



Promenade

Knoxville Country Dancers

www.knoxvillecontra.org

November-December 2007

November - December 2007		
Knoxville Contra Dance Schedule		
Date	Band	Caller
November	5 Hot Flash: Laurie Fisher & Karen Gaughan (Asheville) ** Waltz Lessons at the break **	Hank Morris (Asheville)
	12 Clearbranch	Nick Boulet
	19 Danny Gammon & the Love Muffins ** Swing Lessons at the break **	Tim Klein
	26 Wild Goose Ceili Band	Vicki Herndon
December	3 Mumbillies ** Waltz Lessons at the break **	Nick Boulet
	10 Lost Marbles	Vicki Herndon
	17 Greg Horne, Kathleen McGregor & David Lovett ** Swing Lessons at the break **	Tim Klein
~~~~~	25 ~~~ NO DANCE ON CHRISTMAS EVE ~~~~~	~~~~~
	31 New Year's Eve Dance! (8:30 pm - ???) David Lovett, Greg Horne & Bill McGowan ~ Wear festive attire! ~ Bring holiday snacks!	Nick Boulet

* The caller will teach a beginner's workshop at 7:30 pm.

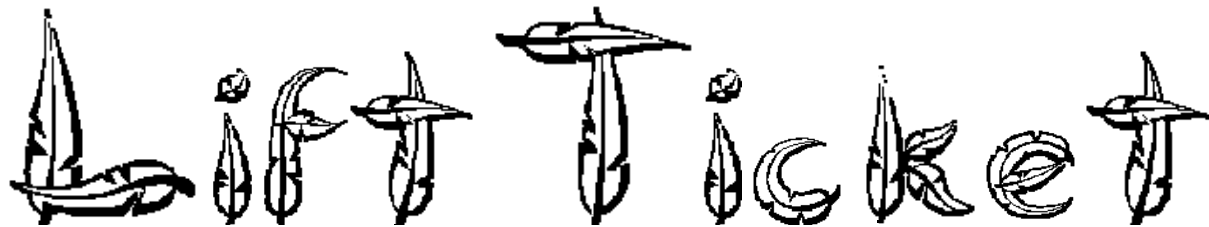
** 1st Monday: **Waltz Lessons**; 3rd Monday: **Swing Lessons**; downstairs during the break.

Dances are held every Monday night from 8 to 11 pm at the Laurel Theater ( 1538 Laurel Ave. ). **Beginners are welcome**; no experience or partner required. All dances are taught by the caller. Admission is \$5 ( \$3 for students ) at the door. ( If you come in after the break, please pay \$2. )

**Knoxville Country Dancers** ([www.knoxvillecontra.org](http://www.knoxvillecontra.org)) are affiliates of **Jubilee Community Arts** ([www.jubileearts.org](http://www.jubileearts.org)), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting traditional arts of the region. Please support Jubilee by becoming a member and attending other events in the Laurel Theater. For Jubilee Community Arts information call (865) 522-5851.

When the caller asks for hands four, this should be accomplished as quickly as possible to avoid confusion and later regrouping. Whenever executing a figure, make eye contact with the person with whom you are dancing. This signals neither a come-on nor a lifetime commitment but merely acknowledgement that you are dancing with another person, not solo with human props. **Alice Markham, Reston, Virginia**

**Cabin Fever '08**  
**February 15-17, 2008**  
**featuring:**



<http://www.liftticketband.com/>  
with caller: **Nils Fredland**

and special guests:  
Daron Douglas & Paul Moore



*You're part of something wonderful that began hundreds of years back  
– something wonderful that CDSS, since 1915, has helped to flourish.*

Picture it: You're in a room filled with smiling folks. You're weaving through the dance calls, smiling at new-found friends. You're watching well-known faces as you join in singing a traditional ballad. Your fingers are dancing through the notes of a rowdy new tune—or a still-breath-taking old one.



Doug Plummer



Stephen Spinder

At such moments, thank CDSS. Why?

Most likely, that event's dance caller refined her craft either at **leadership training courses** that the **Country Dance and Song Society** has sponsored for many years, or at **CDSS camps and events**, where she observed internationally-known callers at work. **CDSS-supported research** may have unearthed the very dance you're doing now—which may also have appeared in the **CDSS News**.

