

New Volunteer Coordinators

After a long and careful search for just the right folks, Aundee English and Sasha Rathe have stepped up to the plate to serve as volunteer coordinator and operations manager for the Old Farmers Ball Thursday dances.

Aundee will be our new Co-Volunteer coordinator. She will be calling on new volunteers and assigning them to available positions as well as maintaining our volunteer list. Aundee has been an OFB volunteer for almost two years while maintaining a helpful presence on her non-volunteer nights.

Sasha Rathe has volunteered to assist in our operations oversight. She will ensure that we have the supplies we need to maintain a well run dance while helping us to keep our STUFF organized. Sasha has been volunteering for almost a year. She and her family have been pillars of our volunteer crew. We are lucky to have such kind and loving folks!

Daneoh will continue to oversee these areas assisting our coordinators - Deeming Style Management (from the bottom up) - listening, removing barriers and ensuring our volunteers have the support they need to get their jobs done while allowing our volunteers to guide us to what works best.

Says Daneoh, "Our large dance can be challenging to maintain. Luckily I have had the support of wonderful volunteers like Aundee and Sasha!"

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

REUNION WEEKEND!

August 24 - 26
Camp Merrimac in Black Mountain

Dancing · Swimming · Jamming ·
Community Meals ·
General Hanging-Out-Summer-Fun

Reunion is our local dance weekend *for anyone who has danced at the Old Farmers Ball at least once, wished they had danced at the Old Farmers Ball, or know someone who claims to have danced there.*

This is an all volunteer weekend. Everyone helps.

Early sign-ups are being taken for the prime volunteer jobs, including crew captains and pre-dance planning & set-up (get your job done early and play freely all weekend!)

REGISTER NOW, then contact John Combs to sign up for your choice.

Some scholarships are available - see the registration form for details.

Governance Committee:

Joe Karpen, Chair:

The Governance committee has been working on a complete revision of our OFB Bylaws. We hope to be finished with this process sometime this fall. Proposed revisions will be published for the membership to review. Anyone who is especially interested in detailed input regarding the by-laws should contact Joe Karpen.

Dance Development Committee:

Suzannah Park, Chair:

The Dance Development Committee has developed a survey to help determine what dancers like about our dances and what improvements they suggest. This survey is being distributed at dances, and will be mailed with the newsletter, in an effort to obtain input from current dancers and from dancers who no longer attend regularly (we want to know why). Look for the survey in this newsletter, or on the flyer table, and please respond. A box for completed surveys is on the flyer table, or the survey may be mailed to the address shown.

The President's Report *by Diane Silver*

In the last issue of the Old Farmer's Ball News, I outlined the community input process the Board used at the beginning of the year to identify the issues and concerns of our dance community that would be the focus of the Board's work this year. From that list, we formed committees to carry out the legwork and to bring proposals for solutions or new initiatives to the Board as a whole. Here is an overview of what those committees are working on:

Governance Committee: This committee will review the OFB By-Laws and recommend revisions, including consideration of terms of service on the Board, and the nominating and electoral process for Board members.

Policy Committee: This committee will create a Board Policy Handbook so all policies created by the Board over the years are referenced in one place. This will help with consistency, efficiency, and accountability. It will also review our payment policy for sound engineers and performers, to ensure equity, review admissions policies, and handle any other issues that require a policy decision from the Board. The committee does the initial research and discussion and makes a recommendation to the Board for full consideration and a final vote. If there is not consensus on the committee regarding a policy recommendation, the different opposing recommendations can be presented to the full Board as majority and minority reports.

Volunteer Committee: This committee manages all the volunteer work, including recruiting and scheduling volunteers. It also makes recommendations regarding volunteer benefits and appreciation, and coordinates the logistics of running the dance.

Finance Committee: This committee handles budgeting, financial management and accountability, long-range fiscal planning, and fundraising.

Membership Committee: This committee manages the membership process (how to join) and membership benefits, maintains the membership list, and produces the membership directory.

Sound Committee: A comprehensive sound improvement proposal has been submitted to the Board by Weogo Reed, our lead sound engineer. This committee will review the proposal and develop a timeline and action steps for implementing it, and, once approved, lead the actual tasks to get it done.

Booking Committee: This committee will review and recommend policies regarding the criteria for bands and callers getting booked for our dances, and for our vision and expectations for open band and open mic events. It will work with the Policy committee to recommend a formal policy for when outside groups request to use our dance as a benefit for their cause. It will also address any grievances related to booking. The committee chair does the actual booking of performers according to the policies approved by the Board.

