

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

July 2007

Year 24

Issue 7

WEBSITE: www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi Everyone,

The Father's Day weekend campout is history, but the memories linger. The sky was clear all weekend, but it was pretty warm. Other than that we received a lot of positive feedback. The Saturday night dinner was great. The food was provided by CJ's restaurant from Swartz Creek, located right in the middle of downtown (two blocks long). Stop in and have a good meal if you are passing through. The peanut butter Texas sheet cake was manufactured in the Hlavacek kitchen. As requested, the recipe is published in this newsletter. We will occasionally need volunteers to make it for our meetings.

Many, many thanks to Val and Linda Losse, Sandi Hlavacek and Karen Turner for all of their hard work and planning to make this a success. Thank you to all the musicians who conducted workshops on the hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, ukulele and musical saw. I think our saw workshop made a few dogs howl. We also really appreciate the people who pitched in to help set up and clean up for the meals.

NOTICE for JULY

There **will** be a **board meeting** July 5th

Workshop August 16th at 6:pm, prior to our jam.

THERE WILL BE NO meeting/jam July 19th

because so many members will be at Evert.

Evert Dulcimer Funfest July 19-22.

Annual pig roast on Sunday, August 5th.

Variety night August 30th. Start tuning up.

Make beautiful music !

Bob Hlavacek

HARMONICA PLAYERS & "WANNA-BEES"
...A group is forming to learn & to play, on the 1st & 3rd Mondays at the Garden City Senior Center. Call Walt at 734-422-8803.

**HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY !
JULY 4th**



PLAYDATE CHATTER _____ V.P. BUSINESS

Silver Strings has done numerous playdates at American House over the years and we have always been well received. This year we added the Royal Oak American House and the activities director liked us so much she recommended us for entertainment to all Michigan American Houses!

We've been to Royal Oak twice this year and during our last playdate in June, we tried something new with the residents. We handed out rhythm instruments (egg shakers, mini tambourines and drums, spoons, rhythm sticks, maracas, etc.) and had the residents play with us for several songs. We let them take the lead on one song and they even sounded pretty good! This activity definitely got them more involved with our music program and even exercised their arms! We'll probably add this activity to future assisted living playdates.

We all got quite a chuckle when I asked residents to switch instruments with their table neighbor and they didn't want to give them up! Did they really like the instrument that much or is this a "senior" thing? ☺

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, please email karenturner@comcast.net or call (734) 455-4085. KT

V.P. PROGRAMS

Summer is moving right along, and so is Strings. We had a **great** camp-out this year and really enjoyed the fellowship in the group camping area. We plan to have group camping again next year.

A lot of people turned out for the workshops, so we can bring back Blackberry Blossom and Metsakukkia to our jam sessions.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Luke Kawecki, Sharon McAuliffe, Marie Naster, Penny Scheiber, and Theresa Smith for their time and commitment to sharing their music with others. It is most appreciated. All the workshops were well attended, and I venture to say that we will be seeing more people with saws and mountain dulcimers.

We heard from a lot of people that they enjoyed the food, we had a lot of choices and plenty of everything so we definitely will have Cathy from CJ's restaurant cater the meal again.

When we jammed in the barn, we had a good audience, and even had "groupies". They were people who said they come every year to hear us play. We were lucky to have beautiful weather and enjoyed getting to know some of our Strings members better. It was so good to have Alice Avery back with us and some of our members' grandkids.

Thanks to all who helped make this so pleasant ! We had some really good teamwork going. See you at the next jam session.Linda Losse

BANKER OURS

July 8th is the date for Manfred and Judy Schmidt's party on beautiful Pleasant Lake in West Bloomfield. We were there a couple of years ago, and had a really good time. Manfred sets up a large tent on the front lawn of his cottage. This is where we will play. Judy is a story teller, and when we are not playing, she and her friends will be telling some of their stories. **DO bring a chair** to sit on while the stories are being told, otherwise you will be standing a long time. We will start around 2:pm. Bring a dish to pass (it's a potluck), we'll have hot dogs for the grill. We will snack whenever we get hungry, and will probably fire up the grill around 4:30pm. Maps will be provided at our first meeting in July. There is road construction around there, and Judy is making a new map for us. I Hope to see you all there!George

NEW MEMBERS . . .