Maybe you are traveling out of town. You found this local dance or music event in the **CDSS Group Directory**. And that ballad—it might be one the singer learned at a program made possible by a **CDSS grant**; you can probably find it on a CD in our **CDSS store**. Check online at [www.cdss.org](http://www.cdss.org), or just call us and ask (413-268-7426).

That tune—did you or your teacher learn it at a **CDSS summer camp**, or find it in a **CDSS-supported book**, or first catch its alluring phrases at a **CDSS grant-funded weekend**?

**The wide, sustaining reach of CDSS:** It's an incalculable gift to your life. It offers you joy, and in return it asks only for your support.

By joining CDSS, you honor what you love—and help keep it going.

More than 3,000 members are already supporting the world of dance, music, and song that has won your heart. As a member of CDSS, you receive the bimonthly *CDSS News* (filled with dances, tunes, articles, and notices of special events around the country and abroad); the annual *Group Directory and Members List*; bimonthly sales updates and a 10% discount on most catalog items; priority admission to summer programs; and more.

Visit the Country Dance and Song Society website: [www.cdss.org](http://www.cdss.org)

- ♪ savor details of our organization's long history and far-reaching service
- ♪ order a sample copy of *CDSS News*
- ♪ find links to upcoming events nationwide
- ♪ locate dance, music, and song groups throughout the world
- ♪ browse our online catalog of books, CDs, and more
- ♪ envision yourself at our beautiful CDSS summer camps
- ♪ explore scholarship and grant opportunities



Stephen Spinder

## **Area Contra Dance: November–December 2007**

Asheville, NC — Grey Eagle 185 Clingman Avenue  
www.oldfarmersball.com

### **Monday 8 pm**

November 12: Caller, Margaret Mathews; Band, Land of Sky–Laura Lengnick, Paul Moore, Roger Gold  
November 19: Caller, Barbara Groh; Band, Dancing Bears  
November 26: Caller, to be announced; Band, Cailen Campbell & Friends: The Tenth Annual Benefit  
Waltz! Dress Relentlessly Elegant – bring Hors D’oeuvres, and contribute generously to help people in need  
December 10: Caller, Bob Dalsemer; Band, House Red  
December 17: Caller, Beth Molaro; Band, Far Horizons

Swananoa, NC — Old Farmers Ball at Bryson Gym – Warren Wilson College

### **Thursday 8 pm**

November 8: Caller, Mark Langer; Band, Steam Shovel  
November 15: Caller, Beverly Smith; Band, Phil Jamison, Carl Jones, et al  
November 22: Master of Ceremonies, Anne Marie Walker; Band, Community Open Band led by Julia Weatherford & Pearl Mueller  
November 29: Caller, Diane Silver; Band, Rumble Strip  
December 6: Caller, Laurie Fisher; Band, Wild Goose Chase  
December 13: Caller, Barbara Groh; Band, Far Horizons  
December 20: Caller, John Combs; Band, Wilson All Stars  
December 27: Caller, Fred Park; Band, Burning Desire Strong Band  
December 31: New Years Dance: Caller, Diane Silver; Band, Skytones. \$15 at the door. Bring snacks to share; show off your festive threads

Athens Area Council for the Arts 320 N. White St, P.O. Box 95, Athens, TN 37371-0095

Phone: 423-745-8781 · Fax: 423-745-8635 Email: [aaca@bellsouth.net](mailto:aaca@bellsouth.net)

<http://www.athensartscouncil.org/dance.php>

### **Saturday 7:30 pm**

December 1 – Fred Park & Family Reunion back from Asheville for our annual Christmas dance

Chattanooga, TN 310 East 8th St.

