

Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club

<http://www.unclecarls.org>

JUNE 2009

Notes from the Prez:

It was my pleasure to present Certificates of Honorary Membership to six of the past members of Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club at the 27th Anniversary Party. Since that time I have called and talked with each of the recipients to get a sense of who they are, how they got involved in the club and what memories they have to share with us. Please read their stories in another article in the NEWS-LETTER.

I also want to share with you that we have some other people in UCDC that we can celebrate! The new President of Silver Strings Dulcimer Club is Larry Roper! The new President of Thornapple Valley Dulcimer Society is Paula Brawdy! Please congratulate them when you see them.

Also, if you go online to the ODPC Fun Fest in Evart, you will find that Pennye Scheiber is leading the Friday night pre show. That's when all the dulcimers that can be found in the area will be playing the same tunes together. Wonder if they will break the record of 302? Pennye is teaching a few classes for beginner and intermediate dulcimer players at Evart.

There are more people to honor and reminisce with in the future - we honor the past but also celebrate new members who have their own stories to tell. Music is in all of us and we share it well!

Thanks so much to all of you for making the party an amazing time! Special thanks to Picks and Sticks for wonderful music!
Have a great summer!..... Ann

From the Vice Prez:

Tune of the Month-

What a great year of music we have had. We added some neat tunes too. Just keep practicing and work on the tunes you don't play very often. Make a goal to learn one of our club tunes each month that you never learned. The best part is you will be able to ask for them when we get back together in the Fall. How about that Caribbean tune. If you master that this summer we can add it to our play list. Folks would really enjoy it! Go for it!

Waffle Farm Campout June 26-28, 2009

We will have a good turnout for our campout in spite of the economic times. Many folks are planning on coming just on Saturday so we will pray for a nice warm, sunny day! There are folks coming for one night, and there are folks camping by the water. All in all, it will be fun to relax, visit, and play music.

Here is the planned schedule:

Folks begin to arrive on Wednesday and Thursday. Jamming anytime! Friday more folks arrive. Jam at 7:00 pm. Saturday - pancake breakfast at 9:00 am, workshop at 11:00 am, (don't forget lunch), jam at 2:00 pm, potluck at 5:00 pm, jam at 7:00 pm. Sunday - sleep in, good bye to friends, Monday more good byes. (Yes, there are folks who stay until Monday.) If you would like to join us, you can still make reservations with the campground. Call 517-278-4315. If you have any questions, please contact me at 517-547-7448.

See you there!.....Pennye

PLEASE NOTE: Send all newsletter items and e-mails to:
Ted Malott e-mail temalott@yahoo.com
810 E. Golf Ave.
Jackson, MI 49203

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bob Clemet- 26th
Ed Conklin -22nd
Roger Davis- 30th
Marcia Fort- 26th
Steve Hadley- 30th
Jim Hesselgrave- 9th
Don Love- 1st
Donna Playford- 23rd
Holly Taylor- 22nd

Bob & Audrey Ackley- 10th
George & Pat Dornton-28th
Don & Ann Johnson- 24th
Pamela Ogden- 23rd
Bill & Barb Pohanka- 29th

Attention UCDC members....If you want to order a UCDC name tag contact Wendy Conklin 517-542-2291 or weconklin@dmcibb.net. ThanksWendy

Practice with Penny

3 CD set of UCDC repertoire to practice with, or choose which tunes you want on one CD. Played slowly and then up to tempo. Contact Penny at 517-547-7448 or pennyes@comcast.net for more information.

Monday Night at Western School

**Every Monday night- 6:30
All level of Players welcome
COME JOIN THE FUN**

The Monday Night Jam will meet at the Western Middle School on Monday June 1st and Monday June 8th. That will be our last Jam til Monday September 14th, 2009. We are looking for a place to meet this summer and will make some decisions in June. If you are interested in playing with us call Barb Borton (783-2670) for time and place. Also in the September we are in need of a begining instructor for this fall. If interested please let us know.

