



The Delta Strummers

Newsletter April, 2012

Welcome to this second issue of our newsletter. The Delta Strummers Board introduced this newsletter in 2011 to help improve communications among the group. Feedback from our first issue was positive, so the Board agreed to continue periodic publication.

The intent of this publication is to document recent activities, and to convey information regarding future events. We'll also communicate decisions made by the Board. However, this newsletter is not intended to replace the emails sent to the group with more current information.

From the Maestro

The New Year has started off well with 4 new members joining the Tuesday night Strummers' practice, bringing us up to 20 players. The new players are all "graduates" of our Monday beginner class and we are very proud of their newly acquired ukulele skills



Not only are we adding new players to the Tuesday Strummers' formal practice, but we now have 6 more new players beginning their quest to become Ukulele masters by attending our Monday class.

I am especially grateful to Leslie Dinette and Diane Korsten for assisting me in coaching the new players, as well as cameo appearances by many of the other regular members of the Delta Strummers to assist the new players.

We have scheduled new performances at Summerset IV and Westmont Of Brentwood, and hope to be

playing with a full compliment of around 30 players by the end of the year.

The entire Delta Strummers organization is gaining in musical skill, fellowship, enjoyment, and performance skill, and should be proud of their accomplishments to date.

Looking forward to the remainder of 2012,
Ernie Macintyre, Music Director

In this issue

- From the Maestro
- Chairman's message
- Vice Chairman report
- 2012 Delta Strummers Board
- Recent performances, reports and photos
- Upcoming performance schedule
- Budget discussion
- Contact info and vacation updates

Chairman's message

I'm extremely proud of our group. We've grown, both in number and stature, over the last year. When we started the group nearly nine years ago, we practiced at a restaurant in Brentwood, and encouraged newcomers to join.

This is reminiscent of the banjo group I started in San Jose; We practiced at my pizza parlor, and encouraged new folks to join with free beer and half price pizza. The group eventually grew to 100 players!

I was extremely pleased to attend recent ukulele beginners classes at Ernie's house; What a wonderful learning environment for newcomers to the ukulele.



The classes continue to be well-attended, and are taught by Ernie Macintyre, Lesley Dinette and Diane Korsten. Graduates are invited to join the main Delta Strummers group at our regular Tuesday practices.

2012 Board of Directors

The Delta Strummers Board meets monthly to provide future direction and to centralize communications, both within and outside the group. During the fourth quarter of 2011, three of our members were elected to fill open Board positions for 2012.

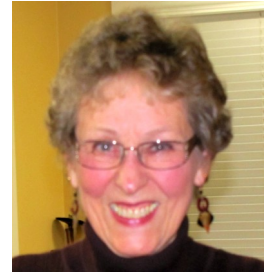
The **Board Charter** sets out in detail the composition and responsibilities of the Board, the election process, and terms of office. The Board recently made a small, but important change to the election process for the 2013 Board election and beyond, to align with the procedures used in other clubs. More on this later.

Our 2012 Board members are:

- **Chairman**, Ward Pinther founded The Delta Strummers together with his better half, Dorothy. Anyone who has been to Ward's home will know that he has a large collection of ukuleles.



- **Vice Chairman**, Lesley Dinette has played ukulele for approximately 60 years. In conjunction with Diane Korsten, Lesley plays the vamps at the beginning of many of our songs.



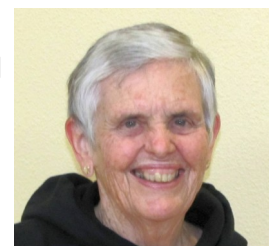
- **Treasurer**, John Homan has played ukulele for a number of years. John has an accounting background, which made him a natural choice as Treasurer.



- **Secretary**, Tom Jones joined the group in the middle of 2011, having never played a stringed instrument before. He talked to the group about setting up a web site, and was hooked when he stuck around to listen to the group practice.



