

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

July 2015

32 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC July 1983-2015

Issue 363

Website : www.silverstrings.org

PRESIDENTS REPORT _____ Harold Crane

Greetings everyone,

Summer is here at last, warm weather, travel, cookouts, camping, baseball, boating, golf, outdoor music, farmer's market, festivals and lots of other enjoyable things to do. Our Meyers Lake Campout was a big success and was well attended and enjoyed by everyone. There was lots of socializing around the campground and jamming under the canopy on Friday and Saturday during the day and in the barn in the evenings. We had some great workshops presented by our members, a wonderful "Famous Bob's" pancake and sausage breakfast on Saturday morning and a potluck dinner on Saturday that had over 75 people. A real BIG THANKS to all the volunteers for their time and effort especially Maureen and Wade for the prep and cleanup of the potluck dinner. A small group played at the Sunday Service which was held in the barn and after had a nice lunch before heading home.

I'm really looking forward to the ODPC Evart Funfest on July 16-18 and SSDS playing onstage for the grandstand audience, all the workshops, the jams and all the friendly people. We also have a couple of SSDS playdates in July in Northville and our Variety Night on July 30th.

Other good news is the air conditioner at Good Hope Church has been replaced (almost \$8,000) and the SSDS board voted to donate \$500 plus our member donations to help the church with their bills.

See ya soon, Harold

V.P. BUSINESS NOTES _____

Ann Wassell

One of the tunes we have introduced into the play list is "You're a Grand Old Flag". Since I knew that George M. Cohan wrote this song for a stage musical, I was interested to learn when the play, 'George Washington, Jr.', was first performed and what the background was for the lyrics of this tune.

"You're a Grand Old Flag" is an American patriotic march - a tribute to the American flag. It was first publicly performed on February 6, 1906, at Herald Square Theater in New York City. It quickly became the first song from a musical to sell over a million copies of sheet music. The title and first lyric comes from someone Cohan once encountered, a Civil War veteran who fought at Gettysburg. Cohan noticed the vet held a carefully folded but ragged old flag. The man reportedly turned to Cohan and said, "She's a grand old rag".

In the play itself, the scene with the Civil War soldier was replicated and the soldiers comment was the lead-in to this song. The original song began "You're a grand old rag/ You're a high-flying flag". There were major objections to calling the flag a "rag", so the lyrics were changed to "You're a grand old flag/ You're a high-flying flag..."

This tune is still a great tribute to those men and women in the Armed Forces today. We play it with verve and spirit!

SECRETARY'S NOTES _____

Mick Mastal

Minutes for the last meeting are on file.

What are you playing? What is the name of that tune?

Have you caught yourself asking this? We are moving into the season of festivals, campouts and all kinds of opportunities for music. While it is unrealistic to make every new tune a tune of the month, I think we all benefit in jams and other playing opportunities if we are at least familiar with the "latest" hot tunes, the ones that are in the "top 40." If they catch on with our club, they can be added somewhere down the road to our own list. To that end, I will share with you anything that seems to be one of those types of tunes so you can work on it and be ready to join a jam with anybody.

Marsha

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

BIRTHDAYS

4....Regis Proulx
5....Karen Turner
9....Janelle Pacic
10...Frank Surhigh
14...Sally Niemczewski
14...Richard Rowe
17...John McAuliffe
20...Ramona Hadley
22...Margie Meinzinger



ANNIVERSARIES

11...Roger & Barb Davis.....56th
8....Dave and Margie Meinzinger.....48th

From the VP PROGRAMS Wade Mullins
with Maureen Mullins

We wanted to acknowledge and thank everyone who pitched in and made the Myers Lake Campout such a success. We had a lot of help both in front and behind the scenes to make it all happen. If you ran a workshop, cooked breakfast, helped clean up, made coffee or just gave encouragement please know how much it was noticed and appreciated.

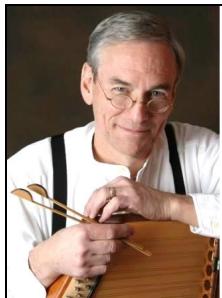
We had a large number of campers and many people who just came for the day. Some came all three days and didn't camp at all. We sent out invitations to other groups and many chose to attend and all seemed to enjoy the weekend (minus "a little" rain). We did a head count of the dinner line Saturday evening and we had approximately 75 people in line, so a much larger turnout than last year and with any luck we'll have even more next year.

