

Hello from the newly installed president. One of the first things I want to do is echo Joe's thanks to all of those that participated in the various events that were scheduled in December. If my memory is correct we performed at the following venues; Cowtown (Dec. 4th and 5th), Woodlawn Methodist Church Craft Fair (Dec 6th), Derby Rec Center Craft Fair (Dec 6), Wichita A's – Model A Club (Dec 12), two Arbor Homes, Marjorie and Rockford, (Dec 13), Sterling House – Debry (Dec 17) and Vintage Place – Derby (Dec 17). All of these dates went extremely well, but the performance at the Model A Club had to be one of the best that I've had the privilege of participating in. We received very nice thank you cards for Arbor Homes and the Model A Club for our effort. In addition, the Model A Club gave us a very generous donation (not to mention a hot meal). Kudos to all.

Now on to the future. I feel that it is a privilege to be given the opportunity and honor of being the president of GPDA for the next year. I hope that I am up to the task and that we will enjoy a year equal to the past three. I know that following performances of Pat Harrington and Joe Anderson (limited to Pat and Joe since that is my tenure with GPDA) will be a challenge. Several of you have asked what I have planned for the next year, what I hope to achieve or what direction I plan on taking GPDA. Actually, I haven't approached the next year in these terms. Rather my goal is to take my cues from you. In as much I would like each of you to consider the following:

What do I want/expect from being a member of GPDA?

What do I want GPDA to accomplish in 2010?

What do I want/expect from the monthly meetings?

What kind of workshops would I find of interest or value?

Am I willing to help GPDA meet these wants/expectations by volunteering to lead workshops?

Am I willing to submit items to the newsletter?

While the above is certainly not an all inclusive list, it is a starting point and will help us meet your needs and expectations. All of the executive board members are looking for your help in making this a successful year.

ONE A LIGHTER NOTE – Every since I joined GDPA I've heard numerous people ask "What is a mountain dulcimer?" and generally the answer goes something like this: "It's a diatonic instrument and generally considered to be in the zither family." This is a pretty good answer but leads to a couple of questions. What in the world does "diatonic" mean and what in the world is a "zither"? So I did a little Goolging and found the following:

What is a "diatonic" instrument? According to Mel Bay it is ...

A Scale-Playing Instrument - Diatonic

The 6 1/2 fret and other extra frets in the fretboards of modern dulcimers are rarely found in traditional dulcimers. The fret pattern of an old-time Appalachian dulcimer consists of a series of large intervals—whole tones—interspersed at various places with shorter intervals—half-tones. This is called diatonic fretting, as opposed to the chromatic fretting of instruments such as guitars and mandolins. Diatonically fretted instruments are designed to play pure scales without

intervening "accidentals." The dulcimer is the only fretted instrument in widespread use in America today that is diatonically fretted.

What is a Zither? According to Wikipedia the zither ...

is a musical string instrument, most commonly found in Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, the southern regions of Germany, alpine Europe and East Asian cultures, including China. The term "citre" is also used more broadly, to describe the entire family of stringed instruments in which the strings do not extend beyond the sounding box, including the hammered dulcimer, psaltery, Appalachian dulcimer, guqin, guzheng (Chinese zither), koto, kantele, gayageum, đàn tranh, kanun, autoharp, santoor, yangqin, piano, harpsichord, santur, swarmandal, and others.

See you all the Winter Retreat at Lake Afton, January 16, 2010 from 10:00 am till ?. In addition, don't forget we are holding the Winter Retreat in place our January general meeting. We will **NOT** have a meeting on January 9th.