

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

April 2010

26 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2009

Issue 300

Website : www.silverstrings.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER _____ Larry Roper

What an exciting and rewarding month March was. The Saint Patrick's Day playdates went very well. Folks continue to tell us how much they enjoy our performances. The Saint Patrick's performances were fun and offered an opportunity for a little Irish humor. Bob Hlavacek did a good job bringing out laughter at the performances with some jokes he told. We teased Bob about the Saint Patrick's playdate last year when he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Being the good sport he is, he told that story to the audience at the Maple Heights performance and at the end he wished everyone a Happy Saint Patrick's Day and a Happy Thanksgiving. Thanks for the laughs Bob.

We have replenished our supply of our traditional CDs with an additional 1000 copies. The profits we made from CD sales last year provided more than enough to cover production costs. This supply should last for a few years. When we get closer to the end of the year, we may look into ordering more of the Holiday CDs. We still have about 500 copies, but I expect we will possibly sell 200 to 300 copies by the end of the year. The write-off would save tax money, and the incoming board would have a good inventory. We'll look at that later and decide at that time.

Once again, I thank you all for your cooperation and attention at our meetings. I know our business meetings before break can get boring, but it is important for everyone to be informed about what's going on with the club and what your board is doing. I also know we've all attended noisy and chaotic meetings and jams that made it difficult to hear what is said and annoying to those who came to play. You guys have been absolutely wonderful. I appreciate that more than you know. It makes it easier for me and fun for all. Years ago I was taking management training in Houston Texas, and my instructor gave me a little poem that I remember to this day:----->

NOTES FROM PROGRAM VPs _____

Hello again Silver Stringers, and welcome Spring!!! What turned out to be a really long, cold Winter seems to be over. . . finally (*sigh of relief*). Now it's time to turn our thoughts to the fun and music filled tradition we call the **Annual Silver Springs Dulcimer Society Campout at Myers Lake Campground** in Byron Michigan. The 2010 campout will be June 11-13. Details are on page #6. We have reserved two group campsites this year, and have again booked the great Elegant Catering for Saturday night dinner. **(signup sheets for set up and clean up helpers will be put out at club meetings starting in May)**

The registration form for the Myers Lake Campground will be on the SSDS website and attendees must send their deposits directly to Myers Lake to reserve campsites. The cost is \$30 per night for camp sites with 30 amp service (only twelve are available, in Area 3). Group Area 2 sites have 20-amp service for \$27 per night. Cabin Rentals require a minimum two-night stay at \$70 per night (4 cabins total, and currently only one cabin is available). Plan to attend this fun and memorable event.

VARIETY NIGHT is once again upon us. Thursday April 29th, your M.C. will be none other than our own "Perky Peggy" Kustra. Let's have a big turnout and a record-breaking number of spectacular acts (does anyone know what the record is?) As always, pizza, salad and beverages will be provided by the club. (Desserts are requested from our *incredible* bakers).

Janelle Pacic & Carol Ann Matthews

April tune of the month **MORRISON'S JIG.**

*A wise old owl sat in an oak
The more he heard, the less he spoke
The less he spoke, the more he heard
Why aren't we like that wise old bird?*

Yikes - It's been a very busy and great month! On March 7 we gave a concert that was part of the Lyell Lindsey Fine Arts Series at the First United Methodist Church of Ferndale. Karen Turner played a Webster hammered dulcimer that she had purchased from that Church, that had special significance for the very responsive, appreciative audience. We received a standing ovation after our performance, and the next day the contact person, Sue Shuller (a good violinist by the way), sent the following email: "Hi, Bert. I just wanted to thank you and the group again for your wonderful performance yesterday. It was truly a delightful afternoon, and we all enjoyed it so much!"

