

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

## Soundboard

June 2010

27 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2010

Issue 302

Website : [www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi Folks:

Boy, the time is flying by. Here we are heading into June already. But wait a minute. I think the story goes, April showers bring May flowers. We had flowers in April and showers in May. What's up with that? Mother Nature, could you please get it together and behave yourself? After all we have a campout coming, followed by festivals and many outdoor activities, and we would appreciate it if you could help us out! Oh well, it is what it is, and will be what it will be, and we will all get together, make it happen and have a great time.

I was asked once if Silver Strings ever enters into any competitions. I said that I remember hearing the club did so years ago and did very well. They represented the club well, brought home honors, and gave everyone something to be proud of. I respect and admire those who were involved in that. I personally, however, don't feel the desire or the need to have the club compete. After all, who would be better to judge us than those we entertain. When I see the smiles, the laughter, people dancing to our music, or even tearing up at times, and giving us compliments like; "I've been here for twenty six years and you are the best entertainment we have ever had"; "we always look forward to having you; we know we are going to have fun when you come here"; or "we need to have you back more often". I've had more than one event coordinator tell me that the residents become more lively and energetic when Silver Strings plays for them than they are all year long. In one of his articles, Bert wrote about a lady at the Heartland Health Care Center who wheeled her mother up in a wheelchair after our performance to thank us. She explained that her mother hadn't been able to walk in two years, and when she heard our music she began tapping her feet. I had a similar occurrence at a Mother's Day program we played. I noticed a young girl in the front row who was enjoying our music. She was dancing around holding mom's hand while grandma was seated in a wheelchair next to them, with visible health issues. I told the young girl how much I enjoyed her dancing and asked if she was here with mom and grandma to celebrate Mothers Day. She nodded yes, and as I wished them a Happy Mother's Day, I saw that mom and grandma were smiling from ear to ear. When we finished, the mother of the child came up to me and said she would like to thank us very much. "You see" she said, "my mother suffered a brain aneurysm recently and almost died. She has been very depressed, and today she began to smile again. This is the happiest I have seen her since it happened." Thank you so much, there's magic in your music". Maryeileene Hogan, of the Downriver Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired, stated in a letter to us that our music is like a ministry and is so uplifting to those who hear it. When we played for that group, there were blind folks dancing in the isles.

I could go on and on about all of the wonderful experiences we have had, and how gratifying they have been, but I'll get back to my original thought. I figure that we could be judged by those who would look for perfect pitch, perfect timing and other aspects that are required to be "musically correct", and I'm not sure how we would fare. Or we can let folks like the lady who couldn't walk but tapped her feet to our music, or the lady recovering from a brain aneurysm and smiled when she heard us, or the blind people who danced in the isles, or the scores of others we have entertained, judge us for our overall musicality and entertainment value. That, to me, is the **true** judgment, and there's no doubt in my mind that The Silver Strings Dulcimer Society would bring home top honors.

Larry Roper



## NOTES FROM PROGRAM VPs \_\_\_\_\_

### SILVER STRINGS 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CAMPOUT

Summer's just around the corner - time for some fun in the sun, jammin' and CAMPING!!! And what better way to kick off this summer's music festivals than with a fun and music filled Silver Strings Dulcimer Society annual campout at Myers Lake Campground Friday June 11 through Sunday June 13th, 2010.

The registration form to reserve a campsite is on the website at [www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)

The festivities will begin on Friday, with camper/tent set up mid-afternoon and a potluck dinner around 6pm (although several "Silver Stringers" arrive Thursday, in order to get an extra days' worth of fun and to enjoy the beautiful camp and lake). This year the club is providing Sloppy Joes and Hot Dogs (beef and turkey varieties) for the pot luck. Everyone else can bring a favorite side dish or dessert. Jamming will follow under the huge Silver Strings tents or in the camp's rustic barn, depending on the weather.

