



# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

## Soundboard

AUGUST 2010

27 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2010

Issue 304

Website : [www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER \_\_\_\_\_ Larry Roper

Hello Everyone:

Well, once again the Funfest at Ewart has come and gone, and what a wonderful experience it was! It's hard to describe the Ewart experience to someone who has never had the pleasure of attending it. The free workshops, stage shows, jamming till the wee hours of the morning, re-uniting with old friends and making new ones all combine to make it a magical experience.

Some of our tunes from the Thursday night stage show can be seen on You Tube, compliments of Karen Turner and Bill Smith. Once again we filled the stage and the show went well, despite the stage manager cutting our time short and then calling us back to finish. He apologized to us and the audience for the error and I later told him "that was the first time we ever received an encore from a stage manager". I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the stage show and all who represent our club well. I received many compliments about what a friendly, fun loving group we have.

I also had the pleasure of working with Bob Hlavacek at the Saturday afternoon stage shows. Bob was the emcee while I was stage manager. We were asked to model and promote sales of some ODPC tee shirts. Between acts we would change into a different shirt. It was a good experience and a lot of fun.



We were asked to do it again next year, and I told them "under one condition, a runway must be installed from stage to grandstand for our fashion show."  
(ha ha!) Larry

### SECRETARY'S NOTES \_\_\_\_\_

**Silver Strings Board Meeting. . . . . July 1, 2010**  
June 17, 2010 minutes. Correction to minutes: the L.A.M.S. jam is in Howell, not Adrian

#### Old Business

- \* Carol Ann received enough shirt and jacket orders to get the price break, and orders have been placed.
- \* Larry will hand deliver our donation to G.H.L.C., along with a thank you card.

#### New Business

- \* Linda will be updating the member roster
- \* Our next jam session will be cancelled, July 15, 2010, because of Ewart. The next time we meet will be on Variety Night, July 29, 2010.
- \* Cindy Feigel's recent surgery went very well, and we all wish her the best of luck and a speedy recovery.
- \* The new Christmas song sheets are ready and will be set out tonight.
- \* The annual picnic at German Park is set for August 8, 2010. More details to come later.
- \* Bert said he had requests from some members that the Christmas practices not be held on the same day of the week, each week. Bert will consider this.

submitted by Beverley Scott,

(This is a synopsis. Complete minutes are available on request.)

### PURSE STRINGS \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

We welcome a new member to our group. **Donna Kolojeskie, from Dearborn, is a Guitar player. She also plays Hammered Dulcimer and is working on her fiddle**, so perhaps you experienced fiddle players can give her a few pointers. That's what we are about. Enjoying our music and sharing with others!!

I Hope you all are enjoying a wonderful summer, and ! hope to see many of you at Midland in August.

Linda Osgood

We provided afternoon entertainment (Country Living Month) at the Mendelson Assisted Living facility in Waterford on July 9. Several people who were originally signed up to play for this event let me know within a day or so of the gig that they were unable to come for various reasons so as it came down to the wire, we had only 6 people, none of them a bass player, signed up to play a gig originally scheduled to be played outdoors. That is a small group for an outdoor gig considering that we have no sound system. Fortunately Morgan and Sherry Humecky, their nine year old granddaughter, Vanessa Simcheck, and Tim Murphy decided to participate at the last moment and Morgan played bass. In addition, the contact person, Amanda King called me just before the gig and said they had a temperature advisory (it was 95 degrees when I left for the gig) and had decided to have the gig indoors, so everything fell into place and the gig went very well. A special treat for the musicians and the audience was something that spontaneously took shape during our performance... the wonderful singing of "You are my Sunshine" by Vanessa. When the tune ended, a gentleman in the audience said "Vanessa, You ARE my sunshine!" and repeated that statement after nearly every subsequent tune. The audience was very engaged and there were many nice comments after our performance including "I've been at this complex for nine years and nothing has ever sounded so good to my ears..." The contact person, Amanda King said she wants us to come back and perform during the holiday season in December.

We played for ice-cream socials for the Summer Reading Program for Adults at both the John F. Kennedy Jr. Library and the Caroline Kennedy Library in Dearborn Heights on July 22. Due to space limitations we were limited to 7 musicians at the first gig and 9 at the second. Unknown to us, both gigs were originally set up to be played outdoors, a difficult venue for only 7 or even 9 unamplified musicians without a bass to hold everyone together, but we stayed together remarkably well at the first gig which was played outdoors and received many nice complements afterwards and was told by the head librarian that she received complements from many people in the audience and also from the library staff about our performance. Fortunately, we asked that the second gig be set up to be played indoors and it was set up in a very nice venue. We had a large and very lively receptive audience. Rain started to fall as soon as we left the first gig, and early in our performance at the second. There were two separate announcements over the PA system for tornado watches in our area, but nobody left. There were many people clapping in rhythm to our music and tapping their toes. One man got up and danced nicely to a number of our tunes, and a few young children were moved to dance in the amazing way that children do. It was beautiful to watch! The contact person, Rob Butler said many people afterward told him how much they loved our music, and we heard many great compliments directly from the people in the audience. Rob said he would recommend our group to other libraries. A professional musician (pianist, guitar player, singer) who was in the audience told me afterward that he loved our music and was really impressed with how well he could hear every instrument, how well they blended together, and how nice our arrangements and harmony were. He was surprised when he looked at the music scores on our stands and didn't see any arrangements/harmony written out on the scores.