The rest of the gigs in March were celebrations of St. Patrick's Day. On March 11, we played for the Knights of Columbus Hall in Lincoln Park for the Downriver Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. We loved playing for this lively group. A number of people got up and danced to our music. Many people expressed their thanks afterward, and the comments were great... including "On a scale of 1 to 10, your group was a 15!" and "We've had people performing for us here for the past 26 years, and your group was the best ever". We sold 21 CD's there. Please check out the beautiful letter on the next page that was sent to me by Maryeileen Hogan, the contact person for that gig. On March 16, we played for a great, very lively and large group at the Wayne-Westland Senior Club in Westland. There was a good-sized dance floor there and quite a number of people got up and danced to our music. One of the memorable moments was when Bob Hlavacek introduced the tune "Dancing Bear" and commented "That's spelled B-E-A-R", and someone in the audience shouted out "Oh Damn!" The next day (March 17, St. Patrick's Day) we played for the Inn at Cass Lake in Waterford. We had a great time and it was very clear that the audience did too. The activities director, Julie Turnes, a "dynamite" person, had originally called me in February, sounding panicked, because the band she had hired for St. Patrick's Day had just backed out. She was just out of the hospital after surgery, was telling me how much she loved working with the people in the retirement community, and how she couldn't wait (as she had been ordered to do), so she had her husband drive her down to the Inn at Cass Lake to reconnect with the people she loved so much. I told her, as I've done with quite a number of the great people I've dealt with in arranging our gigs, how lucky their residents are to have a person who cares so much about them. She was delighted with our performance and said she would be contacting us to play for their Christmas celebration in December. Larry Roper approached another interesting couple after our performance, because they were obviously having such a great time. They were heartily cheering after each of our tunes, and they turned out to not be residents of the Inn at Cass Lake, but they had seen us play in Ferndale on March 7, and had enjoyed the concert there so much. They checked out our website, saw that we were playing again at the Inn at Cass Lake later in the month, and they came just to see us play again. Another sidelight: Bob Niemzcewski, who was really cranking out a lot of good sound from his bass, had a string break with a loud snap toward the end of the performance. Larry, around the same time, had one of his suspenders let go with such vigor that it nearly wiped out the person standing behind him. When Karen Turner asked Larry to stand up during his solo on John Ryan's Polka, he responded that he couldn't because he was afraid his pants would fall down. On March 19, we played for American House in Royal Oak. We loved it! The audience loved it! After the gig, Angie, the activities director, had tears as she thanked us for our performance. She said "Thank you so much - The residents love your group. There is a very special connection here (between Silver Strings and the residents) - such wonderful energy". To end the great month of March, we played at Maple Heights Retirement Community. It was terrific, with lots of great feedback during and after our performance.

Many thanks to all of the musicians who have played for our gigs and done such a great job! I'm blown away by your energy and dedication and everything you pour into making each of these gigs a success. Again, please read the letter from Maryeileen Hogan on page 3 for a greater appreciation of the meaning of all of this. **Bert Stein**



The Allen Park Maple Heights Retirement Community is a very special place for us. We never have a shortage of players wanting to entertain, and the audience is always warm and receptive. At right, Bob Hlavacek leads them enthusiastically in their "HEY Polka" participation.



Mark your Calendar

APRIL

- 2.....SSDS Playdate.....2:30-3:30pm
Heartland Health Ctr.....Canton
- 15.... **MUSICAL GARAGE SALE @ SSDS JAM**
- 22....SSDS Playdate.....8:30-10:am
Van Buren Twp. Seniors.....Van Buren Twp.

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 TerraceHome.....Riverview

March 14, 2010

Dear Bert Stein,

My house slippers are worn out from dancing throughout the house while playing your Traditional CD.

With multiple family in Ireland and from Ireland, Celtic music is in my history and blood. However, none like the likes you gifted musicians created for us!

Your music is certainly entertaining, but it is so much more. It is truly a ministry. You bring warmth and compassion visible in the friendships you share with each other that is peace filled and healing.

Our members felt that, as they continue to call me with their appreciation for you. Thank you for coming. May you be blessed as you so abundantly bless others.

Maryeileen Hogan

Volunteer Coordinator and Treasurer

Downriver Assn. for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Inc.



**Happiness is a voyage, not a destination.
There is no better time to be happy than NOW**

**Join a playdate!
Share the fun !!**

"Bloom wherever you are planted."