We would like to encourage people to make advance reservations next year when the dates are announced. We had several people who were unable to get the hookups that they needed because the large trailer area was full. Jon, who runs Myers Lake Campground, asked us to remind everyone that they are available all summer for your camping enjoyment and would like to encourage us to camp with them whenever possible.

Upcoming dates to keep in mind:

ODPC Evert Funfest is July 16 – 19
Silver Strings Picnic – Garden City Park,
Thursday August 6th

Still time for two great workshops



Rick Thum A to Z class still has room for you. Mon. July 13 – Wed. July 15. Over 20 hours of class time. \$175. Contact Rick at rthum@rthum.com or 314-406-0690 or go to his website www.rthum.com to sign up.

FROM THE TREASURER'S BOX__Terry Kozlowski

June Report

GOOD HOPE AIR CONDITIONING

We are happy to have AC back at the church. This was a very expensive expenditure for this little congregation. It was decided at the June meeting to make a \$500 donation to help defray their costs. Individual donations were accepted at that meeting and at the jam on the 18th. Between the group and individual contributions over \$1100 (money is still coming in) will be given to help our host church. Thank you, everyone, for your gracious generosity.

There was a question at June's meeting as to what the club spends its money on. The biggest expense each year is the Banquet. Other regular costs are (1) Myers Lake in June and (2) the picnic in August and (3) costs for Variety Night (pizza and salad). There are usually four variety nights each year. As always, if you would like to see the breakdown for these, please see me and I would be happy to show you the books.

**Note: The consensus at the June meeting was to dispense with member gifts this year. We will still have the banquet at Corsi's (everyone liked the food and venue).

HATS AND T-SHIRTS: Hat and T-Shirts are still available; eight hats, T-shirts – sizes: S, M, L and XL. Cost: \$10 each. We like to wear these at our Evart performance. If you plan to play there and don't have a club shirt, see me. We have plenty of shirts. We encourage people to wear them at our events, gigs (where dress is business casual), other musical events or just about any time. It is good advertising for Silver Strings.

NEW MEMBERS: I am happy to announce we have a new member, Maureen. She is Terry Treppa's sister. I don't have all her information yet – but can tell you she plays ukulele. So watch for her and welcome her to our club.

MYERS LAKE: Thank you to those who donated to the cost of the breakfast and dinner at Myers Lake. Maureen and Wade did an excellent job on the potluck and Bob Hlavacek and his crew were dubbed "breakfast meisters". There was a great turnout and plenty to eat.



Stephen Seiphert and Bing Futch are teaching a mountain dulcimer 3-day at the Twin Oaks Bowling Center & Lounge in Evart, MI, July 13-15, just before the ODPC FunFest. Registration is open. For details, please visit: <http://bingandsteve.com>

Music Coordinator Notes _____ Marsha Koslowski

Looking ahead – It was at Myers Lake last year that your Board sat down for a brief meeting to look ahead for the rest of the year. We knew that Marie had limited time and wanted to make the most of her experience and desire to be an integral part of the club. One of the things we talked about was elections and who might be a candidate for 2015's board. Mick and Terry were willing to stay one for another year. Karen knew she would step down. I was on the fence. That meant that 2, if not 3 people had to be found to serve on the SSDS board. Even though elections were not until the fall, we felt we needed to identify and encourage people to offer their talent and time to the club so there would not be a scramble at the last minute and we could explain, encourage and nurture those who might be good board members for our club. That goal was achieved at the 11th hour, but it was achieved.

It is not too early to think about this. This year there will be at least 4 positions to fill: Mick and Terry have served two years and cannot continue in their present positions. Ann is going to step down from Business VP. And Wade will be stepping down from his position. If you would consider a position, talk to one of them, they will explain what the duties are. If you would be willing to help and run as a team with another person, let them know that. A team approach takes some of the burden off one person. If you think that a person would be good at something, let them know and encourage them to consider running. Support from fellow club members can make the difference.

As I said last year, the club could run with only 3 board members: President, Secretary and Treasurer. However the club would change drastically. Playing gigs would stop. Newer members may not be aware but half of the money earned from gigs goes to the club. The remainder is split among the players present at a gig. The annual events may or may not continue.

