



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

August 2009

26 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2009

Issue 292

Website : www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 2009 Evert Funfest is now one for the history books. Despite the cold weather, it went very well with good stage shows, three full days of workshops, and jamming all around the fairgrounds. The stage was filled with Silver Strings members on Thursday at 7pm to open the evening performances. We played for a large audience and I received many compliments afterward from folks who enjoyed our performance. We also sold a few CDs. I would like to thank everyone who performed for a job well done. The club was well represented. Also, my heartfelt thanks go to all of you who promote a good, positive image of our group at these events and other functions. I receive compliments on what a nice group we have from folks who have heard us play, joined in a jam with us, or simply met members who were very friendly and helpful to them. Many people have told me they wish they lived closer, so they could join our club. In fact, we will soon acquire two new members who were so impressed with us when they joined in on a jam session at the Midland Festival last year, they want to become Silver Strings members. They both live quite far away and said they probably would not be able to make it to very many meetings but will gladly pay dues to help support our club. What we have is contagious (in a good way). Keep up the good work folks!

The highlight of the festival for me was on Saturday night when our own Cindy Feigel delivered a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem as only Cindy can. She received a standing ovation from the large audience. Welcome back Cindy !!!
Larry Roper

There were 197 hammered dulcimers in the Friday night pre-show at Evert this year. It was far from our record of over 300, but a good try.

PLAYDATE MATTERS

V.P. BUSINESS

We did not set up any playdates in July, at least in part because so many of our members were occupied in various ways by the ODPC Funfest in Evert July 16-19 and the lead-up to that event. I will leave it to those who participated in the Funfest to report on that in this newsletter.

On the other hand, August, September, and October are shaping up to be busy months for playdates (please see "Mark your Calendar" in this issue). To start off, on August 2, we are scheduled to play from 6 PM to 7 PM (note change in time) in the Rose Garden at the Henry Ford Estate as part of the celebration of Henry Ford's Birthday.

Counting the gigs we've played so far in 2009, and what is scheduled so far for the rest of the year gives a total of 32, so we have been and continue to be active "gig wise". Again, I'd like to thank all of you who have participated in these playdates. You have done a great job and I've thoroughly enjoyed working with you. I've also enjoyed interacting with the contact people in arranging our playdates this year. There will be several new sign up sheets put out at our upcoming meetings. For those of you who have not participated in any of our playdates, have had some experience playing with our group at jams, & are becoming comfortable with the music, please consider signing up for some of these events that still have openings. Join the fun!

Bert Stein

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.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

SSDS Board Meeting Minutes

July 3, 2009

OLD BUSINESS

- * The price for music packets will have to be re-evaluated, as printing costs have increased.
- * The August 21st playdate does not conflict with the Midland Festival as first stated and therefore is still on.
- * Karen is putting a link to the O'Carolan website on SSDS website.
- * Holiday CD - Larry & Bob will discuss finishing the CD.

NEW BUSINESS

- * Larry has contacted Pat Harkens about a stage show for SSDS at Evert, and will continue to pursue the idea.
- * The board voted against making a dedication in memory of Hal Bain at Evert at this time.
- * The board voted against purchasing a bench or picnic table to be placed in Evert in memory of Hal Bain at this time.
- * The board voted against publishing new member address, phone number, e-mail address in the newsletter. This information will be included only in the membership roster.
- * With the success of the autoharp and mandolin workshops, the board will consider having workshops for guitar, banjo, fiddle, recorder, etc.. Volunteers are needed to teach these workshops. All will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month.
- * The board will continue to review applications for new members to determine if any problems might occur as a result of the type of instrument they play etc.

submitted by Beverly J. Scott

(This is an outline of the meeting. Full minutes are available on request)

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. A - K bring desserts, L - Z bring side dishes.



VP PROGRAMS

It's hard to believe that August is already upon us and summer is nearly over (and by the way, what ever happened to *global warming*???) Hopefully, things will start heating up this month after the chilly July we've just experienced. Many folks up at Evert said it may have been the coldest ODPC Funfest yet! We would have to agree with them.