2010 APRIL PLAY LIST

Key	Tune	Play
List of tunes for 1 hour gigs		
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Red Wing	3 *
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Smash the Windows	3
G	Maggie	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Young Jane	3 *
D	Over the Waterfall	3
A	Red Haired Boy	3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
D	Ashgrove	3 *
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/Riding Load Hay	3/3
D	John Ryan's Polka (Karen chooses)	5
G	Flowers of Edinburgh	3 *
D	Midnight on the Water	3 *
G	Down Yonder	3
D	Hey Polka	5
D	Painter's Polka	3
G	I'll Remember You Love in My Prayers	3 *
D/D	Endless Medley:	2/2
D/G	Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (If longer than 1 hour, skip & use as final)	2/2
Add for 1.5 hour long gigs		
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
D	Festival Rag	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3 *
G	March of St. Timothy	3
C	Five Foot Two	4
G	Bellman's Jig	3
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	3
G	Larry's Waltz	3 *
D/D	Endless Medley:	2/2
D/G	Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (If longer than 1.5 hours, skip & use as final)	2/2
Extra Tunes		
G	January Waltz	3*
D	Swinging on a Gate	3
D	Saint Anne's Reel	3
D	Nancy	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3*
* For cycle 2: (HD's back off) Feature fiddles, harmonicas..		

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The March board meeting was cancelled because too many board members were not available. The next scheduled board meeting is April 1st at 6:pm.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU _____ Linda Osgood

I am Linda Osgood, your current Silver Strings treasurer. I was born and raised in Detroit Michigan. My Dad was a door to door bakery delivery man and Mom stayed home with me and my sister. I began music lessons at the age of 8 on the accordion at the Callahan Music Studio and even played on a TV Show in Canada with other children from the group. As I grew, I took lessons on the classical guitar for many years, and moved on to the autoharp, hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, and now the mandolin... would you believe it?

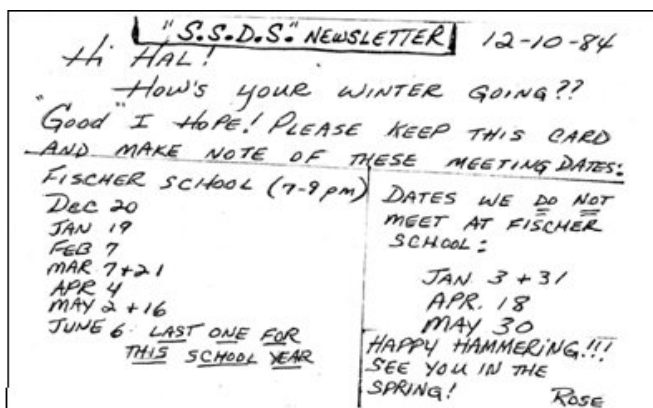
I married in 1962 and have 4 grown daughters, three grandsons, a wonderful husband (Ed), and 6 horses, on a small farm in Superior Township. Ed and I have been involved in Standard bred Horse Racing since 1982. We both worked full time jobs while racing and training horses nights and weekends. I have been retired for four years, after a 20 year career as a life insurance representative. I still have the love for the horses. Currently Ed and I have 2 race horses in training, along with two others, plus 2 handsome quarter horses that we use for trail riding. Some of you met them when we invited Silver Strings out to our home last fall.

I am an avid reader and have belonged to a book group for over seven years. I am very involved in my church, heading up a prayer shawl ministry and enjoying my Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group. My friend, Jane Chevalier, played her hammered dulcimer one Sunday at Church. I was so enamored with it, and asked her so many questions afterward about it, that I decided to blow the dust off the Oscar Schmidt hammered dulcimer that I had wanted to play for many years. Jane graciously gave me some lessons on it, and invited me to Silver Strings one evening. 3½ years later, here I am. It has become a real joy and an integral part of my life. I have met new friends, learned new music, performed in playdates, and even joined the new Mtn. Dulcimer group called the Mountaineers. As I look back, I can't imagine life without my horses, the music, and all of the friends I have met at Silver Strings. Your patience and encouragement makes me want to think...so many instruments with so little time. Don't be surprised if I come with another instrument someday soon! Ed and I love camping and going to festivals. We hope to see you at some of them. HAPPY TRAILS!