I am taking the Fifth – No, not of Whiskey – that came before Breakfast. I am talking about the Finale to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. There was a nice group of people at the Myers Lake workshop who want to tackle this (as well as Vivaldi's Spring). It was agreed each would work on this with our group and return next year for a "rehearsal". If it works out, I hope we can perform either or both at Evart. Wouldn't that be cool? That is my dream and actually, nobody thought I was crazy or had had too much of a fifth when I shared my hopes. SSDS people will gather again August 6th at 5:45 to work on this. There is improvement each time and it seems a different group is present. We will review the Beethoven piece and start on the Vivaldi.



To print the July play list,

please click on our website or this link :
<http://www.silverstrings.org/sections/tunes/pdf/2015/JuneJulyPlaylist.pdf>

Silver Strings June-July 2015 Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Red Wing	3*
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Over The Waterfall	3
D	Sandy River Belle	3
G	Maggie	3
G	Down Yonder	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3*
D	John Ryan's Polka	5
G	Southwind	3*
D	Snake River Reel	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Silver and Gold Two Step	3
D	Turkey in the Straw	3
C	Black Velvet Waltz	3*
D	Beaumont Rag	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
Em	Dancing Bear/Missouri	2/2
C	Five Foot Two	3
Em	Tamlan	4
D	Liberty	3
C	You're A Grand Old Flag	3
Extras		
D	Hey Polka	3
	*2 nd time: If instruments are available-- Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistle take it with backup; HD's softly	

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Music:

We have been given permission, by several composers, to play their music in our club. We also pay for a license that allows us to play some of our favorite tunes. We want to protect our Silver Strings members and respect the composers who have generously shared their music with us. In consideration of the composers and SSDS, do not sell, copy, give away or share any of our Silver Strings music.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY

4....**PLAYDATE**C.... 11:30am-2:30pm
Mill Race Village (Civil War Camp). .Northville
8....**PLAYDATE**C12:00-4:00
Country Garden Club Northville

16-19...**ODPC EVART FUNFEST**

30..**SILVER STRINGS VARIETY NIGHT**

AUGUST

6....**SILVER STRINGS PICNIC**

and all day jam at Garden City Park

C=Casual, BC=Business Casual

Evart Dulcimer Fest

Hi everyone, just an update on the Evart tunes. They have been narrowed down to the following 5:

**Tommy's Waltz
Shoes & Stockings
Spanish Two Step
Ten Strike
Sandy Boys***

*Sandy Boys is still rough, but many want to do this because it is not heard a lot at Evart and is different. So please give this one some focus. The key to the tune is its syncopation. If you have a metronome, you could practice with it so that you are holding the tied and dotted notes the right length. Start out slow until you have mastered the syncopation. Then speed up until you can play at the peppy tempo. We haven't given up on this but want to play it well.

If you are planning to play at Evart but have not let me know yet, please send me an email so I have a guess. This does not lock you in nor does it mean that if you don't let me know, you can't play. It is merely a way to help me figure the seating so we get on and off the stage smoothly.

♪♪ Practice ♪♪

It was suggested that we use July 2 to practice before the regular jam (**6:15**). If you are in town and plan to play at Evart, please come. Practicing as a group helps our starts and staying together.

Evart Practice Wed. night at 5:30 - we will go through the tunes and make any last minutes adjustments. The place will be the SSDS pop up tent.

Thurs. night at 6:00 - again we will go through the tunes and make sure we have it together.

It is unlikely that all of you can make all the practices, but make what you can. Thanks for your support of the club and your enthusiasm to play. Let's do a good show!

Marsha

Performance is 6:40 p.m. on Thurs. We will need to be behind the stage at 6:30.

As president-elect of the **Paint Creek Folklore Society (PCFS)**, I wanted let you all know about the PCFS and invite you, to check us out in Rochester. The group typically meets on the first Saturday of the month from Sept through June, and has an annual picnic on the Saturday closest to July 4th. Your first visit is free, annual membership dues are \$40 (\$10 per gathering for non-members). The meeting location is in Rochester at Lawnridge Hall, part of University Presbyterian Church, 1385 South Adams Road (about a mile North of M-59).

Starting in September, 2015, we are re-establishing an instrumental jam (from 6-7pm for now) in addition to all the other fine activities. For many years there was an active jam, but for various reasons, it has faded out. However, there is renewed interest, so I wanted to get the word out and give folks in the Rochester area an opportunity to start jamming, and hopefully, stick around for the Presentation and the Song Swap and late jam/singing. We'll be starting with some slow jams to get the uninitiated oriented to the tunes and jamming in general - we'll probably tend to use tunes from the Ruffwater Fakebook for a while. We've got lots of Guitars, but we could sure use some more instruments to help carry the melody!

