



# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

## Soundboard

May 2010

26 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2009

Issue 301

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

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

Hello Everyone:

Spring has finally arrived, the flowering trees, bushes and plants are in bloom, and the fragrance is heavenly (for those of us who don't have allergies). As the face of winter disappears and gives way to the beautiful colors and smells of springtime, it arouses the anticipation of the coming events that summer will bring. Even though most of us will attend the same events as last year, each one seems to be unique in one way or another. Even Mother Nature throws us a curve sometimes as she did last year with the unseasonably cold weather and rain. Didn't stop us though! We put on coats and rain gear, set up the tents and had a great time. As our annual campout draws near, Janelle and Carol Ann are working to make sure everything comes together for a fun filled weekend. That seems to be the event that kicks off the summer activities and gets things rolling again. This summer is shaping up & I'm looking forward to it.

Most of you know, there are several Silver Strings members who are also members of Uncle Carl's Club. Again this year, Janelle and I, with a few others from Silver Strings, had the privilege of playing with our Uncle Carl's friends at Queens Church in Jackson on Easter Sunday. Each year on Christmas and Easter, many churches in the area contribute to provide meals for needy people, those who have no families, or may be alone and in need of company. Barb Borton of Uncle Carl's is in charge of gathering volunteer musicians to provide music for the event, and she does a wonderful job. Other volunteers decorate the hall, set the tables with tablecloths, china, and brightly colored napkins to make a more enjoyable experience for the recipients. It is one of the most gratifying things we do. I'm very proud to be a part of it, and very proud of all of those who help with this very worthy cause.

### NOTES FROM PROGRAM VPs \_\_\_\_\_

**It's May ... it's May ....** the lovely month of May! Is it just us, or didn't the weather in April seem to more resemble May? Every single flowering plant, bush and tree seemed to burst out in mid- to late April. Not necessarily a bad thing, just strange.

**SONG OF THE MONTH** for May is Snake River Reel. Copies of this tune will be available at the club meeting on May 6th. It's a lively tune and we think you're gonna love it!

#### **WORKSHOPS AT THE MAY 20TH MEETING:**

- (1) Mandolin with Tom Montelauro
- (2) Fiddle with Lee Lack
- (3) Slow Jam with Carole Ann

#### **THREE OTHER REMINDERS:**

- (1) If you have not already filled out an Emergency medical / contact information card, please do so !!! These cards are located on the information table at our club meetings. It is **important** that we have this information in order to assist you, our valued members, in the event of an emergency.
- (2) Lately we seem to be running short on munchies and snacks at the club meetings and please remember to bring food donations for the church's food drive.
- (3) Please remember to see Carole Ann about placing orders for club shirts and jackets.

Janelle Pacic and Carol Ann Matthews

**SEE CAMPOUT DETAILS ON PAGE #5.**

**Everyone has a story to tell.** We each have a life outside Silver Strings. Our "**Getting to Know You**" column is an opportunity to share those stories and find out what we have in common, aside from the love of music. If you have a special story, or know another member's interesting story, please drop a name in the suggestion box. We would like to feature him or her.

## 2010 MAY PLAY LIST

Key	Tune	Play
	<b>List of tunes for 45 minute gigs</b>	
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Red Wing	3*
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Smash the Windows	3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Young Jane	3*
D	Over the Waterfall	3
A	Red Haired Boy	3
G	Down Yonder	3
D	Lover's Waltz	2
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/Riding Load Hay	3/3
D	John Ryan's Polka (Karen chooses)	5
G	Larry's Waltz	3*
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (If gig longer than 45 minutes, skip this & use it as final medley)	2/2
D/G		2/2
	<b>Add next list for 1 hour long gigs</b>	
G	Hundred Pipers	3
C	Five Foot Two	4
D	Hey Polka	5
C	Tennessee Waltz	3*
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (If gig longer than 1 hour, skip this & use it as final medley)	2/2
D/G		2/2
	<b>Add next list for 1.5 hour long gigs</b>	
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
D	Angeline the Baker	3
D	Festival Rag	3
G	Fanny Power	2*
D	Swinging on a Gate	3
G	Maggie	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3*
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	3
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (Use this as the final medley in all of the May gigs)	2/2
D/G		2/2
	<b>Extra Tunes</b>	
G	January Waltz	3*
D	St. Anne's Reel	3
Em	Swallowtail Jig	3
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> time: feature fiddles, harmonicas; HD's soft!</b>	