- **Board member**, Diane Korsten was born in Hawaii, and is a natural ukulele player. Diane also hula dances at our performances.



From the Vice Chairman

Beginners Classes

Beginners classes re-started in January, and continue to be well-attended. The classes, held on Monday afternoons, are led by Ernie Macintyre. Diane Korsten and I provide one-on-one attention where appropriate. Graduates from the class are invited to join the main Delta Strummers group at our regular Tuesday practices. Classes were recently put on a hiatus for the summer, and will resume in September.

Membership

Thanks to a combination of recruiting efforts and beginners classes, our membership is now up to 25 players. We were pleased to welcome Janet Nadol, Norm Soucy, Sally Herring and Mike Oliver to the group during the fourth quarter of 2011, followed by John Davelaar Larry Valdez, Joe de Victorio, and Ray Abeyta in the first quarter of 2012.

Helping out

There are always things to do before and after our practices and our playouts, and in between. Don't be afraid to volunteer to help; It will be very much appreciated.

Setting out chairs at practice sessions and at playouts, and storing them afterwards, and providing cookies for breaks during practice sessions are examples of tasks requiring regular volunteers.

Delta Strummers on the web

Our web site is accessible at:

www.deltastrummers.org

The web site functions as our primary communication to the outside world, in addition to containing various resources for use by the group.

In the fourth quarter of 2011 we added a Delta Strummers **Song Book** to a password-protected area of the web site. This allows new members to down-

load music, and allows the entire group to obtain updates. Details on accessing this resource are communicated via email. Call Tom Jones if you forget the password or have difficulty accessing the web site.

Weekly practices

Our practice location was changed to Summerset IV. This has worked out well, and the room has readily accommodated the increasing number of players as new folks began attending.

Public Relations

We continue to work on a number of activities intended to provide visibility of The Delta Strummers to the community, potential new members, and other ukulele groups. These include:

- Our web site.
- Brochures and business cards handed out at events and posted at music stores.
- Articles in local newsletters and press.
- Posters for display at playouts and other events.
- Attendance at local community fairs.

If anyone needs a copy of any of the promotional materials, please contact Tom Jones.

Keep on strumming, Lesley

Photos welcome

If you or your significant other takes any photos during a Delta Strummers event, be sure to forward them to me (Tom Jones). They'll be used on our web site &/or in our newsletter. You can view our photo albums by visiting our web site and clicking on the **Photo Gallery** link in the menu.

Recent performances

We ended 2011 with performances at SIR Branch 161 and the Byron Delta Lions, both well received. Our Christmas performance at Cortona Park was canceled at the last minute because they had a bug running around among their residents.

The SIR performance featured a duet by Fritz and Joan Dueming.



The Lions published a complimentary article about the performance in their newsletter, **The Lair**. The article featured Dorothy McKellar, and has been re-published (with permission) on our web site.



Recent performances at The Commons at Dallas Ranch and Cortona Park were also well received.

Upcoming performance dates

- May 23, Summerset IV.
- September 11, Westmont of Brentwood.

Budget

Our limited income is derived from the nominal practice fee and donations from playout venues. Expenses include Music Director fees and printing/copy costs.

Ernie Macintyre presented a breakdown of income and expenses at a recent practice.

Please update your contact information

It's important that we have current contact information for members of the group. email is our primary method of communicating with the group and, from time to time, it's also necessary to contact members by phone. If you change your email address or phone number, please let the Secretary know, so that our contact list can be updated.

Vacations

In 2012 we're trying to maintain a list of members' vacations, so we can schedule our playouts and other events around them. We understand that some folks prefer not to share their vacation plans, but it's important that you let us know if you're not going to be available for a playout.

Please contact Tom Jones, our Secretary, with details of any known conflicts. Thanks.

Errata

Joan Dueming's last name was incorrectly spelled in the October, 2011 issue of this newsletter; We apologize for this error. The newsletter editor has been duly reprimanded, sentenced to take typing lessons, and told to buy new eyeglasses.