Newsletter Committee: This committee produces the newsletter 6 times per year.

Dance Development Committee: This committee will work on issues that affect the quality of the dance experience at our weekly dances, such as how to manage crowding on the floor, how to help new dancers develop skills quickly – basically how to keep the dance as the KIND of event we want it to be.

Community Outreach Program Committee: Many good ideas were presented regarding opportunities for the OFB use its human and financial resources to support music and dance within our larger community. This committee will explore these opportunities and make recommendations to the Board, and then lead any efforts that are approved.

Marketing and PR Committee: This committee manages any sales of stuff, such as T-shirts, bumper stickers, etc. It will also work with the Policy committee to set up consistent guidelines for when outside groups request to sell their stuff at our dances.

Special Events Guidelines Committee: This committee will propose guidelines for special dances that are official OFB events, such as Reunion and New Year's Eve, so that as Chairs of those events change, the expectations and accountability remains consistent.

Special Events Committees: Committees are formed each year for Reunion, New Year's Eve, and any other official OFB event. These committees plan and carry out the event from start to finish (so they need lots of help!), according to the guidelines set forth by the Board.

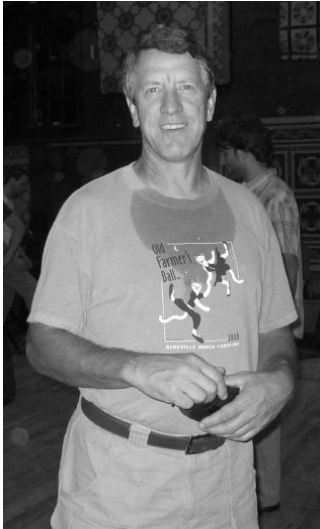
Long-Range Vision Committee: This committee was originally called the "Dream Dance Hall" Committee, and grew out of discussions about whether sometime in the future OFB might want to have our own building for holding dances. What will we do if for some reason we are no longer able to dance at Bryson Gym (knock-on-wood not anytime soon!) What will we do if we ultimately get so big that we need a bigger space? What is the long-range vision for our organization?

Clearly, we have our work cut out for us! There is lots of room and need for active involvement from dancers. If you have ideas related to any of these efforts, please contact the Committee chair. You don't have to be on the Board to serve on a committee – in fact, most committee members should be non-Board members. This helps ensure diversity and good representation of ideas, and also helps share the work. This is YOUR dance. We encourage everyone to be a part of it, off the dance floor as well as on.

Meet your '07 Board of Directors (continued from previous issues)

In recent issues of the Old Farmers Ball News, we introduced you to our officers and some of our new members-at-large. In this issue we continue those introductions with David Stalnaker, a new member-at-large, and Laurie Fisher, a long-time board member. Watch for further introductions in subsequent issues.

David Stalnaker - Member-at-Large



David was born in Fairmont, W.Va., and graduated from Fairmont State University in 1972, with a BA in Eng. Tech. He moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in 1972, where he had several occupations, including working as a business manager for the last 10 years. He met his lovely wife Joanne there and they were married in 1986. Their lovely and graceful daughter Jennifer was born in June, 1987. They moved to a 17 acre farm

about 8 miles outside of Weaverville in 1991, where they reside today.

Joanne and David were co-vice presidents of the

Laurie Fisher - Member-at-Large

Laurie is a passionate lover of dance and music and its ensuing magick. She is an 'original' OFB dancer, having danced here even before the official creation of the Old Farmers Ball in 1982. She also founded and produced the Asheville Contradance and Summer Soiree for 13 and 12 years respectively. She has been a member of the OFB board for so long, she provides 'corporate memory' on occasion.

Laurie began dancing long ago (maybe 1981?) at the John C. Campbell Folk School. It was a mix of contra and English dance. What keeps her coming back? Joy, ecstasy, friends and career. She has also danced and taught waltz, swing, schottiche, polka, and hambo. She has done Morris dancing for many years; her latest obsession is Cajun and Zydeco; and she is slowly learning bellydance.



