



Notes from the Soundboard

June 2009

WEBSITE: WWW.SSDSOCIETY.ORG

Issue 290

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Well, another month is in the history book. The ODPC meeting has come and gone and the campout is less than a month away. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the meeting go so well. My compliments go to all the good cooks out there who prepared a delightful meal, and to Carol Ann Matthews who did a terrific job coordinating the lunch. Thanks to all who helped her with the lunch and the clean up. We received many compliments from the ODPC board members and others about the wonderful meal and about how well the whole afternoon went. It was our objective to provide a neutral ground forum where ODPC board members could answer questions many people had about their agenda and about the upcoming Funfest. They covered many topics and answered questions from the audience. I think it was a very productive meeting and the general feeling was that everyone left feeling good about what was accomplished. Several board members told me they were impressed with our group and one was quoted as saying "Silver Strings Rocks".

I would also like to thank the Kaiser family for once again opening up their home to everyone for two nights of jamming and lots of fun!

One last big thanks to all of you who helped make the weekend a success. You folks make our club what it is and all of your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Larry Roper

V.P. PROGRAM NOTES

It's almost here... Silver Strings annual Campout at Myers Lake is just mere weeks away. If you haven't sent in your reservations yet (registration forms can be viewed and printed from our website) and you are planning to attend, be sure to send them in to Myers Lake as soon as possible. Also, if you're planning to join us on Saturday for the catered meal your reservations and money (\$10 for adult/\$5 for children 10 and under) MUST be turned in to Carol Ann Matthews by the June 5th regular club meeting or mailed to Carol Ann Matthews, 42297 Wickfield Court, Canton MI 48187 and received by no later than June 12th. Campout information and the workshop schedules are available for viewing in the April 2009 SSDS newsletter.

Thanks to one and all for turning in your emergency contact information cards. If you haven't already done so, please do.

During the past few months, the club has offered workshops in mandolin and autoharp prior to the regular club meeting at 7pm. If anyone is interested in giving a hammered dulcimer workshop (or any other non-electric instrument) please contact either Janelle Pacic or Carol Ann Matthews so we can make arrangements and schedule these as future workshops.

The summer festival season is nearly upon us. Lets get out there and have fun with our musical family.

Janelle Pacic and Carol Ann Matthews

CAMPOUTS & FESTIVALS ARE HERE !!!

If you would **LOVE** to attend the **SSDS campout** (June 19-21), the **Uncle Carl's campout** (June 26-28), **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 all facilities are very good, but we will even include a flush-potty for nights. Contact Hlavaceks, 734-663-7974 or 734-657-0820.



PLAYDATE MATTERS _____ VP Business

Our April 30 gig for the Annual Volunteer Luncheon at the Farmington Hills Police Dept. went very well. Our group was treated to a great lunch during a break in the performance.

Silver Strings also provided the music for a Mother's Day Program for Baldwin House, an independent living facility in Birmingham on May 8. I believe this was the first time Silver Strings has performed there. We had a great response from the audience. Many people were tapping their toes, "dancing" in their seats, and clapping their hands in rhythm. One lady was moved to dance across the front of the room. At some point in the middle of a tune, the audience gave a loud cheer, as Bob Ewald spun his bass around, without missing a beat. The ladies in the audience went wild over that trick. There were many nice comments after our performance like "You're the best group we've ever had here", "Please come back again". The activities director, Kristen Briggs told me afterward to let our group know how much our music was enjoyed and to thank all of those who played. She also said she wanted to arrange another date for Silver Strings to play at Baldwin House again later this year. We even got fan mail! One of the residents sent this thank you note addressed to "All the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society:

Thank you all so much for your time and talent you so-o-o-o graciously extended to the Baldwin House. As you could hear, it was enjoyed by all. I have a few dulcimer CD's and enjoy them very much. We did so enjoy the Bass Fiddler... quite a showman. Again thank you for your time and effort."

Incidentally, Bob Ewald elicited a lot of laughter from the audience (essentially all women who gathered there to celebrate Mother's Day) and from our Silver Strings group when just after we finished playing our last tune, Kristen was calling out the raffle winners in the audience, and when one winner did not respond, Bob announced loudly "That must have been my ticket number, but I lost my ticket". So I guess we should all wish Bob "Happy Mother's Day".

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

Bert Stein

SONGS for Sunday service at the SSDS

Campout... If you need music, see Janelle or Carol Ann.

