

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

February 2007

Year 24

Issue 2

WEBSITE: ssdsociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi everyone !

2007 is off to a flying start. Our first two jam sessions in January were very well attended. I estimated between 50 and 60 people at each one. What a nice way to spend a cold winter's evening, playing some hot tunes. You will see from Karen's column that the Erie Ice Daze playdate was REALLY a lot of fun. We engaged some children from the audience to 'help out' with a couple of tunes. They thought that was really special.

There are three songs you may want to practice (please do) for February. Let's keep working on Captain O'Kane, and also work on 'Let Me Call You Sweetheart' (many requests for Feb) and 'Tennessee Waltz'. I can't remember the last time we played "Sweetheart", and we need to sharpen up "Tennessee".

At the February 15 meeting, Dee Dee Tibbits will be presenting a workshop for all instruments... all players. We will concentrate on "Ins and Outs" as she calls them, arrangements, variety in our style of play, etc. We have picked out a list for her to work with. That list follows in this newsletter. Practice these till you are comfortable with them. On Thursday, the 15th, we will start at 7pm and play until 10pm (her suggestion). We will have a break, but no business meeting.

Last but not least ; the Buckeye festival is March 6-10. Anne Lowe is one of the featured instructors this year (intermediate HD for pre-festival class). Anne was the first dulcimer instructor for Sandi & I, at John C Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. She has a PHD in music, and has taught hammered and mountain dulcimer, guitar, and autoharp for many years. It will be a fun workshop.

Happy hammerin', strummin' & pickin' !

Bob Hlavacek

V.P. BUSINESS

PLAYDATE CHATTER

The Silver Strings Dulcimer Society kicked off its 2007 playdate season on January 20-21st with a two day event at Lake Erie Metro Park's Erie Ice Daze. Even Mother Nature cooperated, by bringing down a fresh snowfall and cold weather to accent the event. Each day was (4) hours long, which gave us a chance to play lots of songs, and socialize during the breaks throughout the day. By Sunday afternoon, 23 SSSDS members had given their time to make this a very successful weekend. The weekend was special for Janelle Pacic and Larry Roper, as they celebrated their first playdate with SSSDS on Sunday. Speaking of "firsts", I want to personally thank all those who attended and helped to make my first playdate as Business Manager a success. I couldn't have done it without you !

The next scheduled playdate is the Canton Senior Valentine Party, February 14th at the Summit On The Park Community Center in Canton. This is a new booking for us, and should be fun. Openings are still available.

Future playdates at this time are:

Maple Hts Retirement Community, Mar. 16th Allen Park

Elderwise Seniors, March 29th, Ann Arbor

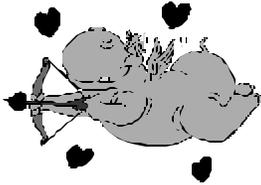
Finnish Cultural Center, April 25th, Farmington Hills.

As more details become available, they will appear in future newsletters and be announced at club meetings.

If you want to attend a playdate, please sign up at the next SSSDS meeting, email karenturner@comcast.net , or call at (734) 455-4085..... Karen Turner

F.Y.I. . . .If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns regarding SSSDS business, please feel free to attend any board meeting, use the 'suggestion box' (on the business table), or talk to any current board member. As officers of SSSDS, they represent YOU, the members.

**HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY!!!**



V.P. PROGRAMS

Thanks for bringing so many snacks. There was plenty for everyone. Also, thank you to Sandi Hlavacek, Gerry Hermans, and Val for helping with clean-up.

I talked with Amber McKay, and she would be happy to cater our dinner at the campout on Saturday. Dinner would be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. We could have the same as last year, if we want, which was Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, corn, and a salad. Amber suggested we might enjoy a light dessert of mandarin orange cake with a creamy pineapple frosting, instead of cookies. Think about what you would like, and we'll discuss it at the next meeting. If you have any suggestions you would like to present to our members about that weekend, let us know. Linda Losse

NOTES FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Highlights of the SSDS Board Meeting, held Jan. 4, 2007
Approximately 10 general members attended.

