

Newsletter of the North Alabama Country Dance Society

Established 1982

Group Affiliate, Country Dance & Song Society

February 2004

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NACDS home page: <http://secontra.com/NACDS.html>

February 7th:

Vicki Herndon with Bob, Cathy, Curt & Jim

Chattanooga's **Vicki Herndon** will be the caller and our own **Bob & Cathy White, Curt Lewis and Jim Holland** will provide the music.

February 21st:

Barb Kirshner with Tom Kat and the Fiddle

Chuck & Katrina Weber and Tom Green a.k.a "Tom Kat and the Fiddle", will play for our second dance this month. **Barb Kirshner**, from Atlanta, will call & teach.

Note: Barb will teach a waltz workshop from 4 to 6 that afternoon - see article below for details. There will be a (quick) potluck supper between the workshop and the dance. Bring a dish to share.

The fine print: NACDS dances the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month in the gym at Faith Presbyterian Church on Whitesburg at Airport Rd. in Huntsville. Come to the refresher workshop at 7PM, then dance until 10:30 for \$7 (\$6 for members, \$4 for teens.) Don't forget to bring comfortable shoes to dance in and please wear a name tag. Bring someone new to a dance this month!

Dance News

The steers meeting at the Walls on January 11th was reportedly (alas I could not make it) very productive. Our next Blue Moon Dance Weekend is shaping up nicely, and several aspects of the weekend and logistics, etc. were decided.

There was also a discussion about "5th Saturday" dances. Our long standing policy had been that these extra dances - about 4 per year - were open-mike opportunities for budding musicians and callers. But, for diverse reasons, half of last years 5th Saturday dances were dropped. At the meeting it was decided that our official schedule be changed to have 1st and 3rd Saturday dances 'and occasional special dances' which we could have whenever we wanted.

In light of the above, it is gratifying to point out that over January 30-31 there were dance events at four (4!) different places in the region (Sewanee, Huntsville, Gorham's Bluff, and Rome, Ga.) and each of them was a big success. The dance in Huntsville was great despite many of our dance gypsies being elsewhere. **Archie Faulkner** from Birmingham was the caller, and a new band, tentatively called "Weapons of Mass Delight" premiered. The musicians involved were: **Chip Gulbro** - fiddle, **Curt Lewis** - bass, plus **Jim Holland** - banjo and **Steve Nix** - guitar.

Introducing "Dance Buddy" Tags

Every traditional dance community needs beginners. If we attract new dancers, our group will thrive; if not, it will wither. To retain our new dancers, and to help them quickly become more confident, we have started to provide "Dance Buddy" labels at our dances.

Experienced dancers who can help teach, explain and demonstrate may identify themselves by wearing

one of these stickers. New comers will be encouraged to dance their first few dances with a "Dance Buddy" and also to feel free to approach them with questions.

If you have found yourself correcting a too-tight allemande grip, suggesting a more comfortable swing technique, or in some other way gently assisting a less experienced dancer, why not consider coming to the dance at 7 for the class, wearing one of these tags and becoming a "Dance Buddy."

Waltz Workshop - February 21st

Barb Kirshner will teach an 'advanced beginner to intermediate' level waltz workshop at Faith starting at 4 with live music by Tom Kat & the Fiddle. Cost: \$5 per person. The aim will be to brush up your waltz skills: turns, side-by-side moves, etc. Sort of "How to have fun while waltzing."

A **Potluck supper** will follow the workshop, so bring something easy to eat. We'll only have an hour between the workshop and the newcomer's class.

Blue Moon 2004 ...

Is less than four months away! The weekend in a nutshell: Two great bands! the **Clayfoot Strutters** from Boston, and the **Red Mountain White Trash** from Birmingham. Two dynamic callers! **Beth Molaro** from Asheville, and **Seth Tepfer** from Atlanta. Three days of dances and workshops! Friday evening May 21 through Sunday afternoon May 23. Plus an optional picnic lunch at noon, and a bonus after-dance party Saturday night at the Walls.

