



Notes from the Soundboard

May 2009

WEBSITE: WWW.SSDSOCIETY.ORG

Issue 289

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Hopefully, old man winter is behind us now as we quickly approach summer and all of the activities it will bring. Our annual campout is just about seven weeks away. Please get your reservations in. You can find them in this month's newsletter, on the website, or pick up copies at our meetings. See Janelle or Carol Ann for details. Janelle has arranged the catered meal for Saturday and also workshops for both days. The campout is also a good opportunity to socialize and get to know people better. I'm looking forward to all the fun, hope you are too. Also, Uncle Carl's campout is the weekend after ours (June 26-28th) and we have registration forms for that one too. I've always considered Uncle Carl's our sister club, (or our brother club) and those of you who attend their campout or any of their functions have an opportunity to meet some wonderful people. I think the campouts are a good way to kick off the summer events.

I'd like to thank Tom Montelauro for the mandolin workshops he has given. He did an outstanding job. His presentations were well put together and very informative. Bob Neimczewski will be giving an autoharp workshop at our May 21st meeting from 6-7 pm. I'm sure that will be interesting, so all of you autoharp players or wanna be players make it a point to come even if you don't own an instrument it will be a good workshop to attend.

I would also like to thank Sharon McCauliffe, Linda Osgood and all who helped out at our last jam. It's good to know we have people we can count on when we need them.

I would like to congratulate Sandi Hlavacek, who was awarded the Daniel D. Heffernan Humanitarian of the Year Award. Some of us from Silver Strings had the honor of attending the banquet to honor Sandi. We played music for about an hour before the dinner and presentation. Bob and Sandi both gave very moving speeches. Sandi humbly accepted the award but said she never considered herself a humanitarian, but rather a volunteer doing God's work. I thought I knew Sandi pretty well and I knew of the many charitable things she does every day and I knew about the many needy people she has helped in one way or another, but I learned a great deal more about her that night. The list of good deeds Sandi does goes on and on and one could write a book on the subject. A paragraph from the banquet brochure sums it up: "Sandi's selflessness, generosity, and compassion know no bounds. She says 'God works many miracles every day, and sometimes He uses our hands to do it'. Thank you Sandi for allowing God to use your hands over and over again! You are an inspiration and an example for all of us."

I'd also like to extend a **BIG** congratulations to Greg Kaiser, who performed two tunes at our January variety night to submit for the Fretted Instrument Guild of America (FIGA) national youth competition, and earned second place. I know Derek Channing, who originated this competition, was an inspiration to Greg and would be as proud of him as we all are. Last year, Greg placed 3rd overall. I see a trend here. That means next year Greg will bring home the gold !!! Congratulations Greg on a job well done! Larry Roper

CAMPOUTS & FESTIVALS ARE COMING !!!

If you would **LOVE** to attend the **SSDS campout** (June 19-21), the **Uncle Carl's campout** (June 26-28), **Evart Funfest** (July ??-19), and/or the **Midland Dulcimerfest** (August 27-30) But you have no housing, here's a deal for you...

FREE tent (sleeps 4-6) with queen-sized air mattress... **AND** transport... **AND** help with set-up and take down included. Rest rooms and showers in all facilities are very good, but we will even include a porta-potty for nights. Contact the Hlavaceks, (734) 663-7974.



PLAYDATE MATTERS

VP Business

Silver Strings entertained at Heartland Health Care Center in Canton April 15 and were immediately booked for October, 2009. Linda Losse again brought her supply of rhythm instruments to hand out to the audience toward the end. Our audiences appreciate being involved in the music by providing some of the rhythm as we play and generally do a good job on that, with Linda doing a great job as the lively "director/cheerleader". The rhythm instruments are collected after the performance for reuse at other gigs. As the audience shouts "HEY" in the "Hey Polka", Bob Hlavacek always manages (with the precisely timed display of a "HEY" sign) to get a powerful, sharp "HEY" right on the beat. For our second performance of the month (April 23) we provided background music for the Annual Volunteer Breakfast at September Days Senior Center in Van Buren Township. As soon as our first tune, Westphalia Waltz, was begun, a couple in the audience was moved to get up and dance through the whole tune. After the gig, the contact person for the gig told me to let all those who played know that they did a great job and that our music was really appreciated.

