



Promenade

Knoxville Country Dancers

www.knoxvillecontra.org

November 2008

How many dancers does it take to put on a dance?

Every Monday night at the Laurel Theater the lights come on, music flows, and dancers twirl as if by some magical force. We are all drawn together to laugh and share a light-hearted evening of music from a simpler time. Who are the magicians behind the scenes that make a night of contra seem so effortless? They are a small group of dedicated volunteers who are willing to donate their time and talents to help a dance community grow.

Each dance evening requires a volunteer sound technician. Every Monday night, **Alan Miller**, **James Baysinger**, or **Mark Jordan**, arrive at 7:00 p.m. to arrange speakers, connect cables, assemble mike stands, and prepare Laurel Theater's soundboard. A sound technician monitors the quality of sound to ensure caller and band clarity. Contra dancers know how annoying shrill speaker feed-back can be!

Also around 7:00 p.m. an opener appears. It's **Marita Gale** on the first Monday, **Sandee Rose Arozqueta** on the second Monday, **Jan Barber** on the third Monday, and appointed board members on the fourth and fifth Monday. The volunteer opener sits inside the Laurel Theater entrance at a desk to receive admission payments, prepare the snack table, and place dance literature on a table beside the stage. This individual will ask repeat dancers to take a turn during the first two hours (approximately 8–10 p.m.) to serve as greeter and collect admissions revenue to pay both band and caller. Opener duties also include preparation of local and regional dance news announcements to be presented at intermission (usually between 9–9:30 p.m.).

Following the conclusion of a Monday night dance closers **Eileen Hayes** and **Jimbo Clark** roll-up mike cords, carry speakers, empty trash, put away supplies, sweep floor, turn off lights, and lock all doors. With help from other dancers who linger the Laurel Theater is soon back in the condition we found it, or better; ready for the next dance or concert.

These dancer volunteers come every week to support local and visiting bands and callers, plus our community. In exchange for their hard work they receive a pass for the dance on the night they volunteer to help. If you would like to learn more about Knoxville Country Dancers' Monday night dance sound technician, opener, and closing team please email Jan Barber at janfbar@yahoo.com

Jan Barber

Lets Face the Music and Dance

There may be trouble ahead, but while there's moonlight and music and love and romance,
Let's face the music and dance!
Before the fiddlers have fled, before they ask us to pay the bill, and while we still have the chance,
Let's face the music and dance!

Soon, we'll be without the moon, humming a different tune, and then,
There may be teardrops to shed, but while there's moonlight and music and love and romance,
Let's face the music and dance, dance! Let's face the music and dance!

Featured in the 1936 RKO Pictures film *Follow the Fleet*, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers; vocalist, Fred Astaire. Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin

Knoxville Contra Dance Schedule

November 17 – December 29, 2008

November 17: Caller, **Tom Calwell & Myra Hirschberg** (from Canada) www.dancingthread.ca/; Band, **Lost Marbles**; Sound, **Allen Miller**; Opener, **Jan Barber**; Closer, **James Baysinger**. BRING SNACKS!

November 24: Caller, **Nick Boulet**; Band, **Danny Gammon & the Love Muffins**; Sound, **Allen Miller**; Opener, TBA; Closer TBA. The caller will teach a **beginner's workshop** at 7:30 pm.

December 1: Caller, **Vicki Herndon**; Band, **Attic Rattlers**; Sound, **Mark Jordan**; Opener, **Marita Gale**; Closer, **Marita Gale**. The caller will teach a **beginner's workshop** at 7:30 pm.

December 8: Caller, **Tim Klein**; Band, **Clearbranch**; Sound, **Allen Miller**; Opener, TBA; Closer, TBA.

December 15: Caller, **Nick Boulet**; Band, **Boogertown Gap** (Pittman Center, TN): Ruth Barber on guitar, Keith Watson on fiddle, Sandee Rose on bass, and Austen Stovall on fiddle, www.boogertowngap.com/; Sound, **James Baysinger**; Opener, **Jan Barber**; Marita; Closer, TBA. The caller will teach a **beginner's workshop** at 7:30 pm. BRING SNACKS!