Please check the "Mark your Calendar" section of the newsletter for upcoming playdates. We welcome the participation of any of you who are current paid up members familiar with our tunes and who feel comfortable playing them with the group at any open playdates.

Bert Stein



Occasionally a facility will limit our numbers. Sometimes it is a space issue in their available room, and other times it is a fear the sound will be too much for their needs. (In this case, it was for a library.) We must abide by their wishes. After they hear us perform, they always recognize our judgment is valid, and trust us the next time around.

After seeing and hearing Silver Strings play, this Dearborn Heights library re-dated us for December, and has consented to allow 12 musicians at that time.

The audience was pleased with the "surround sound" effect, when Bob & Karen strolled among them with their harmonicas. Two children and one gentleman danced throughout much of the performance. Bert commented that when we see people dancing in the aisles, we know our music touched them.



## NOTES FROM PROGRAM V.P.s \_\_\_\_\_



Well folks, the "dog days" of summer are upon us and fall is coming up fast. Let's get out and have some summertime fun at the SSDS picnic at German Park on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The picnic will begin at noon, with jamming to follow (rain or shine) under the covered dance pavillion. The club will furnish pulled chicken and pulled pork (BBQ sauces on side), buns, beverages, tableware, utensils, and napkins. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. (The kitchen has several large refrigerators we can use to keep foods cold, and plenty of electrical outlets for crock pots). Sign up sheets for set up & clean up will be posted at the club meeting on August 5th. German Park is between South Lyon and Ann Arbor on Pontiac Trail, near Dixboro Road. We hope to see all of you there!

**Before the August 19th club meeting, there will be a slow jam at 6pm led by Sharon McAuliffe. There will also be another fiddle workshop with Lee Lack.**

Copies of the new additions to our holiday tunes were handed out July 1<sup>st</sup> and will be available at upcoming club meetings. New tunes are "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen", "Childgrove", a medley of "The Holly and the Ivy" and "O' Christmas Tree", "Star in the East", and "O Chanukah". We ask those of you who plan to perform at holiday playdates become familiar with these tunes. It will be determined which tunes will be added to the holiday playlist, after we play them at the holiday practices in October and November.

Janelle and Carol Ann



**There will be a potluck-jam-bonfire on Saturday, September 25th at Linda Osgood's home, between Plymouth and Ypsilanti. Linda will provide sloppy joes and tableware. Everyone is asked to bring their own beverages, chairs and a dish to share. We will put up the big silver canopies so we can jam come rain or shine. The fun will begin at 3:pm with jamming, a potluck dinner at 5:pm, more jamming and a bonfire until ? Linda's address is 10424 Geddes Road, Ypsilanti MI. In case of extreme weather (lightening, torrential rains or twisters) the party will be cancelled, with no alternate rain date.**



## 2010 AUGUST PLAY LIST

Key	Tune	Play
	<b>List of tunes for 1 hour long gigs</b>	
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
C	Five Foot Two	4
G	Farewell to Whiskey	3
D	Over the Waterfall	3
G	Sophrina	3*
D	Petronella	3
D	Viola's Schottische	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
G	Larry's Waltz	3*
A	Red Haired Boy	3
G	Maggie	3
D	Jenny Lind Polka	3
C	Black Velvet Waltz	3*
D	Smash the Windows	3
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/Riding Load of Hay	3/3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
D	Hey Polka	5
G	Young Jane	3*
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/	2/2
D/G	Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers	2/2
	<b>Extra Tunes</b>	
D	Snake River Reel	3
D	Nancy	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3*
	* <b>2<sup>nd</sup> time:</b> Fiddles, Harmonicas, backup; HD's softly	

## LET'S CELEBRATE AUGUST !!!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 3.... George Gonyo
- 7.... Dawn Sorento
- 8.... Carol Mueller
- 16... Merrilee Bollman
- 23... Linda Osgood
- 30... Bob Hlavacek
- 30... Frank Duffey
- 31... Mary Edgerton



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1..... Dave & Carol Ann Mathews (47th)
- 13... Kathy & Jack Harrison (36th)
- 19... Tim & Amy Murphy (21st)
- 23... Ellen & Jason Yanity (13th)
- 25... Lynn & Tom Hartwig (31st)
- 30... Terry & Marsha Kozlowski (42nd)

**The shirts and jackets are in. I have extras of both the jackets and shirts for people who still want one. Sizes are limited, so first-come first-served.**  
**Carol Ann Mathews**



# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Bill Deighton

.....