Here's a bit more about PCFS:

Folk music and other folk arts, like dance, storytelling, and crafts are not always about tradition. Folk arts are made by, for, and about ordinary people. We learn about, preserve, and enjoy the best of the past, and add to the storehouse of experience and expression that future generations will hopefully enjoy. We have a lot of members who enjoy listening – you have to have an audience! Other members are instrumentalists, singers, songwriters, storytellers, dancers, historians, and poets. Some of us are performers, from beginner to professional. We are all volunteers and we all participate in some way.

For more information please check out our website at <http://www.paintcreekfolkloresociety.org/>.

Music at Myers Lake

The weather was cool but that did not stop the approximately 75+ people from having a good time. From a musical perspective, I am grateful for those who led workshops and jams. There were some guests there for the first time and the warm hospitality of Silver Strings made them feel at home. We had an audience in the barn and attempted some requests, got them going with Hey Polka and their enthusiastic applause was delightful.

Before we got to Myers Lake, I wondered if this event's time had passed. It seemed like people were ho-hum about it and the turnout would not be worth the work it took to put it together. Was I wrong! Each campsite (we had reserved 15) was filled and some who thought they could just come and set up – found they did not get the site they wanted. There were a great number of day campers (Dawn Hayes came all the way down from up north) and all in all, music did not stop.

Jamming with folks from other groups brought catchy tunes to play. (I copied one that seemed very popular and will probably be played a lot at Evart – Schottische du Stockfish. If you want a copy of this, let me know and I will send it to you.) If you were at the last variety night, then you have heard it. Village Strings played it that night.

There was a very positive response to the Beethoven experiment and some goals set for next year (we'll be back!)

Karen's harmonica jam challenged us HD players to play in C – every tune.

Jeff Despard's original tunes were well received and I thank him for sharing them. (Look for it to come to you in official SSDS look very soon.)

Theresa Smith and Linda Osgood led their respective workshops, gaining some new players.

Listening, watching and in conversation with members and guests, I already have some ideas for next year's event. If you were there, hope you had a good time. If not, well, hopefully there will be next year at Myers' Lake.

Marsha

FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-JAMS

UNCLE CARL'S DULCIMER CLUB

2nd Saturday of month, Sept thru May, 12:30-4:30pm
(next is Sept 12th)

For info. call Pennye 517-547-7448

NETTLE LAKE MUSIC JAM

First Saturday of Month Sept thru May – 6pm
(next is Oct 3rd)

For info contact Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870

MAUMEE STREET MUSIC JAM

(formerly called West Adrian Jam)

Forth Saturday of the month – 6pm (next is Sep. 26th)

For info. Contact:

Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870

Or Larry Roper 248-437-5403

SUGAR (Saginaw Ukulele Gurus and Rookies)

First Saturday of the month 10:30-Noon (Jul 4th)

Sullivan's Restaurant on Gratiot in Saginaw, MI

Songs are posted beforehand on the internet

For info email: muzyka2007@yahoo.com

MT. HALEY JAMBOREE

Last Friday of every month (Jul 31st)

Mt. Haley Township Hall, Midland County

1:00-4:00-Folk and Traditional Music Jam

Admission is free but donations to the Metamora Historical Society are appreciated. Metamora's 1888 Old Town Hall is part of an historic community.

For info. Call Alice Gajewski at 248-628-5287
mthaleyfmsm@gmail.com

GREAT LAKES UKULELE GATHERING

First Wednesday of the month 7:00 (Jul 1st)

Good Hope Lutheran Church,

28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

A donation of \$3.00 is requested for the church.

Contact: Bob at bsnemo@yahoo.com or
David at musicalcraft@yahoo.com

Pittsfield Open Band - POB

Pittsfield Grange 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann

Arbor, First and third Saturday from 3-6pm.

<http://www.aactmad.org/sa/pob.html>

LAMS - Livingston Acoustic Musical Society

3rd Saturday of the month 7-11pm (Jul 18th)

Fowlerville Church of the Nazarene

8040 Country Corner Drive, Fowlerville

Contact: Tony Miceli 517-223-9590

FARMINGTON JAM

Universalist Unitarian Church

25301 Halsted Rd. Farmington Hills 48335

Second Tuesday of each month from Sept – June, 7pm

Many players come to play dulcimers, fiddles, guitars...

