



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

May 2008

25 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983 - 2008

Issue 5

Website : www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Year is moving right along. We are already into May. The music camping season is almost upon us. I am looking forward to our SSDS campout at Myers Lake in June. Saturday breakfast will be fixed for you and a great evening dinner will be catered. All you have to do is eat to keep up your strength to play music. We will have plenty of that. Come camp with us Friday through Sunday, or come just for Saturday.

At the first meeting in May, we will have information available about the Silver Strings logo sweat shirts, Polo shirts, and Tee shirts. Dawn Sorrento has been working with a vendor getting the art work done.

At the SSDS banquet last year, Dave Smith provided each attendee with a CD of some of the music he recorded at our jam sessions. Dave Mathews has a new recording device (toy) that you may have noticed at our last jam. He has also offered to put a CD together that can be used to play along when practicing, or just listen to. He made one for Carol Ann, and she found it very helpful. You may place a request at any time.

Walt Jabolonski is hosting harmonica jam sessions at the Maplewood center in Garden City 7:00-9:00 pm. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. We have several new players and some experienced. If you are interested in learning to play or practicing, all you need is a 'Key of C' harmonica. Come join the fun. We play fairly simple, familiar tunes. Maplewood crosses Merriman north of Ford road. Go west on Maplewood about 3 blocks to an old school building.

If you ever have a question or concern you would like your SSDS board of directors to address, please contact **ANY** board member, and it will go on the agenda for the next meeting. Board meetings are always the 1st Thursday before the jam, and open to all members to attend. **We are here to serve you.**

Enjoy the spring..... Bob Hlavacek

PLAYDATE CHATTER

V.P. BUSINESS

It never ceases to amaze me, the "effect" our music has on our audiences. Sometimes I think I forget about this when I get caught up in the playdate and song details. Our music not only stimulates the brain but awakens long and sometimes forgotten memories. At our playdate last month at Garden City Towers, a woman told me that Westphalia Waltz brought tears to her eyes because it was her favorite song, which she and her husband used to dance to. She recited the words to the song in Polish to me! At the Finnish Cultural Center playdate, a man remarked that Southwind brought tears to his eyes, because his Grandmother taught him that song when he was a young boy. And at this same playdate, another man said to me, "After 15 minutes of bluegrass, I'm ready to go... but with your music, I'm still tapping my toes!"

The "lost but not forgotten" tune for May 1st will be the Folk Medley (Red River Valley, She'll Be Comin' 'Round The Mountain, You Are My Sunshine) and Metsakukkia for May 15th. This will complete the lost tune list until the fall, due to the coming campout and summer festivals. For a complete listing of all the lost tunes, visit the website homepage.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR :

May 1	SSDS Playdate.....	8:30am
	Senior Volunteer Breakfast.....	Belleville
May 1NO SSDS Board meeting	before jam
May 29	SSDS Variety Night6:pm

V.P. PROGRAMS

I have a good start on getting information on the campout June 13-15th.

Friday.

- (1) potluck dinner, bring a dish to pass and your own utensils.
- (2) after dinner jam in the barn.

Saturday:

- (1) 9 am Breakfast (pancakes, sausage, coffee, & juice, all utensils provided.
- (2) 10 am Karen Turner, hammered dulcimer workshop
- (3) 11 am Theresa Smith ukulele workshop
- (4) 12 noon Lunch
- (5) 1 pm Sharon McAuliffe hammered dulcimer workshop
- (6) 2 pm Marie Naster mountain dulcimer workshop
- (7) 3 pm Jam session for harmonicas (key of C)
- (8) 4 pm Slow Jam led by Karen Turner
- (9) 5 pm Catered dinner by Elegant Catering, everything, including drinks provided.
- (10) 7 pm Jam in the barn w/ Karen Turner & Linda Losse

Sunday

9-10 am there is a service by the lake, and SSDS has traditionally provided the music. If you have the desire and the time, please stay and be part of the service.