Karen Turner will put the Repertoire and the Song(s) of the month on the Web Site.

It was decided to leave the Music Chairman seat vacant for the time being.

With members' permission, we will contract Dee Dee Tibbits to do a general musicianship workshop for SSDS on Thurs. Feb. 15th 2007, during our regular meeting time. (Presented to and approved by membership.)

Board recommended waiving Standing Rule IV, Section 2 regarding two-year limit for chairmanships, in order to keep the 2006 Web Site, Newsletter, and Banquet Chairmen. (Presented to, and approved by members.)

New name tags will be available for any member who wants one. A sign up sheet will be provided at all meetings, at the "business table".

The history and current status of player reimbursement was reviewed and changed to 50% for the club and 50% for travel expense assistance for players. Previously, 70% went to players.

The prices have been reduced for cassettes to \$5, and CD's to \$10 (\$5 member price) to encourage sales.

Our brochures will be updated with current name changes. Bob will print them, as needed.

The next Board meeting will be at 6:00 on Thurs., Feb. 1st at Good Hope Church, before the jam.

Respectfully, Bonnie Ream

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Feb.1 **Board meeting** before jam. . . . 6:00pm
- Feb. 9..... **SSDS Playdate** . . . Royal Oak..2:30pm
- Feb.14. **SSDS Playdate** noon-1pm
Summit on the Park Com.Ctr. . . Canton
- Feb 15. Dee Dee Tibbits workshop. . .7-10pm**
Good Hope Church
- Feb.22. (Bad weather alternate with Dee Dee)
- March 16, **SSDS Playdate** 6 pm
Maple Hts RetirementAllen Park
- March 29 **SSDS Playdate**1 pm
Elderwise Spring Opener. . . Ann Arbor
- April 25 **SSDS Playdate**7 pm
Finnish Cultural Ctr. . . . Farmington Hills

**IN THE HARMONY OF LIFE,
WE ARE ALL JUST SINGLE NOTES
BUT TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE
BEAUTIFUL MUSIC !**

This is what we expect to prove when Dee Dee Tibbits visits Silver Strings on Feb. 15th. Because she is driving from Caro, Michigan, we have set an alternate date of Feb. 22nd, in case of dangerous weather conditions on the 15th. All acoustic instruments are welcome. When asked to provide some information about herself, this is what Dee Dee sent:

"I'm 6th of 7 children in a VERY musical family. My dad was a band director, and my mom, a piano teacher. We traveled as a family band while I was growing up. I got my music degree at CMU, and have been teaching music, and doing programs for 30 years now. I have played HD for 25 years, penny whistle for 10, harp for 20, and hurdy gurdy for 4 years. I collect unusual instruments of any kind... especially antique ones. I can't stand to have an instrument that I can't play, so my hobby is learning to play them. I've been asked by Saginaw Valley State University to travel with them to Japan in March, to play in their old instrument group, and play the KOTO with the Bay Choral."

Dee Dee modestly forgot to mention the GREAT workshops some of us have been privileged to attend, and her AWESOME CDs, which I hope she brings with her to share.

Practice these songs, so you are comfortable with the notes. She is coming to teach "musicianship", not "new songs". If you don't know all of them, you will still learn a lot. This is an exciting opportunity on our doorstep !!!

Songs for the Workshop (highlighted are definites)

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| Ashoken Farewell | Simple Gifts |
| Black Velvet Waltz | Soldiers' Joy |
| Columbus Stockade Blues | Sophrina |
| John Ryan Polka | Southwind |
| Old Joe Clark | Viola's Schottische |
| Over the Waterfall | Tamlin |
| Redwing | Westphalia Waltz |
| I'll Remember You, Love, in My Prayers | |

FEBRUARY LET'S CELEBRATE!!!