Laurie is a long-time musician and a caller. She grew up with a piano in the house and a dad who learned to play from piano rolls. She discovered the string family (clawhammer banjo, guitar and fiddle) as a WWC student back in 19*#. Bass, melodeon and percussion have been added more recently. And, she says, she has been "impersonating an orchestral second violinist since 2003." [Editor's note - translation: she plays with the Blue Ridge Community Orchestra; probably one of the few orchestra violinists who plays by ear rather than from music.] *Continued on page 4* →

Beech community center for about 6 years, and David has been a Deacon and Elder at Reems Creek- Beech Presbyterian Church. All three began contra dancing together in 2001, after a short stint of swing dances. David says, "It is wonderful that all three of us can have so much fun dancing together. No matter how tiring or troubling a day I have had, about three beats into the first dance, it all goes away and there is only enjoyment left in its place."

Why do you serve on the board? "I volunteered for the board because I have taken so much enjoyment out that it was only fair to put some effort into seeing that the Ball continues. The sense of community between such a diverse group of people is indeed rare and special."

Interesting note: "I am 57 years old and own a tractor. There should be at least one old farmer on the board of the Old Farmers Ball."

REGIONAL CONTRA DANCE CARPOOLING WEBSITE

Don't let the price of gas keep you from going to your favorite regional dances. Use the OFB wiki-webpage to connect with other travelers.

A wiki is a webpage that anyone can edit. Go to the page and follow the easy directions to log-on. Then add your text to list the dance you want to go to and your contact info so others can call you to carpool. OR, call someone else who listed their name.

<http://ofb-events.pbwiki.com/Carpooling>

(Enter EXACTLY as shown. Note the capital C).

Meet your '07 Board of Directors

(continued from page 3)

Laurie called her first dance in 1985, in Ireland, at the Cork Folk Festival . . . "Unplanned of course; I was suddenly hired at breakfast for a dance that afternoon."

When asked about her service on the board (why do you serve, and what questions/issues/directions relating to the future of the Old Farmers Ball are of the greatest concern to you personally), Laurie replied: (I serve on the board because) "I like it . . . The OFB is a great event and wonderful community that I want to participate in."

"I would like to see our board mature into a more functional and capable entity. I share the fantasy that many have of a dedicated dance facility/community center that the dance owns and can maintain over time and utilize for more dance/cultural/educational/

Old Farmers Ball
PO Box 9000, WWC Box 6278
Asheville, NC 28815

the Old Farmers Ball News is

published bi-monthly by the Old Farmer's Ball, and includes the Asheville Area Dance Flyer, Dance Thoughts column, Project Reports, contact info, and much more. Deadline for the next *Old Farmer's Ball News* is August 8. Please send your submissions: photos, jokes, letters, thoughts, articles, ideas, etc. to the editor: bmolaro@earthlink.net.

LOOK FOR YOUR JULY / AUGUST DANCE FLYER INSIDE.

2007 Board of Directors Contact Information:

Officers

President Diane Silver diane@diane-silver.com
Vice-President Suzanne Hosch suzhosch@yahoo.com
Secretary Linda Mitchell lindamitchell53@yahoo.com
Treasurer Jonathan Gilbert bodystone@aol.com

Members-at-Large

Able Allen	contramindset@yahoo.com	Joe Karpen	jkarpen@lpcutting.com
John Combs	johncombs@main.nc.us	Emily Mitchell	mlemitch@gmail.com
Daneo Davila	catofpassion@yahoo.com	Beth Molaro	bmolaro@earthlink.net
Laurie Fisher	fiddlewitch@lovelmail.com	Hank Morris	HanknJune@cs.com
David Hayes	contravert@gmail.com	Sara Slaughter	swinginfiddler@yahoo.com
Bill Hufnagle	bikerbilly@bikerbilly.com	David Stalnaker ..	Stalnakers3@aol.com

Ways to Stay Connected

Telephone Info Line 828 258-4809
Webiste www.oldfarmersball.com
ListServe groups.yahoo.com/group/ofb/

Committee Chairs

Finance	Jonathan Gilbert	Governance	Joe Karpen
Marketing & PR	Jonathan Gilbert	Long-range Vision	David Hayes
Booking	Beth Molaro	Community Outreach	David Hayes
Newsletter	Beth Molaro	Dance Development	Suzannah Park
Volunteers	Daneo Davila	Special Events Guidelines	Suzanne Hosch
Sound	Daneo Davila	Reunion Weekend	John Combs
Policy	Able Allen	New Year's Eve	WE NEED YOU

Asheville Area Dances

Jul - Aug 2007

Grey Eagle

Mondays - 8pm Beginners Always Welcome
185 Clingman Avenue - Asheville NC (828) 232-5800