For a list of upcoming playdates, please check the "Mark Your Calendar" article in this newsletter.

Thanks to all of you who have played for the playdates. I think you've been doing a great job and I've enjoyed playing music with you. Feedback from the audiences and the staff at the places we have played continues to be very positive. Bert Stein

V.P. PROGRAM NOTES

Happy Spring everyone. It may finally be safe to put away those heavy winter coats, scarves, hats, gloves and boots and close the book on what might have been the longest winter **EVER!** Thankfully there were a number of fun SSDS playdates we were able to attend, and recording the Christmas CD kept us occupied a good portion of the time – so we didn't get too stir crazy staying inside through those long, cold, snowy winter months. We survived winter and here we are in the lovely month of May. And May is just one month away from June and you know what that means... its once again time for the *annual Silver Strings Campout* at Myers Lake Campground to be held on June 19 - 21, 2009 (Father's Day weekend). Details and forms to register for campsites at Myers Lake appear in the newsletter and will also be available at our regular club meetings and the ODPC banquet on Saturday, May 2nd, which will be held at Good Hope Lutheran Church. Registration forms should be mailed directly to Myers Lake Campground at the address shown on the forms.

Additional Campout Information: We are now taking reservations and collecting money for the Saturday night dinner that will be provided by Elegant Catering (the same caterer as last year, and the food as you may recall was *very good*). The prices are the same as last year - \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Checks for the catered dinner should be made payable to Silver Strings Dulcimer Society and mailed to: Carol Ann Matthews, 42297 Wickfield Ct., Canton MI 48187. You may also give cash or checks for the Saturday night dinner to either Carol Ann Matthews or Janelle Pacic at the regular club meetings. We will accept payments for the dinner through Thursday, June 11th, 2009.

During the Sunday morning Lakefront Worship Service at Myers Lake, Silver Strings will once again provide music. Several individuals who played at this service in years past have commented that they would like to have a list of the music to be performed ahead of time. We have compiled the following playlist for the Sunday service.

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| G I'll Fly Away | G What A Friend We Have in Jesus | D Simple Gifts |
| G In the Garden | G I'll Remember You Love in My Prayers | D Ashgrove |
| G Amazing Grace | G Rock of Ages | See us if you don't have the music. |

We look forward to seeing everyone there. Plan to have FUN !!! Carol Ann Matthews and Janelle Pacic

MAY CELEBRATIONS !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 5..... Dave Matthews
- 7..... Ron O'Dell
- 26.... Peggy Kustra
- 27... Dawn Hayes



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 15... Ron & Ida O'Dell
- 29... Tom & Sharon Meggison

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 2.....ODPC potluck/meeting @ Good Hope noon
- May 7.....Board Mtg. & Jam @ Good Hope. .7:pm
- May 8.....Playdate 2:30-3:30pm
Baldwin House Birmingham
- Jun-13.....Playdate 11:am-1:pm
Maybe Days Maybe, Mi
- Jun14.....Playdate 3-4:pm
Pine Ridge Sr. Comm. . . . Sterling Hts
- Jun.19-21....SSDS Campout . . . Myers Lake, Byron
- Jun.26-28....UCDC Campout . . .Waffle Tree Farms,
Coldwater, Mi.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

SSDS BOARD MEETING, APRIL 2, 2009

Larry asked Bev to send a copy (e-mail) to each Board member for review as soon as they are completed. Bev will comply

- - - - - OLD BUSINESS:

* The food donation box has disappeared, so please place food donations on the table.

* Gerry passed out an updated member roster to the Board members.

* The taxes have been filed.

* Larry stated he touched base with ODPC people concerning the May 2nd meeting, and he will continue to work out details. SSDS will pay Good Hope Church \$100 for the hall rental fee that will include a donation to the church. This will be reimbursed by ODPC.

* Larry will try to get an accurate head count for the meeting, potluck, and jam. The potluck lunch will begin at 12:00 PM, followed by a general meeting and the jam will follow the meeting.

* The Holiday CD has been recorded. Production issues are being discussed.

* Carol Ann and Janelle are working on the SSDS campout.

