

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

February 2008

25 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983 - 2008

Issue 2

Website : www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi Y'all...

Welcome to winter. We have had enough of the cold and Snow. I, for one, am ready for spring. Visions of music campouts and festivals are running through my head. In about a month, our season starts with the Buckeye Festival in Ashley Ohio, March 5-9.

Our February 7th meeting will be preceded by a board meeting starting at 6:00 pm. On February 21st we will have a workshop starting at 6:00pm to learn "Swinging on the Gate": Jamming will start at 7:00. We are investigating shirts and or sweat shirts with the Silver Strings Logo on them. Dawn Sorrento has volunteered to head the project. There is a new vendor in Adrian who we will compare with our previous vendor in Ann Arbor. We may be ready to take orders in March (stay tuned).

Thanks to all who came out for the Erie Ice Daze play date. It was a long two days: 4 hours each day. But it is a fun event. We had a great audience both days. 16 players enjoyed a relaxed dinner at a local restaurant to wind down the weekend. Come on out to join the fun at future play dates. ALL are welcome !

At the January 17th meeting, the membership approved a \$200 budget to purchase 5 copies of "Music Time Deluxe" software to be used by board members and a music director. The copies would be passed on to future board members. However, three board members have decided they won't use the software, So Karen and I will pay for our copy and sell the rest to members who expressed interest. No club funds will be used.

Keep on Hammering, Strumming, Plucking... . Bob Hlavacek,

PLAYDATE CHATTER

V.P. BUSINESS

Our "Playdate Players" started off the New Year with a two day event, Erie Ice Daze, at Lake Erie Metro Park, January 19th and 20th. We have been going to this location now for 12 years and it is always a fun, relaxed playdate. Since the atmosphere was more casual than most playdates, we were able to try out some new songs and medleys. The highlight of our weekend was the park employees who danced creatively to our upbeat tunes. Thanks to all members who participated over the two day period!

At the last Board meeting, we discussed how to bring in old Silver Strings songs that aren't played much anymore. It was decided that I would choose and request a "lost but not forgotten" tune at each future club meeting jam. On January 17th, I requested Red Haired Fiddlers Waltz and was followed by other club members requesting other tunes that haven't been played in quite awhile. Thank you to all who helped with the effort! Some of the lost tunes we played were Amelia, Young Jane, Off to California, Pays de Haut, Red River Valley, Captain O'Kane, Boneparte Crossing the Rhine and Cherokee Shuffle. Do you have a "lost but not forgotten" tune you would like to request at the next jam? This is an excellent chance for newcomers to hear them.

Our only February playdate, so far, is the Canton Senior Valentine Day party on February 13th, 1:00-2:00 pm. If you are unable to attend a club meeting and would like to sign up for this, or any playdate, please email karenturner@comcast.net or call me at (734) 455-4085

BANKER OURS

Diane Griffin new ukulele player

Error published in January Soundboard.

Address should be 15232 Knolson

It used to be only death & taxes were inevitable.
Now, of course, there's Shipping & handling, too.

NOTES FROM YOUR SECRETARY _____

January 3rd Board meeting

All Board members and about 7 members at large were present. **(ALL members are welcome !)**

VP for Business... 50 members participated in holiday playdates, earning the club \$975. Also, we had \$169 in CD / tape sales

VP for Programs reported Jane Chevalier and Rich Smith will be hosting the Jan. 31st Variety Night. Discussion of campout, pig roast, Christmas potluck, etc. will be at the Feb meeting.

New Business

Song of the Month ..We will have music workshops at 6:00 the 3rd Thursday of each month with instructor(s) teaching or reviewing a song. The music will be available the 1st Thursday for preview.

Repertoire Review,,,We would like someone to review our current Repertoire to weed out or add pieces of music. Anyone interested see Karen Turner.

Tee Shirts...Several new members are interested in getting Strings shirts. Bob will poll the membership for interest and a chairperson.

25th Anniversary...Sandi Hlavacek is chairing this committee. The Board reaffirmed we will celebrate the anniversary at our regular Banquet on October 2, 2008. Sandi will meet with her committee and bring a progress report to the next Board meeting.

Gifts...After much discussion, *(people have been missed due to the secretary not being informed or available to respond, until it was considered too late... and individual expenses were high... \$\$ might be better spent for things to benefit the entire club)* it was decided that the club will extend sympathy, wishes for good health, etc., with cards only. The motion passed unanimously. People still need to keep the club informed of member illness, loss, etc., by notifying the Secretary, Bonnie Ream. **Music**

Time...After much review, Marie Naster moved and Karen Turner seconded, the Board purchase a 5-copy package of a computer software program ("Music Time") for \$365. These programs will be held by Board members, used to assure all members have the same arrangement of songs, and passed on to future boards.

