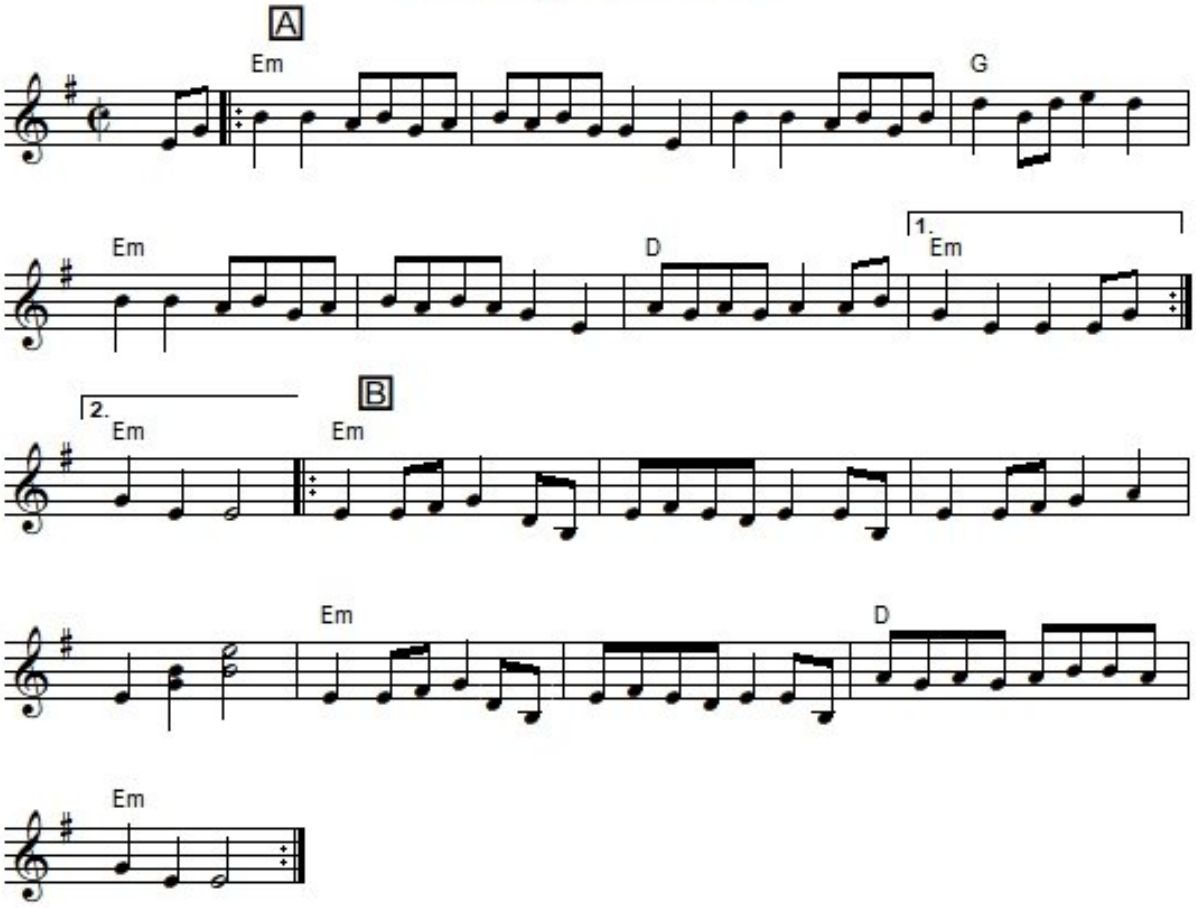
Hunting the Buffalo



"Hunting the Buffalo", also known as "Hunting for the Buffalo" and "We're Gonna Hunt the Buffalo" is an American reel in cut time and either E Minor or # Minor. The parts are played AABB. It is played in standard or BEgb fiddle tuning.

According to Drew Beisswenger the melody is apparently not related to the old play-party songs from the Ozarks with similar titles such as "Shoot the Buffalo" and "Gonna Go Huntin' for the Buffalo".

Mike Seeger played a version learned from Jimmy Driftwood (1907-1998), who had the tune from his two fiddler uncles who lived in Indian territory for years. They played it in the unusual BEgb tuning (an E minor chord), which produces a host of overtones from parallel thirds.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Beisswenger & McCann's **Ozarks Fiddle Music** (2008), Silberberg's **The Complete Fiddle Tunes I Either Did or Did Not Learn at the Tractor Tavern** (2007), Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021) and Songer's **Portland Collection** (1997).

It was recorded by Helicon on **Horizons** (1992), Ramona Jones on **Back Porch Fiddling** (1974), Norman Blake on **Just Gimme Somethin' I'm Used To** (1991) and Clyde Curley and the Oxymorons on **Old Time Mandolin Music** (1998).