



# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

## Soundboard

August 2007

Year 24

Issue 8

WEBSITE: [www.ssdociety.org](http://www.ssdociety.org)

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, the much anticipated Evert Funfest is over. What a great week of weather. We had a two sweatshirt night on Friday evening.

Sandi and I attended Rick Thum's workshop for the 3 days prior to the festival. I would highly recommend it, if you are relatively new to the hammered dulcimer. It was not a learn tunes workshop. We concentrated on technique, chords, and embellishments. On the Wednesday evening after the class ended, we had a large jam that was attended by about 25 SSDS members. Rick will be doing the workshop again next year. On a sad note, his dad passed away Saturday morning, so he had to leave abruptly.

Coming up, we will have a board meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (Aug.2), and a workshop at 6:00pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (Aug. 16). Don't forget the fun pig roast on Sunday Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> and the Variety night on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Please ... we need volunteers for the election committee and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee.**

**The election committee must be formed by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Play on!** Bob Hlavacek

### BANKER OURS

#### WE HAVE 2 NEW MEMBERS:

Tom Montelauro..... 734-282-1634  
12936 Edison, Southgate, Mi. 48195  
E mail . . . . . tomnelmont@sbcglobal.net  
Tom plays the Mandolin.

Ben Catt (Lynn Ellen's nephew)...734-291-4178  
8081 Cornell, Taylor, MI. 48180  
Ben plays Hammered Dulcimer & bassoon.

### PLAYDATE CHATTER \_\_\_\_\_ V.P. BUSINESS

Just a short article this month from the performing side of the club. We didn't have any scheduled playdates during the month of July, due to all the festivals, campouts and vacations. We start up again in August with two playdates and five in September! See the "Mark Your Calendar" column and the big calendar on the business table at jam time for the specific dates.

In an attempt to get more hammered dulcimers to perform for Variety Nights, a small group of the playdate performers will be playing for the Silver Strings Variety Night on August 30<sup>th</sup>. We will play 3 songs for our peers! (Why does playing for your peers sound so scary ???) If you would like to join us, please let me know.

If you would like to attend a playdate, be sure to sign up at the next SSDS meeting. If you are unable to attend a club meeting and would like to sign up for a playdate, please email [karenturner@comcast.net](mailto:karenturner@comcast.net) or call (734) 455-4085. KT

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

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 5 George Gonyo
- 7 Dawn Sorento
- 8 Carol Mueller
- 16 Merrilee Bollman
- 23 Linda Osgood
- 30 Bob Hlavacek



#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Dave & Carol Ann Mathews.....44<sup>th</sup>
- 13 Kathy & Jack Harrison....33<sup>rd</sup>
- 23 Ellen & Jason Yanity
- 25 Lynn & Tom Hartwig.....28<sup>th</sup>

## NOTES FROM YOUR SECRETARY\_\_\_\_\_

In the absence of our secretary, Bonnie Ream, the board meeting minutes are submitted by our VP Programs, Linda.

Board meeting started at 6:14.

Treasurer's report balance was \$4260.90. There are several known outstanding bills. We broke even on the camp-out. George will contact those not current on dues.

### OLD BUSINESS

- 1- There will be no meeting July 19th due to Evert.
- 2- Pig roast - Aug. 5 Sunday. We're going to have a sign-up sheet, cost will be \$5 for guests, and members are free. Bring a dish to pass. Meat, drinks (lemonade, iced tea, pop), table service and condiments are provided.
- 3- Discussed combining our 2008 banquet with our 25th anniversary.
- 4- Guideline for gifts, death, birth, illness (tabled)
- 5- We will postpone making a CD

### NEW BUSINESS

- 1- Dec. 19 was decided as the last playdate.
  - 2- Bob will ask members for a nominating committee to be formed by Sept. Committee will:
    - : A. Seek out candidates.
    - B. put a ballot together.
    - C. run the election.
  - 3- George Gonyo is planning a Sept. 23 trip to Dollywood. Anyone interested should see him.
  - 4- Aug. 16 workshop: Marie Naster will teach "Bury Me Beneath The Willow" on the mountain dulcimer. It was suggested that the hammered dulcimer players learn the same tune so we can play it together. Roger played it and will provide music.
- Next Variety Night is Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>. Dave Smith will host, so people should see Dave to sign up.  
Meeting ended at 6:45 Linda Losse

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## SSDS 25th Anniversary

In July of 2008, Silver Strings Dulcimer Society will celebrate 25 years of joyous music. We are forming a committee to make some really special plans. If you would like to help, please contact **Sandi Hlavacek** at **734-663-7974, or [datadoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:datadoc@sbcglobal.net)**.

We may have small celebration events throughout the year, but the primary celebration will be at the Annual Banquet in October of 2008. There are a lot of ideas being tossed around, that we need to start putting together.

If you are an "old-timer", we need your help to find past members (especially past officers) and points of history. If you are newer to the club, here's a perfect way for you to get involved and learn more about Silver Strings. We have photo albums and old newsletters to go through, and would like to put together a book of "25 years of SSDS" history.

**25 years is a milestone. Let's do this up right !**

## V.P. PROGRAMS\_\_\_\_\_

Our summers are filled with more music festivals than playdates and I hope you have enjoyed the different music festivals that have been going on.

Our last Variety Night is August 30<sup>th</sup>, and I'm looking forward to getting together with the dulcimer players who have signed up to play a few tunes. If you're interested in playing, please see Dave Smith to sign up. A **BIG thank you** to Dave for volunteering to host our Variety Night

We thought it might be a good idea for anyone who wants to bring a snack on Thursday nights to sign up on the calendar at the entrance, this way we know if someone is bringing something and we could avoid having not enough or too many snacks, (if that's possible). Thank you to all who have brought delicious snacks and for a helping hand in the clean up.

