



# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

# Soundboard

December 2006

Year 23

Issue 12

WEBSITE: [ssdsociety.org](http://ssdsociety.org)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi Everyone,

These past two years have gone by really fast. I guess that old saying is true; "The older one gets, the faster time flies". I want to thank the current SSDS Board; Marlin, Carol, Ramona, and Bob for all of their time and talent in making these past two years an enjoyable experience. My thanks also go to Roger Davis for being our music coordinator, and to Karen Turner for being our Webmaster. Thanks to all of you who helped me with the starts to our music, especially to Sharon and Roger. Our Soundboard editor Sandi deserves a big THANK YOU for coordinating our monthly newsletter. Thanks again to all of you SSDS members who helped out and made these past two years a pleasurable experience. I know all of you will pitch in and work with the next SSDS Board, and I look forward to continuing on the new board as your treasurer. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night !

George Gonyo

**NOTICE...** *the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting has been moved to the 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have a Christmas potluck that evening, followed by a "thank you" concert and dessert for members of Good Hope Church. There will be NO meeting and jam on December 21<sup>st</sup>.*

**Please welcome our newest member:**

Pat LaPrad (248) 685-1123  
5094 Leagewood Dr, Commerce Twp., Mi. 48382  
Violin, Whistle, Mountain Dulcimer, Guitar

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR :

Dec. 2 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	6:30 pm
	Garden City Towers . . . . .	Garden City
Dec. 4 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	6-7:00 pm
	Cherry Hill Presb.Church, . . . . .	Dearborn
Dec. 5 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	6:30pm
	First Baptist Church . . . . .	Wayne
Dec. 7 . . . . .	<b>Board meeting</b> . . . . .	6:00pm
	Good Hope Church . . . . .	(before jam)
Dec. 8 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	7:00 pm
	Our Redeemer Luth. Church .Dearborn	
Dec. 11 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	noon(lunch) 1:00(play)
	First United Methodist, . . . . .	Wyandotte
Dec. 12 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	1 - 2:00 pm
	Retired School Personnel . . . . .	Berkley
Dec. 13. . . . .	<b>Playdate</b> . . . . .	10-11:00 am
	* * Burger School . . . . .	Garden City
	* * Call Sue Sendelbach (248 380-4358) for info	
Dec. 13 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	2:30-3:30 pm
	American House . . . . .	Westland
Dec. 14 . . . . .	<b>Holiday Potluck &amp; concert</b> . . . . .	6:45pm
Dec. 15 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	7:00pm
	Grand Court . . . . .	Farmington Hills
Dec. 16 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	5:00pm
	Rivergate Terrace. . . . .	Riverview
Dec. 17 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	9:00am
	Franklin Community Church	
	Franklin Hills . . . . .	(breakfast follows play)
Dec. 17 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	6-7:00 pm
	* St. Richard's Church. . . . .	Westland
	* <b>NO LIMIT on players for this!</b>	
Dec. 19 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	7-8:00 pm
	Northville Library . . . . .	Northville
Dec. 21 . . . . .	<b>SSDS Playdate</b> . . . . .	12:15-1 pm
	Livonia Civic Center . . . . .	Livonia
Dec. 21 . . . . .	<b>NO MEETING &amp; JAM</b>	

## V.P. BUSINESS

Hi Everyone:

We're well on our way to wrapping up another great year---only a dozen or so playdates left this month.

We met our club's stated purpose of promoting the hammered dulcimer by playing many venues over the past 2 years with almost 70 playdates. During that time about 30 of our members participated in anywhere from one or to most of the dates. Space doesn't allow me to list everyone. But, I do need to extend a special note of thanks to Carol and Marlin Harmon, Karen Turner, Dorothy and Bob Ewald, Roger and Barb Davis, and Sharon and John McAuliffe who were the core group that made a lot of this happen. We, "Newbies", grew a lot musically with the support and encouragement of the "Experienced Stringers". You're all appreciated more than you'll ever know.

I would be remiss if I didn't also thank my husband, Steve, for all of his support during these sometimes hectic, frustrating, busy, and emotional times. What a guy! The time has come for me to move on....so, thanks for the memories!

