

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

## Soundboard

MARCH 2012 28 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC July 1983-2011 Issue 318  
Website : [www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)

### PRESIDENTS CORNER \_\_\_\_\_ Bob Niemczewski

Hello Fellow Members,

I would like to start off by thanking all of you folks who sent kind thoughts, words, and prayers to Sally, my family, and myself when my sister passed away last month. It really means a lot to have so many wonderful people to lean on when times get rough. Right now (it's mid February) we are down in Florida on a two week vacation, and I will have missed a few SSDS meetings, but I am looking forward to getting back to business at the March 1st meeting. By the way, the Board will be having a meeting at 6pm on March 1<sup>st</sup>, right before our regular club meeting. Thanks to all the members who took over for me while I am away. They know who they are, and their help is appreciated.

I am looking forward to the next few months at SSDS, hoping we can get some good music workshops going for our members. We have a bunch of talent in this club, so if you want to teach a workshop just let us know, and we will get you set up. I will be doing an autoharp workshop and it would be nice to see some other instruments, like mountain dulcimer, violin, guitar, (too many to name) but you get the idea. Take care, stay well, and keep it tuned up.

Peace Through Music. . . . . Bob

### NOTABLE NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

- \* The board did not meet the month of February.
- \* I sent "sympathy" cards to Frank and Judi Surhigh, Bob and Sally Niemczewski and Charlie and Cindy Feigel.
- \* I sent "thinking of you" cards to Bobbi Hurst and Roger and Barb Davis.
- \* I sent "get well" cards to Marlin Harmon, Dorothy Ewald and to Ed Wassell. . . . . Sharon McAuliffe

### NOTEifications \_\_\_\_\_ V.P. Business

Hello everyone,

I'm writing this article, awaiting our first real snowfall of the "Winter, that Was NOT of 2012"! I, for one, am not complaining, as I do not miss slippin' and slidin' on our way to play music!!

It's been a restful February as far as playdates go. We do have two scheduled for March, so we will be putting our "Irish" on, and playing some of our favorite tunes. Please use the attached playlist to brush up on a few of them, and let's play them at our next jam.

Thank you, Sharon McAuliffe, for teaching us some techniques to help make starters of us all. Its not nearly as scary to start a tune, once you take the time to learn what part of the song to use. Also, Sharon showed us how to use some simplified 2-4 note cords to help us begin a tune.

I would like to keep our club as interesting and as much fun as possible, so if you have suggestions for songs, workshops / teachings of any kind, let me know, and we will work on it for the good of our members. Happy Jammin' . . . . . Linda Osgood

### VP PROGRAM NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ George Gonyo

Here are a few dates to put on your calendar for this year:

- \*Buckeye Festival in Ohio is March 7th thru March 12th.
- \*First Variety Night is March 29th
- \*Myers Lake is scheduled for June 8th, 9th & 10th
- \*Evert Fun Festival is July 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup>
- \*Midland Festival is August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>.

The above festivals have been attended by many of our SSDS members over the years. If you have other festivals that our members would be interested in, please let me know. Thanks again for the help in cleaning up at our meetings. Many hands make light work for everyone. . . . . George



## IT'S MARCH...LET'S CELEBRATE !

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1.....Shayla Rachelle
- 3.....Kay Rowe
- 7.....Bonnie Ream
- 11....Rich Smith
- 12....David Smith
- 12....Evie Bain
- 15....Sherry Humecky
- 16....Kaye Hemmerling
- 24....John Freeman
- 25....Donna Mayer
- 27....Ida O'Dell
- 30....Dorothy Ewald
- 30....Bob Niemczewski
- 30....Jerry Coval



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 2.....Shirley Kaiser.....65<sup>th</sup>

### PURSE STRINGS \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

Hello Everyone,

As I write this article, Bob and I are vacationing in sunny Florida, I can assure you that SSDS monies are secure back in Michigan. Upon our return I will be meeting with Bob Hlavacek to do our taxes. Hopefully we will not owe any money to our government. I will keep you posted on that.

I look forward to getting back to music.

Sally Niemczewski

### ODPC T-Shirt CONTEST!



They have not received any designs for the contest yet. You can submit ONE entry to the ODPC by mailing it to:

Ms. Peg Earl, 2547 E Webster Rd,  
Montague, MI 49437

. Or e-mail it to: [treasurer@dulcimers.com](mailto:treasurer@dulcimers.com).

This is the 40th fest, so that probably should be featured. You need to use no more than 3 colors in the design. It must feature the ODPC logo (on all newsletters or she can send electronically) and a hammered dulcimer, of course. You may also sign your design and have that signature printed on each shirt, if you so desire. The winner will receive a choice of 2 T-shirts in desired size and color. It must be in Peg's hands no later than April 19<sup>th</sup>, so we can decide upon which entry at the meeting 4/21.

