

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

JULY 2011      27 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC      July 1983-2010      Issue 315  
Website : [www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

June has gone, and the summer is going all too fast. We looked forward to the campout for several months, and now it has passed. We had a great time! It rained for a while on Friday afternoon, right after we got the tents set up, and as we prepared for the great potluck. During the blessing before dinner, a request was included for the rain to stop, and 15 minutes later it stopped. Prayer does work. We jammed Friday and Saturday nights under the tent, with a great turn out. Saturday morning, three highly experienced chefs created an exceptional pancake and sausage breakfast. George Gonyo, Terry Avery and I, assisted by Sandi Hlavacek, Dawn and Ron Hayes, prepared and served the food. After the workshops we had another feast in the evening, with a catered dinner.

Sunday morning we played a series of religious tunes for the church service on the lake shore. More than a dozen players came out in the chilly morning breeze to warm the attendees with beautiful music. The campground director really loves to have us play at their service. Then we ate again... this time a brunch, consisting of all the leftover food from the other meals. It was like the loaves and fishes; the food just seemed to multiply.

Many thanks go to Dawn and Ron Hayes for planning and coordinating the events of the weekend. They were assisted by Janelle Pacic and Larry Roper. I also want to thank the workshop and Jam leaders: Penny Schieber, Karen Turner, Linda Losse, Marie Naster, Dawn Hayes, Janelle Pacic, and Walt Jablonski. I offer a HUGE thank you to the many other people who pitched in to set up and take down tents, move tables for meals, make coffee, and do general clean up. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did.

Now we move into July. There will not be a board meeting prior to the July 7<sup>th</sup> jam and meeting. Sandi and I will be on vacation at Evert. VP Larry Roper will lead the jam that night, in our absence. Carol Ann will conduct a slow jam before the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. For those of you who will be in Evert, we will try to get a performance time in one of the afternoon or Thursday evening stage shows. We will post that, and any other info on the door of our camper, across the driveway from the fountain. Look for the Silver Strings bench.

At the last board meeting, it was decided that we need a change in our by-laws for the position of Music Coordinator. The club has grown, and there are many skill levels of our members that need to be addressed. We will be better served if we have a music committee with a chair person, so that we have multiple inputs and can spread the work load. The board will meet and draft the wording for the change, which will require a membership vote for approval.

I hope you all have a fun filled summer and festival season. Keep on hammering, plucking, strumming and bowing. Stay 'tuned'.....Bob Hlavacek

The best way to see traditional music is to attend a festival. If you've never been to a music festival, your life may be about to change! Festivals usually run over a weekend, sometimes longer. There is a roster of artists who play several times during the festivals on one of the various stages. Performances usually last around 45 minutes, if you don't like the show you can leave at any time. If you love it, there are usually one or two more chances to see the artists. Performers and audiences generally stay around the festival venue, which is often beautiful. Depending on the festival, the artists may play informally in the various bars, tents or wherever, often until the wee hours of the morning. The audience is often comprised of musicians, some exquisite, some beginning, some in between, all out to play together and have fun!



## PLAYDATE NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Larry Roper

We had a couple of fun playdates in June. We began at Waltonwood Retirement Center in Novi on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Normally we perform two back to back shows there but due to a scheduling conflict we played only the second one for the assisted living division. The residents there were very lively and enjoyed our performance very much. We had good interaction with the audience and one lady, in particular, told us how she used to attend the Evart Festival and how much she enjoyed it. Our contact ladies, Ann Casey and Denise Greening also complimented us and told me how lively the residents get when they hear that Silver Strings will be coming. Before I left, Denise requested two more playdates in addition to the Holiday concert they had already booked. That will be a total of nine playdates they have booked for this year. I guess that says something about how much they enjoy Silver Strings.

We played at Grand Court of Farmington Hills on June 9<sup>th</sup>. There, again, we played for a large, very lively group. We dedicated "Westphalia Waltz" to the activities director, Char Mezeppa who had told me that was her favorite tune. I received many compliments after our performance from some very appreciative folks. I heard comments like; this is the best entertainment we've ever had. And one lady, Isabell, said to everyone, "I don't remember when I've ever enjoyed entertainment more than this. It's always nice to hear these kind words from those whose lives we have touched. They indicated that they wanted us back again and before I left Char booked a Holiday concert for December.