* The number of members used to represent SSDS at playdates will be determined case by case. At times, the space provided for our players is limited. Bert said that even though there were only a few members able to play at DeLuca's to honor an original SSDS member, he received good, positive comments about the performance, and that the club was well represented and made a favorable impression.

* Bert and Larry will have further discussions on the matter.

* SSDS still needs an Historian. This job is not complicated, is loosely based, is not time consuming, and can be done on the Historian's own timetable.

- - - - - NEW BUSINESS:

* The \$40.00 Hal Bain earned from his attendance at playdates was donated (by Karen) in his name to the Humane Society, in accordance with his family's wishes.

* Lynn Ellen asked if our music could be put on our Website in a PDF file. It would ease the ongoing problem of missing music for our people. It could also be a good resource for us. The Board decided against this for these reasons: No control over non-members getting the music, copyright issues, and no control over the number of copies requested. Sometimes there are restrictions on the number of copies that can be reproduced/printed through our permit.

* Lynn Ellen suggested establishing a family rate for SSDS membership dues. The board decided this was a good idea and details will be worked out.

* Variety Night was discussed.

Jane Chevalier will be the MC, Dave Smith and Bob Neimczewski will be the sound engineers. Janelle will order the pizza and Carol Ann will handle the other duties.

* As a reminder, members who are past due in dues, or their membership has not been renewed, are welcome to play at our jams but are not permitted to play at our playdates.

* New members are required to complete an application, which will be reviewed by the Board in accordance with the by-laws. Gerry has the applications.
Beverley J. Scott

Please Check the back table to see if your birthday & anniversary are registered on the list. If not, please add it to the appropriate month.

SSDS May 2009 Play List

Key	Tune	Play
G	Westphalia Waltz	3
G	Red Wing	3
D	Over the Waterfall	3
G	March of St. Timothy	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna / Riding Load Of Hay	3/3
D	Painter's Polka	3
D	The Ash Grove	3
G	Down Yonder	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Maggie	4
G	January Waltz	3
D	Road to Boston	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
C	Five Foot Two	3
G	I'll Remember You Love...Prayers	2
D	Hey Polka	5
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
Em	Tamlin	4
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
D	John Ryan's Polka – 1 st All play then Karen will select soloists	Karen's choice
D	Chinese Breakdown/Nelly Bly	2/3
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	4
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
D-D D/G	Endess Medley (RagtimeAnnie, Soldier's Joy, Golden-Slippers	2/2/2/2

4 - SALE

1926 Tenor Banjo (4 string)...Style N 71293
Made by The Vega Company, Boston, Mass.
Case included; Good condition.... \$300.00
Contact Gerry Hermans (734) 676-2324.

If members have an instrument to sell or want to buy, you may advertise in the Soundboard. Our newsletter is accessed by many outside the club through our website.

GREEN EMERGENCY CARDS

are on the back table in the brown recipe box. If you haven't filled yours out, please do. The box will go with us to all SSDS functions. These cards are designed to give us contact information, in case you have an accident or a medical emergency while you are with us.

AMELIA'S WALTZ

From an interview with Bob McQuillen, who wrote Dancing Bear, Scotty O'Neil, and about 1000 others. This is about **Amelia's Waltz**:

"After Charles Lindbergh flew across the ocean in the *Spirit of St. Louis*, the thing was to get the plane back. They took the wings off and put them in one crate and the fuselage in another, then sent the whole thing back to this country aboard ship. I don't know where the wings box went but the fuselage crate eventually wound up on the banks of the Black Water River in Contoocook, a little town in New Hampshire. Somebody then took the crate and put a slanted roof on it and made a little cabin out of it. So now we got Lindbergh's crate living in the woods on the shores of the Black Water River which is about fifty feet across and pine trees all around, a real pretty spot.

Now along comes Diana Stiles and she lives in this thing for a while. She also develops a fondness for some dude, and out of that we get the emergence of a cute little baby girl, who, because this was Lindbergh's crate, was named... **Amelia**, after Amelia Erhart.

About three years or so after that was when I decided that Amelia ought to have a tune. And that's how it all happened."

