



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

February 2006

Year 23

Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Roses are Red,
Violet's are Blue
I love hearing the dulcimer
And so will you!

Happy Valentine's Day Everyone,

Just a reminder, we have a couple of first's coming up in March! Our first board meeting will be held on the first Thursday of the month beginning at 6:00pm. Our 5th Thursday Variety Night will be held on the 30th of March. So if there is something you would like to discuss with the board, Please plan to attend this board meeting. If you would like to participate in the 5th Thursday variety night, simply get your act together and sign up on that evening.

George

V.P. BUSINESS

Thanks to all who joined us for the January play dates. We had a nice audience at the Lake Erie Ice Days; too bad the weatherman didn't cooperate with a nice snow fall (for the third year in a row). They have such nice activities planned (including dog sleds), but no snow really puts a crimp in the program. However, on a positive note, we are scheduled again for 2007. They told me that SSDS has been a part of this festival for a long time and it just wouldn't be the same without us. What a nice compliment to past and present participants.

There are 4 or 5 tentative dates coming up beginning in April. As soon as I have them finalized, I'll provide the details. I would encourage anyone interested in performing to check out the tune list provided monthly by Roger Davis, our music coordinator, so that you are familiar with the music we'll be playing.

That's it for this month. Watch this space, and the calendar for details on play dates. Ramona

NOTES OF INTEREST

An article appeared in the Ann Arbor News (page E-1), On Dec. 27th about "musical medicine". The "humble harmonica" is the focus of an offering from the U of M Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program. For all who have damaged your lungs with years of smoking, this is worth sharing !

Barb Mecouch, an accomplished harmonica player, and Kelly Campbell, a pulmonary clinical technologist, hatched the class 2 years ago. They tell the virtues of the physical exercise of the lungs while playing the harmonica, the mental exercise of learning a new skill, and the psycho-social benefits of producing music together. (We all can identify with that !)

Campbell explains the physical benefits of playing the harmonica for people with lung diseases... "The muscles that support the lungs get a workout, and the controlled, deep breathing keeps lung tissue more elastic. The slow exhalation allows a more complete exhalation. The action of drawing in air and blowing it out on the harmonica is like "pursed lip breathing", a technique long taught to emphysema patients, who often have air trapped in their lungs, leading to shortness of breath, shallow breathing, and anxiety.

The controlled breathing of harmonica playing also helps people with chronic asthma, obstructive pulmonary disease and muscular dystrophy. Almost everyone is a shallow breather, and can benefit from the increased oxygen levels produced in playing the harmonica."

Anyone with a lung condition can be in the class, which is offered for free. Many physicians refer their patients. For more information, you may call the rehab. center in Ann Arbor at (734)998-8723. The article, in its entirety, is on the back table, if you would like to read it.

NOTES FROM OUR MUSIC MAN

It's hard to believe that we are already into February ! You know that February is the month for "sweethearts". That is why I did the song "I'll Remember You, Love, in my Prayers". This arrangement is by Esther Kreek, and she was delighted that the club wants to do it. All she asked, was that we give her recognition for the arrangement.

I am also pulling "You are my Sunshine" from the folk medley, and printing a separate sheet so you can play it for your favorite sweetheart or significant other. I will have copies at the first meeting in February. Although, we currently have no play dates for this month I will do a play list for practice. Roger

| | SSDS | February Play List | | first note |
|----|------|------------------------------|-------|------------|
| 1 | G | Westphalia Waltz | 2X | D |
| 2 | D | Angleworm Wiggle | 3X | A |
| 3 | G | Bellman's Jig | 3X | D |
| 4 | C | Black Velvet Waltz | 2x | G |
| 5 | D | Flop Eared Mule | 3 1/2 | F# |
| 6 | D | Nelly Bly | 3x | F# |
| 7 | G | Down Yonder. | 3X | B |
| 8 | G | Let me Call You Sweetheart | 3x | B |
| 9 | C | Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie | 3X | G |
| 10 | G | You are my Sunshine | 3x | D |
| 11 | C | Julida Polka (end on A) | 3 1/2 | G |
| 12 | AM | Katushka | 5X | A |
| 13 | G | Silver and Gold 2-step | 3X | B |
| 14 | D | Over the Waterfall | 3X | D |
| 15 | G | Eddie's Reel | 3x | D |
| 16 | G | Columbus Stockade Blues | 4X | B |
| 17 | D | Hey Polka | 4x | A |
| 18 | D | The Ashgrove | 3x | A |
| 19 | D&A | Maple Sugar | 3 1/2 | F# |
| 20 | | Endless Medley: | 2 ea | |
| | D | Ragtime Annie | | F# |
| | D | Soldiers Joy | | F# |
| | D&G | Golden Slippers | | D |

INSIGHT

I actually heard "Roddy McCorly for the first time about 1968 in a smoky pub in Ireland. It is, indeed, a story-telling song about a young Irish rebel who was being marched to his death. It was sung, slowly, with instrumental breaks. That particular song is called a "rebel song" and as such is treated with a certain amount of respect, as it refers to the Irish continuing battle for freedom." Marie Nastor

Can we picture this, as we play this song ? If you have a special knowledge or insight into the music we play, please share it through the Soundboard. This is a good way to get everyone on the same page of sheet music.

