

The Lone Star State Dulcimer Society Newsletter

July 8, 2017

LSSDS Meeting for July: The Lone Star State Dulcimer Society will meet on July 8 at our usual digs. Meeting time is 1 pm for beginners, pot luck and more advanced workshops after. Workshop titles have not reached me at press time which is a little earlier this month than normal. I will be leaving tomorrow to go out of town and I'll miss the meeting. (After a 5 year absence my nephew is letting my family and me use the beach house.) Have a great time and I'll see you in September.

LSSDS MEETINGS

All meetings will be held at the First Christian Church (FCC) of Irving, located at 114 W. Grauwlyer Road. Grauwlyer is just south of Airport Freeway and the church is just east of O'Connor Road. This is a schedule that lists the tentative dates and times of the monthly LSSDS meetings through December 2017. They are listed as tentative because we may need to be flexible should a church activity conflict with our meeting. This schedule/map will be posted at www.lssds.com. Any changes in meeting times or dates will be posted on lssds.com asap. Any questions, give me (Joe) a call at 972-986-6371 or send me an e-mail at jmm55@verizon.net.

MEETING DATES, AND TIMES:

July 8, 2017

September 9, 2017

November 11, 2017

8th Annual New Mexico Dulcimer Festival – November 3 & 4, 2017: Their www.nmdulcfest.com website has just been updated to reflect the 2017 festival. This year they will feature **Aubrey Atwater** with husband **Elwood Donnelly** plus **Joe Collins** on mountain dulcimer, and **Wes Chappell** and **Randy Marchany** from No Strings Attached on hammered dulcimer. **Tina Gugeler**, **David Ellison**, and **Irma Reeder** will also be teaching dulcimer. They will again feature over 40 workshops including numerous non-dulcimer classes. When they had Aubrey (solo) out at their first festival in 2010, attendees told them they wished she had given a clogging workshop. Well, they've talked her into doing just that for this year! Workshop schedule is in progress, but the rest of the website is updated and they are now accepting registrations. Plan to join them in November!

The 5th Annual Red River New Mexico Dulcimer Festival: This festival will be held at the Community House in Red River, New Mexico on August 5th. Y'all come. It will be about 100+ here and probably around 75 there. It's a perfect time to hang out in the mountains. You can also attend workshops on lots of music related stuff. Also too you can hear the music of folks like Cathy Barton and Dave Para, David and Annette Lindsey, Scott and Irma Reeder, David Ellison, Dana and Judy Hamilton, and Margaret and Hollis Wright to name a few. Admission is free.

Something You've Already Received But Is Vital Enough To Run By You Again: (From Joe Morgan) The July meeting is coming up, meaning officer elections and such. Dana and I had a discussion after Glen Rose and I wanted to throw it out to the rest of you to get your thoughts. It's something that I'd thought about in the past, but never pursued making a change. We are wondering if we should do away with the \$10 dues for membership. We had to do it back in the days when we snail mailed every newsletter and were having (almost)

monthly meetings in order to cover the cost of postage and printing. The last couple of years we only snail mail four newsletters a month. Way back when, I bought 1000 forever stamps, which is the number we used to buy. At one time, that was around a year's worth of stamps. We still have over 500 of them. Using four stamps per newsletter with seven newsletters a year we have almost a 20 year supply on hand. I used to tell people being a member got them the newsletter before the non-members. Technically, it's still true, but Bob McClure posts them online as soon as he gets them, so the real member advantage might just be a matter of minutes most months. We are in good shape, financially, and I'm not sure we need the dues to help pay for the festival. I have not done the Glen Rose deposits, yet, but it looks like the festival broke even this time. Might even be in the black a buck or two. Linda and Wesley get the bank statements, so I don't know the exact balance. But, we should have enough money to cover a couple of festivals where we don't come close to breaking even. It has happened before, and we need a cushion for that reason. I think we have plenty of cushion. It can also feel awkward talking to people about why we have dues when the folks at the Red River Valley club don't. It has come up more than a couple of times. We all know people who live closer to us and never come to our meetings, but head up to Durant every month for the RRVDC meeting. Do the dues have anything to do with that? I don't know. And, we aren't in competition with those folks. But, as I said, the dues/no dues issue does come up and it might not hurt to be on equal footing. I am in favor of doing away with the dues effective January 1st 2017. We'll have to decide what to do with dues from people who have sent money. I have a number of checks on hand that have not been deposited. I know, surprise, surprise. These could be shredded. Some people pay in cash. I try to keep track of those, but it's a little tougher. We could also give people the option of donating the \$10. I'm open to suggestions. If we're in agreement we can bring it up for a vote at the meeting. (Editor Note: I concur)

Officer Elections: Wow! It seems like we just did that. Evidently it's time to have our yearly officer elections. Ain't it nice when we don't run as Democrats and Republicans, just nice people. This is certainly a scary election for me since I won't be at the meeting. If you'd like to help out in any of the areas involving the club then "throw yer hat in the ring". So whether we had elections or not this one will be very official because it's printed in the ol' newsletter.

I think that's it. Enjoy...

