

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

June 2006

Year 23

Issue 6

(WEBSITE) www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Everyone,

This month we have the 6th Annual Friends and Family Campout being held at Myer's Lake Campground located in Byron, Michigan. It doesn't seem like we have been doing this event for this long though, does it? Everyone seems to have a real good time up there, and it's not too far to drive to. See Marlin or Carol Harmon for further information regarding this event. This event happens to coincide with Father's Day, so HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all of the father's out there.

June 21st is the first day of summer, and the longest amount of daylight hours. This means we'll slowly retreat to those Cold Frosty Morning's in December . It's too early to think about this already, right!

The month of June has five Thursdays in it, so this means a Variety Night again. So get your act/acts together. I hope to see you on stage this month. Some of you have asked for a music related garage sale along with this event, so bring your old instruments or hardly ever played instruments or music related merchandise, priced to sell. Attach a tag to each item, with your name and its price.....George

V. P. PROGRAMS

Hello everyone! I hope you all have your money in for the campout! We look forward to a good time and hope your do too. We need a host for variety night for June 29th. If you are interested, please contact one of the officers. We will be on vacation for 2 weeks, and will not be available till June 1st Marlin

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Why is a person who plays the piano called a "pianist" but a person who drives a race car is not called a "racist?"

V. P. BUSINESS

We have a pretty full calendar of events this month. Thanks to all of you who have signed up for the playdates. We have enough players for most of the upcoming dates. If you are still interested, let me know and I can put you on the "wait list". Occasionally, some one has an emergency and is unavailable to make the performance.

If you have signed up, you will receive either an e-mail (if you want this service) or a telephone call from me about 1 week prior to the play date. Please feel free to contact me, if you have any questions or were not notified.

We're having a great year so far, with holiday bookings starting to trickle in. Keep up the good work !

Have a safe journey, wherever your travels may lead you, and join us when you can. See you next month.

Continuing playdate protocol:

There seems to be some confusion about references made earlier to arrival and start time.

- 1) Times published for the playdate are the actual times of the performance.
- 2) Arrival time is 1/2 hour prior to start time, to allow for set up, storing of bags, and so on.
- 3) Players must be at their instruments and ready to play 5 minutes prior to start time.
- 4) Do not show up for a playdate unannounced. Many playdates have limited space for players. (Refer to the comments above about notification.)
- 5) If an emergency occurs, please notify me, the business manager, as soon as you can. There may be someone else available to fill the vacancy.

Ramona

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Hi folks. It's almost summer now. It sure doesn't feel like it with all this rain, does it? We are glad Jim Bain is feeling better after his heart surgery. He is having a little trouble with retaining fluids, but we hope this problem will be taken care of soon. Hurry back Jim !!

We miss you and get better soon!!Carol

YOU CAN BANK ON THIS treasurer

June is here, and it is time for campouts and music festivals. I feel a little out of touch since we spent two weeks in Missouri playing with grand kids, and one week in Lake Tahoe visiting our other daughter. We haven't had much time to pick up the hammers so we have resorted to listening to CD's. We should have plenty of opportunity to play this month. Uncle Carl's Club is hosting their campout near Coldwater, the weekend after our SSDS campout. We attended last year and it was a lot of fun. These are two great weekends of playing. Don't forget to support our playdates.

Happy hammerin', strummin', & pickin' !Bob

MARK YOUR CALENDAR :

June 1	SSDS Board meeting @ Good Hope
June 2	SSDS PLaydate 3:30 - 5 pm Ashford Court Westland
June 4	SSDS PLaydate 3 - 4:00 pm Nichols Arboretum Ann Arbor
June 9	SSDS PLaydate 2 - 3:00 pm American House Westland
June 16-18	SSDS Campout Meyers Lake
June 24	SSDS Playdate 3 - 5:00 pm 3 rd Annual Art Fair Lathrup Village
June 25	SSDS Playdate 11:30 am - 2:pm 3 rd Annual Art Fair Lathrup Village
June 23-25	Uncle Carl's Campout. Coldwater
June 29	SSDS Variety Night 7:00 pm
July 12	SSDS Playdate 11:30 - 3:30 pm Garden Club Walk. Northville
July 12-16	Evart Funfest Evart, Mi
Aug.	SSDS Picnic, German Park Ann Arbor
Aug. 25-27	Midland Musicfest Midland, Mi

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If corn oil comes from corn, where does baby oil come from ?

Since Americans throw rice at weddings, do Asians throw hamburgers ?

Is it right for vegetarians to eat animal crackers ?

Do Roman medics refer to "IV's" as "4's" ?

FROM THE MUSIC MAN

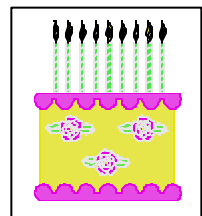
As I mentioned last month, there is no new song for June. I am looking into copy rights etc for "Old Spinning Wheel". Two songs to practice at the beginning of each jam for June will be "Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine" and "Red Haired Fiddler's Waltz" Marie's recent article reminded me of the nice play dates we enjoyed for our Canadian friends, several years ago, and one of the songs they liked was "Red Haired Fiddler's Waltz. I only made a couple of changes for the June play list.

