

Newsletter of the North Alabama Country Dance Society

Established 1982

Group Affiliate, Country Dance & Song Society

April 2002

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NACDS home page: <http://www.pobox.com/~nacds/NACDS.html>

April 6th: Harry Delugach with Bob, Cathy & Curt

On the first Saturday of April we will celebrate the beginning of spring with a dance! (Is anyone surprised?) Our own **Harry Delugach** will call, and the music will be provided by **Bob & Cathy White and Curt Lewis**.

April 20th: Jane Ewing with Curt, Cathy & Bob

Come help us commemorate two decades of traditional dance at our **Twentieth Anniversary Dance**. That's right, it was April of 1982 when a group of people started NACDS with a dance in the old church up on the Burritt Museum property. **B, C & C** will play and **Jane Ewing** will call. Don't miss it!

The fine print: NACDS dances the 1st, 3rd, & 5th 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 \$6 (\$5 for members, \$3 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!
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Blue Moon V

It is not too early to be planning your schedule for the last of May & early June. To help you in that task, we have enclosed a handy copy of your **Blue Moon V Weekend** flyer and registration form with this issue. Find it now, fill it out and mail it in. Go ahead, we'll wait. Do it now while you're thinking about it; you can always find something else to procrastinate about tomorrow.

If you are reading this on the internet, and do not have a flyer, then click below and print one out.

<http://members.telocity.com/bwalls/bluemoon.html>

Help Wanted!

It takes a lot of effort to pull off a dance weekend, and you might have a talent we need. Volunteer to help make name tags, to host an out-of-town dancer, to help with decorations, or work a short shift at the welcome table. Other positions are available, enquire at any of our dances.

Twenty Years of Country Dancing

This month marks the 20th anniversary of the North Alabama Country Dance Society. [Wild cheering & applause!] I don't know the actual date of the very first dance, but I am assured that it was in April of 1982. I gather that much of the impetus to hold an old-time country dance was due to Pat and Bill McClain. She could call dances, and he knew a few musicians who could play together, and somebody hired the old church building up on Monte Sano at the Burritt Museum, and someone got a notice printed. People came, they enjoyed themselves. They told their friends, and came back the next month.

Some of the musicians we enjoy to this day were playing for dances in various permutations back in the early years, and the band names were great too: "Sofa Cats" "Lykitor Knot" "Space City String Band".

Here's an item from the April 1992 issue (penned by Bryan Walls for his 2nd newsletter):

"For ten years we have been dancing at the wonderful little church at the Burritt Museum As the dance has grown, the time has come to find a roomier venue."

He goes on to describe the ideal dance hall:

"a wooden floor, great acoustics, lots of parking, inexpensive rental, handy to get to, a beautiful view, friendly landlords, and good temperature control."

A few dances that year were held at the Berachah Gym on Sparkman Drive, but most were still held at the Burritt. By late 1994 about half the dances were held at the Eastside Community Center on Dallas just south of Pratt Ave. Dances continued at the Burritt until the rent got too high. In early 1997 almost all the dances were being held at Faith Presbyterian where they continue to this day.

Invite former dancers to come dance on the 20th!

Election of Officers

Do you have fun at the dances? Do you appreciate the fine music we enjoy? Do you help us set up or put away the sound system & chairs before/after the dances? You do? Me too! Wanna be an officer? Oh, come back here! It's fun and besides, the tough jobs are all filled already. We're putting together a slate of officers for the coming year. Throw your hat in the ring by contacting any current officer by any means handy or corner one of us at a dance. We'll print the list of candidates in the next issue & vote at a dance in June.

Upcoming Dance Weekends

What the Hey? No Frills. Atlanta, GA. May 3-5

<http://www.oxford.emory.edu/ccd2/WhatTheHey/index.html>

Spring Dance Weekend - Brasstown - also May 3-5

<http://www.folkschool.com/dance.html>

Our own Blue Moon V - UAH - May 31-June 2

You may join us or renew your membership (check date on mailing label) at any of our dances, or by sending \$8, payable to me at the address below. You will receive this monthly newsletter & 2 free guest passes, plus you and all your kin will pay \$1 less to get into each of our regular dances.