G	What A Friend We Have in Jesus
G	I'll Remember You Love in My Prayers
G	I'll Fly Away
G	In the Garden
G	Amazing Grace
D	Simple Gifts
D	Ashgrove
G	Rock of Ages

SSDS June 2009 Play List

Key	Tune	Play
	List for 1 hr gig (June 14)	
G	Red Wing	3
D	Over the Waterfall	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	3
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna / Riding Load Of Hay	3/3
D	Painter's Polka	3
G	God Bless America	3
G	America the Beautiful	3
G	You're a Grand Old Flag	3
G	Battle Hymn of the Republic	3
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
C	Five Foot Two	3
G	January Waltz	3
D	Road to Boston	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
G	Maggie	4
G	I'll Remember You Love, In my Prayers	2
D	Hey Polka	5
D	John Ryan's Polka - All play first time through, then Karen Turner will select series of soloists	???
G	Down Yonder	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3
D/D	Endess Medley (Ragtime Annie, Soldier's Joy, Golden Slippers) Note: June 13 gig, play this at the end	2/2
/D/G		2/2
	Add following tunes for 2 hr (June 13)	
Em	Tamlin	4
G/D	Jamie Allen/Road to Boston	3/3
D	Chinese Breakdown/Nelly Bly	2/3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
D	Smash the Windows	3
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	3
G	Larry's Waltz	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
D	Jenny Lind Polka	3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
G	Southwind	3
Em	Missouri	3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	3
Em	Swallowtail Jig	3
D	Midnight on the Water	3
D	Festival Rag	3
G	Farewell to Whiskey	3
Em	Drunken Sailor	3

DEFINITION OF A MUSIC FESTIVAL...
Fun just waiting to be had !

SECRETARY'S NOTES _____

SSDS Board Meeting Minutes, May 7, 2009

OLD BUSINESS

*Larry said there is a change in the location of our campout to campsite 3, due to a misunderstanding with the booking date, but the park worked with us. We still have use of the barn. In the past, we've had our campout on the 1st weekend in June, and it was changed to Fathers' Day weekend. We can vote to decide which weekend the members want for future bookings. Please make your reservations for the campout. Carol Ann is accepting money for the dinner.

*The ODPC meeting on May 2 was very successful.

*There are still some Holiday CD production issues.

*We still need a SSDS Historian.

*Larry and Bert will continue to research legal issues of putting our music in a PDF file.

*A family plan for membership dues was discussed.

Points to be decided:

What consists of the immediate family

Are grandkids included

What about family living elsewhere

Cut-off age for children.

*Treasurer was absent, but Larry said the account balance is slightly reduced from Variety Night expenses, and the ODPC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

* Marie suggested amplifiers be used for mountain dulcimers. Sometimes our back-up is sparse at playdates, so we can be flexible on this. This can be decided case by case, the member can ask permission to use the amplifier.

* Bert... the June 5 playdate changed to July 10, only 5 signed up for the new date, he will mention this at the general meeting and send out an e-mail asking for players. If no one else signs up, he will reschedule.

*We need to practice the Endless Medley to achieve smoother transitions between songs.

*Sharon Hall suggested a link on our website for O'Carolan, Karen will do so.

*The annual picnic will be August 16 at the German Park in Ann Arbor. Bev Scott

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.

The mailing list is being updated. If you need to have the SOUNDBOARD mailed to you, please notify Sandi at 734-663-7974 or <datadoc@sbcglobal.net>

LEDGER NOTES.....(Treasurer)

"It was exciting to meet fellow folk musicians from ODPC at the potluck/meeting May 2nd who travelled a distance to join us. It was nice to share music and the "horn of plenty" at the table.

The directory is being updated for distribution, so please contact **Gerry Hermans** at **734-676-2324** or **geraldinehermans.yahoo.com** if you have any changes in address, phone or e-mail.

Also, there are about 30 members who have not paid dues. I'll be glad to renew members personally at meetings or by mail. Remember, you must be current to participate in playdates." Gerry Hermans

NEW MEMBER

Kathy Beck.....Ph..(734) 981-0752

43166 Fernwood, Canton, Mi. 48187

E-mail... <kab_4more@yahoo.com

Kathy plays Mountain Dulcimer and mandolin.

Did You Know... "Flowers of Edinburgh"

Flowers of Edinburgh is a familiar, traditional Scottish tune, about 250 years old. Everyone plays it. But behind the, well, flowery name is a rather interesting story, as found in the Flatpick Guitar Magazine, November/December 2008 issue. Supposedly, the "Flowers" are actually a more polite and gentle way of referring to the equally lovely and fragrant sewers. However, as the tunes birth predates that of the sewers, some people theorize that "Flowers" actually meant trash and such thrown into the streets from the windows of houses. Still not the most refined and elegant of subjects. But the song is nice!
Kelly Kaiser, Music Coordinator

JUNE CELEBRATIONS !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3..... Sylvia Casterton

27.... Walt Jablonski

29... Linda Losse

30... Steve Hadley

30... Roger Davis



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

20... Sherry & Morgan Humecky (39th)

SURVIVING THE CORNFIELDS

Recently Carol Ann Matthews, Pat LaPrade and I fearlessly embarked on uncharted territories to the Cornfields of Wapakoneta Ohio. Not knowing what was in store for us, we left the comfort of our homes to seek yet another Music Festival. I have to tell you it was unique. We knew no one there to begin with, but made many friends before we left.

