



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

October 2006

Year 23

Issue 10

WEBSITE: ssdsociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi Everyone,

Just a short note this time. Anyone who would like to run for an SSDS office needs to get their name to a member of the nominating committee headed by Theresa Smith. We will have the election for the 2007 board at the meeting on November 2nd. This is your club, so get out and vote. November also brings with it a 5th Thursday, and we're looking for an MC for this event. Please see one of the board member's, if you would like to be an MC. We also plan a Christmas potluck for December. More details will follow. Our next board meeting will be held the first Thursday in December.

George Gonyo

AT THE BUSINESS TABLE

At the table, as you enter the door on jam nights, **please sign in**. Occasional door prize drawings will come from that list.

On that table, you will also find a **large calendar**. On it, would you please write in you're **your birthday and anniversary**, so we can join your celebration. You will also find **playdates, festivals, and workshops** noted.

On the table you will find the "**Song of the month**", **workshop and concert fliers, membership lists, treasurer's reports, a suggestion box** for your ideas for the club, and "**Soundboard**" newsletters,

The latest **Membership rosters** are available. If you see any mistakes, please tell Bob Hlavacek, treasurer. All changes given to him are immediately entered into the computer. This list is the most up-to-date we can offer.

Please make use of the business table either on your way in, during the break, or as you leave.

SSDS ANNUAL BANQUET **October 5, 2006**
at FOX HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
between Plymouth & Ann Arbor
8768 N. Territorial Rd off Gottfredson Rd. exit on M-14
Hors d'oeuvres at 6:00pm, Dinner at 7:00, Jam till ???
(See website for detailed directions)

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING

Treasurer, Bob Hlavacek, has papers ready to file for change from LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) to 501-C7 (membership organization with income less than \$20,000). We will have the same tax ID, but not pay income taxes and have less future paperwork.

We've had 26 playdates this year. We have 12 more booked, 10 for the holidays, probably 2 more. Dearborn Community Arts Council requested 2 people for 4 hours at no pay. The board declined.

Banquet plans are going well. Evie Bain's committee is really excited about surprises. Last count was 88 tickets sold.

A variation in the by-laws was passed, to allow ALL candidates to be put directly on a ballot, instead of a 1 candidate slate presented. This will be presented at the banquet. Requests for absentee ballots can be directed to the nominating committee after the announcement. Elections will be at Nov. 2nd meeting.

December meeting schedule is changed. We will have our regular jam on Dec. 7th. Our holiday potluck will be held on Dec. 14th, with a "dessert & concert" for Good Hope Church visitors after. This is one way we can say thank you for the use of the church. There will be no meeting on Dec. 21st.

Our last Variety Night of 2006 will be Nov. 3rd. We need an M.C.

It was suggested we wear our name badges at all meetings, for the benefit of the new members.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR :

Oct. 5	SSDS Annual Banquet . . . Plymouth
	New board nominations announced
Oct. 7	SSDS Playdatetime TBA
	EMU family dayYpsilanti
Oct. 14	Uncle Carl's Jam 12:30-4 pm
	Senior Center Spring Arbor, Mi.
Oct. 20	SSDS Playdate6:00pm
	Maple Hts Sr. Home . . . Allen Park
Oct. 22	SSDS Playdate3:30 pm
	U-M Botanical Gardens Ann Arbor
Nov. 2	SSDS Board elections & jam
Nov. 16	SSDS Playdate 1-2:00 pm
	Elderwise Ann Arbor
Dec.4	SSDS Playdate6-7:00 pm
	Cherry Hill Presb.Church, Dearborn
Dec. 12	SSDS Playdate1 - 2:00 pm
	Retired School Personnel, Berkley
Dec. 13	SSDS Playdate 2:30-3:30 pm
	American House Westland
Dec.17	SSDS Playdate 6-7:00 pm
	St. Richard's Church. . . .Westland
Dec. 19	SSDS Playdate7-8:00 pm
	Northville LibraryNorthville
Dec. 21	SSDS Playdate 12:15-1 pm
	Livonia Civic Center Livonia

YOU CAN BANK ON THIS _____ (TREASURER)

What a nice jam we had Thursday. A great turnout of 60+ members attended. The jamming sounded great. I was kept busy with dues renewals and didn't get much time to play, but it was good kind of busy. We had 51 membership renewals last night and one new member. Linda Osgood is a friend of Jane Chevalier and joined us last night. Please add Linda to your roster.

