

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

## Soundboard

April 2008

25 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983 - 2008  
Website : [www.ssdociety.org](http://www.ssdociety.org)

Issue 4

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER. . . . .

Spring has sprung, but winter has not yet given up. Those of use who attended the Buckeye Dulcimer Fest got a good taste of winter with 22 inches of snow. We had a complete white out for over an hour on Saturday. They advised we not even change buildings because we couldn't find them. We were stuck in a huge lodge with a fireplace with lots of firewood; we had running water, food, and 200 musicians. Gee, how terrible could it get? We made the best of it !.

The play date Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, was a big hit. We played well together. We set up in a tight semi-circle with three rows of players, which allowed us to see and hear each other well. We have learned MUCH about placement.

Our second meeting of March was postponed because of Holy Week activity in the Church. So we moved it to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday for those who were having Jam withdrawal. We postponed the workshop on 'The Gale'.

We wish a bon-voyage to Val Losse who left for India for 6 weeks on a humanitarian mission. He even learned to speak Hindi so he could communicate better. We will **all** need to chip in and help Linda with the snacks in the kitchen on jam nights.

I wish a speedy transition into spring. Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow will stop musicians like the ones below at the Buckeye Festival  
Bob Hlavacek



### PLAYDATE CHATTER . . . . . VP Business

We only had one playdate in March (Maple Heights Retirement Community) but it was a very good one. Nineteen players jelled together to produce one of our best "gigs" ever. Comments from the audience and the Maple Heights staff said we sounded and looked very professional ! The audience also seemed to enjoy playing along with us with the rhythm instruments. The highlight of the evening was our fiddle players (Bert Stein, Sylvia Casterton and Ernie Stewart) who gave us a great rendition of Danny Boy. Thanks again to all who participated!

The "lost but not forgotten" tune for April 3<sup>rd</sup> will be Wildwood Flower and Death Valley Waltz for April 17<sup>th</sup>. Yes, those songs are on our repertoire list! The total list so far includes Red Haired Fiddlers Waltz, Kentucky Waltz, Possum Up A Gum Stump, Rochester Schottische and Drunken Sailor.

Our March workshop with The Gale was cancelled due to the Church not being available during Easter. We hope to reschedule it for April 17<sup>th</sup>. If you need the music, please email me.

For a list of our coming playdates, please see the Events Calendar in this newsletter. If you are unable to attend a club meeting and would like to sign up for any playdate, please email [karenturner@comcast.net](mailto:karenturner@comcast.net) or call (734) 455-4085. KT

### SECRETARY'S NOTES . . . . .

There was no board meeting the first week of March because our president was gone and there was nothing urgent to discuss. Next Board meeting will be April 3, at 6pm, before the jam. All members are welcome.

*"President Bush said yesterday it doesn't make any sense to raise taxes on the rich because rich people can figure out how to dodge taxes. Then Dick Cheney said 'Shut up! You're ruining everything.'"* . . . . . Jay Leno

## April 2008 Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	2/2
D	John Ryan's Polka	3
G	Sophrina	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Down Yonder	3
D	Viola's Schottische	3
Em	Lisdoonvarna / Riding Load Hay	3/3
D	Sandy River Belle	3
G	Southwind	3
D	Hey Polka	4
C	Five Foot Two	3
G	Tick Tock Polka	3
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Silver & Gold 2 Step	3
G	Maggie	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3
Em	Missouri	3
D/G/C	Golden Slippers	2/2/2
	<b>Extras</b>	
D	Painter's Polka	3
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3

### Buckeye Festival 2008, Ashley, Ohio



Representing Silver Strings at the Buckeye Festival in Ohio last month, were Luke Kawecki, Sandy Johnson, Penny Scheiber, Sandi Hlavacek, Bob Hlavacek, Dawn Sorento, and Janelle Pacic.

Although Ohio is notably a "mountain dulcimer oriented state", all of our attendees were hammered dulcimer players at varying levels from advanced beginner through advanced. All were enthusiastically pleased with the quality of the instruction they received.

We jammed with some visitors from Colorado, and found interesting variations in how our familiar tunes are played in the Rocky Mountains. Folk music is, indeed, a living entity, which changes by geography, just like our speech patterns. Now... does anyone know how to "play southern" for us ?