New Mountain Dulcimer Club

The first meeting of our new mountain dulcimer club took place at my house in Canton on April 22. We had a very good turnout and we had fun. There were 15 people in attendance, 13 of whom were mountain dulcimers, two were autoharps. We shared ideas on what was expected of a new club and selected, during a round robin session, set of songs that were comfortable to play for all levels. We had lots of strumming and a bit of singing. For the first time out, we sounded really GOOD !!!

We will be meeting the second and fourth Weds of the month. That makes the next meeting the 13th of May.Marie Naster

Nobody cares if you can't dance well, just get up and dance.

Jam rules from Vicki Gibboney:

1. Everyone should play the same piece.
2. Observe the repeat signs only if what you just played was interesting.
3. If you play a wrong note, glare at one of the other players.
4. The right note, at the wrong time, is a wrong note. (And vice-versa.)
5. A wrong note, played timidly, is a wrong note.
6. A wrong note, played with authority, is simply your interpretation of the phrase.
7. If everyone gets lost except you, follow the ones who are lost.
8. Strive always to play the maximum notes per second. This will intimidate the weaker players and gain you the admiration of the ignorant.
9. Markings for slurs, dynamics, and accidentals should be completely ignored. They are only there to make the score look more complicated.
10. If a passage is difficult, slow down. If it is easy, speed up. Everything will even itself out in the end.
11. You have achieved a true interpretation when, in the end, you have not played one note of the original piece.
12. When everyone else stops playing, you should stop also. Do not play any notes you may have left over.
13. Blessed are those without perfect pitch, for the kingdom of music is theirs.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU... GERRY HERMANS

I am a Pittsburgh, PA native. I met my husband, Gus, through a colleague At the office. He was a new arrival from the Netherlands then. We married and raised seven children, two daughters and five sons, living in Pittsburgh, Maryland and Michigan. Five of our children are out of state, but in nice sunny climates, an added pleasure to our visits. We have 6 grandchildren. Four of our sons are still single. We recently celebrated our 46th anniversary.

I've always enjoyed singing in school and had a lead in HS Operetta. While I worked as a Legal Secretary in a large Law Firm, I enjoyed acting in Community Theater and Summer Stock in the Pittsburgh area. In 1978 I heard Fr. Dustin, a Redemptorist Priest, play the four-string banjo and just had to have a go at that happy music. I purchased a banjo, but put it aside since family matters kept me busy. Twenty years later, Gus asked if I was ever going to do anything with "that banjo" and I found Gerry O'Neal in Redford, who gave me lessons on my Plectrum and I happily joined her Silver Bell Banjo Society. Sadly, Gerry passed away in 2001. While involved in that scene, I met Morgan and Sherry, and he told me about Silver Strings, for which I'm forever grateful!

About 3 years ago, I couldn't resist purchasing a fiddle and taking lessons after I was surrounded by fiddles one night at SSDS. I'm still working at it and it's well worth the effort. Then, too, SSDS members offer a lot of encouragement, which helps!

I met Tom O'Bryan who plays Guitar in SSDS and he invited me to play banjo with him once a month at Applewood Nursing Home, and we've been doing that since 2003.

Another favorite activity is singing with Seaway Chorale and Orchestra, a Downriver Cultural Gem (yep, that's how the community refers to it!) I've been singing Alto with them for 12 years. We sing with a 20-piece orchestra and have performed at Tiger/Blue Jay Games, Fox Theater, a CBS Christmas Choral program, etc. And we rehearse right behind my house. Looking forward to spring Concert of 50's songs, "Sentimental Journey" is title.

I often sing with Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church Lenten Choir, which performs major Classical works. We were invited by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in Russia to give a concert tour in 2003, which was a major highlight in my life. I was surprised to see a Banjo player in a group greet us with "Yankee Doodle" as we departed our ship. It was Gus' enthusiasm for the trip that made it happen. While I'm busy with my music activities, Gus enjoys the Great Lakes Live Steamers Club and is a steam engine buff, having built several through the years. He has an extensive machine shop in the basement.

I enjoy writing and am a longstanding member of Poets and Playwrights which meets in Wyandotte and belong to Poetry Society of Michigan. I've submitted some of my poems to the Soundboard in past years. I also like to paint with oils, preferring still-life. In addition, I bake monthly for the Manna Soup Kitchen in Detroit and Volunteer at the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Lincoln Park weekly. I also spend time with our grandchildren.