December 22 – Christmas Dance: Caller, **Vicki Herndon**; Band, **Mumbillies**; Sound, **Allen Miller**; Opener, TBA; Closer, TBA. The caller will teach a **beginner's workshop** at 7:30 pm. *Wear festive attire!* BRING HOLIDAY SNACKS!

December 29: Caller, **Nick Boulet**; Band, **Wild Goose Ceili Band**; Sound, **Mark Jordan**; Opener, TBA; Closer TBA. The caller will teach a **beginner's workshop** at 7:30 pm.

Dances are held every Monday night from 8 to 11 pm at the Laurel Theatre, 1538 Laurel Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee. **Beginners are welcome.** No experience required. Admission is \$7 (\$3 for students) at the door. If you arrive after the break please pay \$3.

Knoxville Country Dancers (www.knoxvillecontradance.org) are affiliates of **Jubilee Community Arts** (www.jubileearts.org), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the traditional arts of the region. Please support Jubilee by becoming a member and attending other events in the Laurel Theatre. For Jubilee Community Arts information call (865) 522-5851.

Cabin Fever
February 13-15, 2009
Knoxville Dance Weekend
Band
Skytones
Caller
Robert Cromartie
Waltz Band
Daron Douglas & Paul Moore

www.knoxvillecontra.org

Area Contra Dance: (dates presented are those available November 9, 2008)

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

Monday 8 pm

November 17: Caller, **Rodney Sutton**; Band, **The Spring Chickens**.

November 24: Caller, **Adina Gordon**; Band, **KGB**.

December 1: Caller, **Bob Dalsemer**; Band, **Land of Sky**.

December 8: Caller, **John Combs**; Band, **Fiddlewitch**.

December 15: **Eleventh Annual Benefit Waltz** — A festive holiday gathering. Dress relentlessly elegant. Bring Hors D'oeuvres, and contribute generously to help people in need.

December 22: Caller, **Diane Silver**; Band, **The Morrison Brothers**.

January 5: Caller, **Barbara Groh**; Band, **Dancing Bears**.

January 12: Caller, **Beth Molaro**; Band, **The Sporting Pitchforks**.

**Fairview, NC* — Old Farmers Ball at Fairview Community Center, 1355 Charlotte Highway, Fairview, N.C.

From I-40 take exit **53A** toward “Bat Cave” and “Blue Ridge Parkway”. From 240 go east to **exit 9** toward “Bat Cave” and “Blue Ridge Parkway”. Fairview Community Center is about 6 miles out on **Rte 74A**. It is on the right, across from the Food Lion Plaza and adjacent to Fairview Elementary School. The parking lot to the Community Center is also the parking lot to the school.

*Note dance location change November 13, 2008 – March 26, 2009

www.oldfarmersball.com

Old Farmers Ball Hot-Line (828) 258-4809

Thursday 8 pm

November 13: **Community Open Band**. Open mic for caller — **Diane Silver**, Master of Ceremonies. Band led by **Laurie Fisher & Karen Gaughan**.

November 14 **“Bonus Dance:” Friday Night**. Open Band / Open Callers at Swannanoa 4-H Center, 170 Woodland Drive, Swannanoa. Potluck 6:30; dancing 8:00–11:00. \$1.00. Come meet the CDSS (Country Dance and Song Society) Executive Committee. CDSS committee members will also be participating in open band and open micc.

November 20: Caller, **Beth Molaro**; Band, **KGB**.

November 27 **Thanksgiving Dance**: Caller, **Jennie Wakefield**; Band, **Chicken Tractor**.

December 4: Caller, **Paula Bishop**; Band, **Fly By Night**.

December 11: Caller, **Mark Langner**; Band, **The Elftones**.

December 18: Caller, **Barbara Groh**; Band, **The Morrison Brothers**.

November 17: Caller, **Rodney Sutton**; Band, **The Spring Chickens**.

December 25 **Christmas Dance**: Caller, **Diane Silver**; Band, **Blue Ridge Rounders**.

December 31 **New Years Eve Ball**: Caller, **AnneMarie Walter**; Band, **Fiddlewitch**. 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. at Fairview Community Center. \$10 advance, \$15 at the door.

