



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

March.2008

25 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983 - 2008

Issue.3

Website : www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The long boring month of February has come to a close. After the fast paced holidays of December and the afterglow in January, it takes a long time to get to March. The Buckeye festival begins in Ashley Ohio Wednesday March 5th, so a few of us will not be at our first March meeting. **There will be no March Board Meeting.** Linda and Karen will run the jam.

On the recovery list, Dereck Channing, Bob Ewald, Sally Niemczewski, and Theresa Smith are all dealing with medical issues. A card or phone call may help cheer them up. Warm weather and sunshine would also help.

Thanks to Sharon McAuliffe for conducting the work shop last month on 'Swinging on the Gate'. We will have another workshop to learn 'The Gale', conducted by Penny Scheiber at the March 21st meeting.

We are encouraging members to start tunes at the jams. If you're willing to start a tune, then you get first crack at a tune request at the beginning of the jam. Any instrument can do a start. This will help us all grow.

See you March 21st. Spring will be here. Happy hammering, strumming, picking. Bob Hlavacek

V.P. PROGRAMS

Our last Variety Night was very entertaining. We all enjoyed the musical talents and humor of those who performed. Great jokes Jane! Our next Variety Night will be in May, and is still open for anyone who would like to host it. Unless I hear from folks that they want something other than pizza, I will plan to order pizza, but not from the same place, since they were so late.

I am really enjoying the "lost" but not forgotten tunes. It's motivating me to re-learn tunes that I once played and learn some tunes that I never played. With many people requesting them, it's nice to see so much enthusiasm over these oldies but goodies . . . Linda Losse

HARMONICA HAPPENINGS.....

Walt Jablonski has stepped forward in an effort to keep the music of the harmonica alive. He has led an independent harmonica group since Sept. 2007. Participation at first was minimal, but he changed the meeting to the 2nd and 4th Fri. of the month, and it has grown. Players at any level are welcome. We play simple, old favorite tunes in the Key of C. You need not be able to read music or play by ear. Most "harmonica tunes" come with a tablature to indicate when to blow out or draw in, and continuous coaching and teaching is available from more experienced players.

We meet at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood St., Garden City, 7-9pm, on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. For more information please contact Walt at (734) 422-8803. Karen Turner

BANKER OURS

NEW MEMBERS

Sylvia Casterton 734-284-2412
2141 Davis Street,Wyandotte, Mich 48192
Plays the piano, violin, & guitar
Occupation - Music Teacher
Sylvia_casterton@yahoo.com

Larry Weisman 248-661-9332
6750 E. Nashway Dr., W. Bloomfield, Mi. 48322
Plays the Guitar
mihrangr@sbcglobal.net

**NEW ROSTERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE
'BUSINESS TABLE' AT THE JAM SESSIONS**

It's hard to believe another month of sweet sounding music has passed. I got quite inspired last month about dulcimer playing by attending a couple of jams outside of our club. I want to mention these musical opportunities in case members are not aware of them.

First is *Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club*. Meetings and club jams are held on the second Saturday of every month (September through May) in Spring Arbor, MI (near Jackson), 12:45-4:30 pm. They have a slow, regular and open jam as well as a tune workshop. Sheet music and a midi for the tune workshop are posted on their website. For more details and a club repertoire, visit <http://www.unclecarls.org>. The other is the *Pittsfield Grange Jam*. Open jam sessions are held on the first and third Saturdays from 3:00-6:00 pm in Ann Arbor, MI. Their repertoire comes mainly from the Portland Collection and the Ruffwater Fake Book. For more information, call (734) 769-4220. As with all jams, make sure you know the groups jam procedure and follow jam etiquette.

The "lost but not forgotten" tune list is growing. Officially I have requested Red Haired Fiddlers Waltz, Kentucky Waltz and Possum Up A Gum Stump. Other members are also taking the lead and requesting tunes we haven't played in awhile. Thanks again to all those who have helped with this effort. The tune for March 6th will be Rochester Schottische and the March 20th tune will be Drunken Sailor. So dig out your music and sharpen up the tunes! I especially like Drunken Sailor as it was the first tune I learned on my dulcimer!

At our February 21st meeting, we also launched our continuing tune workshop for 2008. Thank you again to Sharon McAuliffe for teaching Swinging On A Gate to 16 of our members. Our March workshop tune will be The Gale, taught by Penny Scheiber. Music will be available at the March 6th meeting or by email request.