See you at Strings! Linda Losse

## WHO IS THIS ?



**Bob Hlavacek**  
your SSDS president

I was born in Midland, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 kids (one brother, one sister). All four of my grandparents emigrated from Czechoslovakia.

At 14, we moved to Swartz Creek (near Flint) and grew up in a new house we built on the corner of my grandparents' farm.

During my senior year in high school, 4 of us joined the naval reserve. We followed 11 others from the 2 previous class years. While on active duty, we had school reunions all over the Mediterranean, Pacific, east and west coasts. I attended Flint Community College for 2 years, and joined IBM. After 2 years, I took a leave and finished my BS in Electronics at Western Michigan University, where I met Sandi. We were married in 1966 and raised 2 daughters who now live in Lake Tahoe and Columbia Mo. We have 2 grandchildren in Columbia.

I retired from IBM in 1993 after 32 years, and Sandi and I started a consulting business (Data Dr Inc.). It was fun being "CEO" and Sandi was "Vice President of Operations". We retired again in 2003. Fishing, camping, flying and woodcarving are my hobbies. We started with an intensive 5-day beginner HD class at John C Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina, and have played dulcimer about 4 ½ years. Music occupies much of my free time now.

## What is an accordion good for ?

(Learning how to fold maps)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Aug.2.....SSDS Board Meeting.....6:00pm  
 @ Good Hope Church, before jam  
 Aug. 5.....**SSDS Annual Picnic**.....noon - ?  
 German Park.....Ann Arbor  
 August 12.....**SSDS Playdate**.....TBA  
 Cherry Hill Baptist Church.....Dbn.Hgts  
 August 14.....**SSDS Playdate**..... 2:00-3:00pm  
 Woodhaven Retirem.Comm....Livonia  
 August 16.....**Workshop**.....6:pm  
 @ Good Hope Church, before jam  
 Aug. 23-26.....**Midland Dulcimer Fest**.....Midland  
 Aug. 30 .....**SSDS.Variety Night**.....7-9 pm  
 Sept. 1.....**SSDS Playdate**.....4:30-6pm  
 Old St. Pat's festival....Whitmore Lake  
 Sept 15.....**SSDS Playdate**.....4:30-5:30pm  
 Northville Victorian Festival.....N'ville.  
 Sept. 16.....**SSDS Playdate**.....11:30-12:30pm  
 Northville Victorian Festival.....N'ville.  
 Sept. 17.....**SSDS Playdate**.....12:45 -1:45pm  
 Dearborn Women's Club.....Dearborn  
 Sept. 29.....**SSDS Playdate**.....3 – 4pm  
 IHM Convent.....Monroe

## S.S.D.S. Aug. 2007 Play List

G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Over The Waterfall	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	5
G	Southwind	3
D	Festival Rag	3
G	Down Yonder	3
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna	3
D	Hey Polka	4
D	Viola's Schottische	3
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
Am	Katushka	5
D	Midnight On The Water	2
Em	Dancing Bear	3
G	Maggie	4
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
C	Five Foot Two	4
	<b>Endless Medley</b>	
D	Ragtime Annie	2
D	Soldier's Joy	2
D/G	Golden Slippers	2D/2G
	<b>Extras</b>	
Em	Missouri	3
D	Road To Boston	3
G	I'll Remember You Love	2
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	2/3



Open stage at Chicagoland Ukulele Jam Festival



Open stage at Evart Funfest

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### Two Festivals

by David Smith

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Chicagoland Ukulele Jam Festival took place on June 25 in Maywood, Illinois. This was a small, fun festival at the Legal Grounds Coffee House, and events were held both inside and outside. Seven Silver Strings members made the 5 ½ hour trip, Bob and Sally Niemczewski, John and Sharon McAuliffe, David and Theresa Smith and Annette Tomasello. There was a full day of ukulele main stage and open stage performances, workshops and jamming. We performed on the Open Stage to a very enthusiastic audience.

Next, we attended the Musical Funfest on July 19 – 22 in Evart, Michigan. This is the world's largest dulcimer festival and was well attended by at least 55 Silver Strings members! The weather this year was the best yet. There were many varieties of workshops, concerts and jamming, and several were devoted to the ukulele. We sang and strummed with our ukes at the Saturday afternoon Open Stage.

## 2007 Evert Funfest



The "Early Bird Concert" was a musical "Hello" to the community on Wednesday morning.



Jane Chevalie with Pam Bowman



the Silver Strings bench in Evert



Kelly Kaiser & Rick Thum



Even newer players taught 1 on 1.



Pennye Scheiber taught



Jason Yanity taught "Goat taming"



2007 is the last year for the Friday night pre-show. On Saturday night, 200 dulcimer players came "on stage" to try to break the record number of dulcimer players in concert. We will have to try harder next year. The record is 302.

The size of the festival makes it impossible to get an "official count", but 55-60 SSDS members attended, and 4 taught workshops. Many of our members helped with 1-on-1 workshops for beginners. The weather was fabulous... cool with only 1 brief rain. The "oasis for members" at the Hlavacek campsite was well utilized with the Silver Strings bench.

There were around 210 workshops to choose from, and countless jams to join or listen to. Our "Picks & Stix" entertained nightly in the ODPC pavilion to a standing room only crowd. As friends made their annual connections at the Funfest, most of us would have been "grounded" if we stayed out so late as youth. At \$3, the Evert Funfest is the best learning bargain in the USA !!! It's an opportunity for reconnection and revitalization not to be missed.