Saturday morning there will be a pancake & sausage breakfast to be provided by the club. Workshops/Musical Sessions will follow breakfast:

- \* HD tune workshop with Penny Scheiber
- \* MD workshop/jam with Marie Naster
- \* Autoharp jam with Theresa and Dave Smith,
- \* Melody/harmony by Penny Scheiber with helpers Karen Turner, Linda Losse, Janelle Pacic and Carol Ann Matthews.

The fun continues Saturday evening with a delicious catered meal at 5:00 pm. The menu will be broasted chicken, Hawaiian ham w/ pineapple, BBQ meatballs, mashed potatoes, and plenty of other sides and desserts. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 3-10. **Note: We will collect money for the Saturday dinner until Thursday, June 3rd.** Please send to Carol Ann Matthews, 42297 Wickfield Court, Canton MI. 48187, or see either Carol Ann or Janelle at the club meetings to pay in advance. Following dinner and cleanup, we will play more music under the tents or in the barn.

The campout ends Sunday June 13th with a lakeside worship service. SSDS provides music before, during and after the service. Music packets will be provided prior to the campout. The Sunday lakeside service is a beautiful way to end a fun & music filled weekend. Plan to attend.

NOTE: The Silver Strings Campout is ALWAYS open to non-club members and everyone is welcome to attend. There is LOTS for non-musical family members to do. They can swim, fish, rent a paddle boat, play family games, take nature hikes, and more! Check [www.myerslake.com](http://www.myerslake.com) for details.

### SSDS CLUB JACKETS & SHIRTS

A number of people have asked if I could place another jacket order. I will place another order after the second week in June. If I receive 12 or more orders, the price will remain same ...\$35.95 plus \$4.50 with your name embroidered on the front (highly recommended) plus \$2.43 tax. Less than 12 will be an additional charge of \$8.00.

I am still taking orders for the polo shirts. I will place the shirt order along with the jackets.

Carol Ann Matthews

### TUNE OF THE MONTH

The tune of the month for June is actually "tunes of the season" (the *Holiday* season, that is). We will be handing out music for several new holiday tunes that we are contemplating adding to the playlists for the holiday season. The music will be available at the club meeting beginning June 3rd.

Carol Ann Matthews and Janelle Pacic

### MIDLAND FESTIVAL RE-NAMED

After 16 years, the Midland Festival, to be held August 26-29th, will be known as the **Midland Folk Music Festival**. It will have the fun acoustic instrument workshops, jams & concerts we have so loved, with the addition of children's workshops and folk dancing. This will offer new learning experiences for all, including the non-instrumental family members attending. Registration is \$7 and camping is \$17 per night. See their website for details:

[www.folkmusicsociety.org](http://www.folkmusicsociety.org).

### SECRETARY'S NOTES \_\_\_\_\_

#### Silver Strings Board Meeting May 6, 2010

- The revisions Kelly made to the music are printed smaller than expected. We will try to enlarge the print.
- A committee of experienced musicians who read music will be chosen to review Kelly's Revisions for accuracy.
- When the music pack is reviewed, and songs of the month and workshop tunes are added, if seldom-played tunes are removed, will this be done by the Board or a committee? Or should the members be consulted. The Board voted 4-2, to consult with members.
- Larry will get the members' input on the removals at a general meeting at break.
- The caterer for the campout is selected. There are only a few details to be worked out. Carol Ann will start collecting money for the campout tonight.
- Carol Ann needs quite a few more polo shirt orders to get a price break. The jackets are in and will be distributed tonight.

Beverley Scott

**PLAYDATE MATTERS** \_\_\_\_\_ V.P. Business

Bookings for Holiday playdates are starting to come in. It is nice to receive inquiries such as the one from the Wayne Public Library where we performed in December, 2009: "Dear Bert Stein: The Friends of the Library were so impressed with the Silver Strings that I've been asked to book the group again..."