The cost is \$55 per person until May 8th. \$65 after that date. The picnic lunch on Saturday is \$8.

You may join us or renew your membership (check date on mailing label) at any of our dances, or by sending \$10 (\$15 for families), payable to NACDS at the address below. You will receive this monthly newsletter & 2 free guest passes, plus you will pay \$1 less to get into each of our regular dances.

N.A.C.D.S.
3604 Mae Dr. SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

Calendar

*Local events in **bold**; contact Bryan Walls (256 837-0656; bwalls@pobox.com) for more info.*

Feb. 6 (Fri.) Nashville: The Wingates with Chrissy Davis-Camp calling

NCD dances almost every Friday at the Woodbine Community Center, Burbank & Oriol, near I-440 & Nolensville Rd.

Instruction at 7:30, dance at 8:00. For more info, contact Chrissy (615-210-6808) or John (DanceFools@aol.com).

Feb. 7 (Sat.) NACDS - Vicki Herndon with Bob, Cathy, Curt & Jim

Feb. 13 (Fri.) Nashville: Jim Coode calling with In The Woods (and the Knoxville Weekend)

Feb. 14 (Sat.) Chattanooga - No Dance - Knoxville Weekend

Feb. 14 (Sat.) B'ham FoOTMaD - James and Rachel Bryan and others; caller TBA

B'ham FoOTMaD dances 2nd Saturdays at the YWCA, 2300 3rd Avenue North; 7:30 \$8. Info: <http://www.bamalong.com/bcnds.htm>

Feb. 20 (Fri.) Sewanee: Chrissy Davis-Camp with Mountain Creek

Feb. 20 (Fri.) Nashville: Barb Kirchner calling with Nashville Weather

Feb. 21 (Sat.) NACDS - Barb Kirchner with Tom Kat and the Fiddle - Waltz Workshop in afternoon!

Feb. 27 (Fri.) Nashville: Russ Barenberg, Rachel, and James Bryant with Susan Kevra

Feb. 28 (Sat.) Chattanooga - Jane Ewing with Mountain Creek

CTDS dances 2nd and 4th Saturdays at All Saints Academy, 310 E. 8th St., downtown; 8-11 P.M.; \$5.

For info contact: Steve at 706-937-4991 or Claire & Bryant at 423-876-7359 or: <http://contranooga.org>

Mar. 5 (Fri.) Nashville: John Sharlet calling with Tom Kat & the Fiddle <- *Huntsville Band!*

Mar. 12 (Fri.) Nashville: TBA calling with In The Woods

Mar. 13 (Sat.) B'ham FoOTMaD: Carters Little Pills. Becca Impello calling

Mar. 13 (Sat.) Chattanooga - Janet Shepherd with Up In The Air

Mar. 19 (Fri.) Nashville: Ed & Melissa Wilkinson calling with the Wingates

Mar. 26 (Fri.) Nashville: Emma Rushton & Kendal Broadie calling with Nashville Weather

Mar. 27 (Sat.) Chattanooga - Doug Singleton with Peavine Creek

In Atlanta they dance on Fridays and Tuesdays - see <http://contradance.org>

In Knoxville they dance every Monday - see <http://www.kornet.org/kcd/>

In Memphis they dance 1st and 3rd Fridays - see <http://hometown.aol.com/horselovers/index.html>

To get your dances on the schedule, e-mail us with the particulars by the 20th of the month. - Doug & Bryan

Other Dance Events of Note

30th Annual Knoxville Dance Weekend - Feb 13-15 2004 see <http://www.kornet.org/kcd/fest2004.htm>

Ed Baggott & Elsie Peterson will be playing for the dances in Atlanta GA on February 20 and Greenville SC on February 21. See <http://Edbaggott.com> for schedule details

FoOTMaD's "Wild Asparagus 'N Ham" is April 24-25 at the YWCA in Birmingham. Registration is filling up quickly! See their web site for details: <http://www.bamalong.com/bcnds.htm>

Our own 2004 Blue Moon Weekend will be May 21-23 at the UAH University center.