

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

May 2006

Year 23

Issue 5

(WEBSITE) www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Everyone,

We had a great time in Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. We saw a few shows from the various countries of the world. One show from Zhalvir, Ukraine featured music, songs and dances of Ukraine's different regions including the lively Cossack dances. Another show from Atahual Pas Ecuador featured traditional rhythms celebrating history and cultures from the South American Andes Mountains. We heard some gospel music from the Kingdom Heir's which have been a featured attraction in Dollywood for many years.

We went to the Dixie Stampede, also located in Pigeon Forge, for a spectacular dinner show. There was even a pre-show, featuring some bluegrass and country music. The show started with the running of the buffalo, then a contest of various events between sides of the arena, which were split between the North and South. The meal consisted of cornish hen and all the trimming's. We had to eat the entire meal without any utensils. Dessert was an apple turnover. We had a great time !

We also took a drive around Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. We saw lots of deer and old homesites around the 22 mile loop in the park.

A big **THANK YOU** goes to all of you who participated in our schedule of April Playdates. I want to wish all of you mothers out there a **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**. Don't forget our next scheduled board meeting to be held before the first meeting in June, which happens to be the first day of the month. Also, June has 5 Thursday's in it, so get your act or acts together for Variety night. Any volunteer's for Master of Ceremony's that night ?

George

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People pay \$2 for a bottle of water... did you ever notice that **EVIAN** spelled backward spells **NAIVE** ?

V. P. PROGRAMS

Hey folks... it's spring and time to think about one of the highlights of Silver Strings... our annual campout.

Campout dates are June 16,17, 18

We remind all who plan to camp, it is time to get your registration forms in. We need all registration forms by May 4th (our next meeting). If you can't make it to the meeting, **please send us your form along with the payment by May 16th**. Remember, if you want the steak dinner, you must send the price of your dinner with your registration. We won't be at the last meeting in may.

Marlin

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Hope you folks are enjoying all this nice spring weather. It's just great isn't it ? I want to thank all of the kind folks who have been bringing in snacks for our club meetings. The board thanks you for all the goodies.

Almost always, you have been more than generous. Keep up the good work!!Carol

Add to your membership list :

Judy Linn	:	Tom and Sharon Meggison
5435 Van Atta Rd.	:	1376 Levona St.
Okemos, Mich	:	Ypsilanti, Mich
	:	(517) 339-1709

Serenity is not freedom from the storm, but peace amid the storm.

Anonymous

V. P. BUSINESS

Before you all hear Mother Nature's call to come outside and "play" (like in your garden, on the golf course, camp ground, watching the grandkids compete in soccer, etc.), won't you consider coming out to PLAY with us at an upcoming SSDS play date ? Here's what we've booked for the next 8 weeks or so. Feel free to call, e-mail, or see me at a meeting for details and/or to sign up.

- Thurs - May 4, 10:30 am - Noon,
Farmington Hills Police Volunteer Recognition
- Fri - May 26, 6:00 pm (dinner) - 7:30 pm,
Eastern Star, Hazel Park
- Fri - June 2, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm,
Grosse Pte War Memorial, Grosse Pte Farms
- Sun - June 4, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm,
Volunteer Appreciation, Ann Arbor
- Fri - June 9, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm,
American House, Westland
- Wed - July 12, Noon - 4:00 pm,
Garden Club, Northville (to be confirmed)

Last month I listed several protocols to observe on play dates. Here are a few more:

- 1) Be sure your instrument is tuned before you arrive for the gig. Fine tuning once you are set up is OK, but this is not the time for a complete tuning.
- 2) All players must be at their instruments and ready to play five (5) minutes before "show time". This is not the time to practice tunes.
- 3) If you use a chair, plan to have your own available. Some places do provide chairs, but occasionally the chairs are not suitable for our use.
- 4) Although some gigs offer us refreshments, remember we are the entertainment not the guests.

See you next month.....Ramona

MARK YOUR CALENDAR :

May 4 SSDSplaydate, . . . 10:30am-12:30pm
For Police Fqrmington Hills

May 26 SSDS Playdate 7:30-8:00pm
For Eastern Star Hazel Park

June 2 SSDS Playdate . . . 11:30am-12:30pm
Grosse Pte. War Memorial, G.P.Farms

June 4 SSDS PLayerdate 3 - 4:00 pm
Volunteer Appreciation, . . . Ann Arbor

June 5 **SSDS Board meeting @ Good Hope**

June 9 SSDS PLaydate 2 - 3:00 pm
American House Westland

June 16-18 SSDS Campout . . . Meyers Lake

June 23-25 Uncle Carl's Campout. . . Coldwater

June 29 SSDS Variety Night 7:00 pm

July 12 SSDS Playdate noon - 4:00 pm
Garden Club Northville

July 12-16. Evart Funfest Evart, Mi

Aug. SSDS Picnic,
German Park Ann Arbor

Aug. 25-27. Midland Musicfest Midland, Mi

May 1 . . . Happy Birthday Alice Avery
Happy Birthday Larry Roper

May 5 . . . Happy Birthday Dave Matthews

May 7 . . . Happy Birthday Ron O'Dell

May 15 . . Happy **Anniversary** Ron & Ida O'Dell

May 27 . . Happy Birthday Dawn Hayes

May 29 . . Happy **Anniversary** Tom & Sharon Maggisen



FROM THE MUSIC MAN

May's tune of the month will be "Sophrina" There will be no tune for June, because of camp etc. The tune list for Evart is posted on the ODPC web site. There are a few things that need to be pointed out.

1. Festival Rag is in the key of D not G.
2. Hey Polka is in the key of D not G.
3. There are a couple of tunes that we normally play in different keys.