Roger.

	SSDS	June Play List	first	note
	key			
1	G	Westphalia Waltz	2X	D
2	D	Painter's Polka	3X	A
3	D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3x	F#
4	D	Beaumont Rag	3x	G
5	D	Hey Polka	4x	A
6	D	Over the Waterfall	4x	D
7	G	Hundred Pipers	3x	G
8	G	Silver and Gold	3X	B
9	G	Columbus Stockade Blues	4X	B
10	G	Down Yonder.	3X	B
11	AM	Katushka	5X	A
12	G	Old Joe Clark	4x	A
13	C	Tennessee Waltz	2x	C
14	D	Red Apple Rag	3x	D
15	C	Ten Strike	3X	C
16	G	Tick Tock Polka	3X	D
17	D	Jenny Lind Polka	3x	F#
18	D	Young Roddy McCorley	4x	D
19	D	John Ryan's Polka	5x	D
20	A	Joys of Quebec	3x	E
21		Endless Medley:	2 ea	
	D	Ragtime Annie		F#
	D	Soldiers Joy		F#
	D&G	Golden Slippers		D

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June 11. .Happy Birthday Dale Rasor
 June 20 . **Happy 36th Anniversary**
 Sherry & Morgan Humecky
 June 29. .Happy Birthday Linda Losse
 June 30 . Happy Birthday Steve Hadley
 June 30. .Happy Birthday Roger Davis



PICNIC TIME AT SSDS.....

Submitted by Gerry Hermans

We watch **KATUSHKA** in her **FESTIVAL RAG**, dancing the **BELLMAN'S JIG** near the **ASH GROVE**, and see **DANCING BEAR**, **DOWN YONDER**, **NAIL THAT CATFISH TO A TREE**.

SANDY RIVER BELLE, all of **FIVE FOOT TWO** in her **SHOES AND STOCKINGS**, takes the **LIBERTY** to emphasize her **SIMPLE GIFTS**, while cavorting to **EDDIES REEL**. The **WILDWOOD FLOWER** nonchalantly sways in the **SOUTHWIND**.

Here comes **NELLY BLY** from the **RED RIVER VALLEY** with her **FLOP EARED MULE**, **JUST BECAUSE**, **OLD JOE CLARK** was bringing his homemade **MAPLE SYRUP**. **RAGTIME ANNIE** arrives, **RIDING ON A LOAD OF HAY** with **AMAZING GRACE**.

Hear the **DRUNKEN SAILOR** anticipate the **FLIGHT OF THE HAGGIS**, since he only had **WHISKEY BEFORE BREAKFAST**.

It sure seems like **IT'S A SMALL WORLD** when **LITTLE JUDIQUÉ** and **YOUNG JANE** trip to the **GASPE REEL**, **IN THE GARDEN**, **DOWN YONDER**.

Watch **YOUNG RODDY McCORLEY** and **NANCY** demonstrate it **TAKES TWO TO TANGO**! **AMELIA** brought her **GOLDEN SLIPPERS**, to wow us with the **CHEROKEE SHUFFEL**, accompanied by **CAPTAIN O'KANE**.

JAMIE ALLEN tells us 'bout the **JOYS OF QUEBEC**, and how **FANNY POWER** was the **STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN**.

Alas, **GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK** sez time's up, so our picnic closes and we wind down with one **SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER**.

Register now for the 3rd Annual Uncle Carl's Club Campout

June 23, 24, 25 at Waffle Farms in Coldwater. Call Penny Scheiber at 517-547-7448 or write to pennyes@dmci.net for a registration form. A \$20 deposit is required. We'll have jamming, relaxation, a Saturday pot luck supper, and Sunday breakfast.

ADVENTURERS.....

The Hlavaceks are offering a housing option for the SSDS or Uncle Carl's campouts, Evart and/or Midland festivals. They have a tent that sleeps 4-6, complete with air mattresses. The Evart and Midland fairgrounds have good bathroom & shower facilities, and plenty of choices for eating. If you're concerned about having enough "space", you will only stash your gear and sleep there. You will be so busy with the concerts, jams, and workshops, you won't have time to feel confined. See Bob or Sandi at a meeting, or call 734-663-7974 to reserve it... first come gets it.

THIS IS WORTH RE-RUNNING.....

Rick Thum will be offering a "Hammered Dulcimer Intensive Training Workshop" in Evart, MI, July 10-12, 2006. The intensive 3 day training workshop will be for all levels--beginning, intermediate and advanced students. Location: Evart Free Methodist Church, 6151 95th Avenue, Evart, MI. It will be held in the Church Hall directly across the road on the west end of the Fairgrounds and within walking distance to the Fairgrounds. Cost: \$145.00. LIMITED SEATING! PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY BEFORE JULY 1st to insure your place in the class.

For an enrollment form, contact:

http://www.ssdociety.org/forum_images/events/rick_thum_workshop_06.pdf

Pat Deschamps, who is coordinating Rick's workshop called with some options for housing during the workshop & Funfest. If you are in need of housing, the Super 8 beside the fairgrounds has rooms available July 8-11 (Sun.-Wed.) for those wanting Rick's workshop. All rooms are taken during the festival (Thurs.-Sun.)