October is upon us and it is time for the annual banquet. The banquet team sounds very excited with their plans so I can hardly wait to see what's in store. Following right behind is November and the election of officers. **Please note that your dues for 2007 must be paid by November 2nd to be eligible to vote.**

Last but not least, the corporation status change paperwork, for a change to a 501c7 status with the IRS, is ready for the mail. If approved we will change from a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) to a Membership Club corporation. Federal tax liability will be eliminated until we earn over \$20,000. That should save us some money and reduce paperwork in years to come. I am looking forward to the Election, Christmas Season playdates, and the new year.

Mark your calendar... the December 21st meeting has been moved to the 14th by the board, and we will have a Christmas potluck that evening.

Bob Hlavacek

NEW MEMBER _____

Linda Osgood ... guitar, autoharp, piano
10424 Geddes Rd., Ypsilanti, Mi 48198

Suggestion... Date your new membership list we began distributing last month as "September 2006".

V.P. BUSINESS _____

Hi Everyone!

With the beautiful autumn colors bursting forth, and the air perfumed by ripening apples, cider and donuts, our summer memories have been stored away. It's also time to dust off those holiday tunes, and get ready for the busiest season of our musical year. Roger Davis, our music coordinator, will let us know where and when our practice sessions will take place.

Here's what we have booked. We have sufficient players for some of the dates and I've indicated that next to the playdate by **. Remember all of our bookings are private events unless otherwise stated. We currently have 2 open/public bookings both in December-- Northville Public Library and Livonia Civic Center Library.

- Oct. 07 EMU Family Day, Ypsilanti, 1:00 - 2:30 pm
- 20 ..Maple Heights Retirement Home, Allen Park, 6-7:00 pm
- 22...Matthei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor, 3:30 - 4:30 pm **
- Nov. 16..Elderwise, Ann Arbor, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Dec. 04..Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, Dearborn, 6:00 - 7:00 pm
- 12..Suburban Retired School Personnel, Berkley, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- 13..American House, Westland, 2:30 - 3:30 pm
- 17. St. Richard's Church, Westland, 6 - 7:00 pm
- 19..Northville Library, Northville, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- ... 21..Livonia Civic Center Library, Livonia, 12:15 - 1:00 pm

Thank you to all who have supported the playdates these past several months. We've had fun and touched quite a few folks with the music we brought to them.

Be sure to sign up early because some dates fill up fast. Until next month... Ramona Hadley

LET'S CELEBRATE!!!!

- Oct. 9 Happy Anniversary
John & Sharon McAuliffe
- Oct. 16 Happy Birthday Marlin Harmon
- Oct. 17 Happy Birthday Carol Ann Mathews
- Oct. 22 Happy 13th Anniversary
Dave & Theresa Smith
- Oct. 23 Happy Birthday Larry Allen
- Oct. 28 Happy Birthday Valerie Karhu

V.P. PROGRAMS

I want to thank Bob Niemczewski, Dave Smith, and Derrick for hosting the Variety nights this year. My wife and I have not been able to attend very many but I understand they were a huge success. There is one more on Nov. 30th. Do we have a volunteer for M.C. ?
Marlin Harmon

YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTES

Hi everyone. It's good to be back again after running around in our camper this summer. I am looking forward to the banquet to be held at Fox Hills Country Club on October 5, 2006. I hope all of you are planning on going. Any of you who went last year know what a super time we had. I Hope you all have your tickets.
Carol Harmon

CONCERTS, JAMS & WORKSHOPS OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER EXCELLENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES !

October 21, 2006 Pam Bowman's group "JUST JAMMIN" will be at the Sandstone Congregational Church. 202 S. Sandstone Rd. Jackson, Michigan. for the day. Early in the day will be a jam session, and a Concert at 7:00 PM. Tickets will be \$10.00 each or family of 4 for \$25.00. (4+ in family \$1.00 each additional. Come to enjoy the great music. Call Pat Hesselgrave at 517 262-1496.

November 3, 2006, RICK THUM, will perform at the same location, in concert at 7:00 pm. Price: \$10.00 each, or for a family of 4 for \$25.00. (as above) For additional information; call Pat Hesselgrave at 517 262-1496.

Saturday, November 4th, 2006, Rick Thum will teach Hammered Dulcimer classes at the V.F.W. Hall in Rockford, Mi. at: 4195 13 Mile Rd.

* Beginning Techniques and Fiddle Tunes.....10:- noon.

* Lunch time noon to 2:00 P.M.

* Intermediate and Advanced classes. with more Chords & Embellishments and "Learn a New Tune." 2-4: P.M

Cost... \$25.00 each class or both for \$45.00

Jim Rathbun will deep fry a turkey. Bring your dish to pass, and "Dine with Rick" at 5:00 P.M. Rick's concert is 7- 9 pm (Cost \$15.00 at the door), followed by a Jam Session for all until ????. For tickets contact Jim Rathbun (coordinator) at 616-866-9103 after 6:00 P.M. or E-Mail at dulcitude@g-mail.com or contact Rick Thum at: www.rthum.com or call 636-376-8486

Your current Board & Others here to serve you.