Sean O'Reilly 248-426-8212
35875 Smithfield..... Farmington, Mi. 48335
Sean plays the guitar

Jeff Provost 248-880-8678
29368 Tonester Circle, New Hudson, Mi 48165
Jeff plays the ukelele.

NOTES FROM YOUR SECRETARY

There was no board meeting in June. All are welcome to any board meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:pm, before the regular jam session. We are open to any ideas or concerns you would like to bring to us.

To cut printing and postage costs, the Soundboard will now be announced by a club e-mail to members, who may then print it at home from our website link. In most cases, this will get you the news earlier. Limited hard copies will be available at the meetings for people without a computer.

S.S.D.S. July 2007 Play List

Key	Tune	Play
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 & Riding On A Load Of Hay	2/2
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 / Missouri	3/3
G	Maggie	4
D/Am	Whiskey Before Breakfast & Cold Frosty Morn	2/2
C	Five Foot Two	4
	Endless Medley	
D	Ragtime Annie	2
D	Soldier's Joy	2
D/G	Golden Slippers	2D/2G
	Extras	
G	Old Joe Clark	4
D	Flop Eared Mule	3 1/2
D	Road To Boston	3
G	Nail That Catfish	3

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FUNTASTIC JAM in EVART

July 15th, the Sunday before the Evert Funfest, we all are invited to an evening of music (led by Rich Thum & others), food and fun at the 2007 Dulcimer jam & Potluck Buffet. Bring your chairs, instruments, and a dish to pass to **Pat & Frenchy Deschamps'** home on Hick's Lake near Evert.

DINNER at 5:30-7:pm ... JAM at 7
Call 231-734-3593 to RSVP

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 5.....**SSDSBoard meeting**.....6:pm
 @ Good Hope Church before jam
 July 8th Picnic, Storytelling & Jam.....1:pm
 White Lake
July 19.....NO SSDS JAM / MEETING
 July 19-22.....**Evart Funfest**.....Evart
 Aug. 5.....**SSDS Annual Picnic**.....
 German Park.....Ann Arbor
 August 12.....**SSDS PLayerdate**.....TBA
 Cherry Hill Baptist Church...Dbn.Hgts
 August 14.....**SSDS PLayerdate**..... 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. 30Variety Night.....7: pm

We hope you enjoy this new column in the Soundboard. Each of us has a life outside of the club, and we have far more in common than we know. Here is a chance to “meet” your fellow SSDS members in a new way. Lynne Ellen Kaiser has graciously offered to help with it.

WHO'S WHO in S.S.D.S. ?

Bonnie Ream, your SSDS secretary

I was born in Pennsylvania on a small farm, and my dad worked in the coal mines. When the mine closed, we moved to Holly, Michigan. With two older brothers, I was a real tomboy, was the only girl on my fourth grade softball team, and the starting pitcher. I played women's softball until I hit my 30's and moved to Sault Ste. Marie.

I retired from Livonia Public Schools as an elementary school teacher, working primarily with Kindergarten, first and second graders. Other jobs I've had included church secretary, Kelly Girl, grocery cashier, and day care center director. At Oakland University I taught a pediatric play program, at Lake Superior State College I taught Early Childhood Education classes and directed the lab school; and at U of M I supervised student teachers in Early Childhood Education.

I am active in my church teaching the babies, singing in the choir, leading women's Bible studies, coordinating funeral dinners, and serving on the Missions Committee. My hobbies include gardening, quilting, crocheting, cross-stitch, and refinishing furniture. (The basement is full of projects.) I enjoy music, (singing or playing), and like all kinds except opera and jazz.

