



# Notes from the Soundboard

March 2009

WEBSITE: WWW.SSDSOCIETY.ORG

Issue 287

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It's hard to believe we are heading into March already. Usually this time of year tends to drag for me but we've been busy since January. We finished recording the Christmas CD. There is still a lot of work to be done. Our initial goal was to get the recording done in the time frame we were given to record, and while the tunes were fresh in everyone's mind. I don't know when it will be complete. I think we have some time now, since Christmas music would not sell very good this time of year anyway. I think everyone is ready to take a break, since we've been playing the Christmas tunes since last September.

Those of us who played at Hal Bain's memorial service played from a list of tunes Hal had chosen to play for an upcoming event that he was to perform with the Sun Coast Dulcimer Club in Florida. We were honored the family asked us to play. They explained that music was Hal's life and how he loved Silver Strings. We will miss him coming back to us in April but his memory will be with us forever.

I would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and patience during our business meetings before break time. I know it's hard sometimes to sit through these when there are refreshments waiting and socializing to be done, but I think it is important for everyone to be informed about what's going on with the club and coming events. Your attentiveness is greatly appreciated. It makes it much easier to get through the meetings in a timely fashion.

We have several people within our club who need our prayers. It seems like this year is off to a rough start. Please remember to pray for their recovery and offer help whenever you can. Include Bob and Dorothy Ewald, Charlie and Cindy Feigel, Pat Jablonski, Carol Balogh, and others who may need our help. I'm sure they will appreciate it.

Thanks, and Happy Playing!

(More on page 3)

Larry Roper

## PLAYDATE MATTERS (VP Business)

The last two playdates in January were both 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in Westland. One was a kick-off event for the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the St. Simon and Jude Church in Westland, on January 25. I was unable to attend that playdate and I appreciate very much that Karen Turner took over the on-site management. Karen informed me afterward that everything went well and a couple got up and danced to two of the waltzes Silver Strings played. The other event was a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for Dennis and Norma Tino (a member of Silver Strings in the 1980's who played hammered dulcimer) at DeLuca's Restaurant on January 31. Norma and Dennis had not been told by their children that Silver Strings was going to play for their celebration, and were delighted when they walked into the banquet room and heard the music and saw Silver Strings was playing.

Silver Strings enjoyed providing music for the residents of American House in Royal Oak on February 20. The residents who attended kept a lively rhythm going through the last several tunes, with the rhythm instruments we handed out.

Please check the **Mark Your Calendar** box in this newsletter. We will play for the Farmington Hills Police Department annual volunteer luncheon April 30. Note this playdate was originally scheduled for April 16 but moved to April 30. I sent an email to all of those who had signed up, asking who could still play for that event on the new date of April 30. Most have notified me. We are also scheduled to play for a Mothers' Day Program at Baldwin House in Birmingham on Friday, May 8.

I would like to thank all of those who have played for playdates so far in 2009 and who have signed up to play for upcoming playdates. There is still some space available for most of them mentioned above, and I welcome you to join us if you are available and interested. . . . . Bert Stein

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

1. Larry briefly discussed the meeting with Good Hope Church last month: We will have access to another room if needed, for extra practices or workshops and access to the bathroom in the church, for our handicapped members.

Carol Ann will be locking the church at break time.

2. Gerry will place a list on the table so members can check to verify whether or not their dues were paid up.

3. A box will always be out for members' non-perishable food donations for Good Hope's food bank.

4. Bert discussed playdates. 1-February, 2-March, and 3-April,

5. The Board voted to keep the current member reimbursement, which is 50-50, but this could be changed if the club needs more money. The Holiday CD production costs are unknown.

6. The new Holiday CD is almost recorded.

7. Bert will track players to be paid for gas allowance. Discussion of process followed.

### **New Business:**

8. Jim Rathburn, of ODPC asked us to host their Spring meeting on May 2, 2009. Good Hope is available. There will be a meeting, potluck, and jam. ODPC will finance the meat. The Board voted yes to this proposal. Since the attendance is unknown, perhaps an RSVP could be involved.

9. Marie said there is a very spiteful letter being circulated from some disgruntled ODPC members. She asked that if anyone receives this letter, to tell her or any Board member. She has a rebuttal letter that can be sent in reply.

10. Luke asked for volunteers to play for the IHM Nuns in Monroe. We have played for them before.

11. The minimum number of players at a playdate needs to be discussed since there's nothing in the by-laws about this.

submitted by Beverley J. Scott

## LEDGER NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ (treasurer)

"Well, I'm easing into my job as Treasurer, thanks to some good coaching from Bob Hlavacek. Form 940 Tax Return, Employer's Federal Unemployment has been filed.