We played for two Mother's Day celebrations for great, very lively, appreciative audiences at Baldwin House in Birmingham and Cherry Hill United Methodist Church in Canton. It still intrigues me to find what a difference it makes to musicians to have such wonderful, responsive audiences. You can really feel the energy flowing between the audience and the musicians. There were many great comments after both performances. The applause was vigorous and widespread after each tune we played. The activities director at Baldwin House said she was not going to wait a full year to ask us back (we played there twice last year). At the Canton affair, a mother-daughter mother's day celebration in a historic church built in 1882, we had just started playing our first tune, "Whiskey Before Breakfast", when a woman in the audience excitedly said "WOW!!". She came up after our performance and bought one of each of our CD's. There was an irrepressible, delightful young girl sitting in the front row in her mother's lap and bouncing all over the place in rhythm to our tunes. The young girl eventually got up and danced with a woman in the aisle of the Church. Everyone in the Church, including all of the young children got fully into shouting "HEY" in the "Hey Polka" and having great fun with that. A member of the church handed us a note that read "Dear Silver Strings, Thank you so much for sharing your wonderful talent and gifting us with your music. I hope that you know your being here today meant a lot to us. Thank you."

We also played for a National Nursing Home Week event at Rivergate Terrace in Riverview, in Victorian attire. We all loved playing there, and it was very clear the feeling was mutual with the audience. People were clapping in rhythm with our music, tapping their toes, singing along with the music, shouting "bravo", and having a great time. I saw a number of people (visitors and staff) dancing to our music as they walked by. There was a stream of wonderful comments as people filed by after our performance, including "Your music made me feel on cloud ten! I've been here for a year and this is the best! I wouldn't tell you this just to make you feel good. I tell people when I don't like their music!" "I'm from Ireland originally and I loved your music!" "This was so great!! Fantastic!!"

Thanks to all of you who contribute on a regular basis to our playdates and help spread the joy! Please check the "Mark your Calendar" section of the newsletter for upcoming playdates. Bert Stein

## 2010 JUNE PLAY LIST

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Smash the Windows	3
G	Red Wing	3*
G	You're a Grand Old Flag	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3*
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Battle Hymn of the Republic	3
D	Over the Waterfall	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3*
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
G	Down Yonder	3
Em	Road-Lisdoonvarna / Riding-Hay	3/3
G	Larry's Waltz	3*
G	Hundred Pipers	3
C	Five Foot Two	4
D	John Ryan's Polka with solos: (1:All; 2:Fiddles; 3:Dulcimer; 4:Guitar; 5:Bass; 6:All)	6
G	January Waltz	3*
D	Hey Polka	5
G	Maggie	3
D	Festival Rag	3
G	Fanny Power	2*
D	Swinging on a Gate	3
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	3
A	Red Haired Boy	3
G	Southwind	3*
D	Angeline the Baker	3
G	March of St. Timothy	3
D	Painter's Polka	3
G	America the Beautiful	3
Em	Dancing Bear	3
D	Midnight on the Water	3*
G	Flowers of Edinburgh	3*
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
G	Nail That Catfish to a Tree	3
Em	Tamlin	4
G	Young Jane	3*
D/D D/G	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/ Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers	2/2/ 2/2
<b>Extra Tunes</b>		
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Sophrina	3*
D	Lover's Waltz	2
C	Black Velvet Waltz	3*
D	St. Anne's Reel	3
*	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> time: feature fiddles, HD's soft!</b>	

**NEWS FLASH REGARDING  
AN EXTRAORDINARY FIDDLER**



SSDS member, Lee Ann Lack entered a song writing contest in Brighton April 24<sup>th</sup>, and finished in the top 10 of 57 entries. You can see and hear her play her wonderful tune on the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtgl1AVLcoY>

**FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-CONCERTS**

*This HD workshop is one of the best around, and just before Evart. Everyone who has attended has RAVED about their many "Light Bulb Moments".*

"I have openings for the "A to Zs of the Hammered Dulcimer" at Evart, MI. If you are interested, send me an email with your name, address, and phone number right away. Those of you who are signed up should have received a letter from me. The cost is \$165 per person. We are in a new location. Hope to see you there. This year there will be no pig roast dinner on Wednesday night, but there will be an Open Jam starting at 7:30 pm. The jamming is free and fun!!!!!"

