

## OUR DEAR FRIEND BOB BENNETT IS MISSING!

Earlier this month we learned that our dear friend, dancing companion, and photographer, Bob Bennett, is missing. While on a photography safari to South Dakota, Bob had car trouble. On July 31, Bob called his father from Washington, Kansas, for help. When his father arrived on August 2nd, Bob's van was unlocked, with the air conditioning running, and all of his belongings and photography gear were safely in the van; but Bob was not there. Several hours later, Bob's dog returned alone to the van, and recognizing that something was wrong, Bob's father contacted the police. Although authorities continue to search for Bob in the area, no one has seen him since August 1.

Carol Mebane recently wrote about Bob on the newsgroup: "It is hard to imagine dancing without thinking about Bob. He told me that the first time he walked into a contra dance, he knew it was the thing for him--and he'd tried other kinds of dance. He 'got' dancing--the community aspect and the connection between the music and the dancers. Later his love of dance and dancers came through clearly in his photography. I continue to hope that he will be found. In the meantime, let's keep those he loved--Judy, his parents and family--in our hearts and prayers."

Bob has been a special friend to me and has helped me a great deal with photography. I have been inspired by his kindness and his search to find meaning and fulfillment in life. I am so deeply disturbed by his sudden disappearance.

Please hope and pray with Bob's family and loved ones that he will be found safely.

## OUR READERS WRITE

One of our favorite times of day at the NACDS newsroom is when the afternoon mail arrives. The entire staff gathers in the conference room to review our readers' comments. Here are some of the best from this month.

George Curious, from Cornelia Georgia writes: *Oh, nice ploy, expecting your readers to do your job for you! Exactly what kind of comments were you hoping your readers would send you, anyway?*

**Editor:** What an excellent question, George! We're glad you asked. We'd like to share your contra experiences, tips on finding dances, questions about dance and the Contra community, and news about our friends within the community. We'd like this newsletter to reflect the interests of you, its readers.

Here are two simple ways to give us your input:

Email: [k-riggs@mchsi.com](mailto:k-riggs@mchsi.com)

Telephone: 256-859-9281



## HUNTSVILLE CALENDAR

• Huntsville dances are the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, then the regular dance is from 7:30 – 10:30 PM.

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

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

• For more info Contact Bryan Walls (256) 837-0656 or email: [bwalls@pobox.com](mailto:bwalls@pobox.com) or visit <http://secontra.com.NACDS.html>