Just another reminder that **SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th is our annual Silver Strings Picnic at German Park**, which is located on Pontiac Trail between Dixboro and Earhart Roads just north of Ann Arbor. The picnic will begin at noon and last until approximately 5pm. Sign up sheets for kitchen help and for clean up will be posted at the club meeting on August 6th. A reminder that last names beginning with A-K should bring desserts and the L-Z are to bring side dishes. The club is furnishing beverages, pulled pork and pulled chicken (and buns for sandwiches). Note: Larry is providing his *famous* pickled beets for your dining pleasure. Jamming will begin after the meal in the spacious, covered pavilion. Frisbees and games for non-musicians will be available.

This year's **annual SSDS Banquet will be held at Park Place in Dearborn on Thursday, October 1, 2009** from 6:00 pm until 11:00pm. Doors will open at 6pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Theresa Smith is the chairperson for the banquet. Her committee is planning fun activities for the evening and there will be a special gift for all who attend. Jamming will follow dinner and festivities. Tickets will be on sale at club meetings from Thursday, August 6th through September 17th. Ticket prices are \$15 for members and \$20 for guests. Mark your calendar, and join us for this special evening.

Janelle & Carol Ann , Co-VPs

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1.....Dave & Carol Ann Mathews (46TH)
- 13... Kathy & Jack Harrison (35TH)
- 23... Ellen & Jason Yanity (12TH)
- 25... Lynn & Tom Hartwig (30TH)

There was no mountain dulcimer pre-show performance at Evert this year, but 65 players took the stage for a great performance during the Thursday night concert

In The Beginning

by David Smith



Lynn and Frank Bower were active organizers of both ODPC and SSSDs. Lynn passed out a flyer at the Evart Funfest in 1983 to promote a meeting of interested dulcimer players to meet in Wyandotte on July 28. This meeting sparked the beginning of the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society. Lynn was the leader of the club and Frank kept the books. Through the efforts of Lynn and Frank our club was formed. Although they were not active in the club in recent years, they both were able to attend our first Myer's Lake Campout in 2001. Over the years, our club has relied on countless volunteers who, like Lynn and Frank, wish to provide a meeting place for folk musicians to gather and share the joy of music and friendship.

If you have borrowed a skirt, blouse, tie, suspenders or hat for our Victorian playdates, and are currently not attending them, PLEASE RETURN THEM to the club so others can enjoy the opportunity. If you have an appropriate piece of clothing you can donate to the club or lend out, we would appreciate the addition to our costume supply.

Music is coming to Hillsdale

By Lynne Ellen Kaiser

The 20th Annual North Central Regional Fiddlers' Convention will be held August 7 and 8 on the Hillsdale County Fairgrounds. There will be an open stage both days, and several workshops. SSSDs member Ben Catt will be teaching a hammered dulcimer workshop this year, and SSSDs members of the Kaiser Family Band will be the featured entertainers, with a one-hour show starting at 5:15 on Saturday at the stage pavilion.

There will plenty of opportunities for jamming, and also a round and square dance on Saturday night. Admission is \$8 per adult for the whole event, with children 16 and under free when accompanied by an adult. Shady camping is available for \$15 per day (with many hookups). For further info, **contact Dick Wild at 517-206-4051 or info@michiganfiddlers.com**.

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	??
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
D/DD /G	Endess Medley (Ragtime Annie, Soldier's Joy, Golden Slippers)	2/2 /2/ 2



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 SSSDs 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'D LIKE A FULL COLLECTION FOR MIDLAND

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August

- 2.....**Playdate**.....6-7:pm
Henry Ford Estate.....Dearborn
- 16.....**SSDS Picnic**.....noon-5:pm
German Park.....Ann Arbor
- 21.....**Playdate**.....2:30-3:30
American House.....Royal Oak
- 27-29...**Midland Dulcimer Fest.**.....Midland

September

- 10.....**SSDS Playdate**.....12:30-1:15 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church.....Detroit
- 12.....**SSDS Playdate**.....11:am-4:30pm
Greenfield Village (Victorian)....Dearborn
- 13.....**SSDS Playdate**.....11:am-4:30pm
Greenfield Village (Victorian)....Dearborn
- 19.....**SSDS Playdate**.....noon-1:30pm
Northville Victorian Festival....Northville
- 25.....**SSDS Playdate**.....2:30-3:30pm
Baldwin House.....Birmingham

EVART FUNFEST TRIVIA

Here are some gate statistics from past festival records so you can see how the attendance has been running.