<http://www.rthum.com>

Shop # (314) 406-0690 (636) 677-7477

**Evart Dulcimer Funfest**

For information about the October fiddlers contest in New Boston, Michigan, check the website:

<http://huronapplefest.com/fiddlerscontest.php>

The director is our old friend, Jim McKinney.

*If you know of any other coming festivals or workshops people might enjoy, please submit them to the Soundboard, so we can share the learning opportunities.*

*You may leave a note in the suggestion box or contact Sandi Hlavacek.*

[datadoc@charter.net](mailto:datadoc@charter.net).....734-663-7974

**LET'S CELEBRATE JUNE !!!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- 11... Dale Rasor
- 18... Tom Koppin
- 27... Walt Jablonski
- 29... Linda Losse
- 30... Steve Hadley
- 30... Roger Davis



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- 20... Sherry & Morgan Humecky (40<sup>th</sup>)

**FOR SALE**

Walt Jablonski, has a GREAT motorhome for sale, that has seen Evart many times. He can no longer drive it. She was born in 1978, but has had EXCELLENT care & many updates. Someone will get a FABULOUS deal on this pampered camper, The \$12,000 is well below market price. Below is a website ad for details, or you may call him at 734-422-8803. <http://www.tincantourists.com/classified/showproduct.php?product=2820&sort=2&cat=3&page=1>

16/15 chromatic Songbird Whippoorwill H-dulcimer. Lightweight - 13 lbs, mahogany soundboard (which is now getting rare as mahogany is getting very expensive). It sounds like a masterworks dulcimer. Comes with a nice professional case, and stand, and hammers all for \$650. Call Paula at (616)240 0445, or email at [pbrawdy@jasnetworks.net](mailto:pbrawdy@jasnetworks.net)

**Banjo for sale:** Call Bill Deighton (734) 455-0295



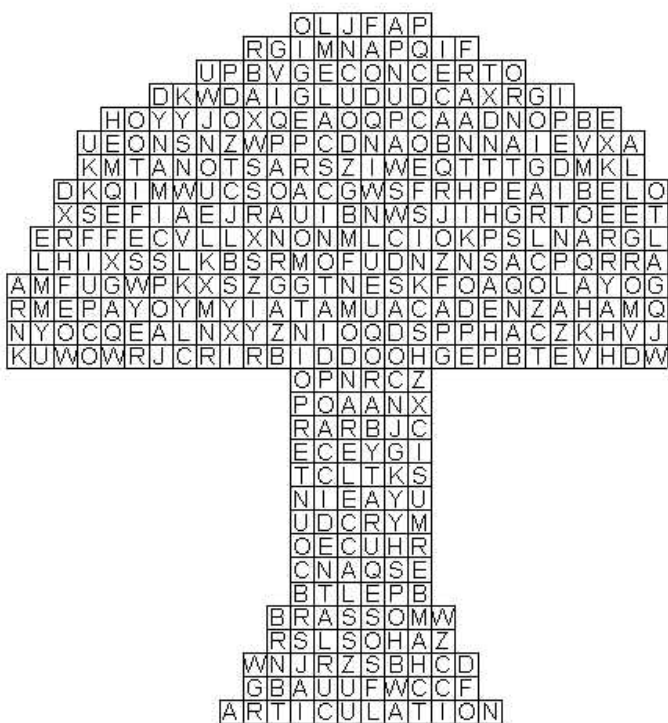
If you would like to attend the Uncle Carl's campout in June, the Evart Funfest in July, and/or Midland Festival in August, but have no camping equipment, here's a golden opportunity for you!

**JOIN THE FUN** in a cozy tent (sleeps 4) with a floor, a queen-sized air bed (linens available), and even a heater and porta-potti (if you want). It will be delivered to the camp site, with help putting it up and taking it down. All of this for the AMAZING cost of **FREE !!!** Have a really good time with awesome people and great music. To reserve the equipment, contact Bob & Sandi Hlavacek, 734-663-7974.