Thanks again to all of you who have participated in the playdates. It is through your efforts that our club is well represented wherever we play.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Ann Matthews June 2, 2011 Board Minutes

### OLD BUSINESS

- \* Two CD's were sent to South Carolina, two to New York and one to Canada.
- \* Four workshops are set up for the campout
- \* We need to identify and get the corrections made to the music.

### NEW BUSINESS

\* Two people have expressed an interest in becoming Music Coordinator. Bob suggested, and the Board has agreed that this job is too large for one person, and that it should be a Music Committee headed by a chairman. We need to change the by-laws in order to do this. The by-law proposal needs to be presented and voted on by the membership. It is to be presented to the membership at three consecutive meetings before the vote.

\* We must keep in mind that this club is not professional musicians, but a club where people come to learn to play with a group and may perform. We must not lose sight of the beginners, and need to also make it fun for the seasoned players.

*This is a synopsis. Full minutes are available from Sec.*

Three quilts have gone to the new meeting hall at the Evart fair grounds from SSDS members. Their artwork will grace the festivities for years to come.

## V.P. PROGRAM NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Dawn Hayes

### SSDS Campout:

A big, heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who helped with the set-ups, cleanups, food and the leading of the workshops and jams. Thanks to all, the campout was a great success. It was a weekend filled with good food, friendship and music. The only downside to the whole weekend was the cold temperatures for the worship service on Sunday—at least all of our instruments went out of tune together. Next year maybe we should pack some fingerless gloves to wear while playing. (Janelle, I think you were the only one who was prepared in that way).

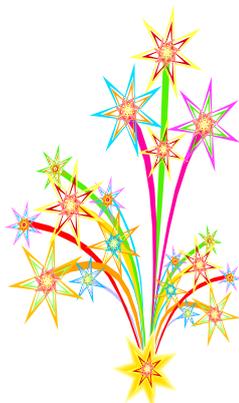
### SSDS Annual Picnic, Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>:

Mark your calendars for the club's annual picnic at German Park (located on Pontiac Trail north of Ann Arbor). The picnic will begin at 12 noon (socializing/setup) and food will be served at 1:00 pm. The club will furnish BBQ pulled pork BBQ pulled chicken, bakery buns, plates, utensils, cups and beverages. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite sides and/or desserts to share. In an attempt to have a balance of dishes, we are asking for those whose last name begins with A-J to bring desserts, and those whose last name begins with K-Z to bring side dishes. Jamming will begin shortly afterward. Sign up sheets for set up/clean up volunteers will be put out at the club meetings beginning in July.

## IT'S JULY... LET'S CELEBRATE !

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 3.....Bobbi Hurst
- 4.....Regis Proulx
- 5.....Karen Turner
- 9.....Janelle Pacic
- 10....Frank Surhigh
- 14....Sally Niemczewski
- 14....Richard Rowe
- 17....John McAuliffe
- 18....Charlie Feigel
- 18....Amy Murphy
- 20....Ramona Hadley
- 26....Pat Jablonski



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 11....Roger & Barb Davis..... 52<sup>nd</sup>

**To print the **JULY Play list,****  
 please click on our website or this link :  
<http://www.silverstrings.org/sections/tunes/pdf/2011/jul11.pdf>

