

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

June 2015 32 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC July 1983-2015 Issue 362  
Website : [www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)

## PRESIDENTS REPORT \_\_\_\_\_ Harold Crane

Hello Everyone, I'm still on my month of May road trip out west to visit an old friend who lives in Canyon Lake, Texas between Austin and San Antonio. Lots of fun things to do, places to visit, live music, dance halls, bars and ice houses, and dining out. We also traveled to Mesa, Arizona to visit some old friends and do some sight-seeing, hiking and swimming in the mountains at a place called Fossil Creek and driving back roads through same towns. We'll be going through New Mexico on our way back to Texas and do some more sight-seeing and then back to Michigan. I'll see you all at our first Thursday meeting at Good Hope Church in June and again at our Meyers Lake Campout and music jam on June 12 - 14. I hope everyone is healthy, happy and playing lots of music!

Take care ..... Harold

## SECRETARY'S NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Mick Mastal Minutes for the last meeting are on file.

### Taking the Fifth – of Beethoven

Prior to last week's jam, a group of us met to play the Finale from Beethoven's Fifth. Two of the people were new to the group but gamely joined in. We also started working on the Vivaldi's Spring number. That is going to take a while – there are more running note passages so timing is critical.

If you would like to try this and haven't yet, please contact me and I will send you the music.

If you are a MD dulcimer player, please work on the second part of both pieces. The group decided that the MD's all need to be together for balance of sound.

Finale – we will set up a time to practice this together at the Myers' Lake event (exact time to be announced) so bring your music. And if you haven't made your reservation and/or let Maureen Mullins know you are coming on Saturday, please do. That will ease her mind and help her with what she is trying to coordinate.

Marsha

## V.P. BUSINESS NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Ann Wassell

Summer has finally arrived with flowers, green grass and warm weather! To celebrate the Fourth of July you might take your family to the Fourth of July Parade in Northville and then join Silver Strings players at the Mill Race Village Civil War Encampment as we entertain from 11:30 to 2:30 p.m. More players will be welcome, sign up at the next Silver Strings meeting. It should be fun.

We are also playing at Mill Race Village on Wednesday, July 8, for the Country Garden Club of Northville annual Garden walk. We will entertain from noon to 4 p.m.

July will be a busy month for all of us.

Enjoy the music! ..... Ann

## FROM THE TREASURER'S BOX \_\_\_\_\_ Terry Kozlowski June Report

1. Our membership is now at 92.
2. Treasury book is available for inspection. See me at any of the jams or variety night for review.
3. Additional music revision packets will be available at the June meeting.

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

### BIRTHDAYS

- 9...Mary Colgan
- 10...Diane Calhoun
- 18...Tom Koppin
- 27...Walt Jablonski
- 30...Steve Hadley
- 30...Roger Davis



### ANNIVERSARIES

- 20...Sherry & Morgan Humecky.....45<sup>th</sup>

**Music Coordinator Notes** \_\_\_\_\_ Marsha Koslowski

**JUNE TUNE OF THE MONTH:**

“Down to the River to Pray” is going to be our June tune of the month. It is a familiar tune, having been featured in the Coen Brothers film, “O Brother, Where Art Thou” being performed by Alison Krauss. It has been recorded by a number of artists including the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Kings’ Singers and this year on the Voice by Deanna Johnson.

The exact origins of the song are difficult to pinpoint. It has been referred to as a hymn, a spiritual, an Appalachian tune. Some even believe it was an Amerind Tribal song that was adapted to Christian lyrics. It has been attributed to George H. Allan in the Slave Songbook of 1867 but it is unlikely he wrote the tune and merely transcribed it. It is suggested that it was composed by an African-American slave. This tune is one of the few American-American spirituals to also be regarded as an authentic American folk hymn. It was published in the Southern Harmony Hymnal in the 1800s.