Board minutes .. Due to the space limits in the Soundboard, complete board meeting minutes will be E-mailed to members with e-mail and 15 hard copies will be available at the table the next meeting for those who have no E-mail. *(Complete back minutes are available on request.)*

Amplifiers for quiet instruments will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

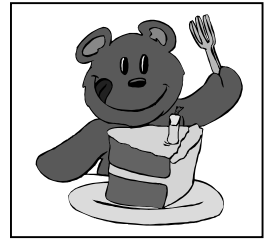
Bonnie Ream

**The cruise liner, QE 2 moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns....
Do you still think you own a gas-guzzler ?**

IT'S FEBRUARY... LET'S CELEBRATE !!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10. Bob Ewald
13. Sharon Dickson
14. Barb Davis
24. Joe Johnson
26. Pat Altpeter



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

5. Jim & Evie Bain (42nd)
12. Bob & Sandi Hlavacek (42nd)
14. Steve & Ramona Hadley (33rd)

V.P. PROGRAMS _____

Our Lake Erie Daze January playdate was a lot of fun. Adults and children were dancing and it was fun to see how creative they were with their dance moves.

February 7th we will have our board meeting before the jam session, and a workshop before the Feb. 21st jam.

Thank you to Rich Smith and Jane Chevalier for hosting our January Variety Night. It is much appreciated. The next Variety Night is in May. If you feel so inclined, please see me about hosting that Variety Night. Also, if you want something other than pizza, like sub sandwiches, please bring that up at a meeting during a jam session break... we can take ideas and vote on another choice.

Thanks for all the snacks you bring in, everyone appreciates them, and those who help with the clean-up.

Linda Losse

WISDOM.... The only time the world beats a path to your door, is if you're in the bathroom.



We still have 2 copies of the "Ruffwater Fakebook" available at the club discount price of \$18 and no shipping. This is a true foundation piece for any Midwest music library. Many refer to it as the "Bible of Michigan jamming". When you hear an unfamiliar tune at Evart or elsewhere, it is very likely to be in this book. Some of our SSDS songs are in it in a key other groups play, but there are far more songs we don't have. Some people have actually worn out their first copy.

If you are new to this music scene, and don't feel quite ready to add another book, consider this... If you were to **order** this book now, it would cost you \$25. If you wait, it will cost even more, as shipping and printing go up. You **WILL** be ready for it after one (more) trip to Evart. Now... doesn't \$18 sound really good ? See Bob or Sandi Hlavacek to get yours before they are gone.

WHERE DID WE GET THE BANJO ?



The early origins of the banjo are a bit obscure. Its precursors came from Africa to America, probably through the West Indies. The multitude of African peoples, languages, and music make it very difficult to associate the banjo with any specific African instrument.

Historical references indicate that the banjar, or bangle, or banjer, or banza, or banjo was played in early 17th century America by Africans in slavery, who constructed their instruments from gourds, wood, and tanned skins, using hemp or gut for strings. These are now referred to as "gourd banjos"

This prototype eventually led to the evolution of the modern banjo in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Until 1800 the banjo remained essentially a black instrument, although at times there was considerable interaction between whites and blacks in enjoying music and dance... whites usually participating as observers. This led to the "minstrel shows", and brought the instrument to the attention of the nation.

The modern banjo is an invention by an American, Joel Sweeney. It comes in a variety of different forms, including four (plectrum and tenor banjos) and five-string versions. A six-string version, tuned and played similar to a guitar, is gaining popularity. In most of its forms, the banjo's playing is characterized by a fast strumming right hand, though there are many different playing styles.

Today, the banjo commonly is associated with country and bluegrass music. Historically, however, the banjo occupied a central place in African American traditional music, as well as in the minstrel shows of the 19th century. In fact, African Americans exerted a strong, early influence on the development of both country and bluegrass through the introduction of banjo, and through the innovation of musical techniques in the playing of both the banjo and fiddle.

Recently, the banjo has enjoyed inclusion in a wide variety of musical genres, including pop crossover music. The six-string or guitar-banjo was the instrument of the early jazz, as well as the blues and gospel. Today, it sometimes appears under such names as guitjo, ganjo, or banjitar.