**JULY PLAY LIST 2011**

| Key        | Tune   | Play             |
|------------|--|------------------|
|            | <b>List of tunes for 1 hour gigs</b>   |                  |
| D          | Whiskey Before Breakfast   | 3                |
| G          | Maggie   | 3                |
| G          | Westphalia Waltz   | 2                |
| D          | Over The Waterfall   | 3                |
| Am         | Cold Frosty Morn   | 3                |
| D          | Smash The Windows  | 3                |
| D          | Ashgrove   | 3*               |
| G          | Battle Hymn of the Republic  | 3                |
| G          | America The Beautiful  | 3**              |
| G          | You're a Grand Old Flag  | 3                |
| D          | Liberty  | 3                |
| D          | Simple Gifts   | 3***             |
| G          | Flowers of Edinburgh   | 3                |
| G          | Redwing  | 3*               |
| D          | Harvest Home   | 3                |
| D          | Southwind  | 3*               |
| G          | Red Apple Rag  | 3                |
| D          | John Ryan's  | Karen<br>Decides |
| D          | Hey Polka  | Bob<br>Decides   |
| D          | Coleman's March  | 3                |
| D/D<br>D/G | Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/<br>Soldier's Joy/ Golden Slippers   | 2/2/2/2          |
|            | <b>Extra Tunes</b>   |                  |
| Em         | Tamlin   | 3                |
| D          | Festival Rag   | 3                |
| G          | Old Joe Clark  |                  |
| G          | Larry's Waltz  | 3*               |
|            | <b>*fiddles, harmonicas, backup<br/>           (HDs play softly)<br/>           **possible vocal<br/>           *** 1<sup>st</sup> A (1) MD or HD,<br/>           2<sup>nd</sup> A &amp; B add (1)fiddle, (1)guitar<br/>           2<sup>nd</sup> time add harmonicas<br/>           3<sup>rd</sup> time everybody plays<br/>           4<sup>th</sup> time, (1) MD or HD, (1) fiddle (1) guitar</b> |                  |

**DON'T MISS THE FUN & LEARNING**  
 Just because you have no camping gear



If you would like **FREE** use of a tent with queen sized air mattress for the Evert and/or Midland music festivals, contact Bob or Sandi at 734-663-7974

It sleeps 4, and has a good waterproof floor. Both fairgrounds have really good restroom and shower facilities.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**JULY**

7....**Board meeting @ 6:00** . . . . . **Jam @7:00**  
 14-17....**Evert Dulcimer Funfest**.....**Evert**  
 18...**Evening Entertainment**. . . BC . . . . 6:30-7:30  
 Pine Ridge of Hayes Assisted Living. . . Sterling Heights  
 21...**Slow Jam @ 6:00**. . . . . **Jam @7:00**  
 26...**Pig Roast/Silent Auction** . . . . .12:45-1:45  
 Putnam Twp Seniors. . . . . BC. . . . .Pinckney

**AUGUST**

7....**SSDS PICNIC @ German Park in Ann Arbor**  
 25-28....**Midland Folk Music Festival**...**Midland**  
 30...**Afternoon Entertainment**. . . BC . . . . 1:30-2:30  
 Waltonwood Indep. Living. . . . .Novi  
 30...**Afternoon Entertainment**. . . BC . . . . 3:00-4:00  
 Waltonwood Assisted Living. . . . . Novi  
**BC=Business Casual**

**If you have not filled out a green emergency notification card, please DO. These cards go with us to all Strings activities and festivals, in case you have a medical emergency. You will find them in the brown box on the business table at all jams.**

**A UNIQUE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Submitted by Sandi Hlavacek

Father's Day weekend, Bob & I attended a very unusual music festival in Logan, Ohio, which is an hour southeast of Columbus. Logan is home to the last remaining company in the U.S.A. still producing washboards. Founded in 1895, it is now entirely operated by two people, and still produces about 20,000 washboards per year. About 10% are used in musical settings, and the others are shipped all over the world... including 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries and our soldiers overseas.

Three 'stages' were set up downtown (only 4 blocks long) and washboards accompanied a variety of musical tastes throughout the festival. At the end of each day, the jazz band took over the big stage, and all washboard players (old or new) were invited to perform with them on stage. It reminded me of the hammered dulcimer pre-show at Evert, but on a MUCH smaller scale.

A small town parade ended the festival, including a soldier in uniform, just back from the war, in the back of a truck with a bucket and washboard, pretending to do laundry. The sign on the truck said 'THANK YOU'. As it passed, he yelled to the crowd, "WE REALLY DO USE THEM!"

It was a great weekend, meeting really good people, hearing fun music, and yes... we came home with a new instrument.

## ODPC FUNFEST IN EVART

Coming soon...