For a listing of our upcoming 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 this playdate, please email karenturner@comcast.net or call me at (734) 455-4085. KT

Two musicians were sitting down for a break in their soon-to-be new music store. The store wasn't ready... only a few shelves were set up.
One said to the other, "I'll bet any minute now somebody is going to walk by, put his face to the window and ask what we're selling".
No sooner were the words out of his mouth when, sure enough, a curious hillbilly came to the window, peeked in, and with his Southern drawl asked, "What're y'all sellin' here?"
One of the men replied, "Oh! We're selling idiots here".
Without skipping a beat, the southerner said, "Well, I see y'all're doing really good. You've only got two left!"



We still have 1 copy of the "Ruffwater Fakebook" available at the club discount price of \$18 (and no shipping). Some people have actually worn out their first copy. See Bob or Sandi Hlavacek

SECRETARY'S NOTES

All Board and about 5 society members were present. Karen Turner, V-P for Business reported coming play dates, the earliest being Feb.13, at the Canton Senior Center. She has also arranged a workshop February 21st with Sharon McAuliff for "Swinging on a Gate" and another March 20th with Penny Schreiber for "The Gale".

Old Business:
Club Shirts--Bob shared that Dawn has the catalogs for selecting shirts for the club and is checking with Uncle Carl's about different vendors.

Amplified Instruments--After much discussion, the Board decided to take no action regarding members using amplification at jam sessions, and will continue to support the club's current policy of not using amplifiers at jam sessions.

Banquet—There was not report regarding plans for the Fall Banquet. Sandy Hlavacek is looking for people to assist with the planning of the 25th Anniversary / Fall Banquet.

Music Time—Bob will be ordering two multi-packs (5 in @) of this software program. (At the January 17, 2008 meeting, It was moved and seconded to purchase these programs. The Board Members would have the use of one during their year of service and pass the program to the next year's board. The additional package will be sold to members for \$40 a copy. The motion passed with no opposition voiced at voting. Bob and Karen would like to buy their copy, which would still leave 3 to pass on to next year's Board. (This decision was also approved by vote of the membership.)

New Business:
The Web Site has been updated with new pictures from the Christmas Performances.

Annual Picnic...George Gonyo has reserved German Park for August 3, 2008,

Board Meetings, It was decided that we would have monthly Board Meetings on an "As Needed" basis and Bob would E-mail members if we were having a meeting or not. The motion passed unanimously.

- Member News:
- * Theresa Smith has had surgery and would appreciate cards and prayers.
 - * Hal Bain sent a note with a picture of his Florida fellow musicians at a play date.
 - * Karen Turner thanked the club for their support and donation to Hospice in honor of her brother.

Bonnie Ream, Secretary
(Complete board meeting minutes are available at the jams.)

Getting to Know You... Lynn Hartwig



Lynn Hartwig joined Silver Strings about two years ago, when her daughter graduated from high school and she wanted to get involved in something new. But you may not have seen her and her guitar very

much lately. Lynn is one very busy lady!

Lynn got into music singing with guitars around the campfire. Ten years ago, when her daughter asked her to be her Girl Scout leader, she decided to learn guitar. "It wasn't as easy as those campers made it look. I spent 4 years learning to play an F cord, but what fun! I love the guitar because you can face other singers and it's so portable," says Lynn.

From there, Lynn joined the praise ensemble for worship, and helped with the youth choirs, and church kindergarten. She enjoyed it so much she went back to school for a child development associate (CDA) credential to become a preschool teacher.

When she joined Silver Strings, Lynn appreciated the warm welcome she got. "I remember Terry welcomed me and helped me follow along on his music. The songs stay with me and just pop into my head later. The variety of instruments makes the music so rich. Gerri Hermans gave me a real gift of coming by my house a number of times to practice together."

"I stopped coming much of last year due to classes, and my attendance has been spotty lately because the nursery school general meeting is the first Thursday of the month."

But there is light at the end of the tunnel. Lynn is in her final class at Schoolcraft. Her dream is to get a teaching job in the fall at a co-op or nursery school. (Pass the word if you know of anyone who's hiring!)