Sandy Holder

- 2009 - \$13,568 = 4,522 people (gas \$2.50 gal.)
 2008 - \$12,036 = 4,012 people (gas \$4.00 gal.)
 2007 - \$13,630 = 4,543 people (gas \$3.38 gal.)
 2006 - \$12,866 = 4,288 people (gas \$3.10 gal.)
 2005 - \$14,984 = 4,994 people (gas \$2.12 gal.)
 2004 - \$17,224 = 5,741 people
 2003 - \$19,206 = 6,402 people



We have another opportunity to support Good Hope Church, our generous hosts who have shared their meeting space almost any time we asked for it since 1986.

During the first 2 weeks of Sept., they will be taking orders for their delicious pasties. If you have any left from the last sale, eat them this month, and order more !! A sign-up sheet will be on the back table to accept your orders. Cost is \$4 each, and you may order full beef, vegetarian, or "special" (specify no onions, salt or other item). **We can pay and pick them up at the Sept. 17th jam.**

Let's not forget their on-going food drive for the food bank. Times are tough. They help many families, and need consistent donations to keep it going. Please leave your donations on the table by the elevator at any time.

Labor Day Potluck and Jam

From George Gonyo

There will be a potluck and music jam at Manfred and Judy Schmidt's cottage on Labor Day in West Bloomfield on the lake. SSDS went a couple of years ago and everyone had a great time. Manfred erects a huge lakeside tent, we all gather around to play music, and Judy's group shares "storytelling". with our music. Dress is casual... It might be warm enough for a swim. Everyone is invited. A sign-up sheet will be out at meetings.

People begin to gather around noon on Labor Day, we will eat about 1:00 pm, then have an "informal public jam" to entertain them. Set your GPS....

**The Schmidt house is at
6433 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield**



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Photo from David Smith

Thursday night at Evert, Silver Strings opened the evening concert with a few songs. While missing our founder and friend, Hal Bain, (the only original member to remain with us for our entire 25 years), we chose to play from his favorite songs. Six members of the Suncoast Dulcimer Society of Port Charlotte, Florida, (of which he was also a founder), joined us on stage to celebrate the musical joy he gave to us all.

This is the first time Silver Strings has performed on stage at Evert in several years. We had a **GREAT** attendance and were **VERY** well received. Silver Strings once again stood tall and proud.

CELEBRATIONS !!!



We celebrate love.

Silver Strings celebrated (with carrot cake, of course), a golden wedding anniversary with two of our members who are 24 KT all the way. Roger & Barb Davis have been members since 1991. He plays the Hammered Dulcimer and she plays the Autoharp.



Photo by David Smith

We celebrate music.

Music filled every corner of the Osceola fairgrounds in Evert, including the Silver Strings oasis. The chill in the air didn't stop the fun, laughter and music.

The tent will be up again at the Midland Dulcimer Fest August 27th-30th. Expect great things and they will happen. People are still raving about last year's Midland jam.

Join us !!!

We celebrate art.

The ODPC has a T-shirt design contest for the Funfest and this year my entry won 2nd place and was placed on the 2009 Funfest mug that was sold at the festival. I also made up a T-shirt with the same design.

David Smith



We celebrate fun !!!

Our standard jams are the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. If there is a 5th Thursday, in a month, we call it "Variety Night". It is a pizza party with members sharing their talents and instruments "Ed Sullivan" style. (Did I just expose my age ?) We never know what to expect, but we always know it will be fun.

Pictured below are our 2 newest side groups to form to learn and share a new instrumental experience. The harmonica "Heavy Breathers", being led by Walt Jablonski, have been meeting for several months. The mountain dulcimer "Mountaineers", led by Marie Naster, have met only 3 times and are already performing for us. **WOW !!!**



Variety Night, July 2009

We celebrate success.

Our Kaiser family has just released a new CD of **TERRIFIC**, happy, music. Their talents are endless and their skills are phenomenal. This will make your toes tap uncontrollably.

See them or order this CD for \$15 through their website www.kaiserfamilyband.com.