## V.P. PROGRAMS .....

It's that time of year for me to talk about the campout June 13th to June 15th. If you come on Friday, we will have a potluck dinner that night... everyone bring a dish to pass and your own utensils. Saturday morning, we'll have a pancake and sausage breakfast with everything provided. I hope to have five workshops, but that isn't confirmed yet. No workshops will overlap, so we can improve on more than one instrument. There will be a late afternoon slow jam after the workshops. Saturday night we'll have dinner catered by Elegant Caterers and a jam session in the barn in the evening. At their request, you need to **mail your \$25 deposit directly to Myers Lake campground** by May 15th for campers, I will **not** be accepting the Registration forms or the money. If you don't camp, there are some cabins available, so check into that option. The sooner the reservations are sent in, the sooner we will know if we have enough for group camping or if we need two group camp areas.

Each year, Strings people have played for the Sunday morning service at the lake's edge. Religious music packs will be available for anyone interested in joining that. Next month I'll be specific about all these details so you will be well informed and I'll also be able to tell you if the camping fees are the same as last years. As yet, I haven't heard back from the Myers Lake manager, so I'm unable to confirm with you what the 2008 prices are. If you have any questions or suggestions about this years' campout please feel free to talk to me.

Come one come all... sign up to host Variety Night for May and have the time of your life !!! Ask anyone who has hosted Variety Night, and they'll tell you how much fun it is. You don't have to be funny, you don't have to be witty, you just have to be willing to have fun.

Thanks ! Linda Losse

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR :

- Apr.19 . . . . . **SSDS Playdate** . . . . . 6:30 pm  
Garden City Towers, . . . . . Garden City
- Apr. 23. . . . . **SSDS Playdate.** . . . . . PM (T.B.A)  
Danish Broth. & Sisterhood..Frmgtn Hills.
- Apr. 24. . . . . **SSDS Playdate.** . . . . . 11:am  
Farmington Hills Police. . . . . Frmgtn. Hills
- May 29 . . . . . SSDS Variety Night . . . . . :6:pm

### FAVORITE FESTIVALS & FUN :

- March 5-9. . . . . Buckeye Festival, Ashley Ohio
- June 13-15 . . . . . SSDS Campout, Meyers Lake
- June 20-22 . . . . . Uncle Carl's Campout, Coldwater
- July 17-20 . . . . . Evart Funfest
- Aug.3 . . . . . SSDS Annual Picnic
- Aug. 15-17 . . . . . Midland Dulcimer Fest

**IF THERE IS A FESTIVAL OR OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY YOU KNOW & ENJOY, PLEASE LET ME KNOW, SO IT CAN BE NOTED IN OUR NEWS.**  
Editor [datadoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:datadoc@sbcglobal.net)

### North Central Regional Fiddlers Convention

The 19th Annual North Central Regional Fiddlers Convention will be held August 8-9 at the Hillsdale County Fairgrounds, Hillsdale, MI. Gates open at 8 a.m. both days. Camping is available for the weekend. Workshops are held Friday and Saturday. There will be jamming at the campsites Wednesday and Thursday for early birds.

Co-sponsored by the Jonesville Lions Club. For more information, e-mail <info@michiganfiddlers.com>

**NOTE :** The North Central Regional Fiddlers Convention is a really nice festival. (We never miss it !). It's very low key, a few workshops, and lots of jamming. It is focused on the fiddle, but all acoustics are welcome, and sometimes there is a workshop for other instruments..... Lynn Ellen Kaiser

### A to Z's of Hammered Dulcimer with Rick Thum

**(Monday - Wednesday) July 14 - 16th, 2008**  
**9:00 to 11:30 A.M. and 12:30 to 4:00 P.M.**  
**Evert Free Methodist Church, 6151 95th Ave**

Workshop held in the air conditioned Church Hall directly across the road behind fairgrounds. Intensive training workshop on all levels for beginning, intermediate and advanced students for three consecutive days before Evert Funfest begins. Tape recorders are welcome!

**LIMITED SEATING - PRE-REGISTRATION NECESSARY**

**Cost: \$165 workshop includes :**

- \* learning jam on Tuesday night
- \* catered dinner on Wednesday night
- \* fun jam session and
- \* possibly contra dance to close out the class.

**Contact . . . Rick Thum,**  
**6710 Twin River Rd. Eureka, MO 63025**  
**email: rthum@rthum.com**  
**website: www.rthum.com**

Dear Internal Revenue Service:

Enclosed you will find my 2005 tax return showing that I owe \$3,407.00 in taxes. Please note the attached article from the USA Today newspaper, dated 12 November, wherein you will see the Pentagon (Department of Defense) is paying \$171.50 per hammer and NASA has paid \$600.00 per toilet seat.

I am enclosing four (4) toilet seats (valued @ \$2,400) and six (6) hammers valued @ \$1,029), which I secured at Home Depot, bringing my total remittance to \$3,429.00.