Check the For Sale section of our website,  
if your looking for an instrument.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 1.... **Board meeting @ 6:00 . . . . . Jam @ 7:00**
- 15...**Pennywhistle/Autoharp Workshops . . . . . 6:00**  
**SSDS Jam. . . . . 7:00-?**
- 16...**Evening Concert . . . . . BC . . . . . 6:00-7:00**  
Maple Heights Retir. Community . . . . . Allen Park
- 28...**Evening Concert. . . . . BC . . . . . 6:00-7:00**  
Westlake Health Campus . . . . . Commerce
- 15...**Slow Jam @6:00. . . . . Jam @ 7:00**
- 29...**SSDS Variety Night. . . . . 7:00**

### APRIL

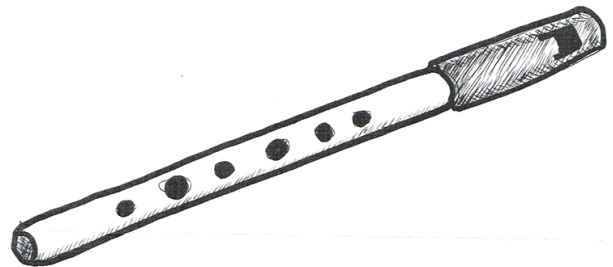
- 5....**Board meeting @ 6:00 . . . . . Jam @ 7:00**
- 19...**SSDS Jam . . . . . 7:00-?**

**BC**=Business Casual, **V**= Victorian

**BW**=Black & white, **H**=Holiday

There will be a Penny Whistle class on Mar. 15th led by Kay Rowe. Kay says bring a high D whistle. I've included her flyer.

An Autoharp class will be led by Bob Niemczewski at 6 pm on the 15<sup>th</sup>, also. He will feature the song John Ryan's Polka for the autoharp.



For anyone interested in playing

## Pennywhistle

we will have a class on March 15 at 6:00 p.m.

All are welcome, beginners and beyond!

If you need to purchase a Pennywhistle, I suggest you check the internet for a wide selection of whistles. You will need a high D whistle. If you have questions, call me at (734) 455-1487 or see me at Jam.

(A good site is [harpanddragon.com](http://harpanddragon.com) and I like the Tony Dixon High D whistle TDSW4A)

*Kay Rowe*

## ♪ TUNES FROM THE WOODS ♪

About one and one-half years ago, I was walking through my hometown, Huntington Woods. As with any walk I had taken, a tune started playing in my mind, set off by the rhythm of walking. Unlike the prior times though, this tune was my own. The entire tune ("A" and "B" parts) had appeared spontaneously, without my having planned to "compose" anything. I liked the tune, and it kept running through my mind until I got back home and wrote it out. That was the beginning of a torrent of "unplanned composing" that is still going on and has been a source of a lot of joy for me.

I am self-publishing 40 of my tunes (jigs, reels, and waltzes) with chords, in a spiral-bound book entitled "Tunes from the Woods", which should be available at upcoming SSDS meetings in March, 2012 (Cost: \$12 including tax for in-person sales; otherwise \$17 including tax, shipping and handling). For additional information or to obtain order forms, please contact me by email:

**talbertstein@gmail.com**

or visit the website:

**<https://sites.google.com/site/talbertsteinsmusic/>**

I believe that playing music with many of you at SSDS jams during the past 7 years has been an important part of the kindling for my fledgling composing efforts.

Thank you for that opportunity. . . . . Bert Stein



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU . . . . .Regis Proulx

I was born in Knolton, Quebec, the oldest of 6 brothers and 3 sisters, and I lived on a dairy farm till I was 17. An uncle had a fiddle, and when I was 13 years old, he told me if I came up with a song in a couple of months, he would give it to me. I'm not sure, but the song that earned me that fiddle might have been "St Anne's Reel". I still have that fiddle in my collection of musical toys.

I left the farm, to become a lineman with the electric co-op in Canada, I moved to the US at 21, and worked on the Detroit Edison lines for 38 years.

I retired in August of 2004. I am married with 2 children, 1 step son, and seven grandchildren, fortunately all are in southeastern Michigan.

We have traveled all across the US and Canada, but my most special trip was a 3 month trip to Alaska. A lot of our friends raved about their trips there, so we headed out in our RV to explore Alaska ourselves. We're planning another exploration of northern British Columbia.

Music is my hobby. I play fiddle, hammered dulcimer, mandolin, and piano accordion. My favorites are my fiddle and dulcimer. I especially enjoy Cajun, old Bluegrass and old time Fiddle tunes. Even a 1985 elbow injury couldn't stop me. I just learned a new way to hold my fiddle. I'm ready to jam with any kind of music, any time and anywhere. It keeps me young.

I also have a mountain of firewood behind my home, which I call my "exercise program". About 50% of our home heat is from wood, and I sell some by the cord, on the side.

I first heard about Silver Strings by talking with other musicians in the area, and joined in January 2010.

I am also a member of Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club in Spring Arbor.