## PLAYDATE MATTERS \_\_\_\_\_ V.P. Business

The month of April started with a playdate at Heartland Health Care Center in Canton (April 2). It was gratifying to see the number of people in the audience continue to increase throughout our performance, as people heard the sounds of our music in various locations in the building. The applause and cheering after each tune was abundant and vigorous. One of the staff people got up, did some great dances to several of our tunes, and held the hands of a number of the people in wheelchairs in the audience, while he danced around them. When Larry Roper announced that our performance was over after playing the "Endless Medley" and wished everyone a happy Easter, a chant started up in the audience: "One more tune...one more tune...one more tune..." which we happily complied with. It was a great gig for us. When most of us went out to dinner together afterward, Marie Naster mentioned that as she was walking out of Heartland, a woman walking out at the same time said "You know... my mother hasn't walked in two years, but she was tapping her toes to all of your music!"

On April 22, we provided background music at the September Days Senior Center in Van Buren Township for their Annual Volunteer Breakfast. I was truly impressed that the 15 people scheduled to play for that very early performance all showed up right on time around 8 AM so we could all be ready to play by the scheduled starting time of 8:30 AM. That's true dedication!! The venue there is a large dining room with many tables set up, and many of the volunteers are talking to each other while having breakfast and obviously enjoying each others company, so there was a lot of background noise, and we were not amplified. We did not expect much of a response in that type of situation, but hoped that some of the people there would be able to hear and enjoy the music. So it was surprising and rewarding under those circumstances, to have vigorous applause spring up from the tables after each of our tunes. We got many nice comments from people during and after our performance. Near the end of our performance, there was even some dancing to our music by a few people.

Thanks to all of you who contribute so much on a regular basis to our playdates! Please check the "Mark your Calendar" section of the newsletter for upcoming playdates.  
Bert Stein

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

Do you have an interesting musical bit you could share with the club? Perhaps you have an unusual instrument to tell about. Is there a music fest you particularly enjoy? Others might like it, too. Please submit it to the Soundboard. We would all like to hear about it.

## Mark your Calendar

### MAY

- 07... **SSDS Playdate**.....2:30-3:30pm  
Baldwin House.....Birmingham
- 8.....**SSDS Playdate**.....2:30-3:15  
Cherry Hill United. Meth. Church.....Canton
- 13...**SSDS Playdate**.....2-3:30pm  
Rivergate Terrace Home.....Riverview

### JUNE

- 11-13.....**SSDS CAMPOUT**.....**Myers Lake, Byron**
- 12...**SSDS Playdate**.....11:am-1:pm  
Maybe Days Festival.....Maybe
- 25-27.....**UNCLE CARL'S Club Campout, Coldwater**

### JULY

- 15-18.....**EVART DULCIMER FUNFEST**.....**Evart**

### **DID YOU KNOW... ?**

*The Soundboard is a great place to advertise an instrument you are selling or seeking.*

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

#### April 2010 SSDS Board Meeting **Old Business**

The Board Members agreed to follow up on Larry's suggestion that membership dues be renewed from October to October. This has been a general understanding but is not spelled out in the by-laws. The board will ask membership permission to add this guideline to the by-laws.

Our Traditional CD supply has been re-stocked with 1000 new copies. This supply should last the club for several more years.

We have purchased a new microphone and stand for the club. We now have (2) of each and may look into purchasing (2) more.

#### **New Business**

An assigned group will begin working on reviewing the revised sheet music that Kelly has submitted.

The board will also review the SSDS repertoire for music that is no longer played and suggest that it be removed from the repertoire and placed in an inactive file for possible future use. This would help keep the cost down for reprinting music packets.

