

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

July 2009

26 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2009

Issue 291

Website : www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mother nature may have soaked some campers at our campout this year, but she certainly failed to dampen the spirit of Silver Strings members who came to have a good time. We weathered the storm just fine and the new camp area worked out well. We took a vote when we had everyone together, and it was decided that we would reserve group campsite #3 for next year. We also reserved site #2, in case we get more campers next year. We were at capacity on group site #3 this year. We also voted to designate the **second weekend** in June for the campout. The third weekend conflicts with the Unfest Festival and Fathers Day. There will still be some occasions when Fathers day will fall on the second weekend, as it did last year.

I would like to thank Carol Ann Matthews and Janelle Pacic for organizing the campout this year. The potluck dinner on Friday was very good, there were many workshops on Saturday, the catered meal was delicious and the jamming was fun. Great job girls! Also, thanks to everyone who helped out setting up and taking down the tents, preparing the meals and cleaning up afterward. Thanks once again to Bob Hlavacek and George Gonyo for the wonderful breakfast. They always do a great job. I really enjoyed the campout this year. I hope you all did too.

Festival season is upon us as we get into July. We have one more scheduled meeting, July 2nd, before the Evert Funfest. Our regular meeting on July 16th has been canceled because so many of our Silver Strings members attend the Evert Festival. We hope to organize an SSDS stage performance at Evert, to honor Hal Bain.

We will meet again on July 30th for our third variety night of 2009. So get your acts ready and let's make this one the best one yet!

Larry Roper

PLAYDATE MATTERS

V.P. BUSINESS

Silver Strings played for two events/venues in June that we had not played for prior to this as far as I know. The first was on June 13 for the Maybee Day Festival in Maybee, Michigan. We were the first of a series of performances that day, which included cloggers and a bluegrass band. We played on a small stage with 21 musicians and their instruments, about half of our group was on-stage and half on the ground in front of the stage, but with the help of Jack Mullins playing a nice steady audible bass beat, in spite of being spread out in an outside venue we were able to stay together remarkably well. Sandi Hlavacek added welcome variety and emotion to our music by singing a couple of the patriotic tunes in our mix of tunes (the next day was Flag Day). We were well received by the audience and were asked afterwards if we could perform again at next year's festival. Maybee is a very small town and it was great fun to be a part of their festival. I loved one of the tee shirts I saw which had imprinted on it "I visited Maybee, Michigan...I think." The following day (June 14) we played for a Flag Day Celebration at Pine Ridge of Hayes Senior Retirement Community in Sterling Heights. We had a delightfully lively, responsive audience with lots of applause and cheering and also clapping in time with our music. Many of the residents were waving flags in rhythm as we played the patriotic tunes. At one point one of the residents got up and danced with a staff member to our music. There were many people who came up afterward and expressed how much they enjoyed our group and our music and the contact person for the gig asked us if we would be able to play again for their residents in December.

For a list of upcoming playdates, please check the "Mark Your Calendar" article in this newsletter.

Bert Stein

SECRETARY'S NOTES

SSDS Board Minutes, June 4, 2009

OLD BUSINESS

* Family rates for membership will be \$20.00 per family, plus a fee for music packs. A family consists of children and grandchildren under age 21. Individual new members would remain at \$15.00 plus the music fee. Music pack fee will be announced after more board discussion.

* Karen suggested we put our music on a CD, Board voted no because it is easier to control our printed music.

* Holiday CD... When Bob Hlavacek gets back from vacation, he will pursue production issues and settle them soon.

* Karen said she is still in the process of setting up the website for O'Carolan.

New Business

* Larry will schedule a meeting with Good Hope's new council President, for a "get to know each other" session.

* Sandi Hlavacek asked about going back to the previous heading for the Soundboard because the 25th anniversary year ends in July. The Board voted unanimously to do so.

* The July 10th playdate has been rescheduled to August 21, which will not conflict with the Midland Festival. If only A few people sign up, the playdate will be rescheduled again.

* Kelly had concerns about the Endless Medley. We need to end the performance with the Endless Medley.

* No July 16th meeting due to the Evert Festival

* New roster will be available in June.

* \$300 will be sent to Good Hope, as our bi-annual contribution.

* Practice the 9 new songs added to our June play list, including the patriotic songs.

