Sullivan's Hollow

Traditional

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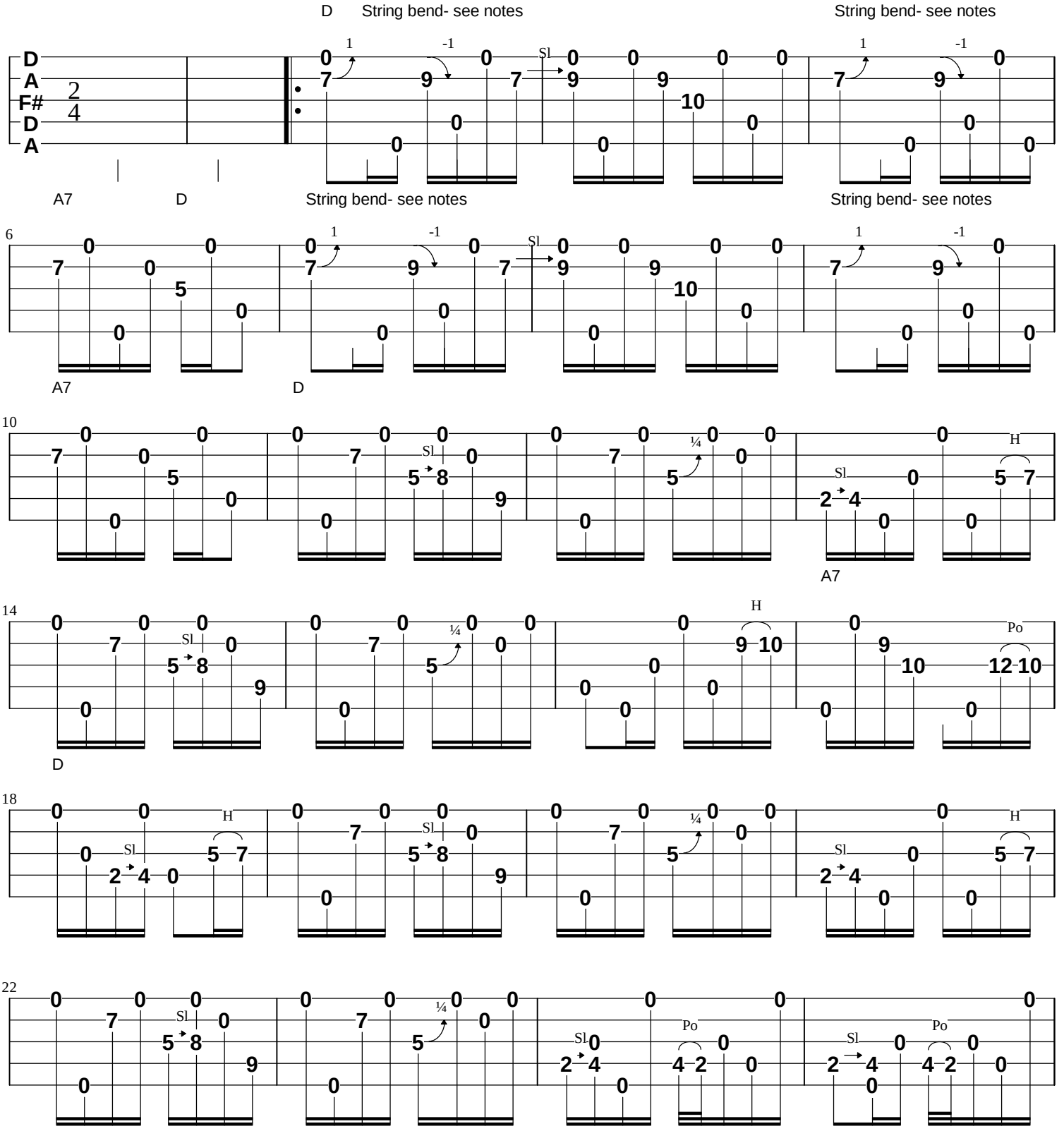
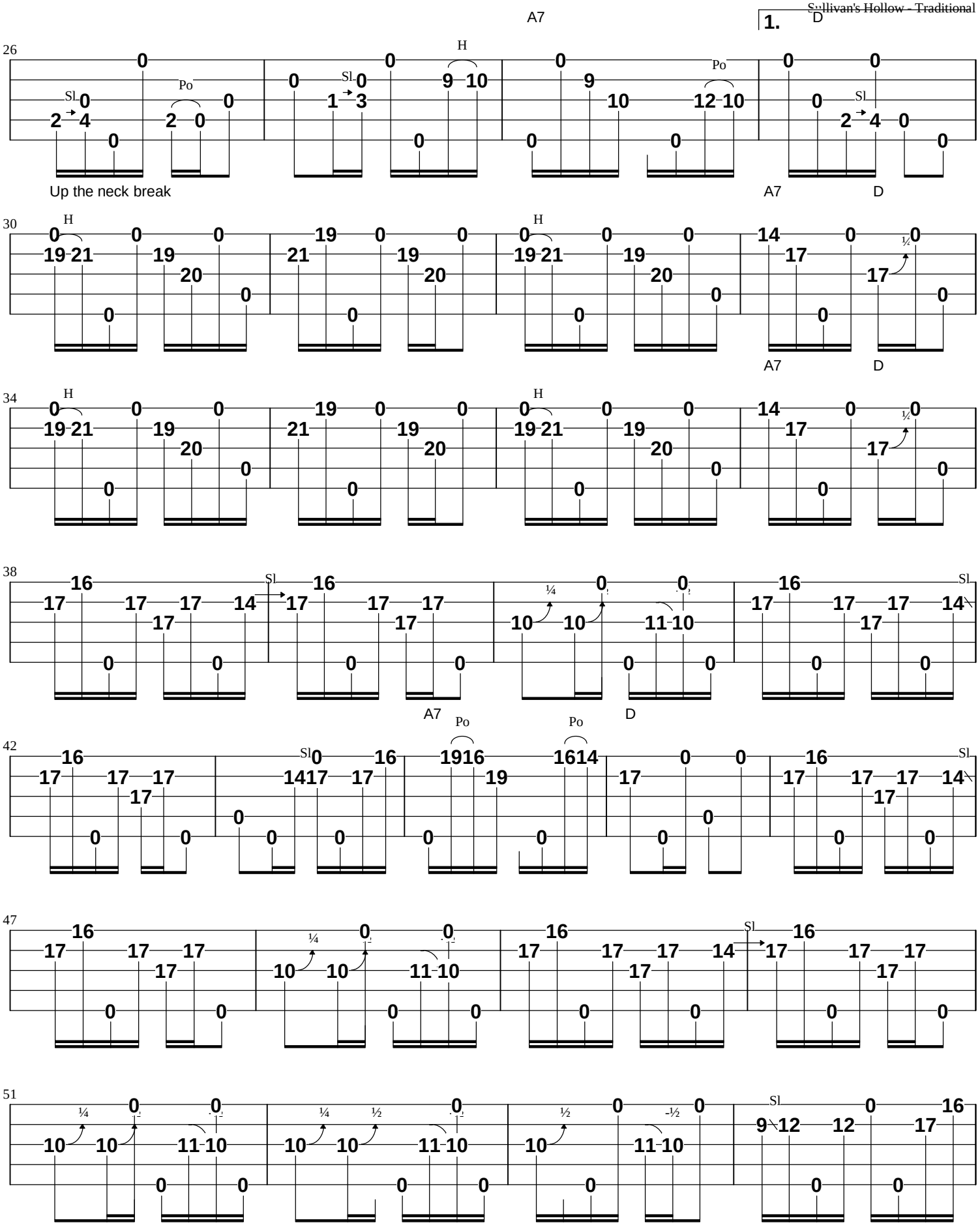
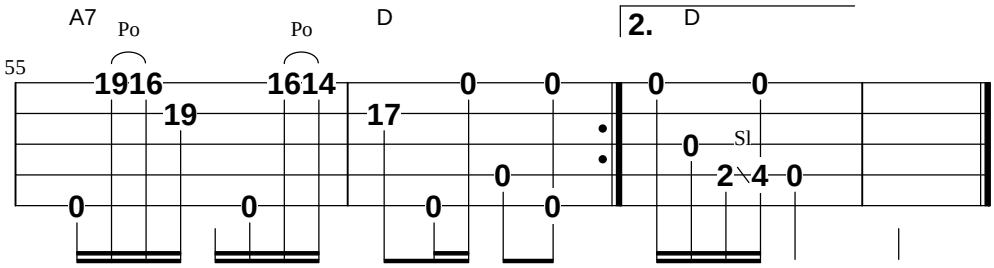