**Mark your Calendar**

- JUNE** . . . . .
- 11-13...SSDS CAMPOUT.....Myers Lake, Byron
  - 12.....SSDS Playdate.....11:am-1:pm
  - Maybe Days Festival.....Maybe
  - 25-27...UNCLE CARL'S Club Campout, Coldwater
- JULY** . . . . .
- 15-18...EVART DULCIMER FUNFEST.....Evart

**IN THE HARMONY OF LIFE  
WE ARE ALL, BUT SINGLE NOTES  
BUT TOGETHER  
WE CAN MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC**



**Find these musical words**

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>accelerando</b>  | <b>brass</b>          |
| <b>accidental</b>   | <b>cadenza</b>        |
| <b>adagio</b>       | <b>cantata</b>        |
| <b>allegro</b>      | <b>chamber music</b>  |
| <b>alto</b>         | <b>coda</b>           |
| <b>andante</b>      | <b>concerto</b>       |
| <b>arpeggio</b>     | <b>counterpoint</b>   |
| <b>articulation</b> | <b>diatonic scale</b> |
| <b>baroque</b>      | <b>dissonance</b>     |
| <b>bass</b>         | <b>dynamics</b>       |

**EVART FUNFEST WILL TRY AGAIN !**

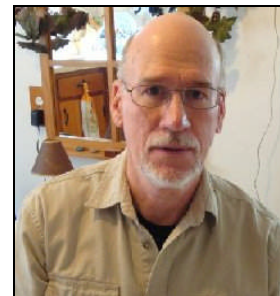
Last year, the World Record Academy certified that a world record was set for the largest number of hammered dulcimers playing together on stage (197 hammered dulcimers) Friday night at the ODPC Funfest. This year we hope to do even better.

**2010 Pre-Show Tunes**

- Red Apple Rag (G)
- Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)
- Sophrina (G) (by Les Raber)
- Soldier's Joy (D)
- Blueberry Splash (G) (by Judi Morningstar)
- Bryson Hall Waltz (G) (by Dee Dee Tibbits)
- Festival Rag (D) (by Bill Robinson)
- Hey Polka (D)
- Liberty (D) - if time permits

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

**TOM MONTELAURO**



My name is Tom Montelauro. I have been leading the mandolin workshops at Silver Strings. I've been a member of Silver Strings for about four years. I was born and raised in Sandusky, Ohio. We were a typical 1950's family with a stay at home mother and a father who worked at a nearby factory as a machinist. I had two sisters, one older and one younger. One took piano lessons and played beautiful classical music, and the other taught herself to play guitar and sing. An uncle played guitar in a band, but as I was growing up, I wasn't all that interested in music. After high school I joined the Navy for a four year hitch, then went to Ohio State University where I earned a B.A. degree with a major in Sociology. My entire working career was as a Customs Officer in the Port of Detroit. I have been enjoying retirement for five years now.

I was in my late twenties before I had any strong desire to play an instrument. After listening to music by old-time fiddlers like Byron Berlin, I was inspired to buy a fiddle and learn to play and read music using only instruction books and a little help from my sister. After plodding along for about nine months, I virtually had to start all over, once she showed me how important timing was. I also experimented with guitar and harmonica before finally deciding to stick to the mandolin. I am married with three grown sons and a lot of grandchildren. Unfortunately only one grandson lives close enough for me to see on a regular basis. One of my sons, David, who lives nearby, plays the keyboard. We play together often. It is a blessing that, instead of rock or rap, he likes the same old-time and gospel music that I love so much.

In addition to music, I enjoy camping and am an avid reader, especially of books on theology, philosophy and politics. I am a Christian. The grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, is the true foundation of my life. Being a member of Silver Strings has been a blessing that has made playing the mandolin much more enjoyable and challenging.

**SSDS MEMBERS... DID YOU KNOW... ?**

*The Soundboard is a great place to advertise an instrument you are selling or seeking. It goes on the world wide web.*

## DULCIMETIQUETTE or

### “How to avoid a bum rap”

Excerpts from “Jam Session Etiquette” by Paul Goetz

“The intent of this article is to raise the awareness of musicians, so all can make better music together. Jamming with old and new friends is what “folk music” is all about.”