Carol Ann has obtained some sample shirts and jackets and is taking orders. The hooded jackets come in green and will have the SSDS logo on the back. The shirts come in green or white and have the logo on the front. Names can be embroidered on for an additional cost.  
submitted by: Larry Roper

### PURSE STRINGS \_\_\_\_\_(Treasurer)

Hello fellow Musicians,

Just a note to update you on our treasury.... We are carrying a hefty balance. I am getting a handle on the job and as always love spending other peoples' money!!! A big **THANK YOU** all who are getting their 2010 dues paid....My goal is to get us to 100%

We have a new member brought in by our wonderful fiddler, Gerry Hermans. **WELCOME...**

**Pat Jurasek** (like Jurasik Park) from **Lincoln Park**  
She usually brings her Mandolin to Silver Strings, but also plays Hammered Dulcimer, Mountain Dulcimer, Piano and Organ, and enjoys gardening and singing.  
Happy Jammin' !!!  
Linda Osgood

## LET'S CELEBRATE MAY !!!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 5..... Dave Matthews  
7..... Ron O'Dell  
17.....Tim Murphy  
26.....Ken Kaiser  
26.... Peggy Kustra  
27... Dawn Hayes  
27... Terry Kozlowski

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 15... Ron & Ida O'Dell (\_\_th)



### HISTORIAN

**Collects & organizes newsletters, press releases, and photos and/or CDs of photos of activities for the archives.**

**Do you like to organize things ?**

**Do you enjoy "scrap-booking" ?**

**Are you interested in history ?**

Perhaps you would like to be the SSDS Historian. Here is a job you can do at your leisure at home. The club has been without one this year, and we need someone who can help preserve the memories we are making, in an orderly way. Some computer skills might be helpful, as many photos from the past few years are on discs. Expenses are reimbursed. See Larry Roper if you would be willing to share your skills.

**What do you get when you put a diminished chord together with an augmented chord?**

**A demented chord.**

## FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-CONCERTS

### 2nd "Dulcimers in the Cornfields Festival"

weekend with the Famous Old Time Music Company is coming May 7-9. For more information, go to

[www.fotmc.com/events-dulcimer.htm](http://www.fotmc.com/events-dulcimer.htm)

We continually update the festival page.

For more info. about Famous Old Time Music Company, talk with Laura at 419-568-1220

***This HD workshop is one of the best around, and just before Evart. Everyone who has attended has RAVED about their many "Light Bulb Moments".***

"I have openings for the **"A to Zs of the Hammered Dulcimer"** at Evart, MI. If you are interested, send me an email with your name, address, and phone number right away. Those of you who are signed up should have received a letter from me. The cost is \$165 per person. We are in a new location. Hope to see you there. This year there will be no pig roast dinner on Wednesday night, but there will be an Open Jam starting at 7:30 pm. The jamming is free and fun!!!!!"

<http://www.rthum.com>

Shop # (314) 406-0690 (636) 677-7477

For information about the August fiddlers contest in New Boston, Michigan, check the website:

<http://huronapplefest.com/fiddlerscontest.php>

The director is our old friend, Jim McKinney.

***If you know of any other coming festivals or workshops people might enjoy, please submit them to the Soundboard, so we can share the learning opportunities.***

***You may leave a note in the suggestion box or contact Sandi Hlavacek.***

## FOR SALE

Walt Jablonski, has a GREAT motorhome for sale, that has seen Evart many times. He can no longer drive it. She was born in 1978, but has had EXCELLENT care & many updates. Someone will get a FABULOUS deal on this pampered camper, The \$12,000 is well below market price. Below is a website ad for details, or you may call him at 734-422-8803. <http://www.tincantourists.com/classified/showproduct.php?product=2820&sort=2&cat=3&page=1>

16/15 chromatic **Songbird Whippoorwill H-dulcimer**. Lightweight - 13 lbs, mahogany soundboard (which is now getting rare as mahogany is getting very expensive). It sounds like a masterworks dulcimer. Comes with a nice professional case, and stand, and hammers all for \$650. Call Paula at 616 240 0445, or email at [pbrawdy@jasnetworks.net](mailto:pbrawdy@jasnetworks.net)



## MUSICAL EXCUSES FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS

from Dave Matthews

- \* I actually got that right, but my finger didn't.
- \* I'm sorry, but when I play that, my fingers go so fast my brain can't keep up.
- \* I just did that to see if you were paying attention.
- \* You know, the composer is dead, and I'm still alive, so I can play it any way I want it.
- \* I'm not playing this too slow. You're just listening too fast. It's just not polite. When you listen to Greg Keiser, you don't listen too slow, do you?
- \* If they can fly a man to the moon, why can't they make a metronome that slows down when you need it?
- \* I've got more raw talent in my little toe than most people have in their entire body. Toes are loaded with talent. That's why people tap their feet. Unfortunately, I can't reach my concertina with my toes.
- \* I'm sorry, I forgot to trim my nails.
- \* Heavy Breathers have two of them: I blew it. We suck.
- \* I'm sure with all my years of experience I could play better than Greg Keiser, but I hate to discourage a teenager.
- \* I'm sorry, I'm used to playing that as a hornpipe, not a reel. Be careful with that excuse. It doesn't work if you say you're used to playing it as a waltz, not a polka.
- \* Well, -my- parents didn't start me on a musical instrument when I was three.
- \* I can't do that chord because my finger is crooked.

