

Night Rider's Lament (Jerry Jeff Walker)

*All chords 2 measures, except those marked with a dash "-" which are one measure.
Brisk 3/4 time, intro 4 measures of D*

D G
While I was out a-ridin'
D A
Graveyard shift midnight till dawn
G D
The moon was as bright as a readin' light
A- G- D
For a letter from an old friend back home.

Chorus 1:

G- A- D
He asked me why do you ride for your money?
G- A- D
Tell me why do you rope for short pay?
G- A- D- G- F#m- Em
You ain't gettin' nowhere and you're losin' your sha-a-a-a-are
A D D
Said you must've gone crazy out there.

D G
He said last night I ran into Jenny
D A
She's married and has a good life
G D
You sure missed the track when you never come back
A- G- D
She's a perfect professional's wife.

G- A- D
She asked, Why do you ride for your money?
G- A- D
Tell me why do you rope for short pay?
G- A- D- G- F#m- Em
You ain't gettin' nowhere and you're losin' your sha-a-a-a-are
A D D
Oh, you must've gone crazy out there.

Chorus 2:

 G A- D-
But I guess they've neve-e-er seen the Northern Lights
 G- A- D
They never seen a hawk on the wing
 G- A- D- G- F#m- Em
They never seen the spring hit the Great Divi-i-i-i-i-ide
 A D D
They never heard old Camp Cookie sing.

(Solo over Chorus 2 chords, above)

 D G
Well I read up the last of my letter
 D A
I tore off the stamp for Black Jim
 G D
Little Dougie rode up to relieve me
 A- G- D D*
He just looked at my letter and he grinned.

 G* A* D*
He said now, why do they ride for their money?
 G* A* D*
Tell me why do they rope for short pay?
 G* A* D- G- F#m- Em
They ain't gettin' nowhere.....and they're losin' their sha-a-a-a-are
 A D
Yeah they all must be crazy out there

 G A- D-
'Cause they neve-e-er seen the Northern Lights
 G- A- D
They never seen a hawk on the wing
 G- A- D G- F#m- Em
They never seen the spring hit the Great Divi-i-i-i-i-ide
 A D D
And they never heard old Camp Cookie sing.

Outro: Yodel over the first two lines of Chorus 2, TWICE.

G A- D- G A- D
G A- D- G A- D