

Frequently Asked Questions

How can we tell the dates of a future festival?

The Bylaws state, "The corporation shall hold at least one FunFest each year at the fair grounds in Osceola County Evart which shall be held on the third full weekend in July." A "full weekend" is defined as Saturday AND Sunday, so you can always figure that the festival will start on the Thursday BEFORE the third Saturday. That means next year the festival will start on July 13 and end on July 16.

When are other ODPC Meetings held?

The Bylaws state that the annual meeting shall be held on Saturday of the last weekend of September each year, there shall be a winter meeting held on the third Saturday of January and there shall be a Spring meeting held on the first Saturday of May.

I understand that some musical instruments are NOT allowed at the Funfest. Which instruments are NOT allowed?

From the Bylaws Article XIII, Section 4, A. Instruments that are not allowed during the FunFest:

1. All instruments requiring electricity to operate. (Example: electric guitars, etc.)
2. All band wind instruments. (Example: brasses, trumpets, tubas, etc.)
3. All woodwind instruments. (Example: saxophones, oboes, flutes, etc.)
4. All drums - excluding the bodhrans.

Instruments that are allowed include all non-electric stringed instruments, all non-electric keyboard instruments, simple wind instruments that do not have mechanical keys, and miscellaneous music instruments such as harmonicas, bodhrans, etc.

How does the purpose of the ODPC set the FunFest apart from other "dulcimer festivals"?

"The purpose of the Original Dulcimer Players Club is to promote and preserve the art of playing the Hammered Dulcimer. To provide an organization where dulcimer players can exchange information and knowledge regarding the instrument, with each other. To provide for workshops, seminars and concerts. To make this instrument better known to the public. To perpetuate the art of construction and playing this instrument so that the knowledge can be of benefit to future generations." (From the Bylaws.)

The ODPC is the oldest and largest organization which has as it's purpose the promotion of the Hammered Dulcimer.

Why should I belong to the ODPC?

1. It's only \$5.00 a year to belong.
2. The newsletters (which are sent out every three months) will keep you up-dated on what is happening in the ODPC.
3. You'll support this large, friendly organization and its purpose as well as the wonderful FunFest!
4. You'll learn of other events that feature the hammered dulcimer. (As an example, the Midland Dulcimer Festival, August 25-28, 2005.)

I have a problem while at the festival. Who should I go to?

If it's a camping or fairgrounds related problem, see Herb Phelps. (You can find him in the Fair Office or, if it's after-hours, in his "little white house" near the entrance to Tent City.)

If it's a festival or club concern, talk to Don Fitzpatrick.

Vendor problems are handled by Joan Fitzpatrick.

Stage shows or raffles are handled by Juliane Smith.

Financial matters (checks to be paid, etc.) are handled by the ODPC Treasurer Sandy Holder.

Membership matters and anything in the ODPC Office comes under Donna Beckwith.

Children's workshops are handled by Ron and Ida O'Dell.

Morrie Holloway and Dick Spicer handle the stage set-up and sound.

Workshops and website issues are handled by Sharon Skaryd.

I have a dulcimer I'd like to sell from my campsite. Is it ok?

No sales are allowed from campsites during the festival. According to the bylaws, there are NO sales except in the vendor areas. But the ODPC has an instrument re-sale area near the ODPC Office in the back of the 4H Building. (The only exception has been granted to workshop leaders and stage performers who can sell after their classes or after they perform at the Stage Shows.)

What can I do to help at the festival?

The event is run by VOLUNTEERS. It takes lots of work by lots of people and NO ONE gets paid. Become a volunteer. Offer your services at the ODPC Office. They'll have a list of jobs where your help will be appreciated. Also listen for "P.A. Announcements" when volunteers are needed to set up the stage, pin ribbons, or perform other chores. There are lots of tasks and your help will be greatly appreciated.