I always look forward to SSDS doings and hope I will be an asset to the club which has done so much for me! I've been a member eight years and I guess it's about a time I lend a hand in this great organization! Thanks, gang!

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Congratulations to Greg!

Back at the January SSDS Variety night, 14-year old member Greg Kaiser performed two tunes to submit for the Fretted Instrument Guild of America (FIGA) national youth competition. His performance was judged in a manner similar to the "Solo and Ensemble" tradition of high schools. Since there is no such competition for fretted instrument-playing youth, and since they are scattered throughout the country, the competition is all judged via recorded performance on DVD. This competition was originally the brain-child of our dear friend, Derek Channing, who passed away last June.

Greg's performance was judged in the "Superior" category, and he received a score of 96 out of 100, putting him second overall in all age categories (8-14, and 15-20). Last year (the first year of the competition), Greg placed 3rd overall. If you are a FIGA member, you can look for an article about him likely to be in the July/August issue of the FIGA All Frets magazine.





Get ready for camping at the SSDS campout in June, the Uncle Carl's campout, and the festival season to come.

Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club is a group meeting once monthly, near Jackson. Many of our SSDS members are also associated with this group. This campout is one week after SSDS. We join each other's weekend, and as with our own, you are invited for the entire weekend or to drive in for Saturday. (Motels are available for non-campers.)

REGISTRATION FORM

.Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club Campout
Waffle Farm Campground, Coldwater, Mi.
June 26-27-28, 2009

Reservations due MAY 1st

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone & E-mail _____

Type & size of camper _____

Number of people camping with you _____

Circle overnights you will be there June 26 June 27
Will you want A/C ? yes.. ..no

Rates: \$27 per night

**Send registration and deposit of \$25 payable to:
Kathy Culy, 625 N. Union City Rd.
Coldwater, Mi.49036**

If you have questions, call Kathy at 517-278-4853 or Penny Scheiber at 517-547-7448.

\$25 deposit will be returned to you on Sunday. If you would like to come earlier or stay later, you may make reservations with Waffle Farm directly at 517-278-4315 or www.wafflefarm.com.

Payment in full is due on arrival. There is a \$2 fee for a 1-day entry into the campground. There will be potluck dinner Saturday and Pancake breakfast Sunday.

BOTH CAMPOUTS WILL HAVE A POTLUCK DINNER AND A PANCAKE BREAKFAST.

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Campout

With questions, call
Janelle Pacic, (248) 437-5403 or
Carol Ann Matthews (734) 981-5675

Send registration & payment to :
Myers Lake Campground,(at bottom of this form)

Check-in Fri. June 19TH Check-out June 21ST

To get all sites grouped close together,
You **MUST** specify you are with Silver Strings
Reservations are due by **MAY 15th, 2009**
Cabin (sleep 4-6) reserve by **MAY 1st**

Rates \$27 per night \$35 per night with A/C
(2 adults are included, each added is \$2 per night)

Cabin rental for non-campers (\$70 per night) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone & e-mail _____

Type & size of camper _____

Slide-outs? yesno

Air conditioner? . . yesno

adults (18+) _____ #children _____ # pets _____

Type of vehicle (1 per site) _____

Driver's License # _____

Late arrival or extended departure ? _____

Minimum deposit \$25

Full payment gets curbside check-in and no long line.

Payment.....CHECK . . .VISA . . . MC . . . DISCOVER
Account # _____ exp. Date _____

Sign _____

**Make checks payable to – and send to:
Myers Lake UMC Campground
10575 Silver Lake Rd., Byron, MI.48418**

The sites near the jam barn are ideal for people with mobility problems... you must request them. There will be a potluck dinner Friday at 5:30pm.

For the convenience of those attending only Saturday, SSDS will have a pancake breakfast 8:30-9:30 am and catered dinner (**Adult \$10, Child \$5**) 5:30-6:30 pm. Send reservations and check to:

Carol Ann Matthews,
42297 Wickfield Ct., Canton, MI. 48487
Breakfast.noyes.....(how many)
Dinner . . no . . . yes (Ad.....)(Ch.....)(how many)