Athens Area Council for the Arts

320 N. White St. Athens, Tennessee

Phone 423-745-8781

www.athensartscouncil.org/dance.php

Saturday 7:30 pm

December 12: Caller, **Fred Park**; Band, TBA.

January 3: Caller, **Nick Boulet**; Band, TBA

February 7: Caller, **Mike Robonson**; Band, TBA.

Atlanta, Georgia

Chattahoochee Country Dancers

Note: Visit web site below for **Tuesday** dance information

www.contradance.org/html/schedule.php

For important information about **shoes** and other stuff, please refer to our [Nightly Details](#) web site page. For directions to a given Dance Hall, please see our [Directions](#) web site page.

Friday 8 pm

November 14-16: **32nd annual Festival Weekend** — **Some Enchanted Contra**. Callers, **Cis Hinkle, Seth Tepfer**, and **Robin Marcus**. Bands: **KGB, Anna's Bananas, & Fine Companions**. Full weekend: \$79

Friday 8 pm – Morningside Baptist

November 21: Caller, **Rob Harper**; Band, **Jig / Reel Thang**.

November 28: Caller, **Doug Singleton**; Band, **Tim and Friends**.

December 5: Caller, **Susan Davis**; Band, **Ed & Elsie**.

December 12: Caller, **Robin Marcus**; Band, **Cattywampus**.

December 19: Caller, **Janet Shepherd**; Band, **Just Add Water**.

December 26: Caller, **Doug Singleton**; Band, **Scallywags**.

Wednesday, December 31: New Year's Eve Dance 8 pm – 1 am: Morningside Baptist
Caller, **Diane Silver**, Band, **Wind that Shakes the Barley** — Contra music, Florida style. **\$15**.

Berea, Kentucky

Russel Acton Folk Center, 212 West Jefferson St.

www.folkcircle.org/contra/index.html

859-985-5501

“We are extra nice to beginners and children of all ages. Our Saturday dances have childcare available for only \$4.00 for the whole dance!”

Saturday 8 pm (beginners 7:30-8:00 pm)

November 22: Caller, **Charley Harvey**; Band, **Berea Cast-offs**.

Reminder: There is no December Saturday contra in Berea. Consider going to Christmas Country Dance School [December 26, 2008 – January 1, 2009] instead! For information visit www.berea.edu/ccds or call (859) 985-3431.

January 23–24 **Swing Shift Weekend**, *Lexington – Berea*: Caller, **Barbara Groh**; Band, **U4**.

February 28: Caller, **Frank Jenkins**; Band, **Berea Cast-offs**

March 28: Caller, TBA; Band, **Berea Cast-offs**.

April 25–27 **Hands Four Dance Weekend**: Caller, **Steve Bennett**; Band, TBA. More details coming soon.

Chattanooga, TN

All Saints Academy, 310 East 8th St.

www.contranooga.org/schedule.shtml

Saturday 8 pm

November 22 at *Ringgold United Methodist Church*: Caller, **Seth Tepfer**; Band, **KGB** (from Seattle).

January 10: Caller, TBA; Band, TBA.

Jonesborough, TN

Visit web site below for dance location

www.historicjonesboroughdancesociety.org/site/calendar/

Saturday 7:30 pm (beginners class at 7:00 pm)

November 15: Caller, **Barbara Groh**; Band, **Dancing Bears**.

December 6: Caller, **Dean Snipes**; Band, **Hands Four**.

December 20: Caller, **Warren & Terry Doyle**; Band, **Fiddlewitch**.

January 3: Caller, **Hank Morris**; Band, **Hot Flash**.

January 17: Caller, TBA; Band, **Jamie Laval & Roger Gold**.

February 7: Caller, TBA; Band, **Hey for Four**.

Lexington, Kentucky Lex Dance

Arts Place 161 North Mill Street, Lexington, KY

www.ravitz.us/ltada

8 pm

Friday, November 21: Caller, **Charley Harvey**; Band, **Atcher, Beck, and Kahl** (open band).

