



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The SSDS Fifth Annual Myer's Lake Friends and Family Campout is over for this year. We had great attendance from not only our member's, but also from Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club, Thornapple Valley Club, and the Sub-Terrainian Strings. We had 5 great workshops held by Penny Scheiber (HD), Theresa Smith (uke), Sharon McAuliffe (HD), Alice Avery (MD), and Luke Kawicki (saw). Thanks to all of the workshop leaders for their time and talent. There was music to be heard and enjoyed all around the campground. The Swiss Steak Dinner Saturday night was excellent.

Thanks to all of you who helped lift those picnic tables from under the pavilion and back again, to clear the way for our workshops. A big **THANK YOU** to Marlin and Carol Harmon for getting the word out to the other clubs, and for all of their work to make this campout a success. The weather even cooperated on Sunday. It was a gorgeous Father's Day!

July 2nd at 2 p.m., we're all invited for a potluck picnic at Manfred and Judy Schmidt's Pleasant Lake cottage, at 6433 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield. There will be food, music & stories. Bring a dish to pass and your instruments. We'll jam the day away.

Hope to see you all the third week in July at the Evert Funfest! George

July 2	Potluck picnic, Pleasant Lake, 2 pm
July 5	Happy Birthday, Karen Turner
July 8	Happy Birthday, Joe Malia
July 12	PLAYDATE, Greenmead, 6:30pm
July 13-17	ODPC Funfest, Evert, MI
July 20	Happy Birthday, Ramona Hadley
July 22	PLAYDATE, Normandy Apts. 1-2:pm
Aug.26-28	Midland Musicfest
Oct.6	SSDS Banquet

V.P. BUSINESS NOTES

We are having a great year! We have had the good fortune of playing for 12 groups already. Our future bookings include 2 in July, with 3 dates booked for the upcoming fall/winter holiday season.

Our club continues to remain a viable group due the participation of our talented members... both old and new. Thanks to all who make this happen. Here's a note of recognition to one of our newest members, Carol Ann Matthews, for joining us on both of the June playdates. We're glad you were there.

If you haven't been out with us in a while, come join the fun. The next opportunity will be on July 22, at the Normandy Apartments in Dearborn. You can sign up at the next SSDS meeting or by e-mail or by phone. Hope to see you there.

Many of us will be heading to Evert for the dulcimer Funfest. What a great event to jam, learn new tunes and techniques, and make new friends in the music community. Be sure to check their website for full details on classes, instructors, vendors, and more.

Have a safe and happy summer wherever the road may lead you Ramona

Consider this.... "With all the things in life we can't control, here's something you can control... your attitude. Make It Positive!"
Author Unknown

**SSDS BANQUET WILL BE HELD
ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6th
AT FOX HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
IN PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
TICKETS AVAILABLE MID-AUGUST
\$10 MEMBERS-\$15 GUESTS**

SECRETARY & PROGRAM DIRECTOR . .

We really had a nice turnout at the campout, and those of you who missed it, missed a very good time. We had about 50 people for the weekend, and about 10-12 came up for Saturday. We had very good workshops, which we all enjoyed very much.

We want to thank again, Pennye Schieber and Sharon McAuliffe (hammered dulcimer), and Theresa Smith (uke) for doing workshops; also Alice Avery (mountain dulcimer), and Luke Kawicki (saw), for their on-site mini workshops. We really appreciated them all.

We are truly sorry for those folks who were unable to get tickets for the steak dinner. It really is important, when you make your reservations for our campout, that you also reserve your meal, because they order those dinners ahead, and they need to know numbers in advance. If you plan to attend next year please keep this in mind.

We hope you all had as good a time as we did.
Marlin and Carol

TREASURER'S NOTE, you can bank on it ...

Well, this month's buzz is the campout as you may have noticed. I had really looked forward to this for months. I am pleased with the new skill that Sandi and I added, thanks to the help of Luke and David. I actually made a sound with my saw at their workshop. We even made the dog howl in the campsite next door. I'm not ready to call it music yet, but we all had a great time.