A number of hybrid instruments exist, crossing the banjo with other stringed instruments. Most of these use the body of a banjo, often with a resonator, and the neck of the other instrument. Examples include the banjo mandolin (Banjolin; Banjoline) and the banjo ukulele (Banjolele). These were especially popular in the early decades of the twentieth century, and were probably a result of a desire either to allow players of other instruments to jump on the banjo bandwagon at the height of its popularity, or to get the natural amplification benefits of the banjo resonator in an age before electric amplification.

SSDS February 2008 Play List

Key	Tune	Played
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Over The Waterfall	3
G	Silver And Gold Two-Step	3
G	Down Yonder	3
C	Five Foot Two	4
D	Peek-A-Boo-Waltz	3
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna / Riding On a Load Of Hay	3/3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
D	Festival Rag	3
Am	Katushka	5
D	Midnight On The Water	2
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	3/3
G	I'll Remember You Love	2
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Sophrina	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morning	3
D	Sandy River Belle	3
G	Southwind	3
G	Maggie	4
D	Hey Polka	4
D	Viola's Schottische	3
G	You Are My Sunshine	4
D/G/C	Golden Slippers	2/2/2

WORKSHOP & CONCERT OPPORTUNITY

Prussia Valley Dulcimer is proud to announce workshops and concert by Tull Glazener & Guy George on Sunday, Feb. 24 in Waverly, Ohio (about 5-6 hours from metro-Detroit area).

The workshops will be from 2pm till 3:30pm in the upstairs jam rooms at

Prussia Valley Dulcimers Music Shop
122 North Market Street in Waverly.

Tull will conduct a mountain dulcimer workshop Guy will lead a hammered dulcimer workshop (both intermediate). At 4:00pm Tull and Guy will do a concert in the Grand Tavern ballroom located adjacent to Prussia Valley. The tavern is closed on Sunday so no alcoholic beverages are permitted. Toni and I may do a couple of tunes beforehand on mountain dulcimer and autoharp just so we can say we opened for them.

The cost is \$20 for the workshop of your choice and the concert. The concert alone is \$5.00. If you are interested in attending, please email or phone me and let me know which workshop you would like to do and if you will be staying for the concert. If you are coming from a distance and need hotel accommodations the night before or after, let me know and I will send hotel info. Thanks,

Gary & Toni Sager

122 North Market Street, Waverly, Ohio 45690
(740)-941-1271, <pvdulcimers@bright.net>

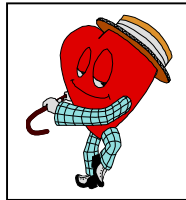
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 7. SSDS Board meeting. 6 pm
 Feb. 13. SSDS Playdate 1:pm
 Canton Senior Ctr. Canton
 Feb. 21SSDS Workshop. 6pm
 Mar. 14SSDS Playdate 6:pm
 Maple Heights Retirement. Allen Park
 Apr.19SSDS Playdate :6:30 pm
 Garden City Towers, Garden City
 Apr. 23.SSDS Playdate.?
 Danish Broth. & Sisterhood.Fmgn Hls.
 Apr. 24.SSDS Playdate.:11:am
 Farmington Hills Police.Frmgn. Hlls
 March 5-9.Buckeye Festival, Ashley Ohio
 June 13-15 SSDS Campout, Meyers Lake
 June 20-22 Uncle Carl's Campout, Coldwater
 July 17-20Evert Funfest
 Aug. 15-17 Midland Dulcimer Fest

The **folkjam.org** festival and workshop calendars are available to help you plan your 2008 festival season. The listings range from well known festivals to local folk music events.

<http://www.folkjam.org/festivalcalendar>
<http://www.folkjam.org/campcalendar>

Anybody is free to add their favorite festivals, camps and workshops to <folkjam.org>. If the folk festival you love to attend is not listed, sign up and post it.



**HAPPY
 ST. VALENTINE'S DAY !**

**FEBRUARY 14TH
 SHARE MUSIC OF THE HEART**

Photos below by Terry Trippa, Lynn Ellen Kaiser and Bob Hlavacek

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Erie Ice Daze is a celebration of winter, with native American games, dog sleds, arrowhead making, wool spinning, fish lure and decoy art, and nature study to share.



While Silver Strings played, most visitor seats were filled. Many come back every year to see us. Although space was limited, staff and visitors found room to dance to our music. The mood was fun and smiles were plentiful for 2 great days. This casual playdate has been one of our favorites for 12 years. There are many interesting things to see and do during our breaks.