- 7-2 **U4** w/ Adina Gordon
Matt & Tom Turino, Michael Shapiro, Michael Valliant
- 7-9 **Dancing Bears**.....w/ Barbara Groh
Lew Gelfond, Mark Langner, John Culp, Skip Metheny
- 7-16 **Get Reel** w/ Gary Nelson
Beanie Odell, Duncan Wickel, Vincent Fogerty
- 7-23 **The Forge Mountain Diggers** ... w/ Beth Molaro
David Bass, Thomas Bailey, Allison Williams
- 7-30 **Mock Turtle Soup**.....w/ Anne Marie Walter
CD Release Party & Concert 6:30pm Before Dance
Pearl Mueller, Chris Holleman, Willie Repoley
- 8-6 **The Euphoria String Band** w/ Roberta Kogut
Bob Kogut & friends
- 8-13 **The Spring Chickens**.....w/ Fred Park
Ben Harvey, McClain Bissel, Art Shuster, Beth & Rob Mangum
- 8-20 **The Warren All Stars** w/ Diane Silver
Laura Lengnick, Matt Turino, Meg Cornett
- 8-27 **Hot Flash** w/ Hank Morris
Laurie Fisher, Karen Gaughan

OFB Board Meetings

2nd Mondays – Grey Eagle - 6:30pm

- 7-9, 8-13 Before the Monday dance - Everyone Welcome

Old Farmer's Ball

Thursdays - 8pm (lesson 7:30pm) (828) 258-4809
Warren Wilson College - Bryson Gym - Swannanoa NC

- 7-5 **U4** (from Indiana).....w/ Beth Molaro
Matt & Tom Turino, Michael Shapiro, Michael Valliant

Swannanoa Gathering Dances – Open to All

- 7-12 **Vintage Blues-Swing-Rock & Roll**
w/ Cis Hinkle + the "Sing & Swing Week" staff
- 7-19 **Ceilidh Dance** w/ Rodney Sutton
"Celtic Week" staff
- 7-26 **Southern Appalachian Squares & Circles**
w/ Phil Jamison and the New Southern Ramblers
+ "Old Time Week" staff
- 8-2 **Contra Dance** w/ Barbara Groh
"Guitar and Contemporary Folk Week" staff
- 8-9 **Contra & Swing Dance**w/ Beth Molaro
"Fiddle Week" staff
- 8-16 **Fly By Night**w/ Diane Silver
Julia Weatherford, Beth Magill, Laura Lengnick,
Karen Gaughan
- 8-23 **Welcome Back WWC Students Dance**
w/ Phil Jamison + Shuffle Creek
Matt Brown, Sara Slaughter, Lindsey
- 8-30 **Holy Coyote**..... w/ John Combs
Laurie Fisher, Dave Marcus, Karen Gaughan, Larry Enlow

Music Jam - Before The Dance, Every Thursday
>>> ON HOLD UNTIL WWC STUDENTS RETURN <<<

Other Regional Dances & Instruction

Asheville Community Dance Scene

Second Saturday - 8:15pm - Venue Varies
Info: 828.582.9222 828.216.5115

Family Dance

w/ Diane Silver

Saturday - 5pm Potluck – 6pm to 7:30 Dancing
www.diane-silver.com/FamilyDance.html

info: (828) 298-7084

advancedANCE

w/ Beth Molaro

We Are Looking For A New Hall

Info: (828) 277-4068

English Country Dance

Karen – (828) 230-8449

** RETURNING IN THE FALL – Watch for Details **

River Falls Dance – Greenville SC..... www.harvestmoonfolk.org

Dates: 7-7, 7-13, 7-21, 7-28, 8-4, 8-10, 8-18, 8-25

Swing Dance Information www.swingasheville.com

Hendersonville Dance

5th Saturday (four times per year) at the VFW Hall - 900 N.Main St,
Hendersonville, NC Info: www.folkhorizons.org

Celo Dance – Friday 8pm rlevin@trccomputing .com

"Green Cay" at Arthur Morgan School \$3
Music by Bruce Greene & Friends (828) 675-4331

Almond Dance (formerly the Webster Dance) 4th Saturdays

At the SCC Almond Center in Bryson City NC
call Kathy (828) 497-4709 or Ron (828) 586-5478

OFB Thursday Dance Hot-Line (828) 258-4809

Find current information and other dance links at:

oldfarmersball.com