Between the up-coming fun festivals this summer, we have some work to do. In preparation for elections this fall, we need to review and make some changes to our By-laws. We must update the prescribed dates for certain events, because of the past changes in the new board assumption of office from Oct. to Jan 1. We also need to review them for the requirements regarding change to a 501-C7 tax exempt corporation. A few other house-keeping items may also show up as we get into it.

After the campout expenses were paid, our bank balance is \$5569.46. We are \$707.70 ahead in Income vs. Expenses. Our play dates are enabling the positive cash flow. Please help support them and have some fun along the way. Bob

DAVID SMITH WINS WET T-SHIRT CONTEST !

Oops..... It was the "t-shirt logo contest" for the Evart Funfest... he was runner-up.

Congratulations, David ! You are OUR big winner !

(Here, we have a life lesson...never believe a rumor.)



submitted by David Smith

The 33rd Annual NON-ELECTRIC MUSIC FUNFEST will take place July 14-17, 2005 at the Osceola County Fairgrounds in Evart, Michigan. This is the largest Hammered Dulcimer related event in the USA, and perhaps even the world. Evart is located in the middle of Michigan's lower peninsula, about a 3 hour drive from the Detroit area. Get a flyer at our SSDS meeting or visit the Funfest website at: <http://www.dulcimers.com/evartpage.html>

This year there are 222 workshops on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. 109 workshops are for Hammered Dulcimer. Others include Accordion, Autoharp, Banjo, Bass, Dobro, Fiddle, Guitar, Hurdy Gurdy, Harmonica, Harp, Mandolin, Mountain Dulcimer, Piano, Psaltery, Songwriting, Ukulele, Voice, Washtub Bass, Whistle and a variety of music theory, arranging, performing and related topics. 25 workshops will be taught by 8 of our Silver Strings members: Mary Lou Battley, Jane Chevalier, Bobbi Hurst, Sharon McAuliffe, John McAuliffe, Jim McKinney, Pennye Scheiber, and David Smith. Between workshops you can visit the huge music vendor area, open stage, afternoon concerts, children's stage, eat at one of several food booths, or evening concerts. Friday evening has contra dance and jamming late into the night. WOW... all of this for an admission price of \$3 total !!! Rustic camping is \$10 per night, and no one is ever turned away.

If you play the Hammered Dulcimer (at any level), do take part in the all dulcimer preshow on the mainstage, Friday and Saturday starting at 6:15 pm. It is a unique and exciting experience to play along with hundred's of other players. If you don't know the tune, just chord along.

The ODPC building has an instrument consignment area where you may sell a used instrument. Here you can also purchase a Funfest t-shirt, hat or bag, a CD of last year's stage performances, sign up for open stage, or join the ODPC.

This event is sponsored by Michigan's own ODPC (Original Dulcimer Players Club). The ODPC, formed in 1963, is the first dulcimer club in America. The present revival of the Hammered Dulcimer in America owes much of its history to them, as many clubs here and across the country followed their lead, and formed in the following years. Our own Silver Strings Dulcimer Society was born, in part, because of a flyer handed out at the 1983 ODPC Funfest. Last year the ODPC was awarded the prestigious Great Lakes Community Arts Award for 2004. This is Michigan's highest award for arts agencies.

We are fortunate to have the Evart Funfest in July, the Midland Dulcimer Festival in August, and a variety of Dulcimer builders all in Michigan. If this is July, then it's time for the EVART FUNFEST. Hope to see you there!

WEB-WONDERS

FROM YOUR WEBMASTER

Be sure to visit the new Silver Strings message board at:
<http://www.ssdociety.org/forum/default.asp>

The new message board (forum) is easy to use. Anyone can read messages. You don't have to be registered to read messages. For example, click on "Dulcimer Talk", then click on "Welcome To The New SSDS Message Board", and the message displays.

To post a message, you must first register. Look in the upper right corner. Click on the "Register" link. Then click on "Agree" at the bottom of the page.

