This tune has sometimes been called “Eskimo Reel”, which certainly serves to distinguish

It from the (somewhat) similar sounding Em and G reel “Ice on the Road” by the great Canadian fiddler Graham Townsend.

A little background on “Eskimo”:

The Esquimaux Road House historically was a location of dances in New

Hampshire. (E.g. It's listed in Dick Richardson's diary, as published

in Dudley Laufman and Corrinne Nash's Dick Richardson book.) I

hypothesize that the name Eskimo Reel could have come from there,

rather than from inhabitants of the frozen north, but it is sheer

speculation. You can posit “Eskimo” a nice "New Englandy" name to

distinguish this tune from Graham Townsend's Canadian one..

On the other hand, there is also a Quebec tune “Reel des Esquimaux”,

which is entirely different from either of the “Ice” tunes, so maybe

“Eskimo Reel” for “Ice on the Pond” only adds to the confusion

Laurie Andres taught Ice On the Pond at Fiddle Tunes one year; a Salmonberry

sit-in had copied this version from his tune ms book. It was later

found to be virtually identical to a Portland version George Penk had

from Christy Keevil, and published in the "notes on tunes" (in back) in

the Portland Collection V.1. George's version lacked the G-Bm trick in bar

4 of the 1st part. In addition the optional E7 in bar 3 of the 2nd

part was an innovation from Pat Spaeth (Salmonberry’s piano player),

seen in none of the other versions.