My name is Bill Deighton. I'm one of the Silver Strings fiddlers and banjo players, and a member since 1992. I started playing the violin when I was 10 years old, at the Highland Park elementary school I attended. My violin belonged to my grandfather, and it wasn't the best. I played on it until Jr. High School, then bought my own for \$75.00. It was made by F.O. Stanley, who made the steam car, and was a lot better than Grandpa's. I still play it. I do remember my first violin teacher when I was 15... Miss Doris Gallop Trot. I told my friends that she had buckteeth, a pony tail, and laughed like a horse! She was one of the best teachers I ever had.

My folks taught me to save and budget money I earned as a paperboy and other jobs, and at age 14 I bought my first lot on Wolverine Lake and stocks in GM on payment plans. I attended college at Adrian and earned BS and MA degrees in science and math. After college, I joined the US Army for 2 years and was stationed in Alaska as a heavy equipment mechanic. I hoped to work for Caterpillar later, but changed my mind and taught for 38 years instead. I taught science and advanced math in Plymouth, Garden City, and Mesa, AZ. During summers in Mesa, AZ., I was a GM Tec Driver, driving cars in the hot desert to make sure they could withstand the extreme heat. I married and had 2 sons and now 3 grandchildren. I have traveled all around the world, exploring all of the continents except Antarctica with the Nomads. I like to draw cartoons and make ship wood carvings. I also took Karate and Judo, sang Bass with the Wayne Barbershop Chorus, was an active speaker with the Toastmasters. and am a member of the Elks Club. I want to continue my travels, but now in the US where there's so much I haven't seen yet.

For over 20 years, I didn't play the violin, but when my wife, Donna, died I needed something to ease my sorrows. So I started playing again, and here I am. I have a lot of different instruments in my home (organ, piano, guitars, banjos, harmonicas, and violins) so they keep me busy enjoying the wonder of music. One of my sons plays a "mean" rock guitar, and my grandchildren all seem to like music, as well as learning and speaking a lot of foreign languages. When we get together, would you believe that one son and grandson are taller than I am?

I keep busy playing for hospitals, weddings, funerals, and parties. I play with the Banjos of Michigan, and Silver Strings, and continue experimenting with other musical instruments. For the past 7 years, Lu Gute and I have spent winters in Sarasota, Florida and summers at her cottage...What a Life! If you'd like to hear a good joke, or sit with someone with a happy smile, look me up at the next meeting!



The pre-Evart Funfest potluck & jam at Frenchy & Pat Deschamps' home on Hicks Lake has become an event nobody wants to miss. The food seemed endless, the friendships re-kindled were countless, and the jam (led by Rick Thum) brought everyone into a mood of musical mischief & fun to carry throughout the Funfest. **Thank you, Pat & Frenchy.** Your generous hospitality is truly appreciated.



**UPDATE** A year ago, a couple arrived at Evart to discover a new joy in dulcimer music. John had suffered a traumatic brain injury in an auto accident. A Hammered Dulcimer was provided by SSDS to help him in his long recovery. His hard work was very evident, as he stood behind Bob & right beside Sandi Hlavacek in the Friday pre-show, concert. We could not have been more proud of him, as he played those songs remarkably well, and joined in on jams.

**MUSIC HEALS !!!**



**SAVE THIS DATE !!!**  
**SEPTEMBER 16TH**  
**SSDS ANNUAL BANQUET**

## Mark your Calendar

### AUGUST

- 8.....**SSDS Picnic @ German Park in Ann Arbor**  
9.....**SSDS Playdate** .....6:30-7:30pm  
Pine Ridge Sr. Community. .... Sterling Hts.  
20....**SSDS Playdate** ..... 2-3:pm  
Trellis Gardens / Vista Grande ..... Jackson  
26-29.....**Midland Folk Music Festival...Midland**

### SEPTEMBER

- 11....**SSDS Playdate** .....10:30am-5:pm  
Greenfield Village Old Car Fest. ....Dearborn  
12....**SSDS Playdate** ..... 10:30am-5:pm  
Greenfield Village Old Car Fest. ....Dearborn  
16....**SSDS Playdate** ..... 2-3:pm  
Abbey Park at Mill River ..... New Hudson  
16....**SSDS Annual Banquet** . . . . . **5-11:00pm**  
25....**Party @ Linda Osgood's** . . . . . **:3:pm till ?**



### GOOD HOPE PASTY SALE

**It's coming again !**

If you have any in your freezer from last fall, eat 'em up !!! Twice a year, Good Hope Lutheran Church, has this fundraiser. Their pasties are DELICIOUS and it's an easy way for us to help support the church that has graciously shared their space with us since June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1986. We can pick up our pasties fresh when they are made, or frozen on a regular meeting night.