It is reprinted here every few years, because we have many new players, and will have many great opportunities to jam with new people during the coming campouts and festivals. As we enter these experiences, it's good to know how “not to offend”.

(editor)

#### **What is a jam session ?**

It is a group of musicians who may or may not know each other, playing together for their own enjoyment.

#### **Open vs. closed jam sessions ?**

Some jams are not intended for all to enter. They may be trying to establish a particular style or mood, and cannot accomplish that with excessive numbers. Use discretion if you:

- a).don't know anyone in the group
- b).don't know their tunes
- c).find them in a remote location or a tightly closed circle
- d).note the session may be rehearsal for performance
- e).note the skill level is considerably above yours.

In those situations, listen but don't set up. If your instrument is visible, you might be invited to join in.

#### **Jam vs. Performance :**

Some sessions are, in fact, “mini-performances” and may not be receptive to “foreigners”.

#### **Musical Styles :**

The hammered dulcimer, no matter how well played might not be welcome in a string band group, or funky blues. Consider the type of music festival you are at.

An “old-tyme” string festival (like Wheatland), is attended by “purists” who might prefer their percussive sound to the sustained sound of a hammered dulcimer.

At a mountain dulcimer event, (like Buckeye), most players appreciate a hammered dulcimer, but wish it would try not to be over-powering.

Remember, you are there not only to share the love of music, but to be a part of the process of creating music. Be sensitive to the end result... listen.

#### **If I don't know the tune ?**

Play softly till you can play something appropriate. Chords or harmony can be appropriate, but be cautious.

#### **If I do Know the tune ?**

Enter cautiously. Try to blend with the others, not overpower. If it is a “full-blast-Evart-Saturday-night-up-all-night-under-the-tin-roof” session, have at it... and may the loudest dulcimer win.

#### **If I'm not the only dulcimer ?**

Watch the reaction to the other dulcimer. If it is being integrated into the group, join in and remember your manners. If it's being ignored, follow the ground rules and observe whether there is a reason. If you see no reason, try another jam.

#### **How loud is loud enough ?**

Listen !!! If your sound blends into the session, you might be a bit soft. Your soundboard faces you... not the audience. Adjust your volume so it sounds balanced to you, and be mindful of those around you.

#### **Tuning etiquette :**

“In tune” might mean “with the other musicians”. Theoretically, everyone should be tuned to A-440. But if you join a jam, it would be impolite to expect them to re-tune to match you (unless they offer). If they have been playing in high heat and or humidity, they may be unanimously off, and they were there first. Remove yourself to tune. Do not play out of tune !!!

#### **Suggesting tunes :**

Tunes are usually chosen by one and played by all. You might ask if others know your tune, then start it, or simply start it.

**Familiarity...** It helps to pick a tune at least 1-2 others know. It is a good idea to listen to several selections first, to get a feel for the type of music the group likes to play. It's better to pass, than to suggest “Golden Slippers” in a blues group jam.

**Tempo...** If others are playing “up to speed”, don't ask for a tune you can't play that fast. Also, don't start a song too fast, and run away with it.

**Key...** There is no “correct” key. There is, however, a “customary” key. You may start it there, or request an alternative key for a fun challenge (if you know the group).

Westphalia Waltz is usually played in “G” in Michigan, and rather fast. Elsewhere, it may be slower, in “D”.

If a key has been settled on, it's kind to choose other songs in that key for a while. Some instruments are difficult to change from key to key. They may have to re-tune.

#### **How do I know when to stop ?**

Jam tunes are usually played 2-6 times. Longer runs are for less familiar tunes, so the players have a chance to “catch on”.

#### **How do I stop ?**

There are several ways to stop a tune. The one who starts it might raise a foot, to signal the end. One may also yell “Last time”, or “Going out”, or “Out”, or suddenly play an obvious variation on the “B” part during the last few notes to signal the end.

# HAPPY JAMMING !!!!!