[www.contratooga.org/schedule.shtml](http://www.contratooga.org/schedule.shtml)

### **Saturday 8 pm**

November 10: Caller, Jane Ewing; Band, Kaleidoscope  
November 24: Caller, Vicki Herndon; Band, Nashville Weather  
December 8: Caller, Bob Dalsemer; Band, Frances Cunningham and Lynda Anderson

Jonesborough, TN — Jonesborough Visitors Center

[www.historicjonesboroughdancesociety.org/site/calendar/](http://www.historicjonesboroughdancesociety.org/site/calendar/)

### **Saturday 8 pm**

November 17: Caller, Beth Molaro; Band, Feral Broccoli  
December 1: Caller, Barbara Groh; Band, Dancing Bears  
December 15: Caller, Diane Silver; Band, Plum Creek String Band

## **Lexington, Kentucky Lex Dance**

Michael (859) 552-5433 or www.Itda.ws

**8 pm** Arts Place 161 North Mill Street, Lexington, KY

Friday, November 9: Caller, Mike Finucane; Band – name to be announced

Friday, November 16: Caller, Liz Natter; Band, Atcher, Beck, and Kahl (open band)

Saturday, December 1: Caller, Barbara Ramlow; Band, Cornpone

Friday, December 14: Open calling; Band, Atcher, Beck, and Kahl (open band)

Nashville, TN — Nashville Country Dancers Second Presbyterian Church 3511 Belmont Blvd  
[www.dancenashville.org/](http://www.dancenashville.org/)

**8 pm**

November 9: Caller, John Sharlet; Band, Jim Nelson, Stephanie Coleman & Jim Collier  
November 16: Caller, Susan Kevra; Band, Mike Snyder String band  
November 23: Caller, Ed & Melissa Wilkinson; Band, Morrison Brothers Band  
November 30: Caller, Chrissy Davis-Camp; Band, Calliope  
December 7: Caller, Kendal Broadie; Band, Patrick Ross & Friends  
December 14: Caller, Chrissy Davis-Camp; Band, Frances Cunningham, Bill Verdier & Lynda Anderson  
December 21: Caller, Susan Kevra; Band, Cumberland Tenderfoots  
December 28: Caller, Eddie Doss; Band, Small Time String Band

River Falls Lodge, SC — Harvest Moon Society

<http://harvestmoonfolk.org/schedule.htm>

**8 pm**

November 9: Caller, Barbara Groh; Band, Dancing Bears  
November 17: Caller, Hank Morris; Band, Land of Sky  
November 24: Caller, Hank Morris; Band, Reel Magnolias  
December 1: Caller, Dean Snipes; Band, Red Mountain White Trash  
December 7: Caller, Beth Molaro; Band, Wilson All Stars  
December 15: Caller, Roberta Kogul; Band, Wild Goose Chase  
December 22: Caller, Beth Molaro; Band, Ashe Villains

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## Dance Gypsy: Feet Retreat 2007

At the end of September 2007 four Knoxville Country Dancers — Eileen Hayes, Bill Nelson, Don McTaggart, and Randall Grimsley — traveled to Feet Retreat's 25th dance festival. KCD friends Warren and Terry Doyle came also. Feet Retreat is hosted by Fiddle & Bow Country Dancers whose home dance hall is located in nearby Greensboro, North Carolina. Feet Retreat dance gypsies converged on Sertoma 4-H Camp, a secluded rural location close to North Carolina's Hanging Rock State Park.

Historic Camp Sertoma, surrounded by forest, is at the end of a dusty graveled lane. Camp Sertoma lodge — a nineteenth century two story white frame farmhouse style structure with long covered porch occupied by rocking chairs — sits on the right atop a slight rise. Feet Retreat's dance hall gym is visible ahead in trees, at the edge of a parking area. Drab cabins painted dark brown with North Carolina names that include "Tarheel", "North State", and "Bull City" lie on the left opposite Camp Sertoma lodge. Dancers who chose to camp erected tents upon a grassy hill next this building.

Feet Retreat's dance gypsies gathered for meals in the lodge dining room, squeezing together. Often a diner would be held captive, unable to budge until those seated beside and behind departed. Here, numerous dance gypsy tales were swapped. Tune swap musicians frequently congregated on the south end of the lodge porch to fiddle and strum during the dance festival.

Feet Retreat 2007 featured two bands. **Fly by Night**, a contra dance music ensemble from Asheville furnished eight count tunes for Friday night's dance, and for a few Saturday workshops. **Lift Ticket** occupied the bandstand for Saturday night's contra dance grande ball, as well as helping out at a Saturday workshop or two. **Beth Molaro** called Friday evening's dance, and **Ron Buchanan** called Saturday night's dance. Both participated as a Saturday workshop caller.