The Saturday catered dinner consists of: BBQ chicken, broasted chicken, sweet & sour meatballs, Swedish meatballs, baked beans, potato salad, fresh fruit salad, coleslaw, Italian pasta salad, rolls, bread & butter; and dessert (carrot cake, brownies, lemon bars). Adults are \$10, kids under 10 are \$5. Please pay me before the campout so it will be less hectic, the last time I can collect at Strings will be June 5th.

Please fill out the registration form and mail it in by 5-15 so we know whether we can get group camping or not, a \$25 deposit will hold your place, and you can pay the remainder when you arrive. I still haven't heard from Jon, the camp manager, to confirm if the cost this year is still \$25/night & \$32/night for A/C. They have four cabins and it's "first come first served". Remember that you may need extra cord for electrical hook-ups and a long hose for the water hook-up in the group section. Thursday evening, 6-12, they spray for mosquitoes. If you have any questions or concerns about the campout please see me.

Also, I am most grateful to say that Dave Smith, and Bob Niemczewski, have graciously offered to host the May Variety Night. Thank you for sharing your talents and time, it is most appreciated. If you want to sign up for Variety Night please see Dave or Bob. As usual we will have pizza, salad, and drinks. Would you like to bring a dessert to pass?

Linda Losse



**LIFE IS A SONG...
LOVE IS THE MUSIC.**

SSDS CAMPOUT NEWS FLASH...

Hi Everyone,

When we meet on May 1st, and 15th, I will take your registration forms, (filled out of course), with your check, made out to Myers Lake UMC Campground, and mail it in for you. You only have to give a minimum deposit of \$25 to hold your site. You will pay the remainder at the camp office when you arrive. I am collecting campers' registrations in an effort to motivate people to sign up. That is the only way we can know if we need one or two group-camp sections. As it stands now, the few people who have sent in their form and check have been assigned a campsite, which isn't what we want. We want group camping. Jon is holding two group camps for us, but can't hold those plus give out campsite numbers. We need to tell him how many are camping, so he knows where to assign us. After May 15th, you will have to send in the form to Myers Lake yourself. I won't be accepting them after that.

I will also be taking Saturday dinner reservations and money. If you write a check for the campsite please write a separate check for the dinner. Please make the dinner check out to Linda Losse. I'll be accepting dinner money until June 5th at our SSDS meeting. The caterer's deadline for the dinner reservation is Monday June 9th. If I get your check by June 9th I can add you to the list, if your money isn't in by June 9th, availability depends on if someone cancels. Adults - \$10 Children 3 to 10 years old - \$5

If you have any questions please email me or call me at 734-994-9097. I'll also be available to give you information at our May 1st and 15th meetings.

Thank you, Linda Losse

IT'S MAY... LET'S CELEBRATE !!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 5.... Dave Matthews
- 7.... Ron O'Dell
- 26... Peggy Kustra
- 27....Dawn Hayes

Happy Anniversary

- 15... Ron & Ida O'Dell
- 29... Tom & Sharon Meggison



FAVORITE FESTIVALS & FUN :

- June 13-15 SSDS Campout, Myers 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
- Oct. 2 SSDS Annual Banquet

SECRETARY'S NOTES

SSDS Board Meeting Minutes, April 3, 2008

Old Business:

- Campout** Caterer has been secured. Dinner will be \$10 per person.
- Club Shirt** committee (Dawn Sorrento) has given logo to company in Adrian, who will create the design for an initial fee of \$45, and has no minimum order requirement.
- Banquet** Committee (Sandi Hlavacek) is arranging a meeting for anyone interested in helping with planning. Bob will E-mail the membership with date, place, and time of this meeting.
- April Workshop** will be on the 17th, at 6:00 p.m., with Penny Schieber teaching "The Gale."
- Lost but not Forgotten Songs** will continue, so keep working on the list of 6 pieces listed on the website.

New Business:

The Board approved the purchase of a pdf software program (\$52) which will belong to the club and be passed on to the next newsletter editor. There were numerous problems in formatting due to the different versions of Word being used by the Newsletter Editor and the Webmaster. The new software will allow the PDF file to be created by the Newsletter Editor and will lock in the formatting so it can then be sent unchanged to the Webmaster for posting on the website.

