

OUR READERS WRITE

Jane Ewing wrote from Grant, AL, about topics near and dear to all our hearts – friends and money:

"I feel we need to give some strong thoughts to encouraging more dancers to come out. Did you know that 80% of our survey results say that newcomers come because someone took the time to invite them? Maybe we all need to look at those people we see on a regular basis and take two minutes to talk to them to see if contra might work in their life and invite them. Between you and me [and a hundred of our friends; *ed*] - it took me a couple of years to invite someone I knew from church; someone who just 'looked' like they might enjoy contra. Now, not only has this person become a regular, but they have brought in others to join us - you just never know.

"One newcomer recently answered 'Aerobic work-out, cool music, fun people.' to the question 'What did you like'.

"Since the June 21st dance we have only averaged a profit of \$6.63 per dance. Sure would be nice if it was larger! Average number of dancers per dance = 65. We really need to get the number closer to 80, not only for profit but for fun purposes.

"We have also been lucky that 30% of our newcomers have been in their 20's - what a great age group to be with!! This age group learns so much faster than us old farts (speaking for myself) it means that our dancing ability should rise!!"

Editor: Thanks Jane! We spent some time browsing survey results, too, and two things really jumped out at us.

First, in answer to what they liked, newcomers overwhelmingly answered fun, friendly, welcoming people – even more often than the dance and music itself. People respond positively when we smile and have fun with them!

But second, in answer to what they did not especially like, a few comments stood out: "Crabby people who seemed

annoyed if you didn't dance as they wanted you to", "Some of the more experienced dancers were a little aggressive about showing you the right move/position, rather than just letting you enjoy yourself", "some (but not many) folks were stand-offish." When we forget to smile and accept people as they are, they notice...



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, 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!

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

FEBRUARY 7 : HUNTSVILLE

CALLER — JANE EWING

BAND — FULL MOON CONSORT

FEBRUARY 21 : HUNTSVILLE

CALLERS — ERIN MAGUIRE

BANDS — MAPLE HILL

AREA DANCE GYPSY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 6 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — KENDAL BROADIE

BAND — CALLIOPE

FEBRUARY 7 : ATHENS, TN

CALLER — MIKE ROBINSON

BAND — TBA

FEBRUARY 8 : KNOXVILLE

CABIN FEVER '09 KNOXVILLE DANCE WEEKEND

CALLERS — ROBERT CROMARTIE, DANNY GAMMON, AND

DARON DOUGLAS

BANDS — SKYTONES AND LOVE MUFFINS

FEBRUARY 10 : FLAT CREEK

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — JIM & INGE WOOD WITH VARIOUS & SUNDRY

FEBRUARY 13 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — SUSAN KEVRA

BAND — CUMBERLAND TENDERFOOTS

FEBRUARY 14 : BIRMINGHAM A

CALLER — JANET SHEPHERD

BAND — THE YAHOO'S

FEBRUARY 14 : CHATTANOOGA

CALLER — BOB DALSEMER

BAND — ED AND ELSIE

FEBRUARY 20 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — SUSAN MOFFETT

BAND — THE HOT CLUB OF DERBYTOWN

FEBRUARY 22 : BIRMINGHAM

CALLER — GARY NELSON

BAND — FIDDLING IN THE PARLOR

FEBRUARY 22 : SEWANEE

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — OLD FACTORY PICKER

FEBRUARY 27 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — JOHN SHARLET

BAND — BILL VERDIER, ANNE HOOS, BILL WOLFE

FEBRUARY 24 : FLAT CREEK

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — JIM & INGE WOOD WITH VARIOUS & SUNDRY

FEBRUARY 28: CHATTANOOGA

CALLER — KENDAL BROADIE

BAND — CALLIOPE

MARCH 27-29 : NASHVILLE

PLAYFORD BALL WEEKEND

CALLER — JOSEPH PIMENTEL

BAND — BARE NECESSITIES

TO LEARN MORE

FoOTMaD (Birmingham)

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

CTDS (Chattanooga)

(706) 937-4991 or (423)876-7359

<http://www.contranooga.org>

Misty Mountain Dancers (Sewanee, TN)

(931) 598-0814

<http://mistycontra.zoomshare.com/>

NCD (Nashville)

(615) 210-6808

<http://www.nashvillecountrydancers.org/>

Flat Creek

http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org/Dances/flatcreekcontra_dances.htm

FULL MOON CONSORT

We will be privileged February 7 to dance to the music of a band most of has never heard before, the Full Moon Consort!

Full Moon Consort is: Andrew Levin from Clemson, NC, on fiddle; Robin Behn from Birmingham on flute and penny whistle, Steve Nix from Huntsville on guitar and cello, Wayne Hitt from Scottsboro on piano, and John English from Birmingham on percussion.

Andrew, Steve, and Robin started this group last summer at band camp in Brasstown, N.C. They played their first dance on the night of the full moon and they've been playing together and adding musicians ever since. Andrew, who is the orchestra director at Clemson University by day and an awesome fiddler by night, will be traveling to Alabama for this special occasion.

CAN YOU WAIT FOR BLUE MOON?!

Final details are being arranged now for the Blue Moon dance weekend in Huntsville, the weekend of May 15-17! Music and calling will be provided by one of the hottest bands around, George Marshall and Wild Asparagus. Some say Wild Asparagus is the hottest contra band from New England. Certainly those packing the local dance halls as they tour would agree. Wild Asparagus is America's "most traveled" contra band, and everywhere they go, the halls are packed. People are whooping it up, enjoying their lively, sometimes hypnotic, joyous music. With additional calling by Jane Ewing and music by and Jim and Enge Wood, we know every moment of the dance is going to be memorable. We'll be distributing flyers soon, and we encourage you to register early – we are hopeful that we will fill the hall to capacity this year!

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE WORKSHOP, POTLUCK SUPPER, AND CONTRA DANCE

Chattanooga: Saturday, February 28, 2009
All Saints Academy

ECD Workshop	Adults \$8	Students \$5
Contra Dance	Adults \$8	Students \$5
Special deal both ECD Workshop AND Contra Dance	Adults \$12	Students \$8

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. English Country Dance Workshop with Calliope and teaching by Kendal Broadie

6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Potluck Supper (please bring a dish or beverage to share)

7:30 - 8:00 p.m. Contra Dance Lesson for Newcomers

8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Contra Dance with Calliope and calling by Kendal Broadie

English Country Dancing promotes agility, good cheer, friendship, smiles, cooperation, flirting, community, grace, deep breathing, laughing at mistakes and FUN. It's lively, flowing and VERY easy to learn. (Think, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and you'll get the idea.) Come join us for the first-ever English Country Dance Workshop in Chattanooga, then stay for the potluck and the contra dance to follow.

Kendal Broadie ([link to Kendal's bio](#)) is a renowned dance caller, teacher and dancer who will be accompanied by the sensational and versatile band Calliope ([link to band's website](#)) all from Nashville. Join us for all of or just part of this wonderful day of dance! All dances will be taught in detail.



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/>



**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!*