



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

January 2008

Year 25

Issue 1

WEBSITE: www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year everyone !!! We should be just about all partied out by now. We had a great set of play dates in December. The Retired teachers gig in Livonia seemed the most fun to me. I want to thank everyone who attended play dates and worked so hard at practice sessions. I think we have all grown a lot. It is time to slow down a little but get back to honing our skills and adding new material. We will be discussing ideas at the **Next Board Meeting at 6:00pm, Jan 3rd**, prior to our regular jam. All members are welcome to attend.

We have tried to encourage members to develop starts for the tunes that they like. Not many participated last year. So to help this effort along I would like to start the jams off with people who have developed or would like to start a tune. After we get through those players, then we will call on the rest. Any instrument can be used for starts (not just HD's). When you practice at home, try to include two or more measures for a start. If you need help, ask some of the more experienced players. Think back to Dee Dee Tibbits' workshop regarding "vamps, intro's and outro's". I'd like to start doing this at the Jan 17th jam. Don't be afraid to try. Everyone who has done starts has messed up sometimes but it helps you to grow as a musician. We may have some good surprises, including "starter drawings" for prizes.

Sandi and I have registered to go to the Buckeye Festival in Ashley Ohio. It's a terrific learning opportunity and a LOT of fun. A good representation from Silver Strings would be GREAT!. More information is in an article, elsewhere in this issue of the Soundboard.

Happy New Year of hammering, plucking, strumming.

Bob Hlavacek



PLAYDATE CHATTER _____ V.P. BUSINESS

Happy New Year! And thanks to all the members that dedicated their time and musical talents during the Holiday playdate season! We successfully entertained in numerous different venues and received many smiles, applause and compliments from our audiences. A special thanks to Linda Losse for doing starts and Bob Hlavacek for announcing tunes and interacting with the audience.

Our first playdate for the new year is Erie Ice Daze at Lake Erie Metro Park, Saturday, January 19th, 11am-3pm and Sunday, January 20th, 12pm- 4pm. This playdate is a fun, relaxed two days. The atmosphere is more casual and we play mainly as background music with a few stopping by to listen now and then. Sign up for one or both days and join the fun! . If you are unable to attend a club meeting and would like to sign up for this playdate, please email karenturner@wowway.com or call (734) 455-4085.KT

BANKER OURS _____

NEW MEMBERS

Diane Griffin..(ukulele).....734-464-1969
18232 Knolson,..... Livonia, Mi. 48154

Bonnie Hilberer.(ukulele).....734-994-0569
1170 Sullivan Dr..... Ann Arbor, Mi. 48103

2008 SSSS ERIE ICE DAZE PLAY LIST

Key	Tune	Play
C	Winter Wonderland	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	2/2
C	Black Velvet Waltz	3
D	Over The Waterfall	3
D	Festival Rag	3
G	Jingle Bells (Chorus + 2)	4
D	Peek-A-Boo-Waltz	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
G	Silver And Gold Two-Step	3
G	Tennessee Waltz	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Let It Snow	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	4
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	I'll Remember You, Love	2
Em	Tamlin	3
G	Sophrina	3
D	Maple Sugar	3 1/2
D	Rudolph	3
G	Old Joe Clark	4
G	Maggie	3
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna/ Riding Hay	2/2
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	4
G	Southwind	3
Em	Dancing Bear/Sculley's Reel	3
C	Five Foot Two	4
G	Down Yonder	3
D	Painter's Polka	3
G	Red Wing	3
D	Viola's Schottische	3
D	Ragtime Annie	3
D	Jamie Allen / Road To Boston	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
D	Frosty The Snowman	3
D	Soldier's Joy	3
D	Harvest Home	3
Em	Missouri	3
D	Sandy River Belle	3
Am	Katushka	5
G	Hundred Pipers	3
G	March of St Timothy	3
D/G	Golden Slippers	2D/2G

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 19.....SSDS playdate.....11am - 3pm
 Lake Erie Ice Daze.....Rockford
 20.....SSDS Playdate.....noon - 4pm
 Lake Erie Metropark.....Rockford
 February 13.....SSDS Playdate.....1 - 2pm
 Summit Parkway.....Canton
 March 5-9.....**Buckeye Dulcimer Festival**
 Ashley Ohio

25 YEARS OF MUSIC

Did you know that July 27, 1983 was the first meeting/jam of the group which became Silver Strings Dulcimer Society? Hal Bain was one of the initial 11 people, and the only one who has remained active. 2008 marks the 25th anniversary with many surprises in store, throughout the year.