Feet Retreat's Saturday workshops offered opportunities to improve a familiar dance and learn a new one. Scott Baxia (Asheville) taught a morning "Beginnermediate Waltz" session, and followed it with an afternoon Schottische and Hambo class. The Hambo and Schottische appear similar in form, yet are subtly different. Caller Ron Buchanan's workshop invited dancers to dance "X-rated squares". Dance gypsies recognize that Ron's repertoire favors square dancing.

Caller Beth Molaro called several “Gender Bender” dances at her workshop. One of these paired men and women couples with each switching gender. A second dance paired men with men, and a third paired women with women. None of these were meant for the conservative contra dancer.

Lift Ticket cranked up the music to near supersonic speed during Saturday’s grande ball first half. Finally, they toned their tempo down to a proper eight-count beat when opening the second half. Transcendent percussion led the way until the last dance. Lift Ticket began with a memorable contra dance rendition of Enya’s “Orinoco Flow”, slowly accelerating tempo and percussion to the delight and glee of Feet Retreat dancers. Lift Ticket’s exuberant rhythm persuaded a desire to dance every dance. Feet Retreat’s customary sweet treat came at Saturday’s grande ball break. Dancers lined-up for a serving of peach cobbler, ice cream and pieces of chocolate. Can’t wait to get on the dance gypsy road again. On the road again ...

**Randall Grimsley**

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## Dance at the Laurel Theatre – 1996: The Tradition Continues

### Contra to Popular Belief

Though explained over the phone as “a less rigid, more individualized form of square dancing.” I still had visions of Sandinistas and machine guns prancing in my head when I walked through the door of the Laurel Theatre at 16th and Laurel. But after an hour, I realized that I’d stumbled onto something even more exciting than a date with David Duchovny.

Uncomfortable in social situations? Contra dancing’s the exercise? Contra dancing renders aerobics painless. Can’t life? NOBODY CARES! Contra dancing could even be the answer. There’s no way those Jews and Palestinians could stay mad at contra dancing.

After an evening of contra dancing, I was ready to toss out my and put my therapist on notice.

Unlike structured, one-on-one dancing, in contra dancing I everyone, men and women alike, as the band played music that Irish jig. Our band known as the Illegal Contra Band, featured a hammered dulcimer, and a mandolin. Jim Turner, treasurer of Country Dancers, explained, “Nobody is gonna teach you to dance, everybody will teach you to dance.” There were no rules, no stigma, and no one seemed to care if I was an expert or a beginner. If you can count to eight, know your left hand from your right, and don’t fall down or throw up when you get a little dizzy you can do the contra.

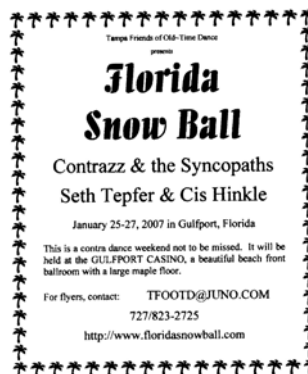
Specific moves were orchestrated by a caller, similar to those in square dancing, but the contra was looser and less restrictive. Dancers formed two lines and begin the dance facing each other. The caller then told the dancers what moves to make. Some of the more routine moves are: the allemand — grasping a partner’s hand in a pseudo high-five and walking in a circle; the do-si-do — walking around someone as they walk around you; the star — taking the person’s hand across from you diagonally and walking in a circle with three other people; and my personal favorite, the gypsy — walking in a circle with your partner and undressing him with your eyes. Donna McAllister, long time contra dancer, says contra offers everyone the chance to do some major flirting. I certainly did.

Contra is an equal-opportunity dance. There are no wallflowers, no condescending looks, no dress codes, and no pecking orders. The contra is low-stress, no-pressure dancing — the cure for dancephobics everywhere. I might even go back.

**Val Pendergrast, “Dance, Dance, Dance”, *Metro Pulse* (vol. 6, no. 33), August 15–22, 1996**

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answer. Hate to dance to save your to world peace! each other while

antidepressants

danced with sounded like an flute, a guitar, a the Knoxville