I'm glad to accept dues anytime! Who'd have ever thought one could have so much fun on such a small sum! And that we do!!

May you enjoy lots of "Irish Laughter"!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!" Gerry Hermans

### **NEW MEMBER**

Mary Edgerton . . . . . phone (734) 331-3976  
6515 Yale Street - #416, Westland Mi.48185  
Mary plays mountain dulcimer

## V.P. PROGRAM NOTES

Happy March Silver Strings. Up until the last few days it seemed like spring was just around the corner. Then came **more snow**. Despite all of this 'white stuff' we keep having to shovel, we confirmed on our calendar that Spring *really is just around the corner (March 21st)*. That means it's time to start thinking about the upcoming campouts in June. The SSDS campout will once again be held on Fathers Day weekend, June 19-21, 2009. The following weekend, June 25-27, 2009, Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club will hold their annual campout at Waffle Farm in Coldwater. Both of these campouts are lots of fun and a great way to get to know fellow club members in a warm and relaxing atmosphere. Both of the campgrounds are located on absolutely beautiful lakes, have lovely park-like settings for the campsites, and the restroom/shower facilities are always clean and hot water is usually plentiful. Workshops will be offered at the Silver Strings Campout. More details will follow in the next newsletter and on the website, and information will be announced at club meetings concerning cost / registration for these campouts. Plan to attend one or both - they're great fun!

Variety Night is fast approaching (April 30th). Dave Matthews will be the host / emcee that night. Pizza, salad, & beverages will be served. We know Silver Strings has *many talented musicians* among our ranks. We love to see our members display their talents and dazzle us with their abilities. Don't be shy - sign up sheets will be posted at club meetings in April, although you can sign up on Variety Night as well.

As always, thanks to everyone who brings treats and goodies for break time, and don't forget that the Good Hope Food Drive is an ongoing effort to help those in need in these hard times. Thanks to those who have made donations of non-perishable food items to this good cause. We would love to see even more participation.

Please remember to fill out your green emergency card and leave it in the brown box on the back table on jam night. . . . Janelle Pacic and Carol Ann Matthews

### **Notes From Cyberspace**

More videos have been added to the Silver Strings Club Channel on YouTube. Be sure to check out <http://www.youtube.com/user/SilverStringsClub>.

Do you have a favorite musical link you would like to share with others? I am revising our club's link page and am looking for additional links. Please email the link to [karenturner@comcast.net](mailto:karenturner@comcast.net)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mar.5.....**Board Meeting** @ Good Hope. . . . . 6:pm  
 Mar.14.....**Playdate**. . . . . 8-8:45pm  
                   Colonial Acres . . . . . South Lyon  
 Mar.17.....**Playdate** . . . . . 6-7:pm  
                   Maple Hts. Retirement. . . . . Allen Park  
 Mar.18.....**Playdate** . . . . . 2-3 pm  
                   Garden Towers. . . . . Garden City  
 Mar.19.....**SSDS Jam night**. . . . . 7:pm  
                   Good Hope - Pasty orders deadline  
 April 2.....**Board mtg. & Jam** @ Good Hope. :6:pm  
                   Good Hope Pasty Pay & Pick-up  
 Apr.15.....**Playdate**. . . . . 2:30-3:30pm  
                   Heartland Health Center . . . . . Canton  
 Apr.23.....**Playdate**. . . . . 8:30-10am  
                   Senior Center . . . . . VanBuren Twp  
 Apr.30.....**Playdate** . . . . . 10:15am-1:pm  
                   Farmington Hills Police . . . Fmgton.Hills  
 May 8.....**Playdate** . . . . . Birmingham

## SSDS MARCH 2009 Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
D	Smash the Windows	3
D	Soldier's Joy	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	3
D	Angeline the Baker	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
D	Danny Boy	3
G	Rosin the Beau	3
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna / Riding Load Of Hay	3/3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
Em	Missouri	5
D	The Ash Grove	3
G	My Wild Irish Rose	2
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
C	When Irish Eyes are Smiling	3
G	Irish Washerwoman	3
Am	Star of the County Down	2
C	Black Velvet Waltz	2
Em	Tamlin	4
D	Hey Polka	5
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
D	John Ryan's Polka - All first time then Karen will select soloists	Karen's choice
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	4
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3

**How many guitar players does it take to change a light bulb?** One, but there are strings attached.

## MORE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The coming of March means the Buckeye festival is quickly approaching. It will be March 11<sup>th</sup> -15th. I have never attended this one, but I hear it is a good experience. Well, maybe with the exception of last year, when they got snowed in by almost two feet of snow. I think folks still managed to have a good time. Janelle went last year for the first time with two friends, Dawn and Myrtie. From the stories they tell, it certainly was an experience. However, any time you get those girls together, you never know what to expect.

