

Frequently Asked Questions

How can we tell the dates of a future festival?

The club's Bylaws state, "The corporation shall hold at least one FunFest each year at the fair grounds in Osceola County Evart which shall be held the third full weekend in July..." A "full weekend" has been defined as Saturday AND Sunday, so you can always figure that the festival will start on the Thursday BEFORE the third Saturday. That means in 2007, the festival will start on July 19 and will end July 22.

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

From the Bylaws: "Section 4. Musical Instruments During The FunFest."

A. Instruments that are not allowed during the FunFest.

1. All instruments requiring electricity to operate:

Example: electric guitars, electric basses, electronic keyboards, battery operated electronic musical instruments, electric amplifiers and public address systems other than those used by the O.D.P.C.

2. All band wind instruments:

Example: brasses - trumpets, cornets, trombones, flugel horns, tubas, French horns, baritone horns, bugles, euphoniums, Eb Horns, etc.

3. All Woodwind Instruments:

Example: woodwinds - saxophones, oboes, bassoons, clarinets, flutes, English horns, piccolos, etc.

4. All drums - excluding the bodhrans

B. Instruments That Are Allowed During The FunFest.

1. All non-electric stringed instruments:

Example: dulcimers, guitars, basses, banjos, fiddles, mandolins, harps, etc.

2. All non-electric keyboard instruments:

Example: accordions, melodicas, concertinas, pianos, pump organs, marimbas, xylophones, vibraphones, marimbaphones, celestes, orchestra bells, tubular bells, diaphanicas, etc.

3. Simple wind instruments that do not have mechanical keys:

Example: recorders, penny whistles, flutophones, flageolets, tonettes, 3-hole pipes, fifes, bamboo flutes, pan pipes, ocarinas, ceramic flutes, etc.

4. Miscellaneous Musical Instruments:

Example: harmonicas, jaw harps, novelty instruments, bagpipes, bodhrans, etc.

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

"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." (This is taken from the Bylaws.)

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

Why should I belong to the ODPC?

1. It is only \$5.00 a year to join.

2. We will keep you up dated on what is happening in the ODPC in the newsletters which are sent out every three months.

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 24-27, 2006, and the Southwestern Dulcimer Festival, September 22-24, 2006.)

I have a problem while at the festival. Who can help me?

If it's a camping or fairgrounds related problem, see Herb Phelps. (You can find him in the Fair Office or 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 our 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 to be NO sales except in the vendor areas. But the ODPC has a re-sale instrument area near the ODPC Office in the back of the 4-H 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 Show.)

I love the festival but it's only once a year, what can I do to keep these "good feelings" until next year?

A bunch of us stay in touch year 'round. We have an email "list" called dulcimers@yahoo.com. It's a list specifically for folks who attend the festival. We help explain to folks what they can expect at the festival. We also promote other events. But the best part is just keeping the friendships going. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dulcimers/join> and you'll be walked through the process.

Another way is to join (or start) your own music organization in your community. Many of us belong to clubs that were patterned after the ODPC.

Where can I find out more information about the festival; find the workshop program; find the music for the Pre-Show see pictures of the 2006 festival or find contact phone numbers and email addresses for the ODPC officers?

Go to <http://dulcimers.com>. There's a special area for the ODPC at <http://dulcimers.com/odpc>. But you'll find lots of festival information linked to the main <http://dulcimers.com> page. There's a whole section called "Frequently Asked Questions" which will give you the answers to everything you need to know, from the phone number of the Fair Office to where can you find a laundrymat in Evart. There are thousands of festival photos from previous years and 2006 photos will be available a few days after the festival.

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 would be appreciated. Also listen for the "P.A. Announcements" when volunteers are needed to set up the stage, do gate duty, or pin the ribbons. There are lots of tasks and your help will be greatly appreciated.