On arrival, we were promptly greeted, and parked the RV. The truth be told, we really were not in the cornfields, but in fact, parked behind the Music Store and only had to walk a short distance to the entrance. All workshops, entertainment and meals were inside this most awesome OLD building. It used to be a school, and the new owners and hosts turned it into a place for lovers of old time music to meet and play music.

We settled in, went to a workshop, had dinner and were entertained with an awesome stage show. After the show we jammed with the most friendly bunch of players you could ever find, led by Rick Thum.

The next morning, we went to our scheduled classes, had lunch, continued with another class, and then had an opportunity to learn about some of the instruments we might like to try. Saturday evening we again were entertained, sang along, and had a great time of laughter and good music. Of course, we participated in another jam.

The Sunday morning Gospel service was a very intimate and wonderful sing-along. We all felt we were a part of that service.

The organization FOTMC (Famous Old Time Music Company) really provided a rousing good time for all with musical entertainment and skits. They were the best hosts! The Friends of FOTMC are so talented!

"Thumbs Up" and Famous name talent there to entertain and teach us included Maureen Sellers, Wanda Degen, Gary Sager, Guy George, Joe Steiner, Louise Ziegler, Chris Cooperider, Don Thompson, Mary Jo Ward and Rick Thum. They, along with FOTMC did a bang up job for their First Annual Dulcimers in the Cornfield Festival. Carol Ann, Pat and I give this new festival a big hope you will put it on your calendar for next spring.

Linda Osgood

No-one ever said on their death bed, "I wish I hadn't made so much music".

Gwyn Besner

Don't let a day go by without making somebody happy with your music.

Pat Hesselgrave



If ANYONE can figure out a new way to play an instrument, it has to be a Kaiser. Greg Kaiser and (cousin), Ben Catt demonstrated the "hammered guitar" on Variety Night, to the delight of the audience. You can see Ben on U-Tube playing his dulcimer with varied household items, such as spoons, Lego Blocks, chopsticks, and more.

SCHEDULE FOR SSDS CAMPOUT

From Program V.Ps....Janelle & Carol Ann

Here is the tentative schedule for the campout (Saturday June 20)

FRIDAY ...6:pm – Potluck dinner, jam follows

SATURDAY

8:30-9:30 am....Breakfast (pancakes, sausage, Juice, coffee & tea) Bring your mug. Bob & Sandi Hlavacek hosts, help gladly accepted.

10-11:am.....Marie Naster (M.D. workshop)

11-Noon.....Karen Turner & Linda Losse (H. D. workshop)

Noon-1:pm..LUNCH (not provided by SSDS)

1- 2:pm.....Pennye Scheiber (H. D. workshop)

2-3:pm.....Sharon McCauliffe (H. D. workshop)

3-4:45pm.....Slow Jam in the pavillion by the lake (Karen T. & Linda L.)

3-4:pm.....Theresa Smith (Uke workshop)

4 -5:pm.....Walt Jablonski and Heavy Breathers (Harmonica workshop)

6:pm.....Catered dinner

SUNDAY 10:am lakeside service, (9:30 players)

While researching Medieval music & instruments, this was one of many discoveries I thought I would share.

Sandi Hlavacek, Soundboard editor



The Dulcimer (Hackbrett)

In English-speaking countries, dulcimer (or *dowcemere*, *dulcimor*, *dulcimur*, *doucemelle*, *doulcemelle*, *dolcimela*, or *dolcema*, all from *dulce melos*, Greek for *sweet sound*) was the name given to the type of psaltery or box zither which had a trapezoidal soundboard and which was played by striking the strings with hammers. In areas around Germany, the term was Hackbrett (or *hackbrad*, *hackbrade*, *hakkebrett*, or *hakkebord*) meaning chopping board or chopping block.

The King James translation of the Bible occasionally translates *nebel* as dulcimer, but the ancient Hebrews didn't have a dulcimer as we know it from the Middle Ages. A 12th century ivory book-cover made in Byzantium contains oldest known evidence of the typical trapeziform instrument with lateral strings. Then no other dulcimer representation is found until the middle of the 1400's, when the instrument was introduced to Western Europe. Shortly thereafter, dulcimers were found in Germany, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Bohemia, Flanders, northern France and England.

Dulcimers often had one or two bridges over which the strings crossed providing the opportunity for more pitches because the performer could strike a sound on each side of the bridge. In 15th century images, dulcimers had single courses of six to nine strings and were played on the lap or on a table. The hammers seem to be held between the index and middle fingers. A century later, the multiple bridges were more common, with between eight and twelve double courses. A neck strap could be used for portability. Soundboards were commonly decorated.

While images portray the dulcimer held by angels and individuals of the upper classes, Gerhard de Jode portrayed it in 1600 along with the hurdy-gurdy and bagpipe. In 1609 a dulcimer was recorded along with a violin in a ship's log in Jamestown, Virginia.

