

NACDS Newsletter

March 2011

Huntsville Dance March 5: Music by Kaleidoscope and calling by Joan Kelly.

Part of the fabric of the NACDS community, Kaleidoscope is Katrina on piano and Chuck Weber on fiddle, frequently joined by one or more other musicians on fiddle, mandolin, guitar and other instruments. Playing a blend of tunes that are already familiar and new tunes you'll want to hear again, the music includes American old-time, French Canadian, Celtic, and jazz-based tunes.



Beloved for her deep keel and calm presence, former art teacher Joan Kelly is a contra dance caller and woodturner from Memphis, Tennessee. She's also the mother of our own Erin Maguire.

Huntsville Dance March 19: Music by Wolves a Howlin' and calling by Archie Faulkner.

Wolves a Howlin' are Bob, Cathy, Curt, and Jim, playing great traditional contra dance music the way only experienced musicians who've played together for many years can!



Charlie Faulkner is our good friend from Birmingham, with a deep repertoire of traditional contra dances.

UPCOMING DANCE WEEKENDS:

MEMFEST MARCH 18-20, MEMPHIS, TN

Music: Perpetual e-Motion

Captivating, passionate, propulsive and progressive are what best define the music of this power duo, perched at the convergence of traditional and electronic dance music. Perpetual e-Motion integrates technical and sonic innovations with old school traditions to create an enormous sound full of momentum and groove. Lauded as a two man orchestra, this duo continues to innovate the art of traditional dance music through their use of sound sculpting and multitasking, captivating listeners and dancers with their infectious and unique sound. If you haven't yet danced to Perpetual e-Motion, you are missing out!

Caller: Jack Mitchell

More info: memphiscontra.webs.com/memfestregistration.htm

PLAYFORD BALL MARCH 25-26, NASHVILLE, TN

Music: Goldcrest

Goldcrest are Daron Douglas, Paul Oorts, and Dave Weisler, three seasoned musicians of national reputation and steeped in the folk dance traditions of Appalachia, New England and the British Isles, named for a British songbird with close relatives in the Americas.

Caller: Gene Murrow

More info:

nashvillecountrydancers.org/files/Playford_brochure_2011.pdf

BLUE MOON 14

Blue moon 14 is May 20-22, 2011, on the campus of UAH. Music will be provided by The Sevens, and the caller will be Seth Tepfer. You can help by hosting visiting dancers! If you like the idea of meeting and helping fellow dancers from out of town, please contact Donna Deaton.

HUNTSVILLE CALENDAR

• Huntsville dances are the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month in the gym at Faith Presbyterian Church, 5003 Whitesburg Dr., (corner of Whitesburg Dr. & Airport Rd.). Beginners Workshop is at 7:00 PM, and then the regular dance is from 7:30 – 10:30 PM.

• Admission is \$7 (\$6 for members), \$4 for students, free for ages 12 & under.

Remember to bring comfortable, **non-scuffing shoes** for dancing. Bring someone new to a dance this month!

• Gen'l info, bwalls@pobox.com or www.secontra.com;
Schedule info, Doug Roth: hdroth@pobox.com.

MARCH 5: HUNTSVILLE

BAND — KALEIDOSCOPE
CALLER — JOAN KELLY

MARCH 19: HUNTSVILLE

BAND — WOLVES A HOWLIN'
CALLER — ARCHIE FAULKNER

AREA DANCE GYPSY CALENDAR

MARCH 4: NASHVILLE

BAND — BILL VERDIER & ANNE HOOS
CALLER — CHRISSY-DAVIS CAMP

MARCH 8: FLAT CREEK

BAND — JIM & INGE WOOD, WITH VARIOUS & SUNDRY
CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

MARCH 11: NASHVILLE

BAND — THE CUMBERLAND TENDERFOOTS
CALLER — JOHN SHARLET

MARCH 12: BIRMINGHAM

BAND — THE MEGAHURTS
CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS CAMP

MARCH 12: CHATTANOOGA

BAND — FLETCHER BRIGHT FIDDLE BAND
CALLER — BOB DALSEMER

MARCH 13: NASHVILLE

BAND — VERDIER, HOOS, MOORE, AND KEVRA
CALLER — KAREN WRIGHT

MARCH 18 – 20: MEMPHIS

MEMFEST
BAND — PERPETUAL E-MOTION
CALLER — JACK MITCHELL

MARCH 18: NASHVILLE

BAND — ELIZABETH FITCH & FRIENDS
CALLER — SUSAN KEVRA

MARCH 22: FLAT CREEK

BAND — JIM & INGE WOOD WITH VARIOUS & SUNDRY
CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