Grand Old Flag in F
Turkey in the Straw in G Roger

SSDS May Play List

				first note
1	G	Down Yonder.	3X	B
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	Nail that Catfish	4x	B
8	G	Silver and Gold	3X	B
9	G	Columbus Stockade Blues	4X	B
10	G	Westphalia Waltz	2X	D
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	Whiskey b4 Breakfast	3x	D
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

YOU CAN BANK ON THIS treasurer

Spring has sprung and the weather has been a great mix of sunshine to lift the spirit, and rain to lift the flowers. It is great to be able to work out in the yard in a tee shirt again. Speaking of renewal, we have had several more members renew their 2006 membership. The snowbirds are back from warm winter climates and it is great to see you all again. We have two new members to welcome to Silver Strings. Tom Meggison, husband of Sharon Meggison, joined at the April 6 meeting. They live in Ypsilanti, have just returned to Michigan from from Bowling, Green Kentucky. Tom plays harmonica. Judy Linn from Okemas (near Lansing) has also joined. We met Judy at Uncle Carls Dulcimer club in Spring Arbor. She has been following Silver Strings thru our great web site. Judy plays hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer and guitar. Make note of the new addresses in this newsletter

Our play date at Laurel Manor was a fun gig. The hors d'oeuvres were great, and several in our group won prizes in the drawings.

Sandi and I will be playing with grandchildren in Missouri during the first meeting in May. Camping season is upon us, so get your reservation fees in for the SSDS campout at Meyers Lake. Also think about the Uncle Carl's campout the next weekend. It's a really fun group, and many SSDS people attend their monthly jams. Some of them will be joining us at Meyers Lake.

Happy hammering, strumming, & pickin' !Bob

For your Soundboard

It's nice to see what our members are up to. If you have something of musical interest you would like to share, (a picture from the last month, workshop notice, poem, a bit of humor, an interesting article, etc.), please send it to Sandi, (editor) at datadoc@sbcglobal.net or 5598 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, 48105.

The deadline to submit is the 20th of each month. The Soundboard is printed for distribution and posted on the website on the 1st.

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 penny@dmci.net for a registration form. A \$20 deposit is required. We'll have jamming, relaxation, a Saturday pot luck supper, and Sunday breakfast.

Rick Thum will be offering a "Hammered Dulcimer Intensive Training Workshop" in Evert, MI, July 10-12, 2006. The intensive 3 day training workshop will be for all levels--beginning, intermediate and advanced students. Location: Evert Free Methodist Church, 6151 95th Avenue, Evert, 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 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.

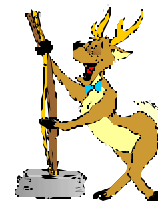
Those experienced in "Evert Funfest" know how difficult it can be to find housing in the area at festival time, if you don't have a camper. Perhaps this will help.

Another option the Hlavaceks offer, is a tent that sleeps 4-6, complete with air mattresses. Evert's fairgrounds have really good bathroom 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. Call 734-663-7974 to reserve it.

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If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen are defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed ?

**ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, WITH MANY KINDS OF INSTRUMENTS,
CAN MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER.**



Variety Night

by David Smith photos by Bill Smith

On March 31, Silver Strings hosted another Variety Night. As members and their family and friends arrived, the room quickly filled, and extra tables were set up to accommodate the large audience, numbering 70+. At the suggestion of Bob Niemczewski (who was the MC for the evening) tables were arranged around the performing area and pizza, salad, beverages and dessert were served at the beginning of the evening. 16 acts took the stage and entertained a very attentive and appreciative audience. Several times, they joined in singing or clapping along. After we enjoyed a variety of performances for an hour and a half, the evening ended with an enthusiastic instrumental jam upstairs and a ukulele 'sing along' downstairs. Thanks go to Bob N. for organizing and hosting the evening, Marlin and Carol Harmon for organizing the kitchen, to all the others who helped make the evening a success, and to all the performers for sharing their talents and providing an evening filled with entertainment.

Mark your calendar for **June 29**, when Silver Strings will again host a "Fifth Thursday Variety Night" and provide another full evening of food, fun and entertainment.





**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

If you have never been to "Evert", Sooner or later (preferably sooner) you must experience it. I've heard it referred to as "the 27th wonder of the world", and that is appropriate. A fee of just \$3 gets you in the gate as many times as you need during the entire festival. Some people come just for the concerts during the day and evening. Some come to revisit old friends and enjoy the atmosphere, as music fills every nook & cranny of the air. Most come for the awesome availability of learning opportunities (workshops).

Last year, there were 222 workshops offered in so many instruments, I lost count. I've seen people learning how to play instruments I had never heard of. If you see an interesting opportunity, many instructors have an extra "whatever", so you can try it.

Camping in the fairgrounds is \$15 per night. If you arrive by Tuesday afternoon, you have a pretty good chance to have an electric site. Sandy Holder (of ODPC) has a "Motel & Hotel List" and there are also other campgrounds nearby.

**Contact any of these people
with SSDS questions or concerns**

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If the Jacksonville Jaguars are known as "Jags" and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are known as the "Bucks", what does that make the Tennessee Titans ?

A point to ponder from David Smith :

Many people want to play a musical instrument, but few people want to **learn** to play a musical instrument.



COME ONE, COME ALL !!!

WHATEVER YOU PLAY... WHATEVER YOU WANT TO PLAY... TRY THE MUSICAL FUNFEST AT EVART, MICHIGAN. NOBODY GOES JUST ONCE, YOU WILL WANT TO GO BACK AGAIN... AND AGAIN... AND AGAIN !