

Lone Star State Dulcimer Society

July, 2020

The July Meeting of the LSSDS: The meeting for July 11th doesn't appear to be having any more luck at forming than March, April, or Glen Rose. The virus (you know, that thing that has changed everything we knew as normal) is still rampant and growing in our state. For the well fare of all our "at risk" members we will not be meeting in July either. This was to be our last meeting at Joe's church. We were to be on the lookout for a new location. I looked at a couple before the evil virus reared its ugly head. I will still be open to any and all suggestions for a place. We were also supposed to elect new officers for the year. I suppose that will take place at the first meeting we are allowed to gather again. In the meantime, I hope the officers we have in place will continue in that role until elections. Hey, how hard can it be? We have nothing to officiate. I've been practicing and boning up on my parliamentary procedures and I think I have a handle on "point of order" and some of the other finer points of this age-old method.

Meeting location for LSSDS: The meetings used to be at 114 W Grauwylers Rd, Irving, TX 75061. Now we're on the lookout...

The Old Time Dulcimer Jam: I talked with Donna Shelton and she said the Old Time Dulcimer Jam has been cancelled until further notice. The center that hosts the jam is closed because of the corroded virus. Watch the newsletter or LSSDS.com

The Old Time Dulcimer Jam dates: Schedule for 2020: Old Time Dulcimer Jam / Acoustic Jam: (Saturdays 1:30-4:30), August 22, September 5, October 24, November 7, December N/A, no jam. All jams are at the Branch Connection (Senior Activity Center), 14055 Dennis Ln, Farmers Branch, TX. For information contact: Donna Shelton at (469)-644-1226.

New Meeting Place Needed For LSSDS: We are looking for a place to hold our meetings after July. I have looked at a couple of places that some of you have suggested then the Kung Flu hit. When this abates I will begin my journey to find a suitable location for our meeting. If you know of a place that we might be able to use please let me know (Dana. Email: mrbanjoist@gmail.com) We'd like to find a place that will allow us to use the facility for free or very little cost or we could even trade performances for time. Look around and bring suggestions to the club meeting.

The Lone Star State Dulcimer Festival: I received lots off emails about the festival, whether to have it or not. We cancelled and I think we made the right call. We have the schedule set for next year and I'm pretty sure that everyone we had on the schedule are planning to attend in 2021.

The 39th Annual Lone Star State Dulcimer Festival: May 7-9, 2021, at Oakdale Park in Glen Rose, Texas. Workshops, concerts, Arts and Crafts Fair, Jamming, and Contests. Featured performers this year include: Karen Mueller on mountain dulcimer, autoharp, guitar, and who knows what else. The great Irish band from Kansas City, Tullamore will be joining us again with workshop on fiddle, guitar, singing, and Irish music and arranging. We will also have a reunion concert of the locally famous and now scattered Ragged Edge featuring our own John Cardascia on hammer dulcimer. They will have workshops on HD, guitar, fiddle, maybe bass and who knows what else. A good time will be had so you need to come and enjoy the fun with us.

Glen Rose 2020: We actually did have a sort of festival at Glen Rose in 2020. After the drive by for Mom we decided to take a road trip to Oakdale Park and see what was happening. My niece and her family were camping there and said it was packed. We showed up, as did Dave and Cheryl Turner, and we set up on stage and played some tunes. I got to play Mom's favorite tune for her. She was the only person in the audience. (I guess that would make her an audience member and I got a round of applause from her.) Then a crowd started forming as we played through some tunes. Lots of folks with kids were there. We let the kids come on stage and sing songs for their parents while we played backup for them. Then we had a square dance on the stage for the kids and some of their parents. Everyone had a great time. We asked if they had been to the dulcimer festival before. No one had but they all said they would be there next year. So Glen Rose 2020 was somewhat successful but we really missed the rest of you. I had some of my best jokes yet planned so I guess you know how much you missed out on it.

I hope this message finds everyone well. Most of you know we lost Dick Corey to the virus. Jan was in dire straits for quite some time. This morning we got the news that my wife Judy has contracted the dread disease. We would appreciate your prayers during this time. I feel like the man sentenced to the electric chair. I know we are all hoping the scientists and doctors find a cure or vaccine for this strain in the near future so we can get back to meeting together and making music. Please remember your favorite musicians during this time. They really have no income right now and it doesn't look like music venues are going to open any time soon. I got news of a gig yesterday, said yes to it, and now my wife has the kung flu. Alas, tis the season we all are suffering through.

I had someone fuss at me about my reference to the "kung flu". Actually it is not an offensive term. You see, it's a play on words with a reference to "kung fu" which is a martial arts form. It does not refer to a race or nationality. Kung fu is found in many cultures. It is a form of self defense. The object of kung fu is to hurt, injure and possibly kill your opponent. I think this is an apt description of Covid-19. Whatever you want to call it, please take it seriously. Wash your hands. Disinfect. Wear a mask. It's the safe thing to do for you and those around you. It's not like your freedoms are being taken away. You wear a seat belt don't you?