

OUR READERS WRITE

Moonstruck in Madison asked "When is the 2008 Huntsville Blue Moon Dance? Seems like it's been nearly a year since the last one..."

I am remiss for waiting so long to begin stoking the fires of anticipation for the next **Blue Moon** Huntsville contra dance festival. The festival weekend is May 16-18, 2008, and it promises to be a spectacular event. Please turn to page 3 for the full story. Mark your calendars and register early for the biggest weekend of annual fun in the Southeast!

MARCH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The March Steering Committee meeting will be held March 2. The time and place will be announced at the March 1 dance, or contact me for more information.

DANCE IN CHATTANOOGA

I'm two days late getting this newsletter ready for the printer, I have a page to fill, and I don't have any pictures from recent dances. So I thought I'd tell you about a recent visit to Chattanooga.

Kathy and I danced in Chattanooga February 9 and had a great time! It was a full day of dancing that started with an English country dance workshop. The workshop was led by Kendal Brodie with music by Calliope. This was the first time we had tried English country dancing, and we really didn't know what to expect. I had heard something about giving weight differently (giving less weight, to be precise), but it wasn't much to go on.

What we learned is that English country dancing is quite varied, has similar steps to contra dancing (though with different names), and is a lot of fun!

We danced a circle dance that met my vague expectations --

the steps were a little slower, and partners didn't touch beyond allemandes. But the dance was elegant, and we learned new steps -- "set", "back to back", "grand chain", among others.

Later, Kendall called a dance in waltz time that moved through familiar sets of two couples, like contra dancing, but that we stepped through in the left-right-left, right-left-right waltz time. This also had some familiar steps and some new steps. While a little more formal than we generally do in contra dancing, the dance created fun new shapes and was really just a slightly different approach to the familiar fun: smiles, eye contact, gentle pushing and pulling, and swings.

By far, my favorite dance of the afternoon was a 5-couple reel that featured a wild ladies chain, butterfly whirls, and got out of hand in a hurry if you didn't give the situation your full attention!

English country dancing was a blast, Kendall's calling was spot-on, and Calliope was hot!

But the evening was just getting started. The Contranooga group of dancers set out a terrific pot-luck dinner following the workshop that really hit the spot. And as we cleaned up, the crowds began pouring into the hall for the regular contra dance.

We've danced in Chattanooga several times before, and each time I'm amazed again at the number of young newcomers they have and the amount of energy and buoyant emotions they bring with them! Kendall had his hands full getting each new dance started, but once things were underway, we were carried along by the music, calling, and exuberant dancing.

If you like your contras with a healthy dose of youthful vigor and warm hospitality, you could do a lot worse than making the short trek to Chattanooga. And there's a final bonus: you get an hour back on the drive home.

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!

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

MARCH 1 : HUNTSVILLE

CALLER — ERIN MAGUIRE

BAND — JIM & INGE WOOD

MARCH 15 : HUNTSVILLE

CALLER — KENDAL BRODIE

BAND — CALLIOPE

AREA DANCE GYPSY CALENDAR

MARCH 7 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — MELISSA & ED WILKINSON

BAND — NASHVILLE WEATHER

MARCH 8 : BIRMINGHAM

CALLER — DOUG SINGLETON

BAND — CARTER LANEY BAND

MARCH 8 : CHATTANOOGA

CALLER — CIS HINKLE

BAND — CONTRAINDICATED

MARCH 8 : NASHVILLE

OLD TIME STRINGBAND ASSOCIATION BREAKIN' UP WINTER AT CEDARS OF LEBANON STATE PARK

CALLER — SUSAN KEVRA

BAND — OLDTIME BANDS

MARCH 9 : NASHVILLE COUNTRY DANCERS

4-6:30 PM AT FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE; FOR DIRECTIONS GO TO DANCENASHVILLE.ORG

CALLER — EMMA RUSHTON

BAND — THE CONTRARIAN ENSEMBLE

MARCH 14 : FLAT CREEK

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — JIM & INGE WOOD WITH VARIOUS & SUNDRY

MARCH 14 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — EMMA RUSHTON

BAND — ED BAGGOTT AND ELSIE PETERSON

MARCH 21 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — SUSAN KEVRA

BAND — THE CONTRARIAN ENSEMBLE

MARCH 22 : CHATTANOOGA

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — RIVERCITY ROUSTABOUTS

MARCH 25 : FLAT CREEK

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — JIM & INGE WOOD WITH VARIOUS & SUNDRY

MARCH 28 - 30 : NASHVILLE COUNTRY DANCERS

PLAYFORD BALL WEEKEND COHN LEARNING CENTER

FOR INFO AND BROCHURE SEE DANCENASHVILLE.ORG

CALLER — PHILIPPE CALLENS FROM BELGIUM

BAND — A JOYFUL NOISE

MARCH 28 : SEWANEE

CALLER — VICKIE HERNDON

BAND — TENNESSEE DOGTROTTERS

MAY 16-18 : HUNTSVILLE BLUE MOON 11

CALLERS — JOSEPH PIMENTEL, CIS HINKEL

BANDS — HOTPOINT STRINGBAND, ED & ELSIE

FoOTMaD (Birmingham) dances 2nd Saturdays and 4th Sundays at the YMCA, 3rd Ave & 23rd St, 7:30 PM.
<http://www.bamalong.com/bcnds.htm>.

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

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

Flat Creek dances – 2 & 4th Tues, Flat Creek Community Center – seven miles south of Shelbyville, TN.
http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org/Dances/flatcreekcontra_dances.htm



Hotpoint Stringband is Mark Burhans (fiddle), Hilarie Burhans (clawhammer banjo), Mark Hellenberg (percussion, banjo uke), Marlene Shostak (piano), and Nick Weiland (bass).

Surely you already know them? Sizzling hot contra dance tunes, high-energy squares, and hopping string swing. This band gives so much more than a steady beat you can dance to! Hotpoint gives you that, too, with the swinging playfulness that harkens back to the jazz bands in dance halls of an earlier time. Bring your best dancing shoes and plenty of energy because you will have to dance!



Joseph Pimentel is a New England native who has recently moved to Houston, Texas. Everything is bigger in Texas so they had to have Joseph! His skillful mix of clear teaching and discriminating taste with wide-open happiness and high-energy, puts us

all in a dancing mood. How he does it is magic, but the dancers reap the benefits! Joseph's calling is popular around the country. He is truly a man with panache!



Atlanta's **Cis Hinkle** calls dynamic contras and fast moving squares with zest and simplicity. Her enthusiastic calling is appreciated at dances across the U.S., England and Scandinavia. We welcome her back to Once in a Blue Moon!



Ed Baggott & Elsie Peterson are a Huntsville duo on fiddle and piano that have been playing dances across the country for well over a decade. They combine music from both traditional and contemporary sources and bring a unique, rich, and unusually diverse repertoire of tunes to the dance floor.

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



*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!*