Most of you have heard that Silver Strings will be hosting the spring meeting of the ODPC (Original Dulcimers Players Club). I'm working on the details and will keep you posted. It will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday), begin around 10am with a meeting, followed by a potluck lunch and jamming in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome to come. Meat will be provided, and people are asked to bring a dish to pass. Our March tune, "Knock-Knock", will be featured at the jam. We might schedule a workshop for those who need help learning the tune before the May meeting.

Larry Roper

## MUSIC NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ (Music Coordinator)

For our next SSDS new tune, we're introducing "Knock Knock", by Bill Bosler. Bill is a Michigander, and an active performer on the west side of the state. You can learn more about him on his web site at [www.billbosler.com](http://www.billbosler.com).

Knock Knock is gaining popularity around the area, and it's likely to be a hot tune at the Evart festival this summer. It will also be introduced to the members attending the ODPC meeting at our own Good Hope Church location on May 2, 2009. Bill has graciously given Silver Strings permission to play and perform it, so let's grab the music and get playing! Copies of the sheet music will be available at upcoming meetings, and we will be demonstrating it as well (Bring your tape recorder!) It's a fun tune to play, and has interesting rhythmic twists.

You can listen to Bill play the tune at this website: [http://www.geocities.com/pioneer\\_society/billbosler.htm](http://www.geocities.com/pioneer_society/billbosler.htm) Once there, look on the left side of the page for the link. Have Fun! Kelly Kaiser

### Old-timers...put on your thinking caps...

"Cream of Wheat, it's so good to eat,  
You can have it every day...."



The first person to finish this old jingle and submit it to the Soundboard editor will win a prize. Send to: [datadoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:datadoc@sbcglobal.net)

## Dulcimer and "Live Music" events in West Central Ohio

Days are getting longer and just a little warmer and along with it are more and more opportunities for "live" music at Famous Old Time Music Company just east of Wapakoneta, OH, on US 33. Whether you like dulcimers, bluegrass, old time or just enjoy it all, there is something for you at FOTMC.

### March

**7...APPALACHIAN OPRY** 7-9:30pm Admission \$7  
A unique blend of old country, bluegrass, some good crooning, some great square dancing, storytelling as and some corny slapstick comedy. You just never know what kind of good clean fun will happen next. Come around 6:30 for a good seat (food service available) with the show starting at 7 pm.

**11- 15...Buckeye Dulcimer Festival, Ashley , OH ;**  
Kitty will be teaching fiddle during the extended session. Vernon & Kitty will present their "Strolling Through the Bluegrass" program and then be in the Friday evening concert.

[www.geocities.com/buckeyedulcimer/](http://www.geocities.com/buckeyedulcimer/)

**21....Dulci-Jam** . 1 to 3:30... We play some familiar favorites and work on new tunes.

**28....Bluegrass in the Cornfield** indoor concert; featuring the Dixie Ryders along with Vernon McInyre's Appalachian Grass

For the absolute most up-to-date schedule information, check our website at [www.fotmc.com](http://www.fotmc.com)  
**If you are interested in more information on any of these events including local motel rates, call Laura at FOTMC, 419-568-1220.**

## ARE MICHIGAN WINTERS TOO LONG ?

By Sandi Hlavacek

"Spring is just around the corner."  
That's what the lyrics say.  
But tell me which darned corner !  
I'm less patient every day.  
I'm tired of shoveling "white stuff".  
Just give me nice warm earth.  
I can do without the fireplace...  
I'll swap for flowers' birth.  
I want to feel the sunshine !  
I long for summer breezes !  
I'd like to sleep the whole night through  
without the coughs and sneezes.  
Give me some heat... 90 degrees...  
(I know I will complain.)  
But then it will be softened by  
the summer's gentle rain.