Dave Matthews has been taping jam sessions and making CDs for his personal use for practice. Making copies of these CDs available to other members was discussed. Karen will contact Dave about this possibility.

Playdate reimbursement money for the last half 2007 will be coming by the end of the month.

Bonnie Ream, Secretary

(Full detailed minutes available at jams or online)

Matinee

By Gerry Hermans

The red-headed woodpecker,
tiny percussionist on a
gnarled limb, beats out
rhythm to the daunting
melodies of wind chimes

Tall reeds and pampas
grasses, line dancers,
sway and toss heads to
the impromptu score.

I should like to step out
my door and provide
vocals, but I fear the curtain
would descend.

SSDS May 2008 Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	2/2
D	Over the Waterfall	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	3
Em	Tamlin	3
D	Harvest Home	3
G	Southwind	3
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
Em	Lisdoonvarna / Riding Load of Hay	3/3
D	Viola's Schottische	3
Em	Dancing Bear	3
D	Midnight On The Water	2
C	Five Foot Two	4
D	Soldier's Joy	3
G	Black Velvet Waltz	3
G	Red Wing	3
D	Ragtime Annie	3
D	Peek A-Boo Waltz	3
D/G	Golden Slippers	2/2
	Extras	
G	Folk Medley (Valley, Mountain, Sunshine)	2/2/2
D	Rochester Schottische	3
G	I'll Remember You, Love in My Prayers	3
G/D	Jamie Allen / Road To Boston	3/3

EVART FUNFEST PRE-SHOW

There is a new twist this year at Evert. There will be **only one Hammered Dulcimer pre-show**, and that will be on Saturday night. Friday night will feature the Mountain Dulcimer for the pre-show concert.

With just one night instead of the traditional two, perhaps this will encourage more players to go out on the field to try to beat the record of "the biggest hammered dulcimer band" in concert. It is a fun thing to do. The new players get a chance to experience a performance from the stage side and play with the "big boys and girls", while enjoying the anonymity of numbers. The more advanced players, by example, give encouragement to the "new kids". **Everyone wins !!!**

2008 Evert Funfest Pre-Show Tunes

Saturday Night HD performance	Key
<u>Hey Polka</u>	G
<u>Over the Waterfall</u>	D
<u>Rakes of Mallow</u>	G
<u>John Ryan's Polka</u>	D
<u>Soldier's Joy</u> and <u>Whiskey Before Breakfast</u> (Medley)	D
<u>You Are My Sunshine</u>	G
<u>Star Spangled Banner</u>	G

WANT TO CAMP, BUT HAVE NO EQUIPMENT ?

Here's a deal for you... **FREE** use of a tent (sized to sleep 4, and you can stand up in it). Included in the price is a queen sized air-bed and linens. We will even help with set up (very easy). It's available for the SSDS campout, the Uncle Carl's campout, Evert, and/or Midland festivals.

It's a dry place to "stash your stuff"... it's comfortable for sleeping... and **the price is right !** There actually are people with campers who leave them home so they can enjoy "Tent City" at Evert, surrounded by a terrific bunch of people. The restroom and shower facilities at all four of the camps listed are very good to excellent.

Come on out for a musical adventure. Contact Bob or Sandi Hlavacek (734) 663-7974 to reserve your housing.

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH OUR PICKS & STICKS FRIENDS

April 30, 2008 – The Detroit Zoo. Seniors Day Out. FREE... a variety of music from 11am till 2pm

May 6, 2008 – Northville Library Concert. FREE Family fun and entertainment. 7 till 8pm.

May 17, 2008 - Cobblestone contra dance in Ann Arbor . All welcome to come and dance. Pittsfield Grange Hall. Robin Warner calling.. 8 till 11pm.



The updated SSDS repertoire lists are now available at the table in the back of the jam room or on the website. There has been some confusion about how members can get their missing music.