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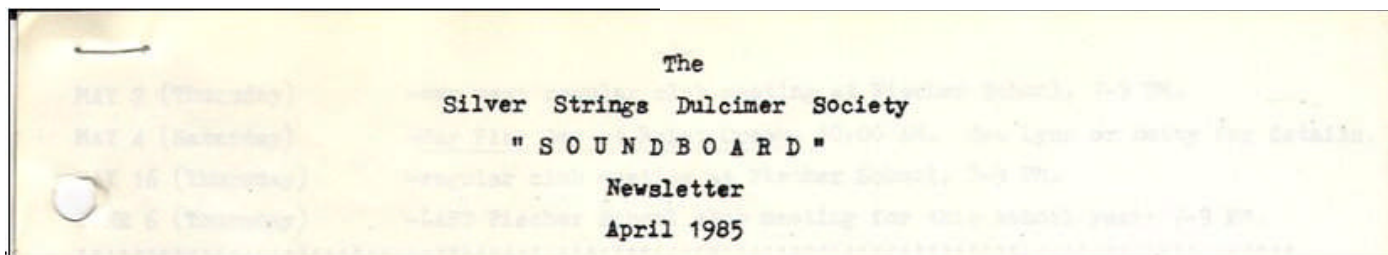
NOTES FROM THE SOUNDBOARD

The first Silver Strings communications were post cards, written by hand and sent to all 24 members each month by Rose Hines in 1984. The first one is shown below. In April of 1985, Rose hand typed, named, and mailed the first issue of the official "Soundboard" newsletter to the 44 members. That header is also shown below. Over the years, the job of producing the Soundboard has been passed through 12 people. Rose Hines, Jim McKinney, Sue Tanner, Linda Adams, Robb Pilkerton, Mary & Stan Finn, Penny Scheiber, Marie Naster, Karen Missavage, Karl Malwitz and Sandi Hlavacek have all contributed to the evolution of the newsletter you see today.



After many changes in its 25 years, this is the 300th issue of the Silver Strings "Soundboard" newsletter, which is now distributed to our 151 dues-paid members and the world, primarily through our internet website. This has saved a lot of paper, and printing and postage costs.

Regretfully, it has been decided that due to combined expense considerations and lack of volunteer support, this will also be the **last** Soundboard issue. I do hope you have enjoyed the club news, the educational articles, the tidbits of poetry and humor, and the many, many photos of club activities. I am proud to serve this rare club, which is open to all, regardless of age, sex, race, musical expertise, or any other thing that makes one unique or special. As to this being the **last issue**, I wish you all April Fool. Gotcha !!!



PURSE STRINGS _____ (Treasurer)

Hello Fellow "Jammers".

I'm happy to report that we are continuing to have a record year as far as our CD sales go. Our bank account is growing even after paying our favorite "Uncle Sam" his due. Our additional copies of our original CD have also been paid for.....I just feel so good paying everybody's bills !!!

While on the subject of membership, I'm sending a friendly reminder for those who haven't paid their dues for 2010. One of my goals as your treasurer is to see our membership fully paid !!! Please see me after any meeting...
Linda Osgood

NEW MEMBER

Paula Storm Canton, Mi

Paula plays Hammered Dulcimer, Flute, Tambourine

LET'S CELEBRATE !!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1..... Alice Avery
- 1..... Larry Roper
- 7..... Jack Mullins
- 10... Luke Kawecki
- 13... Bill Deighton
- 27... Jason Yanity
- 28.... Marsha Kozlowski



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 9.....Marlin & Carol Harmon

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. See Larry Roper if you would be willing to share your skills.

Orders are being accepted for new SSDS Polo shirts & jackets with the new Silver Strings logo. Green or white shirts are \$19.95 (XS-XL), \$21.25 (2XL) and \$23.96 (men's 3-4XL). Green hooded jackets are \$35.95 (XS-XL), \$39.95 (2XL), \$41.95 (3XL) and \$43.95 (4XL). Your name can be embroidered on a jacket front for additional \$4.50. Order forms are available at meetings or from the website. Please make your checks payable to Carol Ann Matthews. (734-981-5675 for more info.)