**Do you have a musical story, poem, puzzle, joke, or article of interest to share? Please pass it on to the Soundboard. There are lots of eyes and ears out there... please put them to work.**

**Any interesting adventures in your life ? How about sharing with the rest of the club ? Send to [datadoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:datadoc@sbcglobal.net) or leave it in the suggestion box at any meeting.**

## HOLIDAY CD RECORDING



**Ken Kaiser** with his magic computerized recording system, who truly made us sound better than life. He turned a 3-4 year discussion into reality ! **What a GIFT he is, and has given to Silver Strings !**

After three long and grueling sessions, the recording phase of the Christmas CD is finished. We recorded a total of 21 songs. Now that it is 'in the can' we can relax just a bit. The editing, art work, CD vendor, and a host of other decisions are still ahead.

We owe a **HUGE** debt of gratitude to the Kaiser Family for their time, talent and equipment, especially the long hours that Ken Kaiser has spent on this project (recording, editing, reviewing with the committee, and technical guidance). Lynne Ellen was extremely effective in leading and directing at the sessions. **BIG THANKS** also go to Terry Treppa for use of St Richard Church as a recording Studio.

Thank you to the entire cast for your patience and persistence. I know it got trying, at times. I can hardly wait to hear the finished product.

We invite all members to submit ideas for the Holiday CD cover art work. Contact David Smith or me. There "might" be a prize for the winning art. Let your artistic juices flow. Bob Hlavacek, Project Chair.



**Lynne Ellen Kaiser**  
our technical director



**Terry Treppa**  
our recording studio host

## OH DANNY BOY ... the song

Danny Boy is one of many songs composed to the same tune, *Londonderry Air*. The author was an English lawyer, Frederic Edward Weatherly (1848-1929), who first wrote the lyrics and music in 1910. In 1912 his sister-in-law in America sent him a tune called the Londonderry Air which he had never heard before. He immediately noticed that the melody was perfectly fitted to his Danny Boy lyrics, and published a revised version of the song in 1913.

Weatherly had never been to Ireland. The Irish, here in America, have come to accept the song as Irish because that is what they have been told. But the NEW Irish immigrants are clueless, because most have never heard of it.

### WORDS

Oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling  
From glen to glen, and down the mountain side  
The summer's gone, and all the flowers are dying  
'tis you, 'tis you must go and I must bide.

But come you back when summer's in the meadow  
Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow  
'tis I'll be there in sunshine or in shadow  
Oh Danny boy, oh Danny boy, I love you so.

And if you come, when all the flowers are dying  
And I am dead, as dead I well may be  
You'll come and find the place where I am lying  
And kneel and say an "Ave" there for me.

And I shall hear, tho' soft you tread above me  
And all my dreams will warm and sweeter be  
If you'll not fail to tell me that you love me  
I simply sleep in peace until you come to me.

## MARCH CELEBRATIONS !

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1..... Shayla Rachelle
- 7..... Bonnie Ream
- 11... Rich Smith
- 12... David Smith
- 12... Evie Bain
- 15... Sherry Humecky
- 25... Donna Mayer
- 27... Ida O'Dell
- 30... Dorothy Ewald
- 30... Bob Niemczewski



March 17<sup>th</sup> Happy  
St. Patrick's Day

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 2...Shirley Keyser . . . (62 years...Congratulations !)

## PROFOUND NEW MUSIC THEORY FROM BRILLIANT PEOPLE

### Jim Coon's "Bad Note Theory"

**It applies to all instruments.**

The more you practice, the more of the bad notes are used up. This can be proven by correlation. Look at some of the people that have played a lot and how they sound. It comes from playing enough to get rid of the bad notes.

One caution comes to mind, I think it is one of the laws of thermodynamics: If you stop practicing, the bad note supply tends to build back up, maybe not to the original level but they build back up.

The instrument also knows if a different person is playing it other than the one that has been using up the bad notes. In this case, it calls upon its reserve of bad notes to match how much the present player has used up on another instrument.

Just remember, the more you practice, the more you deplete the supply of bad notes,

### From Florida, The Suncoast Dulcimer Society:

We practiced for 2 1/2 hours yesterday, and we all shook out our cases. With all that, we managed to get rid of a lot of bad notes. We left all of those bad notes at the church where we practiced! Maybe the church mouse will gobble them up !

### If your dulcimer is set up you will practice more.

But then you have to dust it! However, dusty notes sound better than bad notes (or no notes).

**Bad notes build up much faster when the instrument stays in its case.** They sort of grow in the dark like mushrooms.

**They're kind of like bags of chocolate.** If left in the bag unopened, all those calories get pent up inside. Once the bag is opened, the calories get released and fly out.

