Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club

Website: http://www.unclecarls.org **August 2016**

Next meeting: September 10, 2016

"This and That" from Julie

Well, another fine time at Evart! This was my 7th year attending the festival. How many have YOU gone? There was some real dicey weather (there's ALWAYS weird weather when the festival is on) and there were a few "issues" with campers. Seems there's always an awning that goes flying and a skylight or two that gets cracked! Part of the camping experience I guess.

Lots of new and revisited songs were heard throughout the weekend. Looking forward to getting the club to want to learn a few (or more). I wish they posted the concerts on line because it's really something to see and hear!

Midland will be upon us in no time. Another great opportunity to get reacquainted with other music folk. Try and make it if you can.

Take a look at the play dates coming up. We need all the players we can get! Let's hope the weather holds out. This heat HAS to let up soon.

Have you had "issues" with your instrument(s) in this heat? The weather will let up, the heat WILL subside. Maybe it's time to take a close look at your dulcimer (or whatever instrument you play) and get some TLC going. Get the rust off those strings, dust off the soundboard, get it looking pretty. Put new felts on your hammers. Call it "Spring Cleaning" if you will. From sitting out in the weather this summer (and years previous) I've noticed some real "issues" with my dulcimer. I dust it off quite a bit but it's the tree sap (yeah, tree sap) that really makes it look bad. And my strings! UGH! Rusty and just plain old looking. I talked to a wonderful builder at Evart (Michael Allen) and after telling him that the strings had never been changed (it's a 2003 build) he said that yes, it was time to re-string. So, maybe this is the opportunity I needed. Did I mention I broke a string too? Half of it flew right across the room and landed at the feet of another player. The rest just hung there, glaring at me; telling me something but I was too shocked to listen! Is YOUR dulcimer telling you something?

Is anyone interested in playing 3 part harmony? Ilace Mears taught 2 different songs at Evart using 3 part harmony. Such beautiful music! Ask me about this when you see me. It's fun and really pretty to hear.

See you soon.....

23nd Annual Midland Folk Music Festival

August 25 - August 28, 2016

Location: Midland County Fairgrounds (6905 Eastman Rd., Midland, MI)

Admission: $5/member, $10/nonmember (memberships available at the door)

Camping Available: $20/night (includes electricity)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARYS

Happy Birthday

13 Jerry Bartlett
16 Ellen Pember
16 Pennye Scheiber
23 Linda Osgood
30 Bob Hlavacek

Happy Anniversary

20 Jim & Mary Green
29 Jerry & Peg Klook

If you have never seen your name listed here, we may not have the information. See Wendy.

UCDC Membership Dues: $ 15/family - Please make checks out to UCDC and mail to Wendy Conklin, 7186 W. Sterling Rd., Litchfield, MI 49252. Covers January thru December 2016.

UCDC Name Tag: to order, contact Wendy Conklin 517-542-2291 or wconklin22@gmail.com

Hammered and Mountain Dulcimers for sale: Call Paula Brawdy at 616 240 0445 .

Practice with Pennye: 3 CD set of UCDC repertoire to practice with, or choose which tunes you want on one CD. Christmas tunes also available. Call Pennye Scheiber at 517-547-7448 or pennyescheiber70@gmail.com

Jackson Learning Fair with Barb Borton, Marsha Fort, Ann Johnson, Wendy Conklin, Ted Mallott and Jim Brown

Upcoming Events

UCDC Play Dates
August 6 — Thompson Museum, Hudson, MI
Play 11:00 to 1:30, lunch provided.

Future Play Dates
September 24 — Blair Farm, Homer, MI 1:00 to 2:30 pm, M60 west of Jackson
November 22—Addison Congregational Thanksgiving luncheon. Watch for information soon.

Other Happenings
Fiddler's Convention—Aug. 12 & 13 Hillsdale Fairgrounds (see next page for info)

Midland Folk Festival—August 26, 27 and 28 Midland Fairgrounds

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The Evart Experience

By Jan Woodard

For those players who have never been to the ODPC Funfest in Evart, we highly recommend it. There are so many different workshops to choose from, no matter what instrument you play or would like to learn to play. You can just sit in and listen, or take your instrument and participate. Some are skill-building; others teach a particular song. There are slow jams, scheduled jams, impromptu jams, some jams for specific instruments, like the fiddle jams or ukulele jams, though other instruments often join in.
The concerts offered every night are given by some of the best players in the folk music world. They come from all over, and donate their time and talents to the festival. Where else can you get 3 full days of music fun for only $7.00?
We went up early this year (July 1) to relax and build relationships with so many folks we only see once a year.
The weather is always an interesting unknown, and this year was no exception. There were hot, clear, sunny days, and cool and cloudy days, gentle rains and a couple of storms - one that included thunder, lightning and even hail! Some nights we ran the fan or AC, others we had the heater on and about froze! A couple of days were quite windy, and many took down awnings and tied down other belongings.
All in all it was a great 2 1/2 weeks. Mark your calendars now for the 3rd weekend in July next year. You won't be disappointed!

Don & Jan Woodard

PS from Pennye: Check out youtube for posts of the Evart festival. Type in Ken Kaiser for some videos. (Thank you Ken for posting these).

If you can't make it to the Midland Folk Festival, you might want to check out the Fiddler's Convention in Hillsdale Aug, 12/13, because there will be hammered dulcimer, bass, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, mountain dulcimer and guitar workshops. Go to their website for the schedule. http://michiganfiddlers.com

Newsletter Editor Position Available

Do you like to do things on your computer? Do you know how to use Word or Publisher or any other kind of program that a newsletter would work in? We are looking for you!!! I have done the newsletter for many years now and still enjoy doing it, but I am so far away that I thought it would be better for someone who is active with the club to take over. Here is what I do. I send out a notice to our board and committee members about the 20th of every month for their input. They send it to me and I arrange it on a preset page. Mostly it's a copy/paste job. Of course, every now and then I find something neat to include and fancy it up with clip art or pictures. The newsletter doesn't have to be fancy, just informative. Once it is proofed by a few board members, I send it to Wendy to mail and website manager to post. There you have it in a nutshell. Please contact Julie to let her know you are interested and I will help you get set up.

Just so you know, if no one steps up to the plate, I will gladly continue to put the news out.

Miss you all, Pennye

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c/o Wendy Conklin
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