Saturday, December 6: Caller, **Liz Natter**; Band, **Hot Club of Derbytown** at Lexington Traditional Magnet School, 350 N. Limestone. From Broadway north of downtown, turn left on Third or Short, then left on Limestone. LTMS is between Third and Fourth.

Friday, December 19: Caller, open calling; Band, **Atcher, Beck, and Kahl** (open band).

Saturday, January 3: Caller, TBA; Band, **Cornpone**

Friday, January 9: Caller, TBA; Band, **Atcher, Beck, and Kahl** (open band).

Saturday, February 7: Caller, TBA; Band, **Pigtown Alley**.

Friday, February 13: Caller, TBA; Band, TBA.

Friday, February 27: Caller, TBA; Band, **Atcher, Beck, and Kahl** (open band).

Saturday, March 7: Caller, TBA; Band, **Schrodinger's Cats**.

Friday, March 13: Caller, TBA; Band, **Buzzstep**.

Friday, March 20: Caller, TBA; Band, **Atcher, Beck, and Kahl** (open band).

Memphis, TN

Memphis Contra Dancers, Idlewild Presbyterian Church 1750 Union Avenue in Midtown Memphis, Tennessee

For more information, contact Joan & Ernest Kelly at Horselovers@aol.com or call 901-725-9165

No web site available.

Nashville, TN

Nashville Country Dancers, Second Presbyterian Church 3511 Belmont Blvd

www.nashvillecountrydancers.org

Friday 8 pm CST

November 14: Caller, **Ed Wilkinson**; Band, **Frances Cunningham, Lynda Anderson, and Bill Wolfe**.

November 21: Caller, **Susan Kevra**; Band, **KGB** (from Seattle).

November 28: Caller, **Emma Ruston**; Band, **Cumberland Tenderfoots**.

December 5: Caller, **John Sharlet**; Band, **Nashville Weather**.

December 12: Caller, **Jane Ewing**; Band, **Calliope**.

December 19: Caller, **Chrissy Davis-Camp**; Band, **Nashville Ceili**

December 26: Caller, **Eddie Doss**; Band, **Ed Baggott & Elsie Peterson**.

January 2: Caller, **Melissa & Ed Wilkinson**; Band, **David Coe & Jim Prendergast**.

January 9: Caller, **Emma Rushton**; Band, **Plaidgrass**.

January 16: Caller, **Susan Kevra**; Band, **Allison Williams & the Haywire Family**.

January 23: Caller, **John Sharlet**; Band, **Stuart Twins with Brian Christianson & Tim May**.

January 30: Caller, **Chrissy Davis-Camp**; Band, **The Contrarian Ensemble**.

Saturday, January 31: English Country Dancing — **Playford Ball practice**: Caller, **Ginger Pyron**; Band, **Calliope**.

River Falls Lodge, SC

Harvest Moon Society

Harvest Moon Hotline: Call 864-836-2986 for upcoming dance dates, bands and callers. Dance cancellations due to inclement weather will be recorded by 2:00 PM the day of the dance.

Visit web site below for Greenville **Wednesday** night dance schedule

www.harvestmoonfolk.org/hmfs/index.php

8 pm

Saturday, November 15: Caller, **Tom Calwell & Myra Hirschberg**; Band, **Contranella**.

Saturday, November 22: Caller, **Charlotte Crittenden**; Band, **Blue Eyed Girl**.

Saturday, November 29: Fundraiser for Y Dance. Caller, open mic; Band, community band.

Saturday, December 6: Caller, **Diane Silver**; Band, **House Red**.

Friday, December 12: River Falls Lodge Advanced Dance. Experienced dancers only. Caller, **Charlie Harvey**; Band, **Giddyuppies**.

Saturday, December 20: Caller, **Jennie Wakefield**; Band, **SteamShovel**.

Friday, January 2: **Special Holiday Dance** at River Falls Lodge. Caller, TBA; Band, **House Red**. No potluck.

Saturday, January 3: Caller, **George Segebade**; Band, **Jamie Laval & Roger Gold**.

Friday, January 9: Caller, **Beth Molaro**; Band, **Mark Mueller, Karen Gaughan, & Art Schuster**. *Experienced dancers only*.

Saturday, January 24: Caller, **Diane Silver**; Band, **Skytones**.