The tune has had several titles: “Down in the Valley to Pray,” “Come, Let Us All go Down” and “The Good Old Way.” Regardless of the title, it is a spiritual tune about keeping the faith in a time of darkness. As in the morning, this tune is sung, sometimes in 4-part harmony at outdoor baptism. If it was a slave song, it is likely the words are coded messages for those escaping north. When slave escaped, they would walk in the river so the water would cover their scent from bounty hunters’ dogs. The “starry crown” may refer to navigating their way by the stars. And “Good Lord, show me the way” – is the prayer for God’s guidance along the “Underground Railroad.” Each verse is about family members and one can picture, mother, brother, sister, father clinging together as they make their way to freedom.

**MUSIC COORDINATOR CAVEAT:** Please have patience with me as I learn how to use MusicTime. If there are mistakes and there likely will be, I will gladly try to correct them. In the meantime, enjoy learning this tune. The tune has been transcribed into a variety of keys – some not very dulcimer friendly. I chose to put it in the key of A – because we don’t play in that box very often and this is not really a difficult tune. Another oddity of this tune is the 2 beat measure rest in the middle between A and B. This is in lieu of a hold over the E that ends the A part. There is a pause at the end of A, as if the singer is breathing in prayer. As a group, it seems that we have difficulty in all holding a note the same amount of time (We Three Kings comes to mind) – so I thought we could try this and count 1-2 in our heads (say a little prayer ourselves??) and then continue with part B.

**From the VP PROGRAMS** \_\_\_\_\_ Wade Mullins  
with Maureen Mullins

The busy summer months are sneaking up on us fast so check your calendars and make sure you’ve made room for the Annual Myers Lake Campout.

I checked with the campground this week and thus far we only have 6 sites reserved by members but I know many more of you have indicated you were coming. We have as always opened this up to other music groups in the area so if you are involved in more than one group please ask them to join us as well. If you are planning on attending please make your reservations soon so that we can plan on activities and get a good idea of how much food we’ll need. If you’re not a camper but would like to join us for the day please contact us through email at **mmm31517@aol.com** so we can put you in the count for food. Remember when making your reservations with Meyers Lake please use reservation code **G1401833**. We will be having a pancake breakfast as well as a potluck dinner on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a family friendly campground and there are playgrounds and a beachfront for the kids so bring them along too.



Mountaineers will not be meeting during the summer months.  
Have a fun summer!  
**Carol Ann and Linda**

**Evert Dulcimer Fest**

Just a reminder that we are scheduled to play on Thurs, July 16 at 6:40. We will probably play 4 tunes and have a developed a list of potential numbers to practice. The final decision of narrowing this list down will not be made until the end of June.

Even if you are not going to be at Evert, please work on becoming proficient in playing these so they can be rotated into our play lists throughout the year.

| Tune Name               | Time | Key |
|-------------------------|------|-----|
| Farewell to Whiskey     | 4/4  | G   |
| Puncheon Floor          | 2/4  | G/D |
| Sandy Boys              | 4/4  | D   |
| Scollay’s Reel          | 4/4  | Em  |
| Shoes & Stockings       | 4/4  | G   |
| Spanish Two Step        | 4/4  | D   |
| Ten Strike              | 4/4  | C   |
| Tommy’s Waltz           | 3/4  | G   |
| You’re a Grand Old Flag | 4/4  | C   |

## To print the Jun play list,

please click on our website or this link :