SILVER STRINGS DULCIMER CLUB- Meets at 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City MI. President - Larry Roper Website is www.ssdociety.org. Silver Strings now has its own Club Channel on YouTube. Be sure to periodically check YouTube for newly added videos at <http://www.youtube.com/user/SilverStringsClub>

Upcoming Events

June 6 Saturday, Coldwater High School Alumni Lunch, First Baptist Church, Coldwater. Lunch @ 1:00 (I understand we are invited) Play @ 2:00 Play from new list. Wear new blue vest and dark slacks or blue shirt and dark slacks. Questions refer to Kathy Culy 278-4853 This play date is now confirmed.

July 4 Saturday, Hillsdale Fair Grounds, in the Nichols Band Shell Play 3:00 - 4:00 Wear New blue vest and dark slacks or blue shirt and dark slacks. Questions refer to Penny Scheiber. Play date and time is now confirmed.

July 16-19 Original Dulcimer Players Club (ODPC) Fun Fest - Evart, MI

August 1 Saturday Thompsons Museum in Hudson

Aug. 27-30 Midland Dulcimer Festival, Midland, MI

Sept. 12 Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club (No meeting in June, July or August)

Please note that we still need players for all of our gigs. Let Barb Borton (517-783-2670) know you will be there or call any other person listed for the gig. Watch your email for notices about players needed.

UCDC HONORARY MEMBERS

BOB AND AUDREY ACKLEY

Bob and Audrey Ackley have been married for 62 years. Audrey is 81 and Bob is 85 years old. They live in their own home out in the country near Homer. They are doing well. Audrey says that arthritis interferes with many activities, especially lifting the hammered dulcimers.

They were acquainted with Carl Hakes - Carl sheared sheep for Bob. They were at the second meeting of the club where Audrey got her dulcimer. Bob had to wait for another one to be built. After they learned a few tunes they went out to play with the group. They particularly liked playing at the Grosvenor House at Christmastime. Audrey remembers playing on the porch at the Chicago Pike Inn in Coldwater where the group occasionally stayed for a weekend.

Audrey played piano and organ in church for 50 years. She also played the Hawaiian guitar at one time. Now she plays the mountain dulcimer.

Their favorite memories? Just lots of fun throughout all these past 27 years with the music!

DELORES DODES

Delores lives in Homer, is 90 years old and still independent. She had a right knee replacement 2 years ago and walks with a cane or walker. During her lifetime she took care of her mother, husband and sister as they grew older. She only recently gave up her drivers license.

Delores knew Audrey Ackley and Carl Hakes. When Audrey played the hammered dulcimer that Carl made and Delores heard it, she tried it and really liked the sound. She bought one of his dulcimers, became a member of UCDC about 25 years ago and very rarely missed a monthly meeting or playing out with the group for a long time.

She loves music and would have liked to have music lessons as a child but during the depression years there was no money for piano lessons. Her son took piano lessons and was quite good. She is learning to play the mountain dulcimer now as the hammered dulcimer is too heavy.

Her memories of UCDC are centered on camping with the group, sharing the music, and potluck dinners. Once, she remembers, the president (Pennye Scheiber) of UCDC wanted to call on her for a music choice and couldn't remember her name. Delores told her to call her "Billie" and no one ever forgot her name after that! "Billie" or "Willie" was a childhood nickname.

NELLIE SOWLE

Nellie is 90 years old, lives by herself and still drives. She never played a musical instrument but was very actively involved in the club as a "gofer". Her husband, Niles, met Uncle Carl Hakes in Jonesville. Niles became interested in building the dulcimers and started helping Carl build them. Later on he built 15 dulcimers and 3 lap dulcimers on his own. She says the club met at a church in Homer when it first started.

Niles played the hammered dulcimer and the guitar. Jack Sowle, their son, is an active member of UCDC now. Nellie's mother played the piano, organ and guitar and her brother played the guitar. She has many memories of Saturday night family music on the porch.

Her favorite memories of the group was of Uncle Carl, who was a quiet person, playing at the Waterloo area on the porch. She also has many memories of Evart where they would go and meet her brother and his wife. Once, when they were at an evening show, the audience was completely quiet and entranced as a young girl played "Grandfather's Clock" all alone on stage on her hammered dulcimer. That was a special moment!