MARCH 25 - 27: NASHVILLE

PLAYFORD BALL
BAND — GOLDCREST
CALLER — GENE MURROW

MARCH 25: SEWANEE, TN

BAND — KALEIDOSCOPE
CALLER — GEORGE SNYDER

MARCH 26: CHATTANOOGA

BAND — DAVID COE AND NATE STRESSER
CALLER — JANE EWING

MARCH 27: BIRMINGHAM

BAND — FIDDLE IN THE PARLOR
CALLER — ROBBIN MARCUS

TO LEARN MORE

- **Footmad (Birmingham, AL)**
www.footmadbirmingham.org
205-822-0505
- **CTDS (Chattanooga, TN)**
contranooga.org
- **NCD (Nashville, TN)**
615-356-3869
nashvillecountrydancers.org
- **Flat Creek, TN**
jimwoodmusic.net/fcc.htm

A BIT FURTHER BUT WORTH THE TRAVEL

- **CCD (Atlanta, GA)**
Fridays & alternate Tuesdays
contradance.org
- **KCD (Knoxville, TN)**
Every Monday
discoveret.org/kcd
- **MCD (Memphis, TN)**
1st, 3rd, & 5th Fridays
midtowners.webs.com
- **Sautee Community Dances (North-East GA)**
Once a month, Sept – May
sauteecontra.com



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Alex Kunin

Alex is a Computer Science graduate student at University of Alabama Huntsville. His mother is "our" well-known contra dancer Natasha Kunin. He also has local dancer siblings Abe and Julia. His father and other brother haven't taken to contra dancing, oddly enough!

In addition to contra dancing, Alex enjoys martial arts, origami, programming, and mathematics, and he recently started drum lessons.

At this point, he has been involved with contra dancing at least half his life. When asked about his first impression of his very first dance, he replied, "I particularly enjoyed it. I wrote about it in a little notebook I carried with me at the time, 'The first contra dance of my life went well.' I think I had just read Harriet the Spy so I was trying to be sneaky and write everything down back then. Of course, the fact that I went around showing everyone who would pay attention to me that I had a 'secret journal' really defeated the purpose...". And what he enjoys most about contra, "The physical activity and the music. I love getting up and doing things, and rhythm only makes it more fun. And when there's some good fiddle playing, it's just excellent!"

The farthest Alex has traveled to contra dance is Glen Echo Park in the Washington, DC area. Dances there are held in a beautifully restored Spanish Ballroom and also outdoors in a former bumper car pavilion.

As for other types of dance, Alex hasn't explored them yet. But he says, "I think if you set Kung Fu to music, it could be like dancing, just with a little more kicking and punching."

As for his favorites in bands, they tend to fluctuate. But he's always a fan of a lesser-known Canadian band called Islands. Generally, Alex "likes any music that is live and loud!"

Abe Kunin

Abe is a middle school Math teacher at Randolph School. He attended MIT and graduated with a degree in Mathematics. His mother is "our" well-known contra dancer Natasha Kunin. He also has local dancer siblings Alex and Julia. His father and other brother haven't taken to contra dancing, as difficult to understand as that may be!

He enjoys ultimate frisbee, basketball, and reading as hobbies in addition to contra dancing. Another more unusual hobby of Abe's is juggling, and he says, "I can juggle just about anything that I can reasonably throw with one hand. Generally 3 objects at once, though I can probably do 4."

Coming from a family of contra dancers, Abe has been dancing for 18 years. His first impression of the contra experience was everyone being a lot taller than he was. Especially since he was four and a half feet tall at the time! He mostly enjoys the smooth swings, good music, and fun people. Abe is also a caller for dances, intermittently for around ten years. The farthest he has traveled for the sole purpose of dancing is 250 miles. He has danced in over 40 different cities in at least 12 states, including California and New Hampshire, which are over 3,000 miles apart!

Abe also has a fair amount of experience dancing swing, salsa, waltz, ballroom, and Scandinavian. He plays classical piano, with special interest in music by Beethoven and Bach. Alternately, a video game, Rock Band, also captures Abe's interest!

GET CONNECTED, STAY CONNECTED

Visit the NACDS web site:

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

There is an announcement list for everyone and a Yahoo Group discussion list for those more involved. E-mail nacds@pobox.com if you'd like to be on either.

Yahoo group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NACDScontraCommunity/>

Facebook page:

Search on Facebook for the "North Alabama Country Dance Society" group. Connect with friends and get invitations to events.



**North Alabama Country Dance Society
291 River Cove Rd. Huntsville AL 35811**

Address Correction Requested



*Send just \$10 for one, or
\$15 per family, to the address above.*

*Make checks payable to NACDS.
(mailing label shows renewal date)*

*Members receive monthly newsletter,
and a \$1 DISCOUNT to each regular dance!*