<http://www.silverstrings.org/sections/tunes/pdf/2015/2015JunPlaylist.pdf>

## Silver Strings June-July 2015 Playlist

| Key | Tune  | Play |
|-----|---|------|
| D   | Whiskey Before Breakfast  | 3    |
| G   | Red Wing  | 3*   |
| G   | Westphalia Waltz  | 2    |
| D   | Over The Waterfall  | 3    |
| D   | Sandy River Belle   | 3    |
| G   | Maggie  | 3    |
| G   | Down Yonder   | 3    |
| C   | Tennessee Waltz   | 3*   |
| D   | John Ryan's Polka   | 5    |
| G   | Southwind   | 3*   |
| D   | Snake River Reel  | 3    |
| G   | Red Apple Rag   | 3    |
| G   | Silver and Gold Two Step  | 3    |
| D   | Turkey in the Straw   | 3    |
| C   | Black Velvet Waltz  | 3*   |
| D   | Beaumont Rag  | 3    |
| G   | Bellman's Jig   | 3    |
| Em  | Dancing Bear/Missouri   | 2/2  |
| C   | Five Foot Two   | 3    |
| Em  | Tamlin  | 4    |
| D   | Liberty   | 3    |
| C   | You're A Grand Old Flag   | 3    |
|     | <b>Extras</b>   |      |
| D   | Hey Polka   | 3    |
|     |   |      |
|     | *2 <sup>nd</sup> time: If instruments are available--<br>Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistle<br>take it with backup; HD's softly |      |

### Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Music:

We have been given permission, by several composers, to play their music in our club. We also pay for a license that allows us to play some of our favorite tunes. We want to protect our Silver Strings members and respect the composers who have generously shared their music with us. In consideration of the composers and SSDS, do not sell, copy, give away or share any of our Silver Strings music.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### JUNE

4....SSDS Meeting and Jam . . . . . 7:00-?

Workshop on Starts . . . . . 6:00

12-14...SSDS MYERS LAKE CAMPOUT

18...SSDS Meeting and Jam . . . . . 7:00-?

### JULY

4....PLAYDATE . . . . . C . . . . . 11:30am-2:30pm

Mill Race Village (Civil War Camp). .Northville

8....PLAYDATE . . . . . C . . . . . 12:00-4:00

Country Garden Club . . . . . Northville

16-19...ODPC EVART FUNFEST

C=Casual, BC=Business Casual

## Adding New Tunes . . . . Marsha Kozlowski

The board would like to continue the practice of adding new tunes to our repertoire. Some of you have given me suggestions and copies of tunes we might add. Thank you for your help. All of them will be considered, in light of a number of things, including obtaining permission to play and copyright issues. Many of you go to events, workshops and festivals and hear some really great tunes that you bring back. That is what happened with "Mr. Gubbin's Bicycle." I heard it at a workshop, asked about it, got the music and learned it on my own, then played it at Myers' Lake. Next thing I knew, people were asking about it and wanted to learn it. Sources of music come in many different ways and one never knows when a tune will leap out and into your heart.

Let me share my philosophy and intention on introducing new tunes.

**\*Variety**, whether it is tempos, rhythms, keys, styles. A question I will be asking about each tune for consideration is what does it add? Does it sound very similar to what we already do? How does it broaden our playing? What could we do with this? Is there opportunity for harmony, for featuring other instruments on some parts? If we play all the same music all the same way, it gets monotonous and boring. In fact, I have heard people say things like, "I don't like Celtic music, it all sounds the same." One person who found out I play dulcimer actually asked me if I could play something other than in the key of G – he found it musically boring. (I assured him, I could play in other keys.)

**\*Dulcimer friendly** – some tunes are really great, but may not translate very well to the hammered dulcimer. So while we like a lot of fiddle tunes, they have to be able to be transcribed to play without a lot of difficulty, meaning those sharps or flats that are found in odd places.

**\*So many tunes, so little time** – we will try to be reasonable with new tunes and introduce them perhaps every other month or in anticipation of a seasonal needs, such as the Christmas season, March madness, Evart festival.

**\*Openness and organization** – feel free to share a tune with me at any time. I cannot promise it will become a tune of the month right away, but it will be put in the suggestion file and when it comes time to consider a new waltz, polka, reel or jig, it will be pulled out to consider. If it is a tune from a person you know, getting written permission to play it would help in keeping our records straight and organized and move the process along more quickly.

Update on "Angel Dance" Since my last note on our music, I have gotten permission to play Angel Dance and have put the documentation and tune in the master file for reference.



## FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-JAMS

### UNCLE CARL'S DULCIMER CLUB

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of month, Sept thru May, 12:30-4:30pm  
(next is Sept 12<sup>th</sup>)

For info. call Penny 517-547-7448

### NETTLE LAKE MUSIC JAM

First Saturday of Month Sept thru May – 6pm  
(next is Oct 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 (next is Sep. 26<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 (Jun 6<sup>th</sup>)

Sullivan's Restaurant on Gratiot in Saginaw, MI

Songs are posted beforehand on the internet

For info email: muzyka2007@yahoo.com

### MT. HALEY JAMBOREE

Last Friday of every month (Jun 26<sup>th</sup>)

Mt. Haley Township Hall, Midland County

1:00-4:00-Folk and Traditional Music Jam

Admission is free but donations to the Metamora Historical Society are appreciated. Metamora's 1888 Old Town Hall is part of an historic community.

For info. Call Alice Gajewski at 248-628-5287  
mthaleyfmsm@gmail.com

### GREAT LAKES UKULELE GATHERING

First Wednesday of the month 7:00 (Jun 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Good Hope Lutheran Church,

28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

A donation of \$3.00 is requested for the church.

Contact: Bob at [bsnemo@yahoo.com](mailto:bsnemo@yahoo.com) or

David at [musicalcraft@yahoo.com](mailto:musicalcraft@yahoo.com)

### Pittsfield Open Band - POB

Pittsfield Grange 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, First and third Saturday from 3-6pm.

<http://www.aactmad.org/sa/pob.html>

### LAMS - Livingston Acoustic Musical Society

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month 7-11pm (Jun 20<sup>th</sup>)

Fowlerville Church of the Nazarene

8040 Country Corner Drive, Fowlerville

Contact: Tony Miceli 517-223-9590

### FARMINGTON JAM

Universalist Unitarian Church

25301 Halsted Rd. Farmington Hills 48335

Second Tuesday of each month from Sept – June, 7pm

Many players come to play dulcimers, fiddles, guitars...

If you are a beginner, this is a good place

to meet people and get involved.

Contact: [HolmesSid@aol.com](mailto:HolmesSid@aol.com)

If anyone knows of a good jam that should be in this column and isn't please let me know. . . . . Lee

Don't forget the great workshops  
just before the ODPF Evert Funfest



Rick Thum is doing his A to Z class again and still has room for you. Monday July 13 thru Wednesday July 15. Over 20 hours of class time. \$175. Contact Rick at [rthum@rthum.com](mailto:rthum@rthum.com) or 314-406-0690 or go to his website [www.rthum.com](http://www.rthum.com) to sign up.



Stephen Seiphert is teaching a mountain dulcimer three-day with Bing Futch at the Twin Oaks Bowling Center & Lounge in Evert, MI, July 13-15, just before the ODPF FunFest. It's very close to the campground, but just outside walking distance. There will be good food, bowling, and an awesome jam with Rick Thum's bunch. The venue is non-smoking.

Bing and Stephen are teaching beginners, intermediates, and up, and will swap classes after lunch each day. Registration is now open. For all the details, please visit: <http://bingandsteve.com>.

### SSDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2015

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Meyers Lake Campground  
10575 Silver Lake Rd. Byron, MI  
48418



# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society's Annual Meyers Lake Campout

June 12 -14, 2015

Join us for a family friendly weekend of Music, Workshops and Jams

Friday and Saturday evening Jams in the enclosed Barn

The club will provide both Saturday morning Breakfast and Pot Luck Dinner

(meat, place settings and beverages included – please bring a dish to pass)

Make your reservations at [WWW.meyerslake.org](http://WWW.meyerslake.org) or by calling them at 810-266-4511

Use reservation code **G1401833**

Camp in your own tent or trailer or Cabin rental is available beginning at \$65.00 per night.

20 Amp sites are \$30.00 per night  
30 Amp w/water are \$35.00 per night

First night's payment is due upon reservation. Paying for your entire stay in advance you will qualify for curb side check-in and will bypass any lines in the registration office/store.