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"AMAZING GRACE"

The life of John Newton, the composer of "*Amazing Grace*", reads like it was torn from the pages of fiction writer like Robert Louis Stevenson. Born in 1725, he went to sea at the age of nine, after becoming an orphan. Captured after deserting from the British navy, he was put in irons and publicly whipped. He then signed on with a slave ship which carried its human cargo from Africa to America.

When Newton was twenty-three, his ship was battered by a violent storm. Thinking the vessel would go down, he turned to God. Although he eventually became captain of a slave ship, he continued to study the Bible. At the age of thirty-nine, he gave up life on the sea and was ordained as a minister of the Church of England. Legends tell that even as a pastor of the church in Olney England, he continued to wear the uniform of a sea captain, while toting a cane in one hand and a Bible in the other. It was in Olney that Newton composed "*Amazing Grace*", setting the words to an anonymous hymn tune. It often appears in old hymn books under the title "*New Britain*" or "*Harmony Grove*". It remains the best known hymn in America.

From "Front Porch Songs, Jokes & Stories" by Wayne Erbsen

Notes from the MUSIC MAN . . .

Well, summer is fast fleeting and fall is not far behind. Guess what? That means Christmas play dates are coming quicker than we think.

No new song this month and the play list was only used once last month, so why change ?.

Don't forget to practice the Christmas music and reserve the 4th Thursday for practice at Good Hope.

Roger

SSDS Oct. Play List				first	note
key					
1	G	Westphalia Waltz	2X	D	
2	C	Julida Polka	3.5	G	
3	G	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3x	F#	
4	G	Dusty Bob's Jig	3x	D	
5	D	Hey Polka	4x	A	
6	D	Chinese Breakdown	3x	A	
7	G	Maggie	3x	B	
8	G	Silver and Gold	3X	B	
9	G	Eddie's Reel	3x	D	
10	G	Down Yonder.	3X	B	
11	Am	Katushka	5X	A	
12	D	The Road to Boston	3x	F#	
13	D	The Ashgrove	3x	A	
14	G	Red Wing	3x	D	
15	G	Rosin the Beau	3X	D	
16	G	Tick Tock Polka	3X	D	
17	DA	Maple Sugar	3 1/2	F#	
18	Em	Missouri	3x	E	
19	D	Beaumont Rag	3x	G	
20	G	Southwind	3x	D	
21		Endless Medley:	2ea		
	D	Ragtime Annie	2X		
	D	Soldiers Joy	2X		
	D&G	Golden Slippers	2X ea		

Holiday Playdates.....

- Dec. 04..Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, Dearborn,
6:00 - 7:00 pm
12..Suburban Retired School Personnel, Berkley,
1:00 - 2:00 pm
13..American House, Westland, 2:30 - 3:30 pm
17. St. Richard's Church, Westland, 6 - 7:00 pm
19..Northville Library, Northville, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
... 21..Livonia Civic Center Library, Livonia,
12:15 - 1:00 pm

Holidays are coming

Start practicing !.....Roger

Holiday Play List				first	not
	key				e
1	G	Jingle Bells	Ch+2	B	
2	G	Red Wing	3X	D	
3	G	Away in a Manger	3x	D	
4	G	Deck the Halls (3 rd time soft/slow	3x	D	
5	G	Red Apple Rag	3x	D	
6	C	Winter Wonderland	2x	G	
7	C	Silver Bells	3x	C	
8	G	The Bells of St, Mary	3x	D	
9	Em	We Three Kings	3x	B	
10	G	I'll Remember you Love,	2x	B	
11	G	Joy to the World	3x	G	
12	G	Let it Snow	2x	D	
13	D	Festival Rag	3x	A	
14	D	Rudolph	3x	A	
15	G	Up On the House Top	3X	D	
16	G	Westphalia Waltz	2x	D	
17	D	Frosty the Snowman	2+end	A	
18	D	Simple Gifts	3x	A	
19	G	Angels we Have Heard	3x	B	
20	G	Silver and Gold Two Step	3x	B	
21	DG	Silent Night	2 ea	AD	
22	G	Wish you a Merry C-mas	Ch-V- Ch	D	

Holiday tune practice at Good Hope Church 4th Thursday, October 26th

. Members are invited to submit a website address for their small group, poems, articles regarding history of instruments or music, quotable quotes, and other items of musical interest.

Deadline to submit all articles for SOUNDBOARD newsletter **is the 20th of each month.** The newsletter is posted on the website by the first day of the month. Printed newsletters are available at all meetings each month. Back issues are available on request. We will mail out copies only if requested by a member. We try to minimize postage costs.