H. Douglas Roth
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Cathy White, Bob White, Curt Lewis & Jane Ewing

Calendar

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

- Apr. 1 (Mon.): Knoxville: - Donna Calhoun calling with music by Contraindicated
KCD dances Mondays at the Laurel St. Theatre (at 16th Street); for info: <<http://www.kornet.org/kcd/kcdsched.htm>>.
- Apr. 5-7 (Fri.): Nashville: Playford Weekend - Gene Murrow teaching/calling with Nashville Weather
The 21st Annual Playford Ball Weekend is at the Cohn Adult Center - see their web site for directions:
<http://home.att.net/~Nashville.Country.Dancers/page3.html>
- Apr. 6 (Sat.): NACDS dance - Harry Delugach calling with Bob & Cathy White and Curt Lewis**
- Apr. 8 (Mon.): Knoxville: - Nick Boulet calling with music by Danny Gammon & The Love Muffins
- Apr. 12 (Fri.): Nashville: Susan Kevra calling with Russ Barenberg & Friends
NCD dances almost every Friday at the Woodbine Community Center, Burbank & Oriel, 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).
- Apr. 13 (Sat.): Birmingham: - Becca Impello & Archie Faulkner with Vulcan's Britches (*Their Last Dance*)
BCDS dances 2nd Saturdays at the YWCA, 2300 3rd Avenue North; 7:30 \$8. Info: <<http://www.bamalong.com/bcds.htm>>
- Apr. 13 (Sat.) Chattanooga: George Snyder calling with Contraindicated
CTDS dances occasional 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
- Apr. 15 (Mon.) Knoxville: - Vicki Herndon calling with music by Contra Amazons
- Apr. 19 (Fri.): Nashville: Eddie Doss calling with No Name String Band
- Apr. 20 (Sat.): NACDS dance - Jane Ewing calling with Curt Lewis and Cathy & Bob White**
- Apr. 22 (Mon.): Knoxville: - Tim Klein calling with music by Danny Gammon & All Over the Road
- Apr. 26 (Fri.) Nashville: No Nashville Dance
- Apr. 27 (Sat.): Chattanooga: Janet Shepherd calling
- Apr. 27 (Sat.): Birmingham - Unplugged - Open Mike calling plus you can sit-in & play
BCDS Unplugged dances are held at the Unitarian Church on Cahaba Rd. near the Zoo in MountainBrook. \$3
- Apr. 29 (Mon.): Knoxville - Donna Calhoun calling with music by Mumbillies

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

Local Band Opens for Grammy Winner

Bob & Cathy White and Curt Lewis, who play for us frequently - check this month's schedule - performed on Saturday March 30th as the opening act for Norman Blake. The concert was presented by the Huntsville Traditional Music Association at the Chan auditorium of UAH. Bob, Cathy and Curt lead us on a short tour of southern & Appalachian mountain music, playing tunes they learned from (or by) fiddlers in Georgia, the Carolinas, West Virginia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee & Alabama. HTMA President Jerry LeCroy mentioned that they played for NACDS and suggested that people come to our dances to hear more of their music.

After their set was over, Norman Blake took the stage and played a few pieces on guitar, including "Big Rock Candy Mountain"; a song he performed on the Grammy winning soundtrack album from the movie, "O Brother Where Art Thou?" He was then joined by his wife Nancy for the rest of the set.

They did a number of songs where they both played guitar, but Nancy really shined when she played mandolin on some of Norman's compositions, such as the "Chattanooga Rag" or the traditional "Jimmie in the Swamp". Ed Baggott said that she is one of the better mandolin players he knows and wishes there were more opportunities to hear her play.

See pix of the concert at: http://www.huntsvillefolk.org/photo_album.htm