 'cause he rides the rodeo

Bm - C D
My father says that he will leave me crying

G - ↓ C G
I would follow him right down the toughest road I know

Am D G -
Someday soon ...

bridge:

D - C G
And when he comes to call, my pa ain't got a good word to say

Em - A D -
Guess it's 'cause he was just as wild in his younger days

So blow you old blue norther, blow my love to me G ↓ C G
He's driving in tonight from California Bm - C D
He loves his damned old rodeo as much as he loves me G ↓ C G
Someday soon ... Am D G -

<repeat bridge>

<chorus>

Am D G -
Someday soon, going with him, someday soon

Song of Wyoming ($\frac{3}{4}$ time in key of D)

Intro of each versel: **G Gm D D/a** **Gm=x-x-0-3-3-3**
 D D7 G Gm

V1: I'm weary and tired, I've done my day's riding

D Em7 A7 A7/e

Nighttime is rolling my way

D D7 G Gm

The sky's all on fire and the light's slowly fading

D G D

Peaceful and still ends the day

F#m Bm F#m D7 F#m=x-4-4-2-2-2

Out on the trail them night birds are calling **Bm=x-x-4-3-2-2**

G Gm D D/a

Singing their wild melody

Fm Bm Fm D7

Down in the canyon the cottonwood whispers

G Gm D D/a / G Gm D D/a

A Song of Wyoming for me / <pause>

V2: Well, I've wandered around them towns and them cities

Tried to figure how and the why

But I've stopped all my scheming / I'm just drifting, dreaming

Watching the river roll by

Here comes that big ol' prairie moon rising

Shining down bright as can be

Up on the hill there's a coyote singing

A Song of Wyoming for me / <pause>

V3: Now it's whiskey and tobacco and bitter black coffee

A lonesome old dogie am I

But waking on the range / Lord I feel like an angel

Free like I almost could fly

Drift like a cloud out over the badlands

Sing like a bird in the tree

The wind in the sage sounds like heaven singing

A Song of Wyoming for me <tag it> <tag it>

Streets of Laredo (¾ time in key of D)

As I was out walking the streets of Laredo.	D	A	D	A
As I walked out on Laredo one day,	D	A	D	A
I spied a poor cowboy wrapped up in white linen,	D	A	D	A
Wrapped in white linen as cold as the clay.	D	Em	A	D

"I can see by your outfit that you are a cowboy."
These words he did say as I boldly stepped by.
"Come sit down beside me & hear my sad story.
I'm shot in the breast & I know I must die."

"My friends & relations they live in the Nation
They know not where their cowboy has gone
He first came to Texas & hired to a ranchman
O I'm that young cowboy & I know I've done wrong."

"It was once in the saddle, I used to go dashing.
Once in the saddle, I used to go gay.
First to the dram-house and then down to the card-house
Got shot in the breast and I'm dying today."

"Get six jolly cowboys to carry my coffin.
Get six pretty maidens to bear up my pall.
Throw bunches of roses all over my coffin.
Roses to deaden the clods as they fall."

"Then beat the drum slowly, play the fife lowly.
Play the dead march as you carry me on
Take me out to the graveyard & throw the sod o'er me
For I'm a young cowboy and I know I've done wrong."

"Go bring me a cup, a cup of cold water
To cool my parched lips" the cowboy then said
But 'ere I returned the spirit had left him
And gone to its maker; the cowboy was dead

We beat the drum slowly & played the fife lowly,
And bitterly wept as we bore him along for
We all loved the cowboy so brave, young & handsome
We all loved the cowboy altho' he'd done wrong.

Sweet Baby James ($\frac{3}{4}$ time in C, capo 2 for D)

Verse 1:

C **G** **F** **Em**
There is a young cowboy, he lives on the range
Am **F** **C** **Em**
His horse and his cattle are his only companions
Am **F** **C** **Em**
He works in the saddle and he sleeps in the canyons
F **C** **G** **Dm Dm G G**
Waiting for summer his pastures to change

F **F** **G** **C**
And as the moon rises he sits by his fire
Am **F** **C** **C**
Thinking about women and glasses of beer
F **F** **G** **C**
And closing his eyes as the doggies retire
Am **F** **C** **C**
He sings out a song which is soft but it's clear
D **D** **G G**
As if maybe someone could hear:

Chorus:

C **F** **G C**
Goodnight you moonlight ladies
Am **F** **C C**
Rockabye Sweet Baby James
Am **F** **C** **C**
Deep greens and blues are the colors I choose
Am **Dm7** **G7 G**
Won't you let me go down in my dreams
F **G** **C C**
And Rockabye Sweet Baby James

Verse 2:

C G F Em
The first of December was covered with snow
Am F C Em
And so was the turnpike from Stockbridge to Boston
Am F C Em
The Berkshires seemed dreamlike on account of that frosting
F C G Dm Dm G G
Ten miles behind me and 10,000 more to go
F F G C
There's a song that they sing when they take to the highway
Am F C C
A song that they sing when they take to the sea
F F G C
A song that they sing of their home in the sky
Am F C C
Maybe you can believe it if it helps you to sleep
D D G G
But singing works just fine for me / we sing...

<Chorus>

Take Me Home, Country Roads (John Denver, Key of G)

G **Em**
Almost heaven, West Virginia
D **C** **G**
Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River
G **Em**
Life is old there, older than the trees
D **C** **G**
Younger than the mountains, blowing like a breeze

G **D**
Country roads, take me home
Em **C**
To the place I belong
G **D**
West Virginia, mountain mama
C **G**
Take me home, country roads

V2: All my memories gather round her
Miner's lady, stranger to blue water
Dark and dusty, painted on the sky
Misty taste of moonshine, teardrop in my eye
<chorus>

Em **D** **G**
bridge: I hear her voice, in the morning hour she calls me
C **G** **D**
The radio reminds me of my home far away
Em **F** **C**
And driving down the road I get a feeling
G **D** **D7**
That I should have been home yesterday, yesterday
<chorus x2>

outro: Take me home, down country roads / Take me home, down
country roads

Tennessee Waltz (¾ time, key of D)

D	-	D7	G
I	was	dancing	with my darling to the Tennessee Waltz

When an old friend I happened to see

D	-	D7	G
I introduced her to my loved one and while they were dancing			

D **A7** **D**

My friend stole my sweetheart from me

D	?	G	D
I	remember	the	night
and	the	Tennessee	Waltz

D - A7
Now I know just how much I have lost

D	-	D7	G
Yes, I lost my little darling the night they were playing			

D	A7	D
The	beautiful Tennessee	Waltz

Tom Dooley (Key of G)

G - - D(7) / - - D7(C) G

Chorus: Hang down your head, Tom Dooley
Hang down your head and cry
Hang down your head, Tom Dooley
Poor boy, you're bound to die

V: I met her on the mountain, there I took her life
Met her on the mountain, stabbed her with my knife

<chorus>

V: Hand me down my banjo, I'll pick it on my knee
This time tomorrow it'll be no use to me

<chorus>

V: This time tomorrow, reckon where I'll be?
If it hadn't-a been for Grayson, I'd-a been in Tennessee

<chorus>

V: This time tomorrow reckon where I'll be
In some lonesome valley, a-hangin' on a white oak tree

final chorus:

Hang down your head, Tom Dooley
Hang down your head and cry (poor boy ah well uh)
Hang down your head, Tom Dooley
Poor boy, you're bound to die
Poor boy, you're bound to die
Poor boy, you're bound to die
Poor boy, you're bound to die

They Call the Wind Mariah (key of C)

Verse 1:

C **Am** **C** **Am**
Away out here they've got a name for rain & wind & fire
C **Em** **F** / **G** **C**
The rain is Tess, the fire's Joe, & they call the wind Maria
C **Am** **C** **C**
Maria blows the stars around & sets the clouds a-flyin'
F **Em** **F** / **G** **C**
Maria makes the mountains sound like folks up there was dyin'

Refrain:

F **F** **Em** **Em** **F** **G** **C** **C**
Maria (Maria), Maria (Maria), They call the wind Maria

Verse 2:

C **Am** **C** **Am**
Before I knew Maria's name & heard her wail and whinin'
C **Em** **F** / **G** **C**
I had a gal & she had me & the sun was always shinin'
C **Am** **C** **C**
But then one day I left my gal, I left her far behind me
F **Em** **F** / **G** **C**
And now I'm lost, so goddam lost, not even God can find me
<Refrain>

Verse 3:

C **Am** **C** **Am**
Out here they've got a name for rain, for wind & fire only
C **Em** **F** / **G** **C**
But when you're lost & all alone, there ain't no word but lonely
C **Am** **C** **C**
I feel just like the restless wind, without a star to guide me
F **Em** **F** / **G** **C**
Maria blow my love to me, I need my love beside me...
<Refrain>