



## Getting to Know You...

**Carol Ann Matthews**

Carol Ann is a busy lady. She found Silver Strings by accident about four years ago. Although she had been playing the dulcimer for several years, she did not know anyone else who played. A friend from the unicycle club told her about it, and she just had to go the first meeting. One thing led to another, and now she jams with Silver Strings as well as Friendly Strings, Pittsfield Open Band and the Farmington Jam. In addition to hammered dulcimer, Carol Ann also plays piano, organ, harmonica, mountain dulcimer, guitar and a little on the harp.

She is from southern Florida, the oldest of 3 sisters and a brother. While she attended Columbia Bible College in Columbia, South Carolina, she met her husband Dave, and they were married in 1963. After a year they moved to Lansing, where she played the organ for a church cantata. Later they moved to Flint, and Saline, and then to their present home in Canton. Carol Ann and Dave have a daughter and a son and 7 wonderful grandchildren, ages 7 to 17, all of whom ride the unicycle. Their son plays cello in the Flint symphony. Their oldest granddaughter, Theresa, plays violin and viola, and sings. Their oldest grandson, Devin, plays piano and trumpet.

Her non-music hobbies are a huge part of her life. Says Carol Ann, "I quilt, paint watercolors, ride the unicycle and clog. I have won awards with my quilts nationally and have had several on calendar covers, date books and magazine covers. They have traveled to Japan and on cruises - all without me, sad to say, and in special exhibits around the state. Although I do make a bed quilt occasionally, most of my quilts are art quilts. I have raced unicycle nationally and have held several national records in my age group."

Carol Ann can be an inspiration to all of us couch potatoes out there! She says, "I started unicycling when I was 50, and not as a kid. I have been clogging for about 25 years. I used to be a pretty good square dancer and round dancer too."

With an associate degree in medical assisting, Carol Ann worked as office manager in a laboratory for 5 years, and for 10 years as office manager in a doctor's office. She has taught quilting locally and around the state for over 20 years.

Carol Ann volunteers her time in many ways aside from her post as the SSDS Co-Vice President of Programs (with Janelle Pacic). She is active in the Redford Township Unicycle Club, a member and past officer of the Ann Arbor Quilt Guild, and a member of the Three Cities Art Club (where she won Best of Show with an art quilt). She has had solo hammer dulcimer gigs for show openings by Woodcrafters, Three Cities Art Club, and the Ann Arbor Quilt Guild... "And I still don't want to do starts!" she laughs.

When asked about her future plans and goals, she quips, "I don't have any goals... except to get better at managing Dave." We're lucky Carol Ann can include Silver Strings in her busy schedule and help us out this way.