Lynn will celebrate her 30th wedding anniversary this August with her husband Tom, her best friend and a hard-working engineering at Ford. She already has a Masters Degree in Communication disorders and a teaching certificate from U of M. She worked as a Speech Pathologist in Rochester schools for a couple of years until she was promoted to "Mom". They have three children: Tom will begin his Psychiatry residency in the fall, Rob graduated from MSU, and is now in Burkina Faso, West Africa for two years with the Peace Corps, and their youngest, Jen, is an artist, a beauty and is having fun at Wayne County Community College.

Outside of school and music, Lynn enjoys watching live plays (particularly if she knows someone in the cast and/or crew), swimming, listening to books on tape, and she loves taking on special projects. In the photo of Lynn, she is leading a puppet workshop for her co-op last year.

Submitted by Lynn Ellen Keyser

What do you call it when you toss a banjo into a dumpster and it hits an accordion? . . . Perfect Pitch

IT'S MARCH . . . LET'S CELEBRATE !!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1..... Shayla Rachelle
- 7..... Bonnie Ream
- 11....Rich Smith
- 12... David Smith
- 12... Evie Bain
- 15... Sherry Humecky
- 16... Derek Channing
- 25... Donna Mayer
- 27... Ida O'Dell
- 30... Dorothy Ewald
- 30... Bob Niemczewski



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 2.....Shirley Kaiser....(61 years)

17th HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY !!!

Who's the patron saint of accordionists?

Our Lady of Pain.

What happens when you play a country song backwards?

You get your farm back, your wife back, and your dog back .

SSDS March 2008 Playlist

Key	Tune	Played
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
G	Bellman's Jig	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
G	Southwind	3
D	Festival Rag	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna / Riding On A Load Of Hay	3/3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	3
D	Hey Polka	4
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Irish Washerwoman	3
G	Rosin the Beau	3
G	March of St. Timothy	3
G	Dusty Bob's Jig	3
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
G	Old Joe Clark	3
D/G/C	Golden Slippers	2/2/2
	Extras	
Am	Star of the County Down	2
C	When Irish Eyes Are Smiling	3
C	My Wild Irish Rose (Chorus)	3
D	Danny Boy	3

MARK YOUR CALENDAR :

Mar.6 **No SSDS board meeting** before jam
Mar. 14 **SSDS Playdate** 6:pm
Maple Heights Retirement. Allen Park
Mar. 20 **SSDS workshop** @ 6pm before jam
Song "The Gale"
Apr.19 **SSDS Playdate** 6:30 pm
Garden City Towers, Garden City
Apr. 23. **SSDS Playdate**. pm (time TBA)
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 Evert Funfest
Aug.3 SSDS Annual Picnic
Aug. 15-17 Midland Dulcimer Fest

At a senior Valentine's party in Canton, Smokey Humecky "wowed" the audience (and his fellow musicians) with his surprise rendition of all four "Ink Spots", a singing group from the 50's and 60's. It was a fun day with a great group, and lunch after the performance.



* * * * *

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A VIOLIN & A FIDDLE ?

Three answers to consider :

Itzhak Perlman refers to his strad as a "fiddle." And concert violinists sometimes refer to their colleagues as "fiddlers." But, this is just a loose way of speaking. There are several key differences between violin and fiddle music.

- * The goal of violin music is beauty and power. The goal of fiddling is dance-ability.
- * Violin music is often harder to play than it sounds. Fiddle music is usually easier to play than it sounds.
- * Violin performance takes more strength and concentration to play than fiddle music.
- * Fiddle music is usually improvised in part. Violin music is rarely improvisational.
- * It's easier to learn how to fiddle than how to play violin.

In the beginning stage of learning, there is little, if any, difference between violin and fiddle. That comes later in the intermediate stage.

The simple answer is, there is no difference, they are the same instrument. The complex answer is in the way the instrument is played. A violin player usually plays highly structured classical music, while a fiddle player plays in a much more free traditional folk style.

I asked the fiddler, "Sir, can you tell me the difference between a fiddle and a violin?"

The old guy said, "Son, Do you have a nickname?"

I answered. "Yes sir, some folks call me 'Bear'."

The old man replied, "Son, the only difference is the name. Fiddle is just a nickname."

Is what he told me true? I have read of a fiddle being an instrument like a violin but with a 5th sting that was plucked and not bowed.

Now do you understand ?????