RUTH SWEET

Ruth lives at the Jackson "Friendly Home", where only ladies reside. She is 92 years old and was active in UCDC up until a few years ago. She is a little hard of hearing but still sees and plays the guitar. Ruth grew up in Bluefield, West Virginia. Her father died early in her life and her mother died when she was a teen. There was no money for music lessons but she eventually learned to play the guitar by ear.

Ruth heard the group play at the Ella Sharp Park in Jackson and asked how to join. She was involved in the music almost at the beginning of UCDC.

Ruth has so many memories of UCDC that none really stand out. She really enjoys all the old time tunes that are so familiar to her.

MARY LOU CRANDALL

Mary Lou lives alone on the family farm near Homer. Her children live nearby and look in on her but she is self-sufficient. She retired from teaching in 1985 and decided to take up the dulcimer. She was able to choose the wood (cherry) for the dulcimer and watched Carl Hakes build it. It was a lot of fun for her.

She played the piano as a child so was able to read music. Now she plays the lap dulcimer with Audrey Ackley and a group in Marshall. She still goes to Evert.

One of her favorite memories is that of Janis Franklin's father, Don. He was a guitar player and always encouraged Mary Lou and helped her with the music. His favorite tune was 'Columbus Stockade Blues'. She remembers the time that the group went to his house when he was quite ill and played in the back yard - it was a special time.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO LEARN FROM THESE HONOREES:

1. Music keeps you young at heart.
2. If you can't lift the hammered dulcimer anymore - learn to play the lap dulcimer.
3. Never forgot the old tunes, they are the heritage that we pass on to the next generation.



FOUND....TWO ITEMS LEFT AT THE UCDC ANNIVERSARY PARTY.....

CUPS.....set of two.....heavy, thick plastic cups....red in color

COAT.....one jacket...light weight...lg....black with white strips...sail boat emblem on sleeve (NAUTICA)

Items will be at the UCDC campout Sat, June 27th unless instructed otherwise. Wendy Conklin UCDC Treasurer/Membership

WE ANSWERED THE CALL

The "Jammin' Grammas" (Ann Wassell, Alice Podczervinski, Joan Weaver and Diane Stevens) responded to an audition call for street performers in Chelsea. We were selected to perform for SOUNDS AND SIGHTS ON THURSDAY NIGHTS on July 16 and July 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. According to the Ann Arbor News, 'you just don't realize how many street corners are in the charming little town of Chelsea until they put a performing artist on every one of 'em during the ...summer.'

Come on out to Chelsea, have some dinner and then stroll through town to hear all the music. This event is every Thursday in July and August, 6 to 8 p.m.

FOR SALE-

LOST VALLEY HAMMERED DULCIMER

16/16 Built in 2008. 2 sets of hammers, bag and stand. \$800.00 Call Vickie Halsey (419) 385-7629 or e-mail vic68hd@bex.net

Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club

President	Ann Wassell abwassell@frontiernet.net
Vice-President	Penny Scheiber penny@comcast.net
Secretary & Sunshine Coordinator	Sandy Johnson thewoodswehisper@gmail.com
Treasurer & Membership	Wendy Conklin 7186 W. Sterling Rd. Litchfield, MI 49252 Phone (517)542-2291 weconklin@dmcibb.net
Music Coordinator	Penny Scheiber
Tape Sales Newsletter	Marsha Fort and Penny Scheiber Ted Malott temalott@yahoo.com
Web Site Manager	Karen Turner karenturner@comcast.net

Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club was formed in 1982 to promote dulcimer music. Today the club features the hammered dulcimer and the mountain dulcimer with a variety of other instruments including guitar, bass, mandolin, autoharp and the penny whistle. Members have the opportunity to learn new tunes, jam together, perform in public, attend meetings, receive the monthly newsletter and take part in festivals, workshops, potlucks and fun!

Everyone is welcome

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year.

Make checks out to Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club

Mail to Wendy Conklin



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