When the board asked for a Music Director, they could find nobody who wanted the whole job, but several people who would take parts of it. So, we have had a "Music Committee", proving that one person does not have to do it all. **Pieces** of the job can be delegated by a "Music Director". Karen Turner and Linda Losse have provided play lists for gigs, and done starts at jams, Karen, Jane Chevalier, Marie Nastor, Sharon McAuliffe and Penny Schieber have led workshops (coordinated by Karen); Sharon McAuliffe, Marie Nastor, and Larry Allen, have brought new music to our attention, and Sandi Hlavacek has kept the music file updated and supplied music packets for new members and missing pieces for others. The team has worked well.

If you are missing any music, just write the name(s) on a piece of paper (with your name) and leave it in the suggestion box on the business table in the back of the jam room, or you may e-mail datadoc@sbcglobal.net . I can usually have it for you at the next meeting. If you have requested music, please see me at jam night... I have some unclaimed pieces waiting to be picked up.

Sandi Hlavacek

Experts study the link between music, science and math.

(Exerpts from an article by Michele Kurtz, Boston Globe)

Like a musician, a scientist learns the technical, while seeking answers to more meaningful questions. Conventional theories suggest that listening to music or learning to play an instrument somehow makes children smarter. But panels of experts - including neurologists and music professors - have debated whether science and musical ability are linked. Schools around the country have fought to rescue music programs from budget cuts, on the suggestion it would boost academic test scores.

When a Siemens Foundation competition in math, science and technology noted that over 60% of the 70 regional finalists played musical instruments, a study was born. Does learning to play an instrument give the students an advantage in math & science? Or is it simply that intelligent, driven people often succeed at more than one thing. Most people who reach advanced levels in math and science grow up in environments rich in opportunities, including music lessons.

An on-going study at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center is studying brain scans of young children exposed to differing levels of music over time, hoping to answer some of these questions

Another study suggested that listening to a particular Mozart sonata improved special thinking, the act of creating and manipulating complex mental images, essential to comprehending certain aspects of math and science.

Elementary students in 2 schools in Pawtucket, RI who received extra music and arts training scored better in math tests than their peers, after 7 months.

What is known, is that the same brain mechanics are used to perform mental operations in music and in math... manipulating symbols, analyzing sequences, and conceptualizing distances, shapes and directions. Most experts agree that if there is a link, it is weakest when a person simply listens to music, and strongest when learning an instrument or composing music. Playing an instrument exercises large parts of the brain, combining visual, motor, and auditory skills... an act of coordinating all of the senses and remembering it.

Using brain scans, Beth Israel found the corpus colosum was larger in professional musicians than in non-musicians. That part of the brain is key to transferring information from one side of the brain to the other.

NOTE... *What we all know, is that music is a great exercise program for the aging mind, and provides a lot of fun with some terrific people ! editor*

***The young man knows the rules,
but the old man knows the exceptions.***

FUN NEWS FLASH:

On Saturday, April 19, 2008, Tim (fiddle) and Amy (mountain dulcimer) Murphy, and Ernie Stewart (fiddle) attended the Fiddlers Jamboree in Deckerville, MI with the Original Fiddlers Association of Michigan. It was a free event and people came from all over the area to listen to all levels fiddlers from the ages of 17 to 94. Each fiddler had to pick 3 songs to play at the "open mic" all afternoon performance, and another one at the end, when all the fiddlers were featured again, one by one. It was a fun experience and a full day of fiddling, food, and new friendships. Amy kept busy playing in the back up group for the whole day for each fiddler. Would we do it again...YES...and we hope to go to other fiddle festivals we learned about through this experience. It really doesn't make any difference if you are a beginner or a seasoned player on any instrument. It's a chance to learn, gain confidence, and make friendships whenever you attend a festival. So, **GO FOR IT!**

Submitted by Ernie Stuart

SOUNDBOARD

If you find an article of musical interest, you are invited to submit it to the **Soundboard** to share with the club. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month, and the news is published and posted by the 1st of the following month.