When I grow up I want to be a musician in a large group.....oh, I think I did that !

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, 734-663-7974, or datadoc@sbcglobal.net.

The current board has decided the primary celebration should be at the Annual Banquet in October of 2008. There are a lot of ideas floating around, so let's start putting them together.

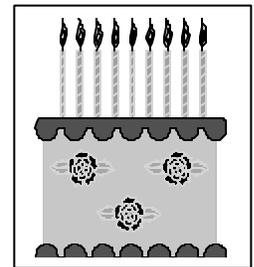
If you are an “old-timer”, we need your help in finding past members (especially past officers). If you are newer to the club, here's a perfect way for you to get involved and learn more about the club.

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

IT'S JULY..... LET'S CELEBRATE !!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY. . .

3..... Bobbi Hurst
 5..... Karen Turner
 8..... Joe Mallia
 9..... Janelle Pacic
 14... Sally Niemczewski
 17... John McAuliffe
 20... Ramona Hadley
 26.... Pat Jablonski



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

11th ...Roger & Barb Davis
 48 years of making beautiful music together

PLAYDATES . . .

by Sandi Hlavacek

Bob and I are sometimes asked “Do you play your dulcimers in public? Where?” Five years ago, when we started playing, we said we would like to be good enough to play in a nursing home, where the audience is happy to see any new faces and can't hear our mistakes.

Looking back, that was a really narrow goal. We have learned so much from our fellow musicians who have been incredibly generous in sharing their knowledge and skills, in workshops and individually. Musicians don't forget their own experience of being a beginner, and are almost always very willing to help a “new kid”.

We have found an opportunity to share our new talents within the “safety” of the groups that do playdates. Sometimes we play melody, and sometimes we play “back-up” (harmony and chords). If everyone played melody in unison, it would sound pretty dull. It's not nearly so scary when surrounded by 10-20 other players.

With groups, we have played several nursing homes, but also churches, many kinds of senior activities, schools, a theater “Grand Opening”, Greenfield Village, an assortment of community celebrations, a 75th wedding anniversary, and on June 28th, we helped celebrate 25 years of medical services to the uninsured at Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. What fun it is, to participate in the wonderful array of celebrations and activities in so many communities, and do it with friends.

If you haven't dared to join a playdate, do it now. You will be among friends, spreading the joy of music.

We discovered some really fine cooks at the camp potluck. Here are the most requested recipes:

Sweet Potato Yeast Bread...Ellen Yanity

Yield: 2 loaves, Prep: 25 min + rising, Bake: 40 min

2 pkg. (1/4 oz each) active dry yeast
1 ¾ cups warm water (110 – 115 degrees)
1 cup mashed sweet potatoes (without added milk or butter)
½ cup plus 1 tablespoon butter, softened, divided
½ cup honey
1 egg
2 teaspoons salt
3 cups whole wheat flour
3 ¼ - 3 ½ cups all-purpose flour

In a large mixing bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Add sweet potatoes, ½ cup butter, honey, egg, salt and whole wheat flour. Beat until smooth. Stir in enough all-purpose flour to form a soft dough.

Turn onto a floured surface: knead until smooth and elastic, about 6 – 8 min. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubles, about 1 hr.

Punch dough down. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; divide in half. Shape into loaves. Place in two greased 9 in. x 5 in. x 3 in. loaf pans. Cover; let rise until doubled, about 25 min. Bake at 375degrees for 40 – 45 min. or until golden brown (cover loosely with foil if top browns too quickly). Remove from pans to wire racks. Melt remaining butter; brush over warm bread. Cool.

Cream Cheese Nut Spread:

1 cup butter, softened
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1/3 cup finely chopped walnuts, toasted

In a small mixing bowl, beat butter & cream cheese until fluffy. Stir in walnuts. Serve with bread.

YUMMY !!!!!