A7
1.
D
26
H
Sl
Po
Up the neck break
A7
D
30
H
½
A7
D
34
H
38
Sl
¼
A7
Po
D
42
47
51



I learned tune from Charlie Nolan at the Monday night Sprouts Old Time Music Jam in Somerville, Massachusetts. I think it now holds the title of the squirreliest tune I know. It comes originally from a 1930 recording of the Freeny's Barn Dance Band, from Smith County, Mississippi.

The luxuriant fiddle slides in the high part of the tune I decided to get with string bends. These are handled a little strangely in the Tabledit program, and so the tablature display needs some explanation. At the very beginning of measure 3, really the first measure of the tune, the second string is fretted at the 7th fret, and choked upwards nearly an entire step, so that it just about reaches the pitch of the 9th fret. It is held in that choked position, and played again as the fifth note in the measure. After it is picked, the bent string is released, so that the pitch is lowered back to the normal pitch of the string at the 7th fret at rest. The tab shows the string being fretted at the 9th fret, but that is only to ensure that the MIDI playback is at the correct pitch. The note is always fretted at 7. This basic move- bend up, hold, then release- is done again in measure 5, 7 and 9.

I also make liberal use of the open 4th string throughout the tune as a bass substitute for the melody note which is an octave higher, a trick I learned listening to the technique of finger style blues guitarists like Mississippi John Hurt.