Saturday, February 7: Caller, **Jennie Wakefield**; Band, **High Yield String Band**.

Friday, February 13: Caller, TBA; Band, TBA. *Experienced dancers only*.

Saturday, February 28: Caller, **Cis Hinkle**; Band, **Corn Stalkers**.

Sewanee, Tennessee's Contradancing on the Cumberland Plateau

American Legion Hall, 36 University Avenue, Sewanee, Tennessee

www.mistycontra.zoomshare.com/0.html

For information call 931-598-0814

Club name is ***Misty Mountain Dancers***. Yes, this mountain is a wee misty sometimes.

A little secret: like you, I'd love to be asked to dance! So hey, let's dance.

Friday 8 pm CST (beginner lessons at 7:30 pm)

November 21: Caller, TBA; Band, TBA.

December 21: Caller, TBA; Band, TBA.



Dance Gypsy ***Dance Trance 2008***

Lexington, Kentucky's annual Dance Trance festival (Friday evening–Sunday afternoon) is one of my favorite contra dance events. I've been attending it since the late 1990s. Fortunately, my almost too late Dance Trance 2008 registration got accepted. **Wild Asparagus**, a par excellence band from New England, with **George Marshall** calling, highlighted Dance Trance 2008, and undoubtedly were responsible for an early sold-out festival.

Several familiar dance gypsies eventually arrived at Dance Trance 2008: **Stan Gloeckner, Michael Levi, Liz Dixon, Bill Meyers, Marcia Adams, Basil Pinker, Vicki Herndon, Steve Herndon, Bill Nelson, and Don McTaggart.**

Five or six contra dance lines each with twenty or more couples filled Morton Middle School gym for the first dance Friday night. With flying feet and happy hearts contra dancers danced to fast tunes strummed, bowed, drummed, keyboard stroked, and whistled as Wild Asparagus band-members frequently switched instruments. One musician alternated between playing a flute and a Breton bombard (common to Brittany dance bands), an instrument that resembles a clarinet. Driving dance exhilaration and shouts from ecstatic dancers would occur when rapid reedy high shrill bombard notes combined with hypnotic drumming as other instruments became silent.

Too much body heat Friday night combined possibly with a dormant cooling system suddenly switched on created sauna like conditions in Morton Middle School gym. Fortunately, relief arrived early Saturday with a more comfortable dance climate prevailing.

Once again I stayed with housing host Shannon Arnold at her attractive ranch style house. Shannon's living room sofa became my bed where I'd slept during Dance Trance 2007. **Bill Nelson** descended to Shannon's basement where he had bunked before. Soon, four other dancer guests came, followed by Shannon and her daughter, Aleeona. Dance gypsy Bill number two had traveled from Nashville, Tennessee. Husband and wife Jim and Susan were from Ohio. Louie (age 79, it's later learned), sprouting white wispy stubble on his face, left Florida with two nights spent on a Greyhound bus.

A variety of Saturday day time dance work shops were available in addition to a "Saturday Morning Sing-Along", "the Care and Feeding of a Dance Community", "A Calling Workshop for Beginning Callers and Curious Dancers", "Body Awareness thru Yoga", and "Musician's Open Jam in the Morton Lobby". **Bill Nelson** and **Randall** were interested in the "10:50 to noon Voz Tango with Jan Pearce & Mario Nakazawa" offered. Upon an inquiry Friday night at the Dance Trance registration table it's learned that "Voz" is a misspelling and should read "Vals", which is an Argentine Tango waltz. Vals can be danced either with a specific pattern of steps in 3/4 time or improvised movement common to Argentine Tango.

Remarkably, lads slightly outnumbered ladies at the Tango Vals workshop. After declining a invitation to be a partner with another man I decided to yield to the inexperienced and sit out. Jan Pearce from Berea (conducted an Argentine Tango workshop at Berea's 2008 Hands Four contra dance festival) served-up a bounty of Tango lessons. First came a quick introduction to the basic Tango walk with emphasis on a leader's chest projection. Vals steps briefly taught appeared to resemble a basic waltz pattern. Walk to the Cross then demonstrated with perhaps 15 or more minutes devoted to teaching and practice. Resolution — steps 7 and 8 of the basic Tango pattern that come after steps 5 and 6 of Walk to the Cross were not introduced. Finally, Jan taught a Forward Ocho (Spanish "eight") step where a leader slightly pivots his partner to his left and right while dancing in a forward.