**If bad notes stay rattling around in a dark case,** who knows what they're up to? You don't want them to multiply !!!

## HUMOR

from Lynne Ellen Kaiser

A mindreader is at a nightclub one night and decides to give a small demonstration of her abilities.

First, she reads the mind of the lead guitarist: "Wow, look at all the cute chicks who showed up tonight! Good crowd!"

Then the drummer: "Lots of people showed up tonight...Great! we're going to make good money tonight"

Then the Keyboard player: "All three of these guys have no appreciation of my talent...What a bunch of losers"

Finally, the Bass player: "C...G...C...G..."



## Getting to Know You. . . . Carol Ann Matthews

Carol Ann is a busy lady. She found Silver Strings by accident about four years ago. Although she had been playing the dulcimer for several years, she did not know anyone else who played. A friend from the unicycle club told her about it, and she just had to go the first meeting. One thing led to another, and now she jams with Silver Strings as well as Friendly Strings, Pittsfield Open Band and the Farmington Jam. In addition to hammered dulcimer, Carol Ann also plays piano, organ, harmonica, mountain dulcimer, guitar and a little on the harp.

She is from southern Florida, the oldest of 3 sisters and a brother. While she attended Columbia Bible College in Columbia, South Carolina, she met her husband Dave, and they were married in 1963. After a year they moved to Lansing, where she played the organ for a church cantata. Later they moved to Flint, and Saline, and then to their present home in Canton. Carol Ann and Dave have a daughter and a son and 7 wonderful grandchildren, ages 7 to 17, all of whom ride the unicycle. Their son plays cello in the Flint symphony. Their oldest granddaughter, Theresa, plays violin and viola, and sings. Their oldest grandson, Devin, plays piano and trumpet.

Her non-music hobbies are a huge part of her life. Says Carol Ann, "I quilt, paint watercolors, ride the unicycle and clog. I have won awards with my quilts nationally and have had several on calendar covers, date books and magazine covers. They have traveled to Japan and on cruises - all without me, sad to say, and in special exhibits around the state. Although I do make a bed quilt occasionally, most of my quilts are art quilts. I have raced unicycle nationally and have held several national records in my age group."

Carol Ann can be an inspiration to all of us couch potatoes out there! She says, "I started unicycling when I was 50, and not as a kid. I have been clogging for about 25 years. I used to be a pretty good square dancer and round dancer too."

With an associate degree in medical assisting, Carol Ann worked as office manager in a laboratory for 5 years, and for 10 years as office manager in a doctor's office. She has taught quilting locally and around the state for over 20 years.

Carol Ann volunteers her time in many ways aside from her post as the SSDS Co-Vice President of Programs (with Janelle Pacic). She is active in the Redford Township Unicycle Club, a member and past officer of the Ann Arbor Quilt Guild, and a member of the Three Cities Art Club (where she won Best of Show with an art quilt). She has had solo hammer dulcimer gigs for show openings by Woodcrafters, Three Cities Art Club, and the Ann Arbor Quilt Guild... "And I still don't want to do starts!" she laughs.

When asked about her future plans and goals, she quips, "I don't have any goals... except to get better at managing Dave." We're lucky Carol Ann can include Silver Strings in her busy schedule and help us out this way.

### OPPORTUNITIES to SUPPORT GOOD HOPE CHURCH (our host for 22 years)

#### THE BEST PASTIES SALE

Good Hope Lutheran Church sells pasties twice each year, and this is a chance for us to help support the church, in gratitude for the use of their facilities. Advance orders will be accepted, and they hold up very well in the freezer.

Those delicious fresh-baked "meaty pies" are among the best in the state. Buy them by the dozen, thaw as needed, and heat them in the toaster oven. It's an **excellent** quick lunch or supper.

The sale is the weekend of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and price is \$4 each or 4/\$15. If you would like to place an order, a Green Folgers coffee can is on top of the refrigerator in the upstairs kitchen. You may leave your order in that can at any time, but the last chance to order is our March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The bakers will leave them individually wrapped and bagged, with your order and the amount due, attached. You may pick up & pay at our next meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> ..... Sandi Hlavacek

#### FOOD BANK

Good Hope has a long established food bank to help those in need, in the area. You may bring any non-perishable food to a meeting, and leave it on the table by the elevator in the main meeting room. It will be added to their food donations. This will be an ongoing assistance from Silver Strings, so please bring your donations to any jam during the year.