## Some excuses are so common, you'd think Silver Strings had a patent on them. Here's a collection:

- \* I'd **never** play it that fast. It just spoils the melody.
- \* Just who do you think would want to dance that fast?
- \* I was doing fine until it speeded up.
- \* What do you expect me to do? We haven't played that in years.
- \* I don't do starts.
- \* I never got a copy of the music.
- \* That's not the same as my copy.
- \* The violins are too loud; I can't hear the dulcimers.
- \* The dulcimers are too loud; I can't hear the violins.
- \* Normally we could stay together, but tonight we don't have a bass.
- \* That wasn't a mistake. It was an alternative note.



If you would like to attend the Silver Strings or Uncle Carl's campouts in June, the Evert Funfest in July, and/or Midland Festival in August, but have no camping equipment, here's a **golden opportunity for you!**

**JOIN THE FUN** in a cozy tent (sleeps 4) with a floor, a queen-sized air bed (linens available), and even a heater and porta-potti (if you want). It will be delivered to the camp site, with help putting it up and taking it down. All of this for the AMAZING cost of **FREE !!!** Have a really good time with awesome people and great music. To reserve the equipment, contact Bob & Sandi Hlavacek, 734-663-7974.

**FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT with Picks & Sticks**

**May 1-2 & 8-9**, Thomas the Train and Hobo's Featured at Greenfield Village. Families, 8am-3pm .Admission Fee  
**May 30<sup>th</sup>**, 2010-Lovett Hall, Civil War Reinactment Contra Dance, Greenfield Village, Dearborn. Admission Fee, Period Costumes are appropriate. 7-10pm Glen Morningstar Caller.

**Find the flowers of spring**

CALLALILY  
 CROCUS  
 DAHLIA  
 LILAC  
 MAGNOLIA  
 NARCISSUS  
 SNOWDROPS  
 TULIP

CAMELIA  
 DAFFODIL  
 HYACINTH  
 LILY  
 MAYFLOWER  
 PEONY  
 TRILLIUM  
 VIOLETS

O A M T X R V C A M E L L I A P L  
 Z X T B V G S P O R D W O N S I T  
 M H C M A Y F L O W E R W N L Q R  
 X E Q I B I S J X F D S S Y P K N  
 F A N G U D D M J L E D A U O I R  
 F F T R I L L I U M R A Q S F B X  
 K S U C O R C H Y S P F I Z A F T  
 Y D U L O F W V L W S F S F I L R  
 V H A D V U Q J I A T O K T L I L  
 Y I T H L D Q Q L P P D L B O L N  
 R I O N L T R R A E G I D B N A I  
 T X G L I I J J L O N L U G G C F  
 O U B J E C A K L N X A X R A T B  
 A E L T S T A Y A Y W K L M M N M  
 N T X I T Z S Y C Y X F T J U Y E  
 C K S B P S B I H O F I T H Z Y I  
 U S U S S I C R A N U V K S R U H

**SILVER STRINGS 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CAMPOUT**



The annual Silver Strings Campout at Myers Lake Methodist Camp is fast approaching. The campout will be held from Friday, June 11th through Sunday June 13th. The registration form to reserve a campsite is on the website at [www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org) and will also be available at the club meetings through May

The festivities will begin on Friday, with camper/tent set up mid-afternoon and a potluck dinner around 6pm (although several "Silver Stringers" arrive Thursday, in order to get an extra days' worth of fun and to enjoy the beautiful camp and lake). This year the club is providing Sloppy Joes and Hot Dogs (beef and turkey varieties) for the pot luck. Everyone else can bring a favorite side dish or dessert. Jamming will follow under the huge Silver Strings tents or in the camps' rustic barn, depending on the weather.

Saturday morning there will be a pancake & sausage breakfast to be provided by the club. Workshops/ Musical Sessions will follow breakfast:

- \* HD tune workshop with Penny Scheiber
- \* MD workshop/jam with Marie Naster
- \* Autoharp jam with Theresa and Dave Smith,
- \* Melody/harmony by Penny Scheiber with helpers Karen Turner, Linda Losse, Janelle Pacic and Carol Ann Matthews.