An "English Dance" workshop also attended where I participated in English Country dance, "Prince William". Every English Country dance has a specific tune, which is also the name of the dance. "Prince William" involved three couple sets: couple number 1 at the top, couple number 2 in the middle, and couple number 3 at the bottom. Eventually each couple moved to the top. Much intricate couples weaving in and out required in "Prince William". It helped that most dancers in my set were familiar with this dance.

Remainder of Saturday afternoon spent partly at Morton Middle School gym enjoying "Contra Dance with calling by Steve Bennett, music by Cornpone". Here, I danced came with Aleeona, Shannon's daughter. Aleeona, age ten perhaps, would

often look up at me with her dark eyes and smile as we danced. How sweet are the exquisite pleasures of contra dance.

Shannon Arnold and family accepted a Saturday dinner invitation from their dancer guests. Mark, Shannon's husband, suggested The Oasis, a popular Lebanese cuisine restaurant near Morton Middle School. Louie decided to nap instead of joining us. Susan's husband, Jim had left earlier to call a contra dance in Akron, Ohio. Bill from Knoxville, Bill from Nashville, Randall, Susan, Shannon, Mark, and their two daughters (both adopted in Russia) spent time together at The Oasis enjoying delicious Mediterranean entrees. Mark, it's learned, is a banjo picker, but not a dancer. Shannon, who plays a bass fiddle, and Aleona, are the only contra dancers in the family.

Among many memorable dances Saturday night only a particular one can be fondly recalled. Much that happened during this dance is a blur. One phrase had dancers on each side holding hands. Men faced out, women faced in. Each man held a woman's hand in his left hand and in his right hand. Men leaned to their right to look a woman in the eye who also leaned toward him to make eye contact. Next, a man leaned to his left to look a woman in the eye who also leaned toward him to make eye contact. Upon completing this move a man would spin quickly to his right to meet a lady spinning toward him. Both would close in an embrace while continuing to turn in a swing step count.

Decadent dessert time — Dance Trance tradition — awaited dancers in Morton Middle School's cafeteria following the last waltz Saturday night. Abundant chocolate, ice cream, and other irresistible sweets tempted everyone.

Alas, Sunday's seemingly wondrously endless farewell dance came and concluded with a final Dance Trance 2008 waltz. Then came hugs and reluctant goodbyes. Dances, as most dance gypsies know, follow a natural rhythm. As one dance ends another begins.

Randall Grimsley

Knoxville Country Dancers Need Your Help

Volunteers who can stay till the end of the Monday night dance are needed to help **Eileen Hayes** close. In order to shorten the time this takes we have an opportunity for those who want to assist, but can't stay till 11:30 pm

Closing chores have now been broken down into several smaller tasks. If you normally leave about 10:15 or 10:30 pm and can take 5 minutes to help, please tell Eileen, or another KCD Board member. Below are some small tasks that will ease the load of the closers:

- 1) **Trash:** empty downstairs trash into upstairs trash can; open doors to bathrooms; check all doors that open to the outside to ensure that they are securely shut, and that all downstairs lights are switched off. Empty the upstairs bathroom trash into the large trashcan.
- 2) **Info Table:** remove information material from dance info table and front desk and put it into crate marked "INFO TABLE". Place this container by the front entrance desk.
- 3) **Food Table:** clean off snacks table then wipe the tablecloth on it. Put clean cups, napkins, etc. (*neatly!*) into crate marked "FOOD TABLE". Set the crate by the front desk. Clean up spills and crumbs.

By completing these housekeeping tasks you will help the closers concentrate on putting away the sound equipment and securing the building.

Spills and dirt on Laurel Theater's floor should be cleaned up when found.

Please *immediately* report to the president (**Jan Barber**) of KCD anything that might involve damages or future problems.

Jan Barber

Editor, Randall Grimsley, ellisbell@earthlink.net