From our home to yours, Steve and I wish one and all a blessed holiday season and a safe journey where ever the road may lead you. Ramona

## V.P. PROGRAMS & SECRETARY

We want to congratulate all of the new officers on their new positions in the club. We only wish the best for all of you. Congratulations, Bob Hlavacek (President), Karen Turner (V.P. business), Linda Losse (V.P. Programs), George Gonyo (Treasurer), and Bonnie Ream (Secretary).

For all those we won't be seeing before the holidays we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope you all have a nice holiday!!! Have a Happy New Year too!!!

We also want to tell you how much we enjoyed being officers these last 2 years. It has been a lot of fun!!

Marlin Harmon (V.P. Programs)  
Carol Harmon (Secretary)

## SSDS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS . . . . .

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, elections were held for the new SSDS Board of Directors for 2007. We thank the outgoing officers for their 2 years of service, and look forward to a new year of fresh ideas and musical fun. All members will find these officers open to suggestions regarding club activities. You are invited to talk to board members, attend board meetings, and / or use the suggestion box. Silver Strings Dulcimer Society is an open club for anyone who wants to share the music.

**TRIVIA . . . Did you know that most vehicles honk in the key of F ?**

## YOU CAN BANK

### ON YOUR NEXT PRESIDENT . . . .

The past two years have flown by. It has been a pleasure serving as your treasurer. During that time we have gained 15 new members in 2005 and 14 in 2006. 84 members have renewed their membership so far for 2007. 56 have not yet renewed. Your membership dues are due by the end of December. We have not yet heard from the IRS about our submission to change to a 501c7 non profit corporation. This classification is designed for a membership club, and better fits our organization. We were incorporated as an LLC in 2000, which established our credentials with the IRS and the State of Michigan. We should have the IRS decision before our next tax deadline. The year-end financial statement will be available at the first meeting in January.

I thank you for your support and encouragement, in my bid for President. I look forward to the promise of an exciting new year. The job of the president is to make sure everything gets done. With all of your volunteer help, I'm sure we can have a fun-filled musical year. I'm sorry we will miss playing at the Christmas play dates. I had a disk procedure scheduled on my back for November 20th. We could not sign up until I got the date from the surgeon, and by that time, apparently all of the play dates were closed. I hope after this is done, I can carry and set up my own dulcimer again. Frankly, a harmonica is a whole lot easier to carry and "set up". Perhaps Walt Jablonski has the right idea.

I want to thank the outgoing board, Soundboard editor, music director, and webmaster for their two years of service to Silver Strings. We've had fun campouts, great pig roasts, pot lucks, picnics, and many, many play dates. A lot of people have put forth a great deal of effort and many hours of time to make it all happen. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Be kind to your fellow musicians, keeping with the season of "Peace on earth and good will to men (and women)".

Happy hammering, strummin', & pickin'..Bob Hlavacek

## Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer!

The famous Christmas song, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", started life as a poem created by an American advertising executive named Robert May. He was requested to produce a poem that could be given away to children by any Santa Claus employed by a department store at Christmas time. Robert May had a natural flair with words, and was able to compose the Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer poem which was specifically designed to appeal to children. This marketing ploy was a massive success and approximately 2.5 million Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer poems were given away in the first year of its publication. In 1949 the singer, Gene Autry, recorded a musical version of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", composed by Johnny Marks.

## FROM THE MUSIC MAN . . . . .

It's unreal, but true. The Holiday season is upon us and we have a zillion play dates.

As I mentioned last month, the song of the month is "Buffalo Gals". I did it in two keys so you can medley it with "Oh Susanna", if one so desires. Also, it can be played one octave higher or lower in each key.

This old American favorite is great for square and contra dances. Have fun with it. Roger

### Silver Strings Holiday Play List

	key			first note
1	G	Jingle Bells	Ch+2	B
2	G	Red Wing	3X	D
3	G	Away in a Manger	3x	D
4	G	Deck the Halls (1st.time soft&slow)	3x	D
5	G	Red Apple Rag	3x	D
6	C	Winter Wonderland	2x	G
7	C	Silver Bells	3x	C
8	G	Bells of St. Mary (1st.time dul.only)	2x	D
9	EM	We Three Kings	3x	B
10	G	I'll Remember you Love,	2x	B
11	G	Joy to the World	3x	G
12	G	Let it Snow	2x	D
13	D	Festival Rag	3x	A
14	D	Rudolph	3x	A
15	G	Up on the Housetop	3X	D
16	G	Westphalia Waltz	2x	D
17	D	Frosty the Snowman	2+end	A
18	D	Simple Gifts	3x	A
19	G	Angels we Have Heard	3x	B
20	G	Silver and Gold Two Step	3x	B
21	DG	Silent Night	2 ea	AD
22	G	We Wish you a Merry Ch'mas	ch.vrs	D