CONCERTS FESTIVALS & WORKSHOPS

Ben Catt.....Dulcimer at Hill Auditorium

The U of M Men's Glee Club is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year, with a special concert on Sat. **April 10 at 8 p.m. at Hill Auditorium.** This concert has a special twist for dulcimer lovers! Ben Catt will be featured as solo dulcimer player on stage, **in a TUX**, performing two tunes with the Men's Choir. Composed by hammered dulcimer composer/player Malcolm Dalglish, the tunes will feature Ben and the the U of M Glee Club. The tunes, especially "My Little Potato", should be a real treat. Tickets are \$15 for main floor and mezzanine, balcony \$5 with student ID.

North American Int'l. Banjo Convention

(Formerly Glib) April 29, 30 & May 1, 2010

Join to launch the newest Annual Banjo Event

Workshops Jamming, Concerts, Vendors

Lots for the whole family to do!

Advance tickets \$8 / \$10 At the door

The Doubletree Hotel

5801 Southfield (at Ford Rd.), Dearborn, Mi
Reservations 313-336-3340 (mention Banjo)

Register via internet at: www.nailbanjo.com

Forms are located on the musicians' page
Fee includes all activities

Brian Newsome (chair) 248-756-5061

Brian.newsom11@gmail.com

Sherry Humecky (registration) 248-348-0066

Naibc.registration@yahoo.com

Canada call Pat Bury at 519-944-0390

Musiclady72@msn.com

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

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 three spots open 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



Ernie Stewart, Luke Kawecki and Pennye Schieber represent SSDS

News from 'Buckeye'Ernie Stewart

QUESTION: Why should you attend the annual BUCKEYE FESTIVAL in Ashley, Ohio next year?

- A. Very affordable- \$255 (includes 11 meals, 4 nights lodging, 10 hours instruction on your instrument, plus all nightly concerts).
- B. . Nightly JAMS led by instructors for all levels of players from beginners to advanced levels- FUN !
- C. 4 introduction workshops included to try a new folk instrument of your choice.
- D. . A chance to meet and learn with other folk music lovers in a relaxed atmosphere.
- E. . All of the above.

We know the answer to this question because we attend this festival every Spring. Do you want to join us next year, March 9-13, 2011? Need a ride? You can car pool with us. Next year will feature 10 hours of instruction at all levels on the Mountain and Hammer Dulcimers, Autoharp, Fiddle, Clawhammer Banjo, Pennywhistle, and Band-It where you can learn to play with other instruments in a group for performances. Don't see your instrument listed ? If it's a folk acoustic instrument, someone will be there with that same instrument too, enjoying the JAMS, concerts, and fun.

SILVER STRINGS 9th ANNUAL CAMPOUT

The festivities begin Friday, with the potluck dinner to start around 6pm with jamming to follow under the "silver" tents or in the barn (depending on weather).

Saturday morning we'll have a pancake breakfast provided by the club. Workshops / Musical Sessions will follow. This year, they include Hammered Dulcimer with Pennye Scheiber, Mountain Dulcimer with Marie Naster, autoharp led by Theresa and Dave Smith (?) and melody / counter melody workshop with Pennye Scheiber, Karen Turner, Linda Losse, Janelle Pacic and Carol Ann Matthews. The Saturday night catered meal will be at 5pm... \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 3-10. After dinner and cleanup, we will have **more music...Music unplugged !**

The campout ends Sunday morning with a lakeside worship service. SSDS provides music before, during and after the service. Music packets will be provided for players. It's a beautiful way to end a fun & music filled weekend. Plan to attend. Registration form is on the website www.silverstrings.com. **Note:** The Silver Strings Campout is ALWAYS open to non-club members and **everyone is welcomed to attend.**



Ferndale First United Methodist Church

"Show & Tell time" is an important part of the after concert experience. That's when we invite people up close to learn about our instruments. Below, Karen Turner is playing the dulcimer she purchased from the church.



(below) Ernie Stewart with Tim & Amy Murphy, two of our most recent additions to the SSDS performance group.