Another screen displays and you will be asked to fill in some boxes. Only the red asterisk fields are required. Choose your username and password. It can be any user name and password. Usernames and passwords are case sensitive so be aware of what you are using! Also, be sure to write your username and password down so you won't forget it! Click on the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page to finalize your registration. You will be sent an email to confirm your registration.

After you have registered, enter your user name and password in the login boxes just below where you found the register link.

To actually post a new message, enter the forum you want to post the message in. Our forums are: Dulcimer Talk, For Sale, Wanted or Trade, and News and Announcements. In the middle of the screen, click on the small envelope titled "New Topic" and create your message. You can preview your message first before you actually post it. When your message is finalized, click on Post New Topic. If you need to make changes to your message after it is posted, click on the pencil icon in the far right column of your message.

You may contact webmaster@ssdsociety.org for questions or further assistance.

NOTE: If you have a firewall, it may (but not always) prevent you from registering. Turn off your firewall while you register, and turn it back on after you are finished registering.
 Karen & Bob

If anyone would like to use a tent (sleeps up to 4) for Evart or Midland, contact Bob or Sandi Hlavacek. If you haven't camped, and are concerned about "living in a tent" for a few days, don't worry... it's only a place to store your stuff and sleep. You will be far too busy to "live there". All you need is an air mattress and a blanket. There are good restrooms and shower facilities at both places.

July tune of the month is
 "It's a Grand Old Flag"
 music will be available at the meetings. . . Roger

SSDS JULY PLAY LIST			first note
1G	MAGGIE	3X	B
2D	VIOLA'S SCHOTTISCHE	3X	F#
3D	ANGLEWORM WIGGLE	3X	A
4C	BLACK VELVET WALTZ	3X	G
5D	JOHN RYAN'S POLKA	5X	D
6C	TENNESSEE WALTZ	2X	C
7G	DOWN YONDER	3X	B
8D	PEEK-A-BOO WALTZ	3X	F#
9G	NEVER ON SUNDAY	3X	D
10DA	MAPLE SUGAR	3 1/2	F#
11G	TICK TOCK POLKA	3X	D
12AM	KATUSHKA	5X	A
13G	RED WING	3X	D
14G	SILVER AND GOLD	3X	B
15D	YOUNG RODDY McCORLEY	4X	D
16G	RED APPLE RAG	3X	D
17G	WESTPHALIA WALTZ	2X	D
18G	BATTLE HYMN	3X	D
19D	OVER THE WATERFALL	3X	D
20G	COLUMBUS STOCKADE BLUES	4X	B
21DD	CHINESE / NELLY BLY	2 ea	A&F#
	ENDLESS MEDLEY	2 ea	
22D	Ragtime Annie		F#
23D	Soldier's Joy		F#
24D&G	Golden Slippers		D
	extras		
D	Ashoken Farewell	2x	A
G	Fanny Power	3x	G
G	It's a Grand Old Flag	3x	D
G	God Bless America	3x	G

THE ANNUAL SSDS PICNIC
 will be Sunday, August 7th, 2005 from 1-5pm. at German Park, Ann Arbor, on Pontiac Trail between Dixboro and Earhart Roads. The park has a covered pavilion, so bring your instruments to jam. Maps will be provided at the next meeting.
 SSDS will furnish the meat(Roast Pig), iced tea, lemonade & pop, paper products, eating utensils, and ice. Please bring a dish to pass.
 Family and friends are welcome. There will be a charge of \$5 for non-member's, and \$3 for children (12 & under).
 Please sign up with the number of people in your party so we can plan for pig size, etc... For further information, please contact any of the board members.

The following is an article Steve Hadley found. It offers alternative ideas for meeting the needs of the membership. Are there things in here you would like to see SSDS adopt? Are there ideas you would hate? For an organization to grow and thrive, we must always be open to new ideas that would address current challenges. Please communicate your wishes to your board members. They want to serve **ALL** of you.