THERE WAS MAGIC IN THE AIR AT EVART

It's a small world. After setting up our camper at Evart, we set off to find the 'Silver Strings' bench on the fair grounds. When we located it, the people at the next site asked if we were part of Silver Strings. We introduced ourselves, and were delighted to meet Joann Johnson from the Suncoast Dulcimer Society in Florida. She is the lady who assembled a group to play at Hal Bain's funeral in Florida and sent us the list of his favorites for us to play for the service here. When our discussion turned to Silver Strings playing on stage Thursday night, they asked if we could include some of their members.

Hal was a well known "fixture" at Evart for decades. In our introduction on stage we explained that he was a founding member of both groups, and the conduit that brought us all together to perform. The 'Six Degrees of Separation' theory was reduced to one degree... Hal Bain. We all think he orchestrated our meeting, and was laughing from above.

Bob Hlavacek

On Tuesday evening before the FunFest, a car pulled up next to us and parked. An older lady got out, walked over and asked, "What is that thing there?", pointing at Ben's dulcimer. She was visiting from the UP with the couple in the vehicle and they had popped into the fairgrounds for fun. She had no idea what a dulcimer was. She was fascinated, and asked when and where there would be a concert. I asked if she would like a little concert right there, and she was delighted.

She called the older couple from the car, we found chairs for them. We discovered it was unlikely we knew any tunes in common, so Ben, Kelly, Greg and I started to play. The lady was speechless. She was completely taken by the music. Soon she began to clap and sway and smile. A few tunes later, she asked if we knew any Russian tunes, and I said I didn't think so. Ben suggested "Katushka". The woman grabbed her chest and said YES! YES!

As we played, she began sobbing uncontrollably, clutching her chest! I was afraid we had terribly saddened or upset her, but we continued, watching her carefully. Soon she began to sing passionately -- in Russian!

When we finished, she said, "I believe the hand of God has put you here for me tonight! I am from Russia, and my mother died recently. This is the tune we always sang together, and the tune I've sung to my children! You can't ever know what this has meant to me."

They stayed for a while, the lady occasionally breaking into tears again. We played 10 or so tunes for them, and finally she said they should go and not take up our time. I assured them it had been our pleasure. I asked if she would write down the Russian words for me but she said no, it was their own version and not correct so she didn't want to get it wrong for me. I laughed and asked, "How would we know?"

So -- from Russia, I now know that Katushka is correctly pronounced KATUSHA (no K at the end), and it has words to sing. I'll never forget that woman sobbing at the campsite, clutching at her chest and wailing out the words from a far distant but obviously very dear land.

It's amazing those folks wound their way all through the fairgrounds to park right next to us, and that we would play one tune that would mean so much to her (and therefore to us). Later that weekend the old couple (minus their visitor) returned to park in the same spot for hours, just watching people go by and listening. They thanked me for making such a special memory.

Lynne Ellen Kaiser

Friday night, a couple visited the Silver Strings sponsored jam site. The lady flitted excitedly around, watching one, then another, and another player. The man wandered and watched too, and was equally enthralled by the dulcimer music... including the "hillbilly dulcimer". They had wandered in for the day, and were mesmerized.

They were totally captured by the music, the instruments, the friendliness of everyone, the laughter and love among the musicians there, and the "over-all ambience" of the festival, they spent the night in their car (freezing) so they could experience more the next day, and he even went to the "one-on-one" workshop to learn more. They hoped & prayed they would win the hammered dulcimer, but it did not happen.

Saturday night, they came back to ask if there are instructions for how to build the "hillbilly dulcimer", and we were blessed with the opportunity to get to know them a bit. What a story they had !!!

Two & a half years ago, he was hit head-on by a drunk driver going the wrong way on the expressway. His car rolled many times across the median, and he sustained a very critical head / brain injury. It was 5 ½ months before he could speak. While battling the insurance company, she has had to research and devise their own rehabilitation programs of speech and physical therapy for him. Her research indicates the best therapy for an injury to his "problem part" of the brain involves music. With the help of Silver Strings Dulcimer Society and Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club, they now have a very sweet sounding James Jones 15/14 dulcimer. **After hearing about the couple, Chris & Melanie Foss of "Songbird Dulcimers" DONATED a tuner, tuning wrench, stand, and a beginner book with CDs.** Once again, music and its family rocks!!!! You can all meet them at Midland. They are REALLY excited about joining our group.

Bob Sandi Hlavacek