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Michigan is **VERY fortunate** to have the distinction of having some of the most affordable music training in the country... Evart in July and Midland in August. Because not everyone has the time or the \$\$ for continuing private lessons, I try to pass on any learning opportunities we hear about. Many people flourish on the 1-5 day "crash course" approach. Others enjoy the "CD at my own pace" method. Two instructors Bob & I have had great experiences with are Rick Thum and Peggy Carter. If you have been to any of their "1-hour wonders" at festivals, you know the excellent quality of their instruction. Before Evart last year, we attended **Rick's "A to Z's"**, and thought it was worth every penny, and more. We **HIGHLY** recommend it **truly for any level**. We have been to many workshops with Peggy Carter, and she has excellent teaching skills.

If you know of any good workshop or festival coming up, or a really good music website, please let me know, so I can pass on the learning opportunities to others.

Sandi Hlavacek, editor

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.
Evart 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 Evart 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

Q & A from the dulcimer website

Q Any other nearby events that last three days and don't obviate a house payment ?

A This isn't a three day festival, but the "Thumbfest" in Lexinton Mi on Labor Day Weekend is FREE!!!. The Blue Water Folk Society puts it on and they have people walking around to take donations. There are four or five stages, jam tents, dances, and lots of music all over town. Glen Morningstar has called dances the last two years. It's a blast !

PEGGY CARTER. . . E-Lessons For Every Level

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5 Lessons + PDFs of all the music \$60 + s/h.

Choose one of the following sets:

Beginners – "The First 5 Lessons" (1) First Steps [Liza Jane]; **(2) Adventures in D** [Camptown Races, Cripple Creek, Buffalo Gals, Cotton Eyed Joe & Come Thou Fount]; **(3) Filling In The Gaps** Wildwood Flower, Gray Cat, Skip To My Lou, Mamma Don't Low & Old Joe Clark]; **(4) Beyond Melody** [You Are My Sunshine, Ode To Joy, Green Grow The Rushes-O & June Apple]; and **(5) Discovering Patterns** [Rose Of Sharon, Whiskey Before Breakfast & The White Cockade].

Advancing Beginners – "Second Phase-Step It Up"

(1) Add Some Rhythm! [Columbus Stockade & Black Mt. Rag]; **(2) Use What You've Learned** for Three New Tunes [Liberty, Star Of Hope and Spotted Pony]; **(3) Learn To "Drone** [Brother John, Cotton Eyed Joe]; **(4) Chords For Accompanying, & Embellishing** [Unclouded Day & Will The Circle Be Unbroken] and **(5) Techniques For Left Hand & and for Note-Reading +Embellishing with Rhythm and Intervals** [Black Them Boots, Bonapart's Retreat, Old Dan Tucker & Over The Waterfall].

Novice/Intermediate One — "Hammer Hands" (1)

Some-Like-It-Hot [Red Wing] Some-Like-It-Slow [Nightengale & My Shepherd]; **(2) Embellishing w. drones, scales and upper and lower neighbors** [Ragtime Annie, Maggie & Old Joe Clark]; **(3) How To Play Jigs** [Regan's Jig]; **(4) Using 3-note Chords** [Tura Lura Lura & My Wild Irish Rose] and **(5) Reel Techniques** [Whiskey Before Breakfast].

Intermediate. Two — "Keep On Hammering" (1) Rx

For Lazy Left Hand [Hammering Techniques, Reel Exercizes, Jig Exercizes]; **(2) Two Welsh Hymns** [Llydaw and St. Denis]; **(3) Playing Reels and Jigs** [Whiskey Before Breakfast, Drowsy Maggie, John Stinson, Regan's Jig & Swallowtail Jig]; **(4) Scales and Arpeggios in D & G;** and **(5) Rose Of Sharon Waltz.**

Advanced "Arrangements for St. Patrick's Day", with Great Embellishments & Intro & Ending Ideas

(1) Add Grace Notes and One-Hand Triplets [Green Grow The Rushes-O]; **(2) Use Arpeggios Before AND After the Melody Note** [Far Away]; **(3) Adv. Embellishments For Danny Boy with a Fancy Ending;** **(4) Cliffs Of Dooneen;** and **(5) The Mountains Of Mourne**

What's the least-used sentence in the English language?

"Isn't that the banjo player's Porsche?"



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 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.