V.P. PROGRAMS

I'm looking forward to a new year with Silver Strings folks. December was a very busy month of playdates, and the weather proved to be a challenge to make some of them. I've enjoyed playing music and socializing at all the playdates. It all made it **feel** like the holiday season.

Our first jam session this month is on January 3rd, and I hope the weather is accommodating.

We will have a Variety Night on January 31st at 7 p.m.. Rich Smith and Jane Chevalier, will be hosts, and you can contact either of them to sign up. We'll have pizza and salad, and ask members to bring desserts.

See you all at our jam session.. Linda Losse

NOTES FROM YOUR SECRETARY

As the new year begins, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and help this past year at Strings. As I reflect on this past year, I'm reminded of the many members who have had personal difficulties in their lives. Many have lost family members, dealt with critical health issues, lost jobs, and experienced other stressful situations. It is so important that Strings be a haven... someplace to come and relax, share fellowship, and enjoy the gift of music. I would encourage all of us to reach out with a call, card, or hug to some of our members who have had a difficult year and promise to do what we can individually and collectively to share the burdens of our fellow members. Let's each do our part to have a wonderful 2008 at Silver Strings.Bonnie Ream

Our Dear Friends at Silver Strings,

Bob and I wish to thank you for the many calls, cards, and well wishes you conveyed. We hope soon to return to Silver Strings when our health has improved. Bob is almost there, so I'm sure he will see you all soon. Although it's been 2 months since I've walked on my own, I'm starting to walk with a walker. Next, a three pointed cane and then, hopefully, on my own.

We Love You All !

Bob and Dorothy Ewald

How is playing the banjo a lot like throwing a javelin blindfolded?

You don't have to be very good to get people's attention.

BUCKEYE FESTIVAL

It is not too early to think about attending the 17th **Annual Buckeye Festival** in Ashley, Ohio, (35 miles northeast of Columbus) **March 5-9, 2008. Registration is due Feb. 15th**

You may choose the
Basic package, Friday 3pm – Sunday 9:30am
Extended package Wednesday, 3pm – Sunday 9:30am
(with comprehensive workshop Wed. 3pm-Fri.3pm)

The fees cover dormitory style housing, really good meals, and all workshops. (Commuter packages are available, if you prefer a motel). 6 camper sites are also available on the grounds.

The festival is held at Recreation Unlimited, a camp facility for physically or developmentally challenged individuals. It began as a fundraiser for "scholarships" for campers with financial needs (63% of attendees). All profits from the music-fest finance that purpose.

Full day beginner sessions are available for mountain and hammered dulcimer, clawhammer banjo, and fiddle. Instructors include Shelly Stevens, Cindy Funk, Joe Steiner, Linda Brockinton, and Tull Glazener on Mountain Dulcimer; Chris Cooperrider, Joyce Harrison, Mark Wade, Tina Gugeler, and Steve Schneider on Hammered Dulcimer; Shari Wolf (Band Together), JoAnn Smoth (Autoharp), Pamela Bruner (Harp), and Dorothy Buchanan (extra assistance for all). Many of these names are familiar from music festivals and competitions around the country.

There are nightly slow, moderate and high speed jams available. Add open stage performances, the Saturday night concert, Sunday morning Gospel sing and all of the new friends, just waiting to be met, for an unbeatable good time.

Check the website buckeyedulcimer@yahoo.com or contact **Louise Ziegler (740) 747-2326** for more information or registration

DID YOU KNOW...?