Rhubarb Cherry pie... (Carol Ann Matthews)

1 lb. rhubarb, cut in ½ inch pcs. (about 4 cups)
1-16oz. can pitted tart red cherries, drained
1.1/2 cups sugar
¼ cup quick cook tapioca
5 drops red food color (optional)

Combine, let stand 15 minutes.
Pour into pastry lined pie pan, add lattice or crust.
Bake at 400* for 40-50 minutes
Cover edges with foil if browning too quickly.

Peanut Butter Texas Sheet Cake (Bob Hlavacek)

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Boil:

2 sticks margarine, 1 cup water
1 cup peanut butter

Pour over:

2 c sugar, 2 c flour, 1 tsp baking soda,
Dash of salt

Combine:

½ c sour cream. 1 tsp vanilla, 2 eggs
Add to the rest of the mixture.

Pour into an 11x16 cookie sheet.

Bake at 350 for About 18 Min.

DO NOT overbake.

Frosting:

Melt together ½ stick margarine,
½ c peanut butter
4 Tbs milk.

Bring TO a boil, but DO NOT boil
Remove from heat.

Add 3 c powdered sugar, 1 tsp vanilla.

Spread over baked cake (after cooling 15 min)

If frosting is too thick to pour easily, add 2 Tbs milk
at a time until it will pour.

M-M-M-M- GOOD !!!

Graham Cracker Eclair Cake (Linda Losse)

15 graham crackers -broken in half
1 1/2 cups milk
1 pkg.(small) vanilla flavor instant pudding
1 tub (8 oz.) Cool Whip thawed
1 cup chocolate ready-to-spread frosting.

Arrange 10 graham squares in bottom of 8-inch square baking dish - set aside. Mix pudding as directed, let stand for 5 min. Gently fold in whipped topping until well blended. Spread half of pudding mixture over graham crackers in dish, top with 10 graham crackers, and spread remaining pudding over them. Cover with remaining 10 graham crackers, refrigerate for at least 3 hours. Spread chocolate frosting on top of graham crackers.

My changes to the above recipe. I only used graham crackers in bottom of the dish. I baked a yellow box mix cake in a 13 x 9 baking dish sprayed with PAM. Let cool and cut it horizontally twice. (I ended up with 3 (13 x 9) pieces). I doubled the rest of the recipe: 3 cups milk, 2 pkg. instant pudding, 2 tubs Cool Whip, and 2 cups frosting. In order to fit the dessert in the 13 x 9 dish I put: (1)graham crackers on bottom (2) a layer of pudding mix (3)one cake section (4)pudding mix (5) another cake section. Refrigerate then frost. I froze the other cake section for another time



JAMMING BY DAY



POTLUCK DINNER



JAMMING BY NIGHT



A CATERED DINNER



"CHEFS" GEORGE & BOB



BREAKFAST IS SERVED



WORKSHOPS WERE WELL ATTENDED



The Silver Strings 2007 Campout was a great success. Music filled the air, good food filled tummies, and new songs and techniques filled heads. Old friends shared casual time, and new friendships were made. SSDS filled 16 campsites and 3 cabins for the weekend, and approximately 90 members and guests shared a beautiful Saturday. The temperatures were a bit high, but we really had a "cool" time...
... especially young Nathan Yanity.





THE SIX WORKSHOP LEADERS WERE TERRIFIC !



WHETHER A SLOW JAM OR UP TO SPEED, ATTENDANCE WAS HIGH



THE COMMUNITY MEAL SITE SET THE STAGE FOR LOTS OF GOOD FUN



While the campers enjoyed a fabulous catered dinner, some unexpected members arrived and provided dinner music. Since they had not thought they would be able to attend the campout, and didn't reserve a meal, they (unfortunately) stopped to eat on the way there. Their music was very much appreciated.

The staff at Meyers Lake Campground went all out to make us feel welcome. They like our music as much as we like their facility.

Photos by Val Losse and Bill Smith