4. Val Losse...Happy Birthday
5. Jim & Evie Bain...Happy 41st Anniversary
10. Bob Ewald...Happy Birthday
12. Bob & Sandi Hlavacek...Happy 41st Anniversary
12. Wendy Malwitz...Happy Birthday
14. Barb Davis...Happy Birthday
14. Steve & Ramona Hadley...Happy 32nd Anniversary
26. Pat Altpeter...Happy Birthday



Following their successful CD, "Bandwagon", SSDS members, Morgan & Sherry Humecky's "Picks & Sticks" group have released "Steppin' Back".

The CD cover picture appears to show them on the "morning after", as they have all picked up the wrong instruments. Thankfully, they corrected that to make the CD.

Submitted by Derek Channing

SSDS February 2007 Play List

Key	Tune	Play	1 st Note
G	Westphalia Waltz	2x	D
D	Over The Waterfall	3x	D
G	Silver And Gold Two-Step	3x	B
G	Down Yonder	3x	B
C	Five Foot Two	4x	E
D	Peek-A-Boo-Waltz	3x	F#
G	Redwing	3x	D
C	Tennessee Waltz	3x	C
D	Festival Rag	3x	A
Am	Katushka	5x	A
D	Young Roddy McCorley	4x	G
G	Old Joe Clark	4x	A
G	I'll Remember You Love	2x	B
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3x	D
G	Sophrina	3x	G
G	Red Apple Rag	3x	D
G	Let Me Call You Sweetheart	3x	B
G	Southwind	3x	D
G	Maggie	4x	B
D	Hey Polka	4x	A
G	Never On Sunday	3x	D
G	You Are My Sunshine	4x	D
	Endless Medley		
D	Ragtime Annie	2x	F#
D	Soldier's Joy	2x	F#
D/G	Golden Slippers	2D/ 2G	D
	(Extras)		
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	4x	B
D	Viola's Schottische	3x	F#
G	March Of St. Timothy	3x	B

EVART PRESHOW TUNES

have been announced. . .

Start practicing !

Music is available (free) online, or for \$2 by mail, from Sandy Holder
7093 14 Mile Road, Evart, Mi. 49631

Call 231-734-5481 or e-mail civildee@netonecom.net

Friday Night	Key	Saturday Night	Key
<u>You Are My Sunshine</u>	G	<u>She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain</u>	G
<u>March of St. Timothy</u> (by Judi Morningstar)	G	<u>Festival Rag</u> (by Bill Robinson)	D
<u>Southwind</u>	G	<u>Doodler's Reel</u>	G
<u>Manitoba Golden Boy</u>	D	<u>Where the White Lilies Grow</u>	G
<u>Battle Hymn of the Republic</u>	G	<u>Sophrina</u> (by Les Raber)	G
<u>Rakes of Mallow</u>	G	<u>John Ryan's Polka</u>	D
<u>Willow Waltz</u> (by Les Raber)	G	<u>Turkey in the Straw</u>	G
<u>O, Canada</u>	D	<u>O, Canada</u>	D
<u>Star Spangled Banner</u>	G	<u>Star Spangled Banner</u>	G

WEB PAGE TO EXPLORE . . .

I discovered a nice web page which can help you learn tunes more easily. If you follow this route, you will find many instruments, tunes, scales, fingerings, and "how-to-do-it" examples.

1. Go to your browser. Enter **YOUTUBE.COM**, <enter>
2. Search results will display YOUTUBE. **Highlight it** and <return>
3. In the search box (on the upper right of the screen) type **DULCIMER** <return>
4. A screen appears with several pictures of dulcimers. **Highlight one** and <return>

You can find so much here, that it pays to explore. Tin whistle fingering charts, musical saws (really), uilleann pipes, and standard traditional tunes played on all kinds of instruments. It's a treasure house of information. You can search for your desire on line three above. Instead of dulcimer enter fiddle and hit return. Sign on and enjoy. **Perhaps the most important bit of information here... it's FREE !!!**

Submitted by Larry Allen



NEXT GENERATION BANJO BAND

Submitted by Derek Channing

If you have ever seen a four string jazz banjo played, the person behind it is usually 60 to 90 years old. This means that in a few years, there will be very few people playing this fine American traditional instrument.