**NOTE...**Midland Dulcimer Festival has been re-named **Midland Folk Music Festival**. It will offer the same great workshops we have known and loved for the past 16 years, with the addition of folk dancing. Workshops are now posted on the website.

One leader has cancelled. If you know someone who would be willing to teach a workshop in Hammered Dulcimer, Accordion, Autoharp, Banjo, Bass, Bodhran, Bones, Concertina, Dobro, Fiddle, Flute, Folk Harp, Guitar, Harmonica, Harp, Hurdy Gurdy, Jew's Harp, Kazoo, Mandolin, Mountain Dulcimer, Ocarina, Penny Whistle, Spoons, Steel Drum, or Ukulele, please have them contact Joann Satkowiak at [Jowiak@aol.com](mailto:Jowiak@aol.com) or **989-662-6910**.



**If you know of any other coming festivals or workshops, please submit them to the Soundboard, so we can share. You may leave a note in the suggestion box or contact Sandi Hlavacek at 734-663-7974.**

## FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-CONCERTS

### Lil' Rev Ukulele Workshop and Concert

**August 12, 2010 at Good Hope Lutheran Church**  
**28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City**  
6-7:30pm workshop 8 -9pm Concert  
\$20 Workshop & Concert paid by July 31st  
\$25 after that. Concert only \$5.  
Workshop: Novelty Songs for Ukulele  
Ukulele, mandolin, guitar, harmonica and banjo  
concert in many musical styles  
**For reservations and info contact John at**  
**734-482-2902 or email [jmcauliff@emich.edu](mailto:jmcauliff@emich.edu)**

### North Central Regional Fiddlers Convention

**Aug. 13-14 – Hillsdale County Fairgrounds**  
Camping, workshops, Jams Wed -Thurs.  
Get-acquainted Potluck Thurs. at 6:pm  
Kaiser Family Band entertains 5-6:pm Sat.  
Fiddlers' Hall of Fame induction of Mike Gleason  
Judy Rayber will play many of her dad's fiddle tunes  
Info @ [www.michiganfiddlers.com/?q=node/16](http://www.michiganfiddlers.com/?q=node/16)

### 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Buckley Old Engine Show

**Buckley, Mi., between Cadillac & Traverse City**  
**Come see the past in motion August 19-22, 2010**  
Step back in time with old time music, arts, & machines  
Check [www.buckleyoldengineshow.org](http://www.buckleyoldengineshow.org) for details

### Maumee Street Music Jams

First Presbyterian Church  
156 East Maumee, Adrian, Mi  
Saturdays from 6-11:pm  
Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>  
For info. contact Penny Schieber 517-547-7448  
or Jack or Marilyn Mullins 517-254-4828

### Huron Applefest - October fiddlers contest

New Boston, Michigan, check the website:  
<http://huronapplefest.com/fiddlerscontest.php>  
The director is our old friend, Jim McKinney.

### \*NEW\* East Lansing Dulcimer Festival

**Saturday Oct 23, 2010, noon-10:30 pm**  
**Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**855 Grove Street, East Lansing, MI 48823**

The First East Lansing Dulcimer Festival will feature Florida's Maddie MacNeil, and Michigan-based musicians Wanda Degen, and Doug Berch with nine workshops for beginning, intermediate and advanced levels hammered and lap dulcimer. Afterwards, a slow and a fast jam will precede a 7:30 PM concert, which features a set by each of these three headliners. A \$20 wristband, at the door, covers any and all workshops. Concert tickets are \$15 public/ \$12 members, available on line and at the door  
<http://suapi2.org/api/0/e/detail/options:eventid=9633>



The attempt to break the "world's largest dulcimer band" record in the Friday night preshow performance was just TWO people short. If you were among those 2 people... SHAME ON YOU !!! Our own Bob Hlavacek & Theresa Smith led the crowd in a rockin' performance of the Hey Polka.

Our youngest members, Greg & Kelly Kaiser, taught some terrific "music theory" and fiddle workshops. We are so very proud of these young people for stepping forward to share their knowledge. But no one could be more proud than their Grandma (Marilyn) Catt, who could be found almost anywhere during the festival, just having fun and thoroughly loving the music. Bob Niemczewski and Penny Schieber also taught sessions, and Ida O'Dell headed the children's program.

About 35 SSDS members took to the stage Thursday night to show the world what we can do. The Kaiser Family Band "raised the bar" for performance as they closed the Saturday night show with encores. And Greg gave new meaning to "playing together" at a final midnight jam. What a GLORIOUS time !!!



**E  
V  
A  
R  
T  
2010**