Re: Viability of HD Clubs...

> We started a club in the Virginia Beach area in October 2001, and we're still going strong (so far!). Initially we had 8 or 10 attending. Recently, we've been drawing about 18. Why are we still in existence? We aren't sure, but here are some thoughts:

> We meet once a month, except July and Aug., when we encourage folks to get together for their own jams. From the beginning, we felt that it was important to create learning opportunities for all. Periodically we have a "mini-workshop" of 20-30 minutes. We've had topics like how to read music (a member request), playing backup, construction and care of the HD (presented by a local builder who showed us the "insides" of a HD in progress), learning a new tune, or working on arranging a tune. These mini-workshops are presented by different people... club leaders, local professionals, or any member who has something they want to share.

> We have a "core repertoire" of tunes (some of the most common jam tunes), which we encourage everyone to learn. We have so many new players this year, that we've recently instituted a 45-minute "tune learning" session at the beginning of each meeting, to help the newer players learn these core tunes. This has been enthusiastically received by many players each month. These sessions have temporarily replaced the mini-workshops for all levels. We also have a "tune of the month", to help expand our repertoire.

The regular meeting begins with a slow jam of the core tunes, enabling the new players to participate. We proceed to the new tune for that month, followed by a "round-robin" jam, with everyone choosing a tune.

After a couple of times around the room, we take a break with light refreshments... our chance to really get to know one another. After the break, the round-robin resumes with the option of "open mic" time...this prevents the entire jam session from dissolving into a "mostly open mic" session (which we've seen happen). We believe in more playing, not just listening.

We try to be responsive to needs/wants of the club members, and we're trying to get them more involved by rotating the "jam leader", who has also chosen the tune for that month. For a time, we tried involving club members in more of the decision-making, but we've learned that it is generally better for the leaders to make

most of the decisions, with occasional input from others. When we present a "plan", they usually agree with it. If we give them too many options, we spend too much time in discussion, not playing! Sometimes it's hard to come up with a clear decision.

> At our Christmas Open House, we invite family & friends to join us (to play or to listen). This is more of a social event, with a longer break and "many goodies". We also have an annual picnic (food and jamming). While all jams are "open jams", at these special events we specifically ask members to invite other acoustic musician friends.

We sponsor 1 or 2 workshop/concert events each year with some of the top names in HD. This really inspires us all. We also try to have an annual "absolute beginner class" with rentals available, so interested people can "try out" the HD. One club leader follows up with group lessons for these beginners, and has rentals available. We have had a good success rate with these classes. Of 31 who have taken the absolute beginner class, over half have continued with the HD to some degree, and 9 remain active club members.

> We announce in the "events/happenings" section of the local newspaper periodically, which has drawn several new members, and we have some local professional HD players / teachers who refer new club members.

> We do occasional club performances in public places, to promote community awareness of the HD. These performances also attract new people to the instrument.

> We have a monthly newsletter, with some personal interest items, (club member spotlights, personal performances, workshops attended, CD reviews, etc.) and info. on HD events within easy driving distance. We sometimes summarize topics from this list that we feel would be of interest/benefit to some of our readers. Our newsletter currently goes out to over 125 people.

> It really helps, to have two leaders who are passionate about promoting HD. We make a good team, and when one of us is extremely busy, the other can take on more responsibility. We also have some great club members who pitch in when needed, and we are trying to pass on more of the responsibility to them.

>

> Darlene Himes & Sandy Barton
of The Hammer Heads, of Southeastern Virginia

Six Silver Strings members attended the Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club annual campout June 24th-26th. It was a very simple, relaxing schedule. There were 4 jams, Fri. evening, Sat. morning, afternoon, and evening; a Saturday potluck dinner; and a Sunday pancake breakfast. The rest of the time was used getting to know new friends, picking each other's brains for help with a song, and just having all around good times together. There are plenty of opportunities in our world for meeting and sharing fun with our fellow musicians. If you have any opportunity at all, **DON'T MISS EVART!!!!!!**