A couple of years ago, my friend, Skip Rosenthal, and I (both players of the jazz banjo) decided to do something about it. We would teach kids to play banjo, free of charge. We advertised this at local area banjo conventions, and Skip announced it to his audiences at the Farmington Civic Theatre, where he played most Friday and Saturday evenings. By July 2004, we had about 20 kids interested. We scrambled to buy low cost banjos, and loaned out some of our own cherished instruments. When the North American banjo community learned about our efforts, they (and some locals with banjos in their attic), donated instruments, for use by the group.

We very quickly had a small banjo band on our hands, which we named. "The Next Generation Banjo Band". Their first public performance was at a Livonia nursing home, just before they performed at the April 2005 Great Lakes International Banjo Convention (GLIB), to an audience of several hundred banjo players and general public. They have performed at several other public events since then, including GLIB 2006. I am very proud of this band. We meet most Wednesday evenings, at the Masonic Lodge in downtown Farmington.



Photo by Bill Smith

SSDS kicked off the new year with a 2-day playdate at Lake Erie Metropark's "Ice Daze" celebration. We have entertained at this for about 10 years. According to their management, SSDS is a "must have". It's casual and fun, with an ever-changing audience in our cozy corner. People clap, and this year children from the audience "helped" with the performance. Smiles were all around, many said this was the "most fun playdate they had ever been to", and (first timers) Janelle & Larry said they would definitely be back for more.

FOR SALE: The last SSDS club shirt, \$22.06.! Women's Large, White with embroidered logo
 Contact Karen Turner, (734) 455-4085 or karenturner@comcast.net

Lessons On Line
 Yes can you believe that !!! Check out www.SoKattywompus.com and you will see lessons for hammered and mountain dulcimer right on your computer. Pennyne Scheiber

DID YOU KNOW ? SSDS trivia

Most of the music in our repertoire was formatted for us by **Marie Naster**. Those pieces are distinguished by **MN** in the lower corner of the sheet music. When you see her, say a **BIG THANK YOU** for this generous donation of time, energy, and expertise.

Terry Trippa is making new name tags for anyone who wants one. There is a sign-up sheet at the "business table" as you enter the room for the jam session. Let's say **THANK YOU** for his kind and generous offer of a service which had become very costly.

If you write your **birthday or anniversary** on the calendar (or list) on the "business table", we will help celebrate the occasion.

Buckeye Dulcimer Festival 16th annual festival March 7-11, 2007

You may want to check out their website:
www.geocities.com/buckeyedulcimer

The "**Buckeye Dulcimer Fest**" is held at Recreation Unlimited, National Challenge Center for People with Disabilities, Ashley, Ohio, about 30 miles north of Columbus. RU is a fine full-service facility used for handicapped "campers" in the summer and for groups and meetings throughout the year. The proceeds from this festival help RU to defer the costs for campers. The housing is "dormitory style" (bring your own twin bed linens or sleeping bag, and towels), or you may stay in an area motel at additional expense. Meals are very good, and served "cafeteria style". Workshops are held in various buildings around the small "campus". (A cart is very helpful.)

The festival/camp will start with Wednesday night's orientation and jams, and continue Thursday and Friday, with 10 hours of intensive Hammered & Mountain Dulcimer, Clawhammer Banjo, Old-time fiddle and 'Band Together' for all instruments. The instructors from around the country are always excellent. We **KNOW** that Chris Cooperrider (beg/adv.beg. HD leader), and Anne Lough (int. HD leader) are outstanding. Registration forms are available at the Business table.