For any questions please contact:  
Wade or Maureen Mullins  
[mmm31517@aol.com](mailto:mmm31517@aol.com) 734-347-2098

# Mighty Uke Day or MUD5

by David & Theresa Smith

The ukulele has been undergoing a big revival over the past ten years or so. Theresa and I have acquired instruments and we have attended Ukulele Festivals in Indianapolis, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and San Antonio. Recently, Ukulele Clubs have been popping up all over the country and Michigan hosts at least 15 clubs, including GLUG (Great Lakes Ukulele Gathering) that meets right here at Good Hope Church.

The 5th Annual Mighty Uke Day took place on May 8 - 10 in the quaint historic district of Old Town in Lansing. The original one day event of five years ago has expanded into three days. On Friday, the event kicked off with a Ukulele Jam on the steps of our State Capitol. Theresa and I joined the other 45 ukulele players and performed for about a half hour and our antics were covered on the Lansing TV6 evening news.

The Friday and Saturday evening concerts featured professional ukulele players from all over the country. Saturday kicked off with a big ukulele jam at Sir Pizza Restaurant in Old Town, followed by workshops, open mike, vendors, and a silent auction. Old Town is located an easy two block walk from Elderly Instruments and everyone must visit this Mecca of Folk Music. Proceeds from the event are used to introduce the ukulele to the elementary schools in Lansing. It was a truly fun event and we plan on attending again next year. Mark your calendar for next year's **Mighty Uke Day MUD6** that will take place on **May 13 - 15, 2016**.



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## UKULELE SING ALONG

Ukulele players and singers of all abilities are encouraged to join us for an evening of musical fun. From 'Old-Time' favorites to Pop Classics, all music will be projected onto a screen so that we can all follow the lyrics and chords. The ukulele is an easy, inexpensive and fun instrument to play and sing along with. So if you have a ukulele, bring it along or stop by and join the sing-along. This event is promoted by the "Great Lakes Ukulele Gathering", a local ukulele club.

**Wed. June 24, 2015 7-8:30pm FREE**

Caroline Kennedy Library  
24590 George Street

(North of Ford Road & West of Telegraph)

Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

313-791-3800

## Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays every month  
7-9p.m .... with jamming till ...?

Meeting at **Good Hope Lutheran Church**  
In Garden City, Michigan

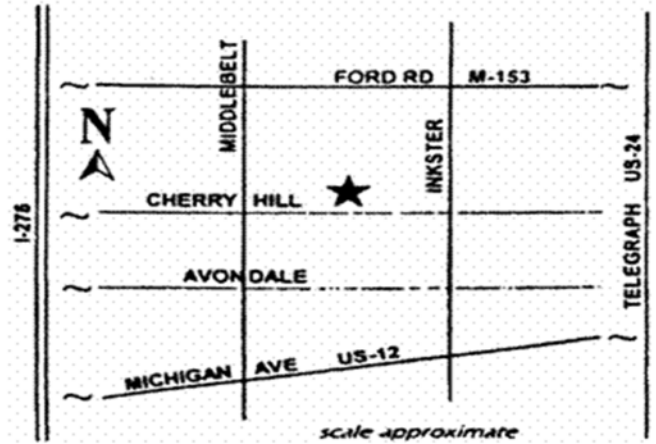
Featuring the hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer,  
and other acoustic band instruments :  
banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle, string bass, washtub  
bass, mandolin, folk harp, recorder, tin penny whistle,  
and harmonica.

Learn new tunes and techniques, jam together  
with other players, receive new music  
and a monthly newsletter.

Participate in workshops, festivals, performances,  
picnics, fun and fellowship.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT :**  
<http://www.silverstrings.org>

**Everyone is welcome !**  
Come to listen, or come to play.



Start thinking about getting articles for the newsletter to me by the 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Articles or pictures from any member are always welcome.

### Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

P.O.Box 1116  
Garden City, MI. 48136



**IT'S JUNE...!**  
**HAPPY CAMPING !!**

If you were on the mailing list  
your name would be here.