It's time to start preparing for the "BIG BAND"  
July 14-17, 2011

### 2011 Pre-Show Tunes

Red Apple Rag (G)  
Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)  
Soprana (G) - Les Raber  
Red Wing (G)  
Maple Sugar (D)  
Trillium Twirl (C) - Judi Morningstar (2008)  
Headin' To Evert (D) - Bill Robinson  
Hey Polka (G)  
Liberty (D) - if time permits  
Star Spangled Banner - for the opening

## FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-JAMS

### SALINE CELTIC FESTIVAL

Friday, July 8: 6-12:00, Saturday July 9: 8:30-12:00  
at Millpond Park, Saline, MI

For info. call Saline Celtic Festival Office 734-944-281  
or <http://www.salineceltic.org>

Music, dancing, tournaments, games for the wee ones.

**This could be the last year for this one.**

**Please don't let that happen!**

### BUCKLEY OLD ENGINE SHOW

August 18-21 in Buckley, MI,  
between Cadillac and Traverse City

Step back in time with old time music, arts and  
machines

Info @ <http://www.buckleyoldengineshow.org>



## Getting to Know You . . . Sally Niemczewski

Hi, my name is Sally Niemczewski. I play the ukelele and autoharp, have been a member of Silver Strings for over 9 years, and have worked on the elections and annual banquet committees many times. I was born in Detroit, but raised in Dearborn Heights in a very active "outdoors" family. I had 5 brothers and 4 sisters, so that meant lots and lots of outdoor fun with ready made teams. We played baseball, kick the can, and rode bikes from morning to dark. One thing I really liked was climbing ropes from our backyard tall trees, like Trazan and Jane did. (Remember them)? Every Sunday my Mom and Dad would pile all of us into the car, and take afternoon rides when gas was 25 cents a gallon! We also took vacations using an old 2 room army tent my Dad bought. It had one room for them,

and the other for us kids; boys on one side - girls on the other - all sleeping on the ground.

About the only music we had was singing around the campfire or listening to two sisters practice the piano. Real music entered my life when I met Bob, my husband of over 36 years. (He's one of the Silver Strings string bass and guitar players). His father was a great accordion and organ player, his music filled their family home, that's where Bob's love of music all came from, and probably mine, too.

We have 2 sons, Steve and Joe, and now 4 grandchildren; Kaitlyn (3), Lilly (4), Aubrey (4), and Ethan (5). When each of them was born Bob and I gave them a new uke (pink for girls- blue for boys). All of our grandkids can now strum on them, and enjoy making up their own simple songs.

As a child I wasn't at all musical. I couldn't sing, keep a beat, or even whistle a whole tune. When Bob joined Silver Strings I just came and listened, until I attended a banquet and sat next to John and Sharon McAuliffe. They both asked me what instrument I played, and of course I said I didn't play anything. But John said, I bet you could play the ukulele, I'll help you. So the very next day I went out and bought my first \$20.00 uke, and was determined I could learn to play it. I didn't let Bob even touch my uke. All he could do was tune it for me, the rest was up to me. With the help of John and Sharon and Herb Danison, I did learn to play the uke, and also learned how to play the autoharp with the help of Theresa Smith. So, if you really want to play an instrument, you can!

Before I was married, I worked at Cox Instruments in Detroit in the order and accounting departments. When I married, Bob wanted me to be a stay at home mom, so that is what I happily did. We took our boys camping first in a tent, then a pop up, and finally a travel trailer on vacations and weekends in Michigan and down South, just like I did when I was a kid. I like to crochet, bead jewelry, sew, and I used to make all of my own clothes. I also like to read all kinds of books and materials, play in a ukelele group called "Uke 'n Sing" and take care of 2 grandchildren on Tuesdays and Thursdays, each week. My dreams are to camp in the Rockies and Grand Canyon someday, and for my grandchildren to enjoy music and be successful in their own lives. If you think you could never learn to play an instrument, look me up at the meetings and see why I'm always smiling and happy playing my uke, and I'll give you the secret- TRY!



Food is an important part of the campout fun. We shared the Friday night potluck, the great pancake & sausage breakfast, and the traditional catered dinner on Saturday. Nobody goes hungry around Silver Strings.



Workshop & jam leaders Pennye (Hammered Dulcimer), Karen & Bob (Harmonica), Dawn & Janelle (harmony), and Marie (Mountain Dulcimer) provided fun & learning, while Dave & his dog (below) devised their own kind of "workshop".



## CAMPOUT 2011



Sunshine by day and Jamming by night made the 2011 campout turn out just right !!!