### SEPTEMBER 1 : HUNTSVILLE

CALLER — JANET SHEPHERD

BAND — BIG MIKE & THE OMNIDIRECTIONALS

### SEPTEMBER 15 : HUNTSVILLE

CALLER — JANE EWING

BAND — MAPLE HILL BAND

### OCTOBER 6 : HUNTSVILLE

CALLER — VICKI HERNDON

BAND — ED BAGGOTT & ELSIE PETERSON

## AREA DANCE GYPSY CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER 3 : KNOXVILLE

LABOR DAY END OF SUMMER BEACH PARTY DANCE

CALLER — NICK BOULET

BAND — BRASSTWON BONOBOS

### SEPTEMBER 7 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — ED BAGGOTT & ELSIE PETERSON

### SEPTEMBER 8 : CHATTANOOGA

CALLER — VICKI HERNDON

BAND — JD ROBINSON AND BRYANT HAYNES

### SEPTEMBER 10 : KNOXVILLE

CALLER — VICKI HERNDON

BAND — MUMBILLIES

### SEPTEMBER 14 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — JANE EWING

BAND — THE CONTRARIAN ENSEMBLE

### SEPTEMBER 17 : KNOXVILLE

CALLER — NICK BOULET

BAND — DANNY GAMMON AND THE LOVE MUFFINS

### SEPTEMBER 21 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — EDDIE DOSS

BAND — NASHVILLE CEILI BAND

### SEPTEMBER 22 : CHATTANOOGA

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — THE TENNESSEE DOGTROTTERS

### SEPTEMBER 23 : RINGGOLD, GEORGIA (CTDS)

WHERE — RINGGOLD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — THE TENNESSEE DOGTROTTERS

### SEPTEMBER 28 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — SUSAN KEVRA

BAND — JAMES & RACHEL BRYAN AND RUSS BARENBERG

### SEPTEMBER 28 : SEWANE

CALLER — HARRY DELUGACH

BAND — THE FURIES

### OCTOBER 26-28 : NASHVILLE

NCD MUSIC CITY MASQUERADE CONTRA DANCE WEEKEND

AT COHN ADULT LEARNING CENTER

CALLER — NILS FREDLAND

BAND — RODNEY MILLER AND AIRDANCE

**FoOTMaD (Birmingham)** dances 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays at the YMCA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave & 23<sup>rd</sup> St, 7:30 PM.

<http://www.bamalong.com/bcdis.htm>.

**CTDS (Chattanooga)** dances 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at All Saints Academy, 310 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St., downtown, 8:00 PM.

Contact Steve at (706) 937-4991, Claire & Bryant at (423)876-7359 or <http://contranoooga.org>

**Misty Mountain Dancers (Sewanee, TN)** dances at the Legion Hall in Sewanee, TN, 8:00 PM. For details, call (931) 598-0814 or check <http://mistycontra.zoomshare.com/>

**NCD (Nashville)** dances almost every Friday at 8:00 PM at NEW LOCATION – Second Presbyterian Church on Belmont Blvd one block south of Woodmont – on the corner of Graybar.

Contact Chrissy at (615) 210-6808 or John, email: [DanceFools@aol.com](mailto:DanceFools@aol.com) or <http://dancenashville.org/>

**Flat Creek** dances – 2 & 4<sup>th</sup> Tues, Flat Creek Community Center – seven miles south of Shelbyville, TN. [http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org/Dances/flatcreekcontra\\_dances.htm](http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org/Dances/flatcreekcontra_dances.htm)



## **FOOTMAD DANCE FESTIVAL IN MENTONE**

The Birmingham Friends of Old Time Music and Dance (FOOTMAD) hosted a wonderful dance weekend in Mentone August 17-19, and several of us from Huntsville trekked up to attend. The FOOTMAD crowd did a fantastic job of organizing the Old Time Music and Dance Weekend! They enlisted help from volunteers to run the kitchen for breakfast Saturday and Sunday and dinner Saturday evening, their members presented entertaining skits, musical performances, and stand-up comedy Saturday afternoon and evening, they chartered a regatta at the river Saturday afternoon, Kate and Gus provided a special program for children (5-12), jammers kept the party going late into the night, and of course, FOOTMAD enlisted wonderful callers and musicians for dances Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The venue was the Camp Riverview summer camp, with a lovely open-sided, wooden-floored dance hall, a large dining hall with a full commercial-quality kitchen, basic cabins that include flush-toilets and electrical outlets for fans, plenty of room for camp sites, and several hundred yards of frontage along the Little River. The Mentone resort community boasts many inns, bed & breakfasts, ski chalets, and luxury vacation homes for those with tastes for more refined comforts.

The dance was attended by gypsies from far and wide, as well as friends we recognized from Chattanooga, Memphis, Knoxville, Birmingham, and Atlanta. With music provided by the Queen City Bulldogs from Seattle, Red Mountain White Trash, and Cattywampas, callers Cis Hinkle, Jef Hodge and Susan Davis stepped us through soul satisfying contras and squares.

The Huntsville attendees and guests gathered for lunch and music in a large air-conditioned home rented for the

weekend by some of our members. We shared food we'd all brought, sang, played guitars, piano, mandolin and harmonium, and just generally enjoyed the fire out of one another's company and the opportunity to recover in air-conditioned comfort from the enthusiastic dancing.



## **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](mailto:nacds@pobox.com) if you'd like to be on either.

Yahoo group:

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



**North Alabama Country Dance Society**  
**162 White Elephant Road Grant AL 35747**

*Address Correction Requested*

**Please Join Us!**  
**Or Renew Your Membership!**

*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,  
2 guest passes, and a \$1 DISCOUNT to  
each regular dance!*