## Evart Funfest Osceola Fair notice

2012 Camping Policy for events held on the  
Osceola 4-H/FFA Fairgrounds:

Campsites are assigned on a first come basis with cash, credit card or check. As a courtesy, we will accept payment with a credit card by phone, but you cannot call in advance to purchase a campsite. If you want to purchase a campsite with your credit card, you must do it on the day you want to start paying for that campsite. There will be **no pre-payments accepted** ahead of time. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the fair office at 231-734-5481. Leave a message, and someone will return your call as soon as possible. **There will be NO pre-registering for a site, you cannot send in a letter with a check, and ask for a certain campsite on a certain date.** They are NOT doing that this year. You will start paying for your site when you arrive to start camping, or pay in advance, if you need to be sure of having a certain spot. **The ODPC does not take care of the camping, it's all handled by the fair.** We think they do a pretty darned good job at it. We need to think of that, and remember all they do for us. They host the equivalent of a small village on the grounds, and that is a lot of work. I know this system works well for some, and not so well for others. No matter what they decide, some folks won't be pleased. For those of you who are disappointed, I am sorry. It is the system we will be working with. No matter where you camp, you'll still get to see your friends, jam when you want, and meet new folks. If you have other questions about camping you should contact the fair directly at the number they provided.

Gail Schwandt . . . . . ODPC President



To print the **MARCH Play list**,  
 please click on our website or this link :  
<http://www.silverstrings.org/sections/tunes/pdf/2012/mar12.pdf>

## MARCH PLAY LIST 2011

KEY	TUNE	PLAYED
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Redwing	3*
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	St. Ann's Reel	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Southwind	3*
D	Over the Waterfall	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
Em	Tamlin	3
A	Red Haired Boy	3
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/ Riding on a Load of Hay	3/3
D	John Ryan's Polka	Karen Decides
D	Hey Polka	? Decides
C	When Irish Eyes are Smiling	3*
D	Young Roddy McCorley	4
Em	Drunken Sailor	3
D	Coleman's March	3
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/ Soldiers Joy/Golden Slippers	2/2/2/2
D/G		
	<b>EXTRA TUNES</b>	
G	Young Jane	3
G	Scotland The Brave	3
D	Midnight on the Water	3*
D	Smash the Windows	3
	*2 <sup>nd</sup> Time: fiddles, harmonicas, backup: HDs Softly	

### A Few Musical Limericks

This jig sends me into a swoon;  
 I'll be fit for psychiatry soon.  
 To chose I am loath  
 But I cannot do both—  
 Do I play it in time or in tune?

Because of her verse and her ear  
 The quartet played, cringing in fear  
 That they'd miss the repeats  
 Or fall off their seats  
 And hear of it year after year.

Soon after we've played the last line  
 All thoughts turn to cheeses and wine.  
 I can't decide yet  
 About this quartet.  
 Do we meet to make music—or dine?



## FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-JAMS

### UNCLE CARL'S DULCIMER CLUB

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of month 12:30-4:30pm  
 (next is Mar 10<sup>th</sup>)

For info. call Pennyne 517-547-7448

### NETTLE LAKE MUSIC JAM

First Saturday of Month – 6pm (Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>)

For info contact Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870

### MAUMEE STREET MUSIC JAM

(formerly called West Adrian Jam)

Forth Saturday of the month – 6pm (Mar 24<sup>th</sup>)

For info. contact  
 Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870  
 Or Larry Roper 248-437-5403

### SUGAR (Saginaw Ukulele Gurus and Rookies)

First Saturday of the month 10:30-Noon (Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Magic Bean Café, 5789 State St, Suite 3, Saginaw. MI

Songs are posted beforehand on the internet

For info email: [muzyka2007@yahoo.com](mailto:muzyka2007@yahoo.com)

### MT. HALEY JAMBOREE

Monthly jams held the last Friday of every month

Mar 30<sup>th</sup> Mt. Haley Township Hall, Midland County

For Info contact Alice Perry at:

[mthaleyfmsm@gmail.com](mailto:mthaleyfmsm@gmail.com)

### Buckeye Dulcimer Festival

*Call to see if space is still available*

**REMEDY for the "WINTER BLUES"**

March 7-11in Ashley, OH.

**CONTACT for info.:** Louise Zeigler 740-747-2326 or  
 740-815-3099 or [www.buckeyedulcimerfestival.com](http://www.buckeyedulcimerfestival.com)

CLASSES for hammered. and mountain dulcimer,  
 fiddle, clawhammer banjo, autoharp, pennywhistle,  
 AND "Band It" for all other acoustic instruments.

### Original Michigan Fiddlers Association

**FIDDLER'S JAMBOREE**

**Old Fashioned Square Dance - Hastings, Mi.**

Sat. April 21<sup>st</sup> ...COA Senior Center

320 West Woodlawn Street

Fiddlers play 1-5:pm, Open microphone 5-6:30 pm

Dancing 6:30-9:00pm

Refreshments & dinner available

Bring your non-electric instrument & join the fun !

For info. contact Paula : (616) 240-0445

### Concert and Workshop with Ted Yoder

**Midland Folk Society**, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Workshop at 1:00

concert and the day cost is \$25.00

for info: Shirley Kaiser [keysers54@hotmail.com](mailto:keysers54@hotmail.com)