The Country Inn Motel (with pool) in Big Rapids, (26 miles away) has rooms available July 9-16 for Rick's workshop and the Funfest. Call 231-527-9000 for reservations, and tell them you want a Rick Thum room.

There also are a couple of homes available to rent in the area. She mentioned one at Chipewa which sleeps 4 available for \$500 for the week... ideal for two couples or a family. If interested, call Pat at 231-734-3593.

Those experienced in "Evart Funfest" know how difficult it can be to find housing in the area at festival time, if you don't have a camper. Perhaps this will help.



**WHATEVER YOU PLAY, OR WANT
TO PLAY, YOU CAN LEARN AT THE
MUSIC FUNFEST AT EVART,
MICHIGAN. NOBODY GOES JUST
ONCE, YOU WILL WANT TO GO
BACK AGAIN...AND AGAIN...
AND AGAIN!**

Michigan and the Dulcimer's Story

By Gail Schwandt,

Condensed from the Dulcimer Players News, Spring 2000

On October 5th, 1999, Senator Mike Goschka submitted Bill #788, designating the hammered dulcimer as the official state instrument of Michigan.

The proposal began as a joke among players, till Gail Schwandt of Chesaning took it seriously. In March, 1999, she began to contact friends and lawmakers for support. A group addressed the Evart City Council, then Chesaning Council. The Saginaw News ran a supportive front page story on April 24, 1999 and the word spread quickly. Petitions were passed around the state, and signatures came from in and out of state and 3 other countries.

Lawmakers had to be introduced to "the charms of the instrument". They needed to see, hear, and learn of it's history. The invitation spread to "Come play in Lansing on October 5th." Though commitments came from across the state, the outcome was driven by faith. Predicting how many would come was impossible.

On the morning of October 5th, a small group visited Senator Goschka's office and listened over the intercom, as he introduced the bill. Sixty-five musicians, each with a sign bearing their city, Representative and Senator's name attached to their instrument, gathered to play on the glass floor of the rotunda in the center of the Michigan capitol building. The open ceiling, rising 160 feet into the dome, with balconies on all floors encircling the area, carried the music throughout the building.

Each lawmaker had received an invitation to the event, and as the Houses adjourned for lunch they came to listen, and receive gifts furnished by the ODPC (Original Dulcimer Players Club). Each was given a dulcimer lapel pin, a booklet entitled "Michigan Hammered Dulcimer, by Paul Gifford, and a list of 17 reasons to pass the bill.

A spectacular Golden Slippers filled the air. Senator Gotschka addressed the group, and received the 102 petitions with 3600 signatures of supporters. Then Judi Morningstar led her "Michigan Saturday Night" waltz. The oldest player was 93 years. Our lobbyists were successful. The bill was passed.

Ezra Durand and William Vogel built dulcimers in Chelsea from 1863-1866. During the 1850s, a fiddle and dulcimer player often entertained travelers in inns along the road from Lapeer to Pontiac. Henry Ford hired Edwin Baxter in 1925 to play in his orchestra. Baxter had learned to play the dulcimer from his father, in the northern woods. Ford's orchestra played for dances, house parties, dance classes, and the State Fair. They made many recordings, and were on a semi-weekly radio show called "Early American Dance". Greenfield Village has an extensive collection of hammered dulcimers, which began in the 20s with the purchase of over 20 antique dulcimers.

A group called the "Michigan Lumberjacks" performed throughout the state from the 1930s -1950s. They played music from the camps, and entertained at a National

Folk Festival. This is where the term "lumberjack's piano" came from. The boom in the white pine harvest and the dulcimer coincided, as music was an important part of life in the lumber camps.

It was in the Muskegon River Basin, a lumbering center, Elgia Hickok, with nearly 50 other dulcimer lovers, formed the ODPC organization in 1963. This was the first dulcimer club in Michigan. They laid the foundation for the FUNFEST we know and love.



2006 EVART FUNFEST PRESHOW TUNES

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FRIDAY EVENING

Festival Rag	D
Harvest Home.....	D
Columbus Stockade Blues.....	G
Death Valley Waltz.....	G
Ode to Joy.....	G
Manitoba Golden Boy.....	G
Eddie's Reel.....	G
Golden Slippers.....	D/G
Under the Double Eagle.....	G/C
America the Beautiful.....	G
O, Canada.....	G
Star Spangled Banner.....	G

SATURDAY EVENING

Battle Hymn of the Republic....	G
Red Wing.....	G
Bells of St. Mary.....	G
Turkey in the Straw	G
You're a Grand old Flag	F
Joys of Quebec.....	A
Hey Polka	D
St. Anne's Reel.....	D
Steel Guitar Rag.....	G
God Bless America.....	G
O, Canada.....	G
Star Spangled Banner... ..	G

NOTE...highlighted songs above are to be played in a different key than we usually play them in. Sheet music can be downloaded from the ODPC website

www.dulcimers.com/tunes