The past 2-3 months has been a bit off, as a new computer program entered the network, and we found Word 2003 and Word 2007 are not very compatible. Every time we sent the Soundboard to Karen for posting on the website, her program changed the format. We think we have solved the problem, and apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this caused.

Sandi Hlavacek (editor)

All fiddlers mark your calendars for October 4 and start practicing your dance tunes.

The Huron Township Applefest invites you to participate in the 23rd Annual Michigan State Championship Old-Time Fiddlers Contest in New Boston, Michigan. October 4 at 10:00 am in the parking lot of the Individual Financial Planning building, 37283 Huron River Drive, New Boston, MI 48164.

Contestants register at 9:00 am and draw for positions at 9:30 am. The contest is expected to be over before the Applefest parade begins at 1:00 pm, but contestants should be aware that Huron River Drive and Waltz Road will be closed for the duration of the parade.

There is a non-refundable \$10.00 entry fee. Contestants will be required to play a waltz, a schottische, a jig and a reel, all in a manner suitable for Michigan old-time dancing. Contestants will be judged on timing/tempo, intonation, expression and repertoire. For more information contact Jim McKinney, Director, at PO Box 386, New Boston, MI 48164, (734)753-8863 or stringtet@charter.net



GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Dave Lovelace has a varied involvement with music, spanning most of his life.

Dave Lovelace was born in Chicago and grew up in Homewood, Illinois with his family, including a younger sister. He sang in choirs since he was a child, began to play bass in high school, and pretty much taught himself guitar about that time as well. In college, he made real progress on guitar, and began experimenting with banjo, mandolin and pennywhistle.

While in college at the University of Illinois, Dave met his wife-to-be Grace in a calculus class! He earned a BS in math & BA in philosophy from the University of Illinois, and a MA in philosophy from the University of Michigan. Quite a few years later (July, 1986), Dave and his wife Grace met Linda Foley of Lost Valley Dulcimers at the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Money was tight, but they wound up with a 13/13 dulcimer.

Dave reports "I'd heard hammered dulcimers a few times over the years, but never had the 'oh-what-is-that-I've-got-to-have-one' reaction a lot of people describe. I'd previously fallen in love with fiddle tunes and (especially) Irish traditional music. I thought I might play it better on the dulcimer than on guitar. What I didn't realize, was that Grace thought this was something SHE could learn to play, too. But I kind of took it over. I found it very easy to begin playing."

When their first son (born the next year) was old enough to be mobile, the dulcimer was put away for several years. Finally, after their second son was a bit older, Dave decided that if they were going to have this instrument, he was going to become reasonably good at it. After some serious practicing on his own, he took lessons from Jane Chevalier. While Dave was only able to take five lessons, Jane was able to reassure him that he was mostly doing things right, and taught him some basic techniques that hadn't occurred to him - like rolled chords! Though he was not able to continue, Dave is grateful to Jane for her continued encouragement. She introduced Dave and his family to Evart in 1998. He joined Silver Strings in late summer, 2002.

Dave's career has included work with "some odds and ends - some very odd indeed", as he puts it. He was a programmer for a small company doing software for local governments, and continues to do part-time computer software support, and some janitorial work.

Dave and Grace have two children. Jonathan is a junior at Calvin College, and Paul is a high-school senior, graduating this year. They share their home with their cat, Ruhamah. His hobbies include reading, maintaining the Internet Speculative Fiction Database, and proofreading for "Project Gutenberg" (producing online free e-books). Plus, "I spend way too much time on dulcimer-related email lists," he notes. Dave and Grace are active at Milan Baptist Church, where he plays guitar and sometimes sings, and Grace sings with the praise team.

submitted by Lynn Ellen Kaiser



Get ready for camping at the SSDS campout in June, the Uncle Carl's campout, and the festival season to come.

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

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

**With questions, call Linda Losse, (734) 994-9097
 Send registration forms & payment to :
 Linda Losse, 1319 Wells, Ann Arbor 48104**

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:
 Myers 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.