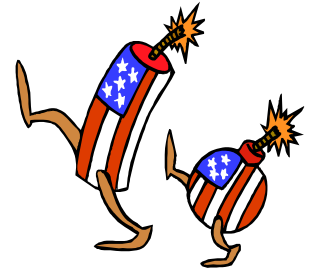
Respectively submitted, Beverley J. Scott

(This is a brief outline, full minutes are available on request)

JULY CELEBRATIONS !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 3... Bobbi Hurst
- 5... Karen Turner
- 9... Janelle Pacic
- 14.. Sally Niemczewski
- 17.. John McAuliffe
- 20.. Ramona Hadley
- 26.. Pat Jablonski



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 11.. Roger & Barb Davis (50th)

Please Check the back table to see if your birthday & anniversary are registered on the list. If not, please add it to the appropriate month.

MOUNTAIN DULCIMER CLUB HAS A NAME

The newly formed mountain dulcimer club, which has many Silver Strings members, met again on Wednesday, the 24th. We had 19 people attending and four missing. For a new club, we sure started off with a bang! After a bit of discussion we decided to call ourselves the Mountaineers.

We are working on a repertoire. At each of the last meetings, some of the members have brought in new music, guaranteeing that we are not going to be playing just "dulcimer music." Some of what we have is country, some traditional, some with vocals... a nice mix.

We will continue to meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month
Marie Naster

SSDS ANNUAL PICNIC

Just a reminder that this year's annual SSDS picnic will be on Sunday, August 16th at German Park (northeast of Ann Arbor.) Please mark your calendars for a fun filled day of good food, friends and music. Janelle and Carol Ann will keep you posted.



GREEN EMERGENCY CARDS

are on the back table in the brown recipe box. If you haven't filled yours out, please do. The box will go with us to all SSDS functions. These cards are designed to give us contact information, in case you have an accident or a medical emergency while you are with us at festivals, playdates, or jams.

WE WOULD LIKE A FULL COLLECTION FOR EVART

LEDGER NOTES _____ **New Member**

Ann SpencerPlymouth, Mi.
Ann plays Mountain Dulcimer & Penny Whistle

**Silver Strings Dulcimer Society
July & August 2009 Play List**

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
D	Smash the Windows	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
G	Red Wing	3
D	Over the Waterfall	3
G/D	Jamie Allen/Road to Boston	3/3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna / Riding Load Of Hay	3/3
D	Painter's Polka	3
G	January Waltz	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	2/3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Southwind	3
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	3
C	Five Foot Two	3
G	Larry's Waltz	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
G	Maggie	4
D	Festival Rag	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
D	Hey Polka (we may play this or could skip this)	5
G	Red Apple Rag (may play instead of Hey Polka)	3
D	John Ryan's Polka - All play first then Karen will select solos	??
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
D/D	Endess Medley (Ragtime Annie,	2/2/
D/G	Soldier's Joy, Golden Slippers)	2/2

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 17-20 . . . **Evart Funfest**, Evart, Mi.
Aug.2. **Playdate**. 7-8:pm
Henry Ford Estate Dearborn
Aug 16 **SSDS Picnic**. noon-5:pm
German Park, Ann Arbor
Aug. 21 **Playdate** 2:30-3:30
American House, Royal Oak
Aug. 27-29 . . **Midland Dulcimer Fest** . . . Midland, Mi.

VP PROGRAMS _____

The 2009 Silver Strings Campout was a fun-filled weekend with good fun, good food, great music and treasured friends. We thank all those who made the campout a success. Special thanks to the workshop leaders: Sharon McAuliffe, Pennye Scheiber, Theresa Smith, Linda Losse & Karen Turner, Walt Jablonski, and Marie Naster, who did a fantastic job and brought us fun new tunes to play. Another note of thanks to those who played for the Sunday worship service by the lake. Jon, the camp director at Myers Lake, expressed appreciation for the wonderful music provided during the worship service and also heard throughout the campground all weekend. It was good experience for us, and we have some ideas for next years' campout that should make it even better.

The annual Silver Strings picnic will be held on Sunday, August 16th, at German Park, northeast of Ann Arbor. The picnic will begin at 12 noon. Sign up sheets for helping with kitchen setup and cleanup will be posted at the July 2nd meeting. Silver Strings will once again provide the meat dish, beverages, plates, cups, and utensils. Members provide side dishes and desserts. This year we'll have members with last names beginning A -H bring desserts and J - Z bring side dishes. Jamming will begin after the meal on the pavillion stage. Bring your instruments and your appetite, and prepare to have some fun.

The next Variety Night is Thursday, July 30th at 7pm. The host for the evening is Dave Matthews. Pizza, salad and beverages will be provided, with entertainment to follow. Janelle Pacic and Carol Ann Matthews



**SSDS
Campout
2009.**

**Jamming &
workshops
In the
Afternoon.**

CAMP OUT WORKSHOPS

2009



Preparing for her very first workshop, ever.



Good teachers are made, not born. Congratulations Linda...Great job!



Karen Turner was there to assist.



