

THORNAPPLE VALLEY DULCIMER SOCIETY NEWS



From the President . . .

October 2010

Happy Autumn,

Septembers jam went well. The beginning class came back together and worked on refreshing their skills after the summer recess.

The tune of the month "Girl with the Blue Dress On" was taught. It's really a nice tune and hope you can all work on it. It's on last months "tune of the month" on the web site, and it is in our music box now.

In October, we are going to teach a song to the beginning class, "Soldiers Joy". The music will be provided at the workshop. It's a common jam tune and one all players should have in their repertoire.

The tune of the month is going to be "Saturday Night Waltz". If you haven't played this for years, or ever played it, please come to the workshop. We want to feel confident on this one so we can take it to playdates. It will taught slowly for those who have never learned it. We can then practice it again during the regular jam for those that just need to practice. This was written by Stan Pierce, our president of many years, and co-founder of the club. along with his brother Bud Pierce. The music is on the website under "tune of the month" and we will provide

Copies at the workshop.

In November, we will have a practice session during workshop times on Christmas tunes for our playdate at Charlton Park. More to follow on that.

We have a motion/vote coming up at the October meeting regarding the due structure for 2011. In September, the Board proposed an increase of dues to \$1.50 per month, vs the current \$1.00 a month. This is to cover rising costs of rent and supplies for the meeting. The club started at \$1/mth 26 years ago!!

In April 2011, we will vote on officers. We will have a nomination committee to talk to members and help with the election. Give it some thought and we will update you as that get's closer.

That's all for now. See you all on October 23, Saturday, at the Maple Leaf Grange.

All the best to you, Paula

**TVDS DATES TO
REMEMBER**

**Next Meeting:
October 23 2010
TVDS Regular
Meeting & Jam
1 =4 pm**

**Beginners Class
11 am—11:45 pm
"Soldiers Joy"**

**Tune of the month
class 12—12:45 pm
"Saturday Night Waltz"**

**Bring snacks to share
We like our Vittles

**next meeting :
October 23, 2010

**Website:
www.thornapplevalley
dulcimer.org**



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**THORNAPPLE VALLEY
DULCIMER SOCIETY**

Meets monthly at:

**Maple Leaf Grange,
Address: 7490 S M66,
Nashville, MI 49073**

www.thornapplevalleydulcimer.org



NOTE:
Don't miss an issue of the TVDS News. You will if your mailing label date is more than one month prior to the date of this issue. Check it out.

Dues are \$12 per year per family.



Items for sale:

*Email Paula, or call with items for sale and they will be placed in the newsletter for you. **Every month is a garage sale! Bring your musical items to the jam. Clean out those closets and find hammers, musical books, and other goodies related to music or just homespun types of things....they are okay too.***

ITEMS for SALE:

Songbird Whippoorwill Hammered Dulcimer—16/15, mahogany soundboard, excellent condition, lightweight, with nice case, and hammers. Made in 2005, It has a great sound and will be at the April meeting if you want to try it out. \$650 for dulcimer, case, hammers and stand included. The whole package! Call Paula Brawdy at 616 240 0445

David Linsdsey Dulcimer for sale, full size, chromatic, bubinga rails, and mahogany soundboard, with nice case, tuner and hammers, \$650
Call Paula at 616 240 0445

Jim Key Dulcimer for sale/ full size, chromatic, 17/16, spruce floating soundboard, nice case, tuner and hammers \$650 = 616 240 0445

Sweatshirts & T Shirts— We have nice hooded sweatshirts, non hooded sweatshirts, and T shirts for sale with the club logo on it. Prices are reasonable. Check them out at the club meeting.

www.thornapplevalleydulcimer.org

PlayDate:

Anniversary Celebration

Our members, Nancy & Dick Nordhoff, are having their 60th anniversary **November 21st**, Sunday, 1:30—4:30 pm. It will be held at Cunningham Acres Hall, Lake Odessa, which is on M50, just west of Lake Odessa by about 2 miles. The building on the north side of the road and has a big sign out front. They have asked us to play for them during a portion of the time. In addition to our club, they will have the cloggers and various entertainment throughout the afternoon. It should be a lot of fun!

Charlton Park Christmas Village

We have been asked to play at the Charlton Park Historic Village, Hastings, MI., 2545 S. Charlton Park Road, Hastings, MI 49058, for their Christmas Past event. We play in the old country church, **December 12, Sunday**, from 1-4 pm. I will post a list of songs and keys for you to begin practice on.

Learning to play an instrument

Many in our club never played an instrument before hearing the beauty of the hammered dulcimer. I never played anything before the dulcimer, and noone in my family every played an instrument.

One day, I heard a dulcimer played in Cadillac, Michigan, at an arts and crafts fair while passing through town. I was mesmerized by the beautiful sound.

I began looking for an instrument. I found Linda and Kurt, of Lost Valley Instruments, and ordered my first instrument. I then found Stan Pierce and the TVDS group. I know I would not have stayed with it if it were not for the club. Having a teacher, coming to workshops at the club, and at Evart, and other festivals also helps. I learned pretty much one song at a time.

I would hear one at the club and come home and decide I needed to learn to play that song. I didn't know how to read music. I had a friend show me the notes that were represented on the paper, and I wrote down the notes that corresponded to the lines and spaces. I had no idea how to read the timing. I was off and running. I would hear the song, and then write the notes out on the sheet music, and work it out. So when people say, I don't think I can learn an instrument, I never played one, and I don't read music, well you can! Learn one song at a time! Come to the club every month and come to our workshops. Ask for help when you need it. The club provides a wonderful resource for you.

Practice a new tune a couple of times a day. You don't have to sit there for 1/2 hour or 1 hour at a time. I do better with short practice times on a new tune, and playing the tune every day maybe a couple of times in the morning and a couple of times before I go to bed. Leave your dulcimer out where you can play a tune whenever you pass by and you feel like playing a tune. I have mine sitting out in the bedroom. Don't put it away and have to get it back out. With winter coming, find a place for your dulcimer to be out, and **not** over a furnace vent!

How do you learn to play a dulcimer? One tune at a time!

Paula

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