Did you know that **anyone** is invited to submit articles of musical interest for publication in the Soundboard ? The due date for articles is the 20th of each month. On the 1st of the following month, the Soundboard is posted on the website. Printed copies are available at meetings during the month. Back issues are available on the website or by request.

Did you know that if you know a club member who will be /is/ was hospitalized or ill recently, has a new baby, or has a death in their immediate family, you are asked to please contact Bonnie Ream at (734) 464-7156 (our secretary) who will acknowledge it for the club.

Did you know that **every member is invited** to attend board meetings held 6-6:45, before the jam, on the 1st Thursday of each month ? (Cancelled only if 2 or more board members are unavailable)

PLEASE check the **BIRTHDAY-ANNIVERSARY** list on the back table, and add yours if it's not there. We'd like to help you celebrate.

IT'S JANUARY. . . .

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

4.....Val Losse
10.....Sharon McAuliffe
18.....Tom Meggison
23.....Terry Avery
26.....Kelly Kaiser



THE "LOWLY" HARMONICA

The harmonica is based on an ancient instrument, the **sheng**. A Chinese gourd and reed instrument, the sheng may have been invented as long as 5000 years ago by Chinese Empress Nyu-kwa. The basic design of the sheng allowed tones to be made while blowing or drawing air through the instrument, across bamboo shavings (reeds), making it the first "reed instrument", unique among the ancient wind instruments.

Instruments resembling the modern harmonica began in the early 19th century. Christian Friedrich Ludwig Buschmann bundled fifteen pitch pipes into a roughly square shape, approximately 4 inches wide and tall, to create the Buschmann **Aura** about 1820. This blow-only design allowed tunes to be played and became somewhat popular in Germany and Austria, but was a rather limited instrument due to its size and design.

The next version of the modern harmonica came in America from a Bohemian immigrant known today only by his last name, Richter. He created a 10-hole, diatonic harmonica called the "**Vamper**" with two stacked reed plates that would produce a consistent tone when blowing or drawing air over the reeds. Its size, approximate 4 inches wide but only 1 inch tall, made it an immediate improvement. Still, the modern harmonica was more a curiosity than a respected instrument.

It took a German clock maker to catapult the **harmonica** to its current status. Mathias Hohner had manufactured "mouth organs" in his spare time since the early 1850's. In 1865, he sent a small supply of his harmonicas to his cousins, who had emigrated to America, with the intent of establishing a market for his product. The tone and beauty of these simple instruments quickly won over many Americans. Its portable size, quality construction, and superb tone made harmonicas a quick addition to American music. Hohner almost single-handedly established the harmonica in the American musical lexicon.

There are currently more harmonicas in use, than any other instrument in the world.



Under the excellent leadership of Karen Turner and Linda Losse, we gave our hearts, in the form of music, to hundreds of happy listeners. The holiday season is the busiest time of the year for SSDS, and the easiest time to bring smiles to others.



In December, We performed for 2 large “retired teacher” organizations, a public library, Burger School holiday fest, a historical society, a Soroptomist group, several churches, and a Senior living center. Each audience was unique, and each was fun. People clapped to the music, sang along, tapped their toes, some danced, and we were surrounded by smiles.



Silver Strings “playdates” provide more than entertainment for the audience. They provide income for the club, which enables us to keep our membership dues at bargain rates. Our dues (alone) does not come close to covering printing expenses of the “Soundboard” newsletter, new music, the lists and notices provided members; expenses for the summer picnic, the holiday party, beverages on jam nights, the campout, pizza for Variety Nights; and all of the other costs of keeping the club running and fun.

Playdates also offer the players an opportunity to grow musically, and get to know the other musicians. The fun and laughter shared in the performances, lunches and dinners afterward, bond friendships while brightening the days of others. That’s priceless !

Whether you have (or have not) joined a playdate before, consider it for the new year. One of the most FUN of all is the “Ice Daze” celebration in January, which SSDS has played for about 12 years. You may attend one or both days. It is very informal, much like our regular jams, except people are passing by, some stopping to sit and enjoy the music.

