

Southern Strings Dulcimer Newsletter

Monthly Feature: Southern Strings Dulcimer Festival – Feb. 26-28, 2009

By Beth Johnson

Southern Strings' members are working frantically to get all the last minute details taken care of in preparation for our up-coming festival. We are so excited, so pumped, and so ready to get our feet on the ground running.

Our schedule – Instructors – and festival activities looks to be one of the best ever. We have experienced instructors who have spent many long hours sharing their skills with others. We believe we have something on our schedule to accommodate all who will attend.

This year we will be offering classes that will be compatible with DAA and DAD tuning. So we hope that all who will attend will be able to go home having had a great time of learning and sharing in the love of Dulcimer music, be it Mountain, Hammered, or just listening to its sweet sounds.

Those of you who are camping, we will have a Camp Host who will be available to help you get settled in. Some will be coming early to camp during the week and will probably get together to jam or just enjoy the solitude of sitting around the camp and playing. Our first festival activity will be Thursday night jamming session at the camp ground.

Friday will be pre-festival activities of jamming in the morning and a trip to Camp Shelby military museum in the afternoon for those who are interested. Friday's activities will conclude with dinner, live entertainment and BINGO. Jamming will follow activities for those who care to stay and fellowship with each other.



Saturday, our BIG Festival day is full of class sessions, food, concerts and door prizes. Class sessions will be 1st come 1st serve due to classroom space. If you can't get into the class you would like, believe me there are plenty others you will enjoy just as much. Vendors will be available for your dulcimer needs and we want you to take the opportunity to shop while you are at the festival.

Jeff Hames, 2006 Dulcimer Champion is our featured performer and you DON'T want to miss his free concert at 3:00.

Door prizes, raffles and the 50/50 jar seem to be some of our favorite items at the festival.

Lunch (Sat) – as is custom for Dulcimer festivals – everyone who comes brings a crock-pot of their favorite recipe. We all put that together and enjoy some of the best cooking in the South. *(We do ask that you do not bring dessert dishes because Southern Strings will be providing the dessert.)* So decide now what you are going to bring. You can just plug in your crock-pot and we will do the rest. *If you can not have a crock-pot, a pot luck dish will be fine...just no desserts please. **CAN YOU TELL WE ARE EXCITED?** See you at the end of the month!

What has Southern Strings Been Doing?

Glad you asked! December was full of Christmas music – performances and fellowships. November 29th was a fun day at Landrum's Country Christmas. We played all day on the front porch of one of historic buildings in the Landrum Homestead.

December 5th, we traveled to Columbia, MS and played at the town Christmas Open House. Columbia is home of one of our South Mississippi Dulcimer Association Groups and we came together to play for the local Christmas shoppers. We had a great time.

December 13th, we were invited to perform on stage at the Christmas Tree's Celebration at a local church in Hattiesburg. We were honored to be asked to perform at the last year of this thirteen annual celebration.

On the 16th we had a wonderful Dulcimer Christmas Party at the Dixie Community Center. The theme was "yesteryear" and we ate by oil lamp light. It was a beautiful end of a wonderful year for Southern Strings.

And of course January 2009 brought in a new year and a fast step to get our festival ducks in a row.



Member Updates

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI DULCIMER ASSOCIATION NEWS

Karen Mims – formed the South Mississippi Dulcimer Association a year ago and dulcimer groups have been sprouting up all over South Mississippi. Here is the list of organized groups in South Mississippi:

- 1-Runnelstown, MS
- 2- Columbia, MS
- 3- Picayune, MS
- 4- Poplerville, MS
- 5- Wiggins, MS
- 6- Leakesville, MS

- 7- Long Beach, MS (Long Beach had a semi-organized group who have become part of the South Mississippi Dulcimer Association.)
- 8- Confederate Music Dulcimer Group
- 9- Southern Strings – Hattiesburg, MS

Mim's Monthly Message (our fearless leader) – Karen Mims

I want to thank all our members who have been working so hard to get our festival going. We are plowing new territory and it is always a bit scary but we feel confident that we are going to have a great festival that will benefit all participants. Our web site has been a wonderful tool getting the word out about the festival and other activities that we have taken part in.

I have also been very busy in our Association, traveling around getting new clubs organized. At present we have nine (9) Association group members in South Mississippi.

We certainly hope to see you at the end of the month and we hope we will be able to fellowship around the dulcimer circle with each and every one of you. See you on the 26-27 or 28th.

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 26-27-28, 2009 – Festival
- April 25, 2009 – Landrum's Country- Laurel, MS
- Future date: Annual Dulcimer Campout
- Future date: Southern Strings Picnic

FUTURE FESTIVAL INFORMATION

- 3/13-14 Lagniappe – Port Arthur, LA
- 3/20-21 Gather at the River– Montgomery, AL
- 3/27-28 Windy River Rendezvous – Trace St Park, MS

- 3/27-28 Dogwood Dulcimer Fest – Pensacola, FL
- 4/3-4 Jubilee Pickers Fest – Fairhope, AL
- 4/23-26 Lee Co Gathering Historic Fest – Auburn, AL
- 4/24-25 – Roosevelt State Park – Morton, MS
- 4/30-5/2 – Tannehill Dulcimer Fest – Tannehill State Park - AL
- 5/29-31 – Windy River Rendezvous – Columbus, MS

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FRIENDS & FAMILY**