Please apply the overpayment of \$22.00 to the "Presidential Election Fund," as noted on my return. You can do this inexpensively by sending them one (1) 1.5" Phillips Head screw (see aforementioned article from USA Today newspaper detailing how H.U.D. pays \$22.00 each for 1.5" Phillips Head Screws). One screw is enclosed for your convenience.

It has been a pleasure to pay my tax bill this year, and I look forward to paying it again next year.

Sincerely, A Satisfied Taxpayer



### THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, emails, letters, phone calls, and good wishes before and after my surgery a few weeks ago. It warms my heart to know their are so many kind and caring folks in our music group. I will be seeing you soon at practice.

Thanks Again, Sally Niemczewski

Thank You to everyone for thinking of me with emails, cards and prayers. It helps to be remembered and loved from a great group of people.

Love, Theresa Smith

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

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

- 1..... Alice Avery
- 1..... Larry Roper
- 10... Luke Kaweck
- 13... Bill Deighton
- 27... Jason Yanity



**PLEASE CHECK THE LIST ON THE BACK TABLE AT JAMS, AND ADD YOUR NAME & BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY, IF MISSING.**

### Blue Water Folk Society is pleased to announce the 7th Annual: **Thumfest**

**A Traditional Music Festival  
on the Shores of Lake Huron  
Labor Day Weekend August 29-31, 2008  
in Lexington, Michigan  
Friday, 7 pm till 10 pm  
Saturday, 10 am till 10 pm  
Sunday, 10 am till 12 pm  
Featuring Three Main Stages  
Dance Hall, Jam Site  
Workshops, Kid's Area  
Song Circle, Craft Area.**

**Downtown Lexington, Michigan <**  
This will be a FREE event again this year !!!  
Paid for with donations  
Blewaterfolk.org

**APRIL FOOLS HAVE NO RULES !!!**



Gather your camping supplies, and dream about the festival and campout season to come. This snow won't last forever !

**Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club** is a group meeting once monthly, near Jackson. Many of our SSDS members are also associated with this group. Their campout is one week after ours. We join each other's weekend, and as with our own, you are invited for the entire weekend or to drive in for Saturday. (Motels are available for non-campers.)

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club Campout  
 Waffle Farm Campground, Coldwater, Mi.  
 June 27-28-29, 2008  
**Reservations due MAY 1st**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone & E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type & size of camper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of people camping with you \_\_\_\_\_  
 Circle overnights you will be there June 27 June 28  
 Will you want A/C ? yes.. ..no

Rates: \$27 per night  
**Send registration and deposit of \$25 payable to:  
 Kathy Culy, 625 N. Union City Rd.  
 Coldwater, Mi.49036**

If you have questions, call Kathy Culy at (517) 278-4853 or Pennye Scheiber at (517) 547-7448.  
 \$25 deposit will be returned to you on Sunday. If you would like to come earlier or stay later, you may make reservations with Waffle Farm directly at 517-278-4315 or www.wafflefarm.com.  
 Payment in full is due on arrival. There is a \$2 fee for a 1-day entry into the campground. There will be potluck dinner Saturday and Pancake breakfast Sunday.

**BOTH CAMPOUTS WILL HAVE A POTLUCK DINNER AND A PANCAKE BREAKFAST.**

**Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Campout**

Meyers Lake United Methodist Campground  
 10575 Silver Lake Road, Byron, Mi. 48418

**With questions, call Linda Losse, (734) 994-9097  
 Send registration forms & payment to :  
 Jon Lawrence at the above address**

**Check-in Fri. June 13th, Check-out June 15th**  
 In order to get all sites grouped close together,  
**You MUST specify you are with Silver Strings**  
**Reservations are due by MAY 15th, 2007**  
**cabin reserve by MAY 1st**

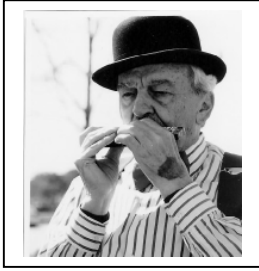
**Rates \$25 per night . . . . \$32 per night with A/C**  
 (2 adults are included, each added is \$2 per night)  
**Cabin rental for non-campers (\$70 per night)\_\_\_\_\_**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone & e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type & size of camper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Slide-outs? . . . . . yes . . . . .no  
 Air conditioner? . . yes . . . . .no  
 # adults (18+) \_\_\_\_\_ #children \_\_\_\_\_ # pets \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of vehicle (1 per site) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Late arrival or extended departure ? \_\_\_\_\_

**Minimum deposit \$25**  
 Full payment gets curbside check-in and no long line.  
 Payment.....CHECK . . .VISA . . . MC . . . DISCOVER  
 Account # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:  
 Meyers Lake UMC Campground**

If we have an early, valid count, SSDS can be guaranteed the group camping area. A few sites near the jam barn would be ideal for people with mobility problems. Rates are subject to change for 2008.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU . . . Walt Jablonski

When you see Walt Jablonski in the back of a jam with his harmonicas and his wife Pat, you wouldn't guess he has seen and done some amazing things. Walt was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1920, the seventh of 12 children. Being one of so many children has its trials, but he remembers the good things. "As you grow older, there is always someone to do things with."