We believe those interested in what's happening will get a copy from the website or come to a meeting

Send all articles to your Soundboard editor :

Sandi Hlavacek... 734-663-7974
5598 Dixboro Rd. Ann Arbor, 48103

LET'S WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

The first time I came to SSDS was quite a memorable experience! The day after my daughter Kelly's 10th birthday, we came to Silver Strings for the first time - to a Variety Night - and stayed to watch jamming. Kelly had her fiddle, but knew only one fiddle tune – “Boil that Cabbage”. As the evening progressed, a small crowd circled around Kelly and gently taught, mentored and encouraged her through several hours of playing. I've told many people that no amount of money could ever buy the wonderful experience we had that night. That is how I think of Silver Strings.

To me, SSDS is about:

- 1) Music
- 2) Friendship and Fun
- 3) Support and Mentoring
- 4) Learning and Growing

First Kelly and I joined, then the next year my son Greg and my husband Ken, then my Mother, Marilyn Catt, then my brother-in-law, Craig Kaiser, then this summer my nephew, Ben Catt... and finally, at the last Variety Night my mother-in-law, Carol Kaiser joined! We've brought our own mini-chapter to SSDS... six Kaisers and two Catts!Lynne Ellen Kaiser

* * * * *

Silver Stings Dulcimer Society holds a special spot in our lives. There are so many places we would not have known about it if we did not go to different playdates and festivals in Michigan and Ohio. Just being able to play this type of music at least twice a month is a rare treat. Many other clubs do not meet as often as we do. David and I are lucky to live so close to Good Hope Lutheran Church. Most of all, the friendships we have made over the years are priceless.

Theresa and David Smith

* * * * *

**What does SSDS mean to you ?
What fond memories do you have of
playdates & other activities from our
past 24 years ? What have you liked
best ? Will you please share these
thoughts with the group ? Perhaps
some past activities are worth
bringing back. What do you think ?
Leave it it the suggestion box, or
direct it to your Soundboard editor.**

* * * * *

Bob & I took our first dulcimer lessons, at John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina. At the end of our 5 day class, our wonderful teacher, Anne Lough, advised us to find a dulcimer club at home, so we would continue to practice and learn... we would “find others there, who were once beginners and very willing to help us”.

We came home, found Silver Strings on the internet, and joined. We were handed an overwhelmingly large pack of music (of which we had learned 2 songs in class) and advised to always bring a tape recorder, and to buy the club CD to practice with. We did exactly that, worked at home, and learned one tune at a time. It seemed like an eternity went by, as we came to jams, set up our instruments, and looked at them, while everyone around us played. Even the songs we learned... we couldn't play that fast.

We met 6 other new players at SSDS, and started getting together to learn songs, and practice together at a comfortable speed. We all improved, some faster than others. (We could tell who was practicing more at home). Those were good times. Some “outgrew” the “Newbies”, but we all gained musical skill and confidence.

We have taken a few lessons, and enjoyed festivals and other workshop opportunities. We have grown a lot musically, and met many really good people. After almost 4 years playing with SSDS, we have a long way to go, but are quite comfortable in almost any jam session we visit. We are truly grateful that Silver Strings was available, and so welcoming.

I've spent the past 3 years asking older members what brought them to SSDS, and what they liked best. All have agreed it's the music and the people. I can't count the number of people who said it was Silver Strings that brought them through the loss of a spouse, a child, a marriage, or a home... or a child-rearing challenge... or a serious illness. Music was their therapy, and the friends at Silver Strings were their support.

I'm sure that is what the founders of SSDS had in mind when they started this club. I've been told SSDS has historically been a place for people to learn, build their skills, share with others, and go forward to spread the joy of the dulcimer's “sweet sound” (and other associated instruments) through performance and teaching. Many teachers have been born here, and many small performing groups have spun off from the Silver Strings platform.

The group has weathered some storms, but for almost 24 years, it has welcomed new players, and provided a foundation for learning, and new friendships. That history deserves respect, and the founders' vision deserves to be preserved.

Sandi Hlavacek

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August Variety Night

submitted by David Smith



On August 31, Silver Strings once again hosted a Fifth Thursday Variety Night. The evening started off with a selection of pizza, desert and beverages. Then those members who had signed up to perform, entertained the large and appreciative audience. By 9 pm the performances ended and an instrument jam formed upstairs and a ukulele sing-along started downstairs. Thanks go to Bob Nenczewski who was our MC and to all who helped with the food, table set up and sound system. The last Variety Night of 2006 will take place on **Thursday, November 30**. So practice up a tune and prepare to entertain or show up and be entertained.