If you are a beginner, this is a good place

to meet people and get involved.

Contact: HolmesSid@aol.com

If anyone knows of a good jam that should be in this column and isn't please let me know. Lee

Since Evart and Midland Music Festivals are coming up I thought an article on what to bring to a festival would be helpful. Of course, your particular instrument and the weather will dictate what accessories, extra items, etc.

you would need to bring. Here is a list of items to bring to make your festival adventure more comfortable and fun. I am sure you can think of other things to bring, I hope this helps. Enjoy the festivals. Theresa Smith



Festival Check List

1. Instrument(s) and case(s)
2. Tuner / Capo / Tablet / Ipad / Chargers
3. Music / Music Stand / Chair / Stool / Cart
4. Extra Strings / Picks / Hammers / Batteries
5. Snacks / Water Bottle / Money
6. Hat / Sun Screen /Bug Spray / Umbrella / Jacket/Sweater
7. Sunglasses / Back up glasses / Ear Protection
8. Pen / Paper / Clothes Pins
9. Kleenex / Band Aids / First Aid Kit
10. Multi Tool Kit / Flashlight
11. Tote Bag for stuff
12. Comfortable Walking Shoes

If you have a smart phone these devices might already be on your phone or you can download a free app.

1. Camera – still and video
2. Recording device
3. Voice memo
4. Flashlight
5. Clock / Timer / Reminder
6. Music Tuner
7. Note pad
8. Map

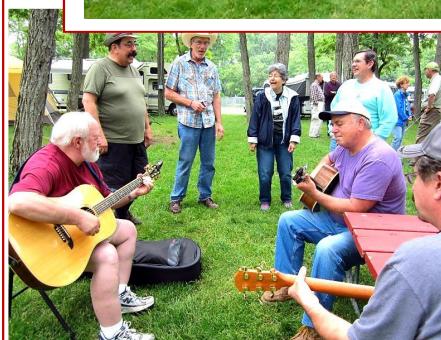
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Silver Strings Meyers Lake Campout 2015



In this lovely setting there was endless music by pickers, hammerers, strummers, breathers, and much more. Another memorable campout.



Little ukes and big harmonicas !



This barn was really jumping !



Many more pictures from this event can be seen at:
<http://www.silverstrings.org/www.silverstrings.org/galleryserverpro/default.aspx?aid=206>

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month
7-9p.m with jamming till ...?

Meeting at **Good Hope Lutheran Church**
In Garden City, Michigan

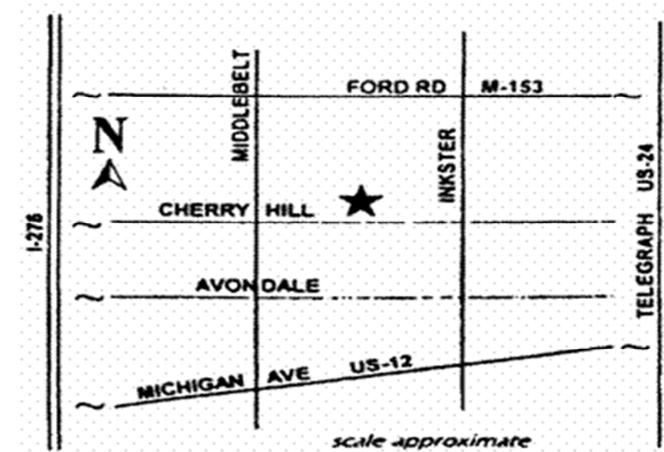
Featuring the hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer,
and other acoustic band instruments :
banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle, string bass, washtub
bass, mandolin, folk harp, recorder, tin penny whistle,
and harmonica.

Learn new tunes and techniques, jam together
with other players, receive new music
and a monthly newsletter.

Participate in workshops, festivals, performances,
picnics, fun and fellowship.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT :
<http://www.silverstrings.org>

Everyone is welcome !
Come to listen, or come to play.



Start thinking about getting articles for the newsletter to me by the 20th.
Articles or pictures from any member are always welcome.

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

P.O.Box 1116
Garden City, MI. 48136



**IT'S JULY...!
HAPPY 4th !!**

If you were on the mailing list
your name would be here.