When he was around 8 years old, he begged for an accordion. His mother couldn't manage that, but she did find a way to get a piano. Although Walt never played it, his sister did, and the family would get together almost every week to play and sing together.

Soon after, a school friend acquired a harmonica. Walt was hooked. As they traded it back and forth, Walt quickly matched his friend in playing songs and learning music. His resourceful mom was able to get a harmonica for the budding musician. (They were about 40 cents in 1928.)

After his dad was injured, Walt quit school at 15 (grade 9) so he could support his family. He went to work at the saw mill, and moved through a series of jobs. When World War II began, he had a deferment from service because he was supporting his family. But, eventually, he joined the military. He was sent to France as a staff sergeant in the Battle of the Bulge. Walt was an engineer in charge of 53 trucks. When the war ended, he thought he would be sent home. Instead, he was sent to France, Belgium and Germany, and spent 43 days on a ship! He saw Panama, the Philippines, and many islands before he finally went to Korea for six months. There, he spent his time mapping out an incomplete water distribution system left behind by the Japanese. While in Korea, he spent much of his free time exploring the country, including lots of small towns and Buddhist temples.

When his 3-½ years in the service were over, Walt went back to work at the job he had before the war. A few years later, a friend who was an Air Force fighter pilot during the war, invited him to come to a local airport for a small air show. While he was there, Walt saw a young lady holding a clipboard and escorting 8 or 9 little girl scouts. As Walt puts it, nearly 60 years later, "I was nailed!" He simply had to find out who that gorgeous girl was, and when he learned she was taking flying lessons every Sunday, he signed up on the spot! So, every Sunday Walt and the gorgeous Pat took flying lessons together. When Walt, always a considerate gentleman, offered (to Pat's dad) to bring Pat home after the lessons, and save him the trip, Pat's dad was very grateful. And so a long series of delightful Sunday flying adventures followed. Walt and Pat were married about a year later. Eventually, Walt did get his pilot's license. Pat, who was learning on an open cockpit "very fussy" plane, eventually decided to give it up.

When Walt and Pat married, he decided he needed a better paying job, so he hired in at Sunoco. He started as a truck driver, but didn't like pulling all that fuel behind him. He worked through a series of jobs on pipelines, barges, in the yard, on the tank farm, and finally in the lab, blending oils and checking everything that came in. Over time, the lab process became automated. While it was easier, "It wasn't nearly as interesting".

Walt and Pat had five children and now have eight grandchildren. Family time was the center of their lives. In 1968, Pat learned about travel trailers. She told him, "They're selling trailers really cheap right now. We should buy one". Walt remembers telling her he had his fill of camping in the army, and if she wanted to camp in a trailer, she could go without him. "Two hours later, we drove home with a trailer," he laughs. "It was the best thing we ever did." The family traveled all states east of the Mississippi (except Florida) and into southeast Canada. The kids were pulled out of school to travel the country, keeping a journal so they could relate their adventures to classmates who were not so lucky.

Three pop-ups, two trailers, and a motor home later, they still travel to Evert to camp each year. "I'm not sure if we will make it this year," relates Walt. "Pat doesn't like to drive it, and I can't drive on freeways or after dark anymore." Still, Evert pulls them to attend. They first came to Evert in 1990. As they wandered the festival, they were drawn to one particular group of players, and were delighted to learn that the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society met only a mile or so from their home. They've been coming ever since.

Walt's desire for an accordion lay dormant but not forgotten. A year ago, he found a used accordion. But he prefers his harmonica, so the accordion gathers dust. He also tried the ukulele, but to no avail. The harmonica remains his main musical love.

Other hobbies Walt has followed are gardening (crossing plant species to see what he could come up with), woodworking (the wooden rocking horses for his family generated orders from an interior designer in Birmingham).

Walt has three briefcases of harmonicas... some for playing, and some just for looking at. Now he leads a new Harmonica group, which meets twice each month in Garden City. Walt will give a harmonica to any child who shows an interest in the instrument. He will never forget how his encounter with a harmonica so many years ago has changed his own life.