If anyone has an article of musical interest, festival or workshop dates, background info / insights into music we play, humor, ect., PLEASE submit it to the soundboard. Publication will be as space allows. Some months have a lot going on, others need a lot of fillers. Thank you ! Sandi (editor)

SECRETARY'S NOTES

A board planning meeting was held on Thursday January 5, 2005

Secretary's report from last meeting, Nov. 5, 2005 was presented and approved.

Treasurer's report was presented and approved. Bob said he would like to have 1 board member and 2 regular members meet with him for a year-end audit.

President George asked for an inventory of all SSDS assets to be made and listed.

V.P.Business, Ramona, announced we had 32 playdates in 2005. She wants all playdate leads, with phone numbers, brought to her. We will not do Dearborn Arts again, as we get nothing from it, and our placement on site is not good.

V.P.Programs.. The campout will be held Father's Day weekend June 16-18. There will be a potluck Friday night and Swiss steak dinner Saturday-night. Potential workshop leaders were discussed: Alice Avery, Pennye Shiber, Sharon McAuliffe, and John McAuliffe.

Miscellaneous:

- * Bob discussed the proposed tax status change. By-law changes would have to be made to qualify for 501C-7 It requires we have 5 unrelated board members.
- * Officer term limits were discussed, the club needs to address this issue.
- * 2006 banquet... let's have a repeat at Fox Run.
- * Festivals will be listed in the newsletter calendar as soon as we know dates so people can plan around them. (Buckeye, Ewart, Midland, etc.)
- * Kendra Ward offered a 2-day dulcimer workshop in our area, for \$110.00 per person. When offered to Silver Strings members, there was very little interest. Other suggestions were to invite others, like perhaps Dee Dee Tibbits or Lucille Reilly, to do a full day workshop with the whole SSDS group.
- * Open board meetings for 2006 will be the first Thursday of March, June, Sept., and Nov., at 6:pm, before the regular jam session.
- * The SSDS summer picnic will be repeated at German Park in Ann Arbor, in July or August

String players' motto: "It's better to be sharp than out of tune."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 10Happy Birthday Bob Ewald
Feb. 11 Uncle Carl's Club . 12:45-4:30
Spring Arbor, Mi
Feb. 12 Happy 40th Anniversary to
Bob & Sandi Hlavacek
Feb 12Happy Birthday..Wendy Malwitz
Feb.14 Happy Valentine's Day !!!!!!!
Feb 14 Happy Birthday . . . Barb Davis
Feb. 14 Happy BirthdayVal Losse
Feb. 14 Happy 31st Anniversary to
Steve & Ramona Hadley
Feb. 25 West Adrian Jam . . . 6:30 pm
Feb.26Happy Birthday . . . Pat Altpeter
Mar. 8-12.Buckeye Festival, . .Ashley, Oh
June 16-18 SSDS Campout, . Meyers Lake
July 12-16. Evert Funfest Evert, Mi
Aug. 25-27. Midland Musicfest . Midland, Mi

MORE DEFINITIONS.

CUT TIME...

- Parole
- When everyone else is playing twice as fast as you are.

PASSING TONE...

Frequently heard near the baked beans at the family barbeque.

CRESCENDO...

A reminder to the performer that he has been playing too loudly

HALF STEP...

The pace used by a cellist, when carrying his instrument.

HARMONIC MINOR...

A good music student.

CONDUCTOR...

A musician who is adept at following many people at the same time

Pictured below are the current board officers of SSDS. If you have any questions or suggestions, please look for them at the meetings. Left to right are Ramona Hadley (VP Business), Bob Hlavacek (Treasurer), George Gonyo (President), Carol Harmon (Secretary), Marlin Harmon (VP Programs). All performances are coordinated through Ramona, and all dues, bills and new members are channeled through Bob.



In the Museum of Lake Erie Metropark

Photo by Bill Smith

The Snow Carnival at Lake Erie Metropark is a fun time for everyone attending. There are demonstrations devoted to dog sledding, woodcarving, Indian crafts and games, exploring nature, kids crafts, and talks about simple things like antlers, and origins of coffee, & cocoa. It's a great family day, held every January. Silver Strings has become part of the tradition. For the past several years, we have provided musical entertainment on both Saturday and Sunday. It is one of the most enjoyable "gigs" we do... casually tucked into a "corner" in the center of the museum, we are heard throughout the building. People come year after year, just to sit and listen, clap, dance... whatever the spirit moves them to. This year, we had 13 players on Saturday and 14 players on Sunday. EVERYONE had a really good time !

YOU CAN BANK ON THIS . . . TREASURER

Well, we are off to a flying start in the new year. Our second playdate at Erie Metropark is behind us. I had a bad problem with my neck that prevented me from playing much, so I had the rare opportunity to sit and listen to our music. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. Some people came to hear us on both days, all day. More fun is around the corner. The Buckeye Festival starts March 8th. We can never get too much help in improving our musical abilities.

We ended 2005 in sound financial shape. We are assured of having funds to do all the fun stuff being planned for this year. Tax forms will be done soon. The 2006 corporation fee of \$25 has been paid. I will select 2 volunteers to assist with the annual audit of the records for 2005. It is easy, and should take about 1 hour. If you are interested, please call me (734-663-7974) or catch me at a meeting.

Happy hammering, picking & strumming !!! Bob