The fun continues Saturday evening with a delicious catered meal at 5:00 pm. The menu will be broasted chicken, Hawaiian ham w/ pineapple, BBQ meatballs, mashed potatoes, and plenty of other sides and desserts. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 3-10. **Note: We will be collecting money for the Saturday dinner until Thursday, June 3rd.**

**Please see Carol Ann or Janelle to pay in advance.** Following dinner and cleanup, we will play more music under the tents or in the barn.

The campout ends Sunday June 13th with a lakeside worship service. SSDS provides music before, during and after the service. Music packets will be provided prior to the campout. The Sunday lakeside service is a beautiful way to end a fun & music filled weekend. Plan to attend.

**NOTE:** The Silver Strings Campout is ALWAYS open to non-club members and everyone is welcome to attend. There is LOTS for non-musical family members to do. They can swim, fish, rent a paddle boat, play family games, take nature hikes, and more ! Check [www.myerslake.com](http://www.myerslake.com) for details.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU \_\_\_\_\_ Dawn Hayes

Hello, my name is Dawn Hayes and I have been a member of Silver Strings for about 7 years. I play the hammered dulcimer and you'll see me at all the monthly meetings and most of the playdates smiling happily and playing my dulcimer. I was born in Battle Creek at the Percy Jones Military Hospital, while my father was in the army, and then our family moved to Big Rapids to help my Dad's parents run their family farm. I remember my 2 sisters and 1 younger brother and me hand milking cows, egg gathering from sometimes mean hens, canning fruits and vegetables, living without electricity and even going to a one-room country schoolhouse.

It was there that I fell in love with country life and also it's music. My Grampa played the banjo, and one of my sisters is now beginning to play the banjo. My other sister has begun to play the mountain dulcimer, and I played the clarinet.

I started the clarinet when I was in 3rd grade and played the B flat, E flat, and alto clarinets all through my school and college years, in bands, marching bands and orchestras. I participated in many district, regional and state "Band" and "Solo and Ensemble" competitions while in school.

While earning a BA degree in Elementary Education at Oakland University, I met my husband, Ron. We got married, I taught 3rd Grade in Sparta, and Ron worked at Consumers Power Company. Soon we were blessed with 2 boys, Jeff and Scott. Jeff and Scott were not that interested in music, and at that time I wasn't either. But now, since they are both married and have sons (Gavin, 1 year, and Asher, 3 years) music has made a surprise entrance back into our family. Asher loves the hammered dulcimer, already holds the sticks correctly, and can hit out some melodies while I point to the strings he is to hit. Gavin likes to bounce to the beats, while his other Grandmother plays her mountain dulcimer. Watch out Silver Strings... you might get 2 more future members! I returned to Central Michigan University, where I earned a Masters Degree in Library Science, and I recently retired from the Northville School System as a Library Media Specialist.

You might wonder how I ended up playing the hammered dulcimer and joining Silver Strings. I have always loved Celtic Music, and since I retired and had some extra time, I decided to try something different. After buying a hammered dulcimer, I located Mary Lou Battley in Northville, started taking lessons, and you guessed it - I loved the instrument! Mary Lou introduced me to Silver Strings, and here I am. I now play in a "Hammer Harmony" dulcimer group as well as Silver Strings. I have several other hobbies I like to do also... knitting, cross stitching, reading historical fiction books, and I belong to a Mystery Book Club. I have quite a collection of hand-crafted nutcrackers from Germany. I have even started to play the tin whistle, but the best thing I do is spend 1 full day each week with my grandsons.

Ron and I have 2 dreams - one is to sell our condo in Novi and build a log home up North on a small quiet inland lake, and to go to Dublin, Ireland, if they ever get a bridge built over the pond to get there (I don't like flying). Life is an adventure, and full of dreams and surprises. Somehow music has helped open some of these doors for us. The next time you are at Silver Strings, look around for me. I'd like to tell you all about my 2 grandsons' adventures into the dulcimer world, and also how the bridge to Ireland is coming along.



Sixteen Silver Strings players, who are also members of Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club, entertained at the April 10<sup>th</sup> UCDC 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in a "Variety Night" type format. A good time was enjoyed by all.