## Practically Science . . . . .

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should have known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost. Linda Losse

## Happy Birthday to you...

Dec.1 . . . . . Jim Bain  
Dec. 4 . . . . . Dave Lovelace  
Dec.15 . . . . . Carol Balogh  
Dec. 25 . . . . . Carol Harmon  
Dec. 31 . . . . . Sandi Hlavacek

## The story of a remarkable musician. . . .

Hello ! You all know me, Luke Kaweck

My musical talent goes back to about 1965 or 66. It all started in the fall, in our home town, Franklin Village. I was 5 or 6 years old. My two older sisters had a piano recital at Mrs. Wilson's, home. That evening I came home, went downstairs to the music room, and started to play a Steven Foster tune that I heard someone play at the recital. As I was playing the tune on Grandmother's upright piano, my parents thought it was my two sisters. To their surprise, it was me playing. I knew that night I was able to play by ear.

Later, in middle school music lessons, I learned to play the alto and Tenor saxophone. I had a private music teacher for 6-years, and played in The Franklin Band till about 1982, when arthritis set in and stopped my playing of music.

In 1988, I heard my first hammered dulcimer, played by Mike Burst. I bought a few tapes of HD Music, bought my first one in 1992, and took lessons From Sue Tanner, who was President of SSDS at that time.

I joined SSDS in February of 1993. I was amazed to meet other people like me who could also read music and play by ear. The very first person to welcome me to Silver Strings was Val Karhu. I also met Dave and Theresa Smith, Pennye & Bill Schieber, and more. I try to welcome new folks who just want to hear music, or want to join the club. I look forward to Thursdays at SSDS meetings and playing at play dates. Silver Strings is a great organization, with a lot of talented musical people.

Thank you very much, SSDS. Luke

**A fresh mailing list is being formed for the Soundboard. If you need it mailed to you, please notify Sandi, editor. To save printing & mailing expenses, we encourage you to get it from the website, but understand some cannot. The new list begins in January.**

## What does SSDS mean to you ?

**What fond memories do you have of past playdates & other activities ? What have you liked best ? Are there old traditions you would like to bring back ? Please put your ideas in the suggestion box, or direct it to your Board of Directors Will you share your thoughts with the group, through the Soundboard ?**

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of every month  
7-9p.m .... with jamming till ...?

Meeting at **Good Hope Lutheran Church**  
In Garden City, Michigan

Featuring the hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, and other acoustic band instruments : banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle, string bass, washtub bass, mandolin, folk harp, recorder, tin/penny whistle, and harmonica. Learn new tunes and techniques, jam together with other players, receive new music and a monthly newsletter.

Participate in workshops, festivals, public performances, picnics, fun and fellowship.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT :**  
[www.sdsociety.org](http://www.sdsociety.org)

## Everyone is welcome !

Come to listen, or come to play.



## OFFICERS for 2007

- 2007 PRESIDENT** . . . . . Bob Hlavacek  
[datadoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:datadoc@sbcglobal.net) 734-663-7974
- 2007 V.P. BUSINESS** . . . . . Karen Turner  
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- 2007 V.P. PROGRAMS** . . . . ., Linda Losse  
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- 2007 TREASURER** . . . . . George Gonyo  
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- 2007 SECRETARY** . . . . . Bonnie Ream  
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- MUSIC COORDINATOR** . . . . . To be announced
- SOUNDBOARD EDITOR** . . . . . Sandi Hlavacek  
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- WEBMASTER** . . . . . Karen Turner  
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- HISTORIAN** . . . . . David Smith  
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When Silver Strings entertained November 16th for Elderwise in Ann Arbor, the music was truly appreciated. After the performance, many from the audience came forward for a closer educational look at the instruments. That is part of the fun for the players. If you haven't played at a playdate yet, (or recently), come join the group !