Penny Schieber, Hammered Dulcimer



Walt Jablonski, Harmonica



Marie Naster, Mountain Dulcimer



Sharon McAuliffe, Hammered Dulcimer



Theresa Smith, Ukulele



Almost 20 members of Silver Strings entertained on Flag Day at the Pine Ridge Senior Community Center in Sterling Heights. It became a wonderful experience for all in the room. As we played our patriotic medley, the audience broke into spontaneous song, while they waved their flags. Some held their hand over their hearts. There was dancing in the aisle, joy in the eyes of the audience, and tears in many of our eyes, for the opportunity to bring them those moments of joy. Countless staff and audience members told us we provided the best music they have ever heard there. We're invited back at Christmas.



Small town festivals are lots of fun... like this one we played in Maybee, Mich.

EVART PRE-SHOW SONGS

Mountain Dulcimer Thursday Night Show Tunes

"Midnight on the Water"
"Rock the Cradle, Joe"
"Gum Tree Canoe"
"Going to Boston"
"Julianne Johnson"
"Snake River Reel"
"Hangman's Reel"

There will NOT be a hammered dulcimer pre-show Thursday or Saturday nights. HD's are invited to gather at the stage to try to break the record on Friday night.

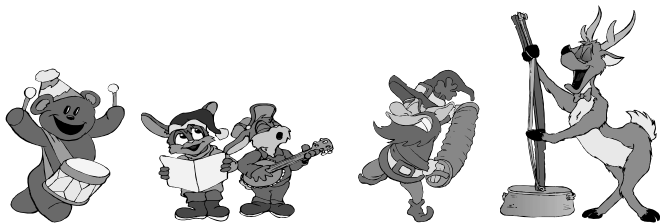
Hammered Dulcimer Friday night show tunes:

Liberty...D
Over the Waterfall...D
Whiskey Before Breakfast...D
John Ryan's Polka...D
Bryson Hall Waltz...G
(By Dee Dee Tibbits)
Soldiers Joy...D
Blueberry Splash...G
(By Judi Morningstar)
Festival Rag...D
(By Bill Robinson)
Hey Polka...G

Music available on the ODPC Funfest website.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE IN SSDS ?

Each member of Silver Strings has his/her own story of how they became involved. Some were invited by friends, some found it on the internet, and some heard the group play somewhere and thought it looked like fun. The most important part is that it is here for **all acoustic musicians**. You need not audition or be sponsored for membership. You simply need the desire to learn and play music in a fun and nurturing atmosphere.



All kinds of musicians can make beautiful music together !

This piece wavers from the usual policy of "only music related topics" for the Soundboard, but profoundly relates to the reason for our continued "Getting to know you" feature. We thank Lynne Ellen Kaiser for the great effort she has extended to keep supplying us with "balls".

Sandi Hlavacek, Soundboard editor

CLAY BALLS

A man was exploring caves by the Seashore. In one of the caves he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. It was like someone had rolled clay balls and left them out in the sun to bake. They didn't look like much, but they intrigued the man, so he took the bag out of the cave with him. As he strolled along the beach, he would throw the clay balls one at a time out into the ocean as far as he could.

He thought little about it, until he dropped one of the clay balls and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful, precious stone! Excited, the man started breaking open the remaining clay balls. Each contained a similar treasure. He found thousands of dollars worth of jewels in the 20 or so clay balls he had left.

Then it struck him. He had been on the beach a long time. He had thrown maybe 50 or 60 of the clay balls with their **hidden treasure** into the ocean waves. Instead of thousands of dollars in treasure, he could have taken home tens of thousands, but he had just thrown it away!

It's like that with people. We look at someone, maybe even ourselves, and we see the external clay vessel. It doesn't look like much from the outside. It isn't always beautiful or sparkling, so we discount it. We see that person as less important than someone more beautiful or stylish or well known or wealthy. But we have not taken the time to find the treasure hidden inside that person.

There is a treasure in each and every one of us. If we take the time to get to know that person, then the clay begins to peel away and the brilliant gem begins to shine forth. May we not come to the end of our lives and find out that we have thrown away a fortune in friendships because the gems were hidden in bits of clay. May we see the people in our world as God sees them.

FESTIVALS ARE HERE !!!

If you would **LOVE** to attend the, **Evart Funfest** (July ??-19), and/or the **Midland Dulcimerfest** (August 27-30), but you have no housing, here's a deal for you...

FREE tent (sleeps 4-6) with queen-sized air mattress... **AND** transport... **AND** help with set-up and take down included. Rest rooms and showers in both facilities are very good, but we can even include a flush-potty for nights.

Contact Bob or Sandi Hlavacek, (734) 663-7974.