

Board Meetings will now be held on the 2nd Monday of most Months @ the Grey Eagle... You are welcome to attend. Check Website.

Beginner/Intermediate Music Jam meets on Thursday evenings in Room 25 in Kittredge Music Building at Warren Wilson College before the dance. 6:30-8:00.

Membership Directories will be ready soon. Printing was postponed to allow new members who joined @ the 25th Anniversary Weekend to be listed in the Directory.

Join the OFB List-Serve. Send an email message to ofb-subscribe@yahoo.com You'll get a reply from Yahoo asking you to confirm. Reply and you are on... Post on dance related subjects, thoughts, etc. Organize Carpools to dances, etc. Discuss Dance Stuff.

Get your 2007 T-Shirt at the dance on Thursday & Check out the new OFB Stickers!

Next Community Open Band ~ April 26. Anyone is welcome to play with the Open Band. In Response to feedback from participants, **we are trying something new.** Musicians are invited to a pre-dance gathering and jam led by Open Band Leader on April 19 in Room 15 in Kittredge Music Building at Warren Wilson College @ 7:00PM. Those who are interested in playing with the open band are encouraged to attend this jam and meeting to be part of making a plan for the dance on April 26th, to find and play common tunes, create a tune list and some dance sets and to work out communication signals. You are NOT required to attend this pre-dance jam to play in the band on April 26th. All are welcome!

Dance Thought: **Advanced dancing** does not mean doing the fanciest dancing all of the time; rather, it is **having good judgment** for when flourishes are appropriate and when they are not.

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

OLD FARMERS BALL
PO BOX 9000 W W C BOX 6278
ASHEVILLE, NC 28815

BE A MEMBER

- ◆ Be a supporting and voting member of the Old Farmers Ball community.
- ◆ Be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors.
- ◆ Be listed in the *Old Farmers Ball Membership Directory*.
- ◆ List your occupation in the Directory... another way to connect with our community.
- ◆ Get a copy of the *Old Farmers Ball Membership Directory*.
- ◆ Get our Official Newsletter, the *OLD FARMERS BALL NEWS*.
- ◆ Get \$1 off dance admission with your Membership Key Tag.

Join anytime. Renewals due each January.
Membership Forms are available online or at the Old Farmers Ball Thursday dance.



FIND YOUR MAR/APR DANCE FLYER ON THE BACK COVER

Meet Your '07 Board of Directors

At the Annual Meeting on January 18th, we elected new Officers and new members-at-large for our board of directors. In this issue, we introduce you to the new officers and with each successive issue this year, we will introduce you to four more of our members-at-large until we have introduced you to them all.

As members of the board, we are all here to serve you, the dancers. Please feel free to chat with us at the dances or email us about anything you would like us to know.



Diane Silver.....President

Diane Silver has served as a member-at-large on the Old Farmers Ball Board of Directors for three years, and as Vice- President in 2006. She has been a caller for eight years, and a closet fiddle player for about ten years. She aspires to play more by ear, and to understand enough music theory to play back-up and to switch keys on demand.

Diane’s interest in serving on the board is simple – she feels that the dance community provides a lot to her personally, and serving on the board is a means of supporting the dance and giving something back. Diane is an Environmental Educator in her non-dance life, with many years experience in the non-profit sector doing public speaking, project management, budgeting, team leadership, planning and logistics, and teaching. She has strong administrative skills, so she feels that serving on the board is one of the best ways she can contribute (other than calling). She says, “whatever you do, don’t put me on the decorations committee – I can balance a budget, no problem, but a decorative artist I am NOT.” She feels that everyone has some skill to offer, and the key is to identify how and where you can help.

Diane discovered contra dancing in 1994, when a friend dragged her to the annual contra dance on the historic covered bridge, in the Cuyahoga Valley, near Cleveland, Ohio. She went to her first dance weekend a few months later (Breaking Up Thanksgiving, in Chicago), and was hooked forevermore.

She had always loved traditional music and was a wannabe musician, so dancing was the perfect means for participating with the music and connecting with the band. That opportunity to play with the music, plus the friendly, welcoming people and sense of community quickly made contra dancing a focus of her recreational time. Through contra dancing, she also became an avid swing dancer and flatfooter. She danced for several years with a swing dance performance troupe, *The Cincinnati Lindy Circle*, and she enjoys teaching swing and flatfooting workshops.

Diane’s goal for her term as President of the Old Farmers Ball is to facilitate the growth of the organization, so that the dance continues to be a safe and fun experience, even with the great crowds it attracts. She says, “While the loose hand-shake style of management works well in a small community where everyone knows each other, it becomes inefficient and ineffective when the group gets big and the sense of community becomes fractured into sub-groups. Our dance is one of the biggest in the country, and while that’s great for the continuity of the dance and for those involved, it requires more structured management. My goal is to promote that sense of personal involvement~that contra dancing is not consumer entertainment, where you pay your admission to be entertained, but rather that it is a potluck endeavor, where everyone contributes a little bit of both money and time, and together we’re able to put on a dance. As the event gets bigger, it requires more behind-the-scenes work: managing insurance, capital investments/our excellent sound equipment, communicating well with partners/Warren Wilson, accounting, etc. So my goal is to move us to the next level for our organization, where the small community atmosphere is maintained and lots of people contribute to the dance, even while more formal and structured business practices are put in place to ensure accountability, safety, risk-management, etc., of such a large weekly event.”

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT INFORMATION:

- President..... Diane Silver
diane@diane-silver.com
- Vice President..... Suzanne Hosch
suzhosch@yahoo.com
- Secretary..... Linda Mitchell
lindamitchell53@yahoo.com
- Treasurer/T-Shirt Project.. Jonathan Gilbert
bodystone@aol.com
- Booking/Newsletter.....Beth Molaro
bmolaro@earthlink.net
- Volunteer Coordinator.....Daniel Davila
catofpassion@yahoo.com
- Able Allen.....contramindset@yahoo.com
- Joe Carpen.....jkarpen@lpcutting.com
- John Combsjohncombs@main.nc.us
- Laurie Fisher.....fiddlewitch@lovelmail.com
- David Hayes.....contravert@gmail.com
- Bill Hufnagle.....bikerbilly@bikerbilly.com
- Emily Mitchell.....mlemitch@gmail.com
- Hank Morris.....HanknJune@cs.com
- Sara Slaughter...swinginfiddler@yahoo.com
- David Stalnaker.....Stalnakers3@aol.com

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

- Telephone Info-Line828-258-4809
- Websitewww.oldfarmersball.com
- List Serve **groups.yahoo.com/group/ofb/**



Suzanne Hosch.....Vice-President



I serve on the board because I care about the welfare and future of a dance and the community that has made a vast difference in my life and that of many other people. I want to give back some good energy to the dance.

What skills/experiences/contacts do you have to share with the Old Farmers Ball? I bring only myself, but I have experiences in organizing events for children and adults. I have some experience in nonprofit work but also look forward to the learning process of being on a board.

I am a musician. I have played flute for many years, but the contra dance music genre is relatively new to me. I have been in *Fine Companions Waltz Band* for 5 years now and a member of *Reel Magnolias* contra dance band for the last 3 years.

I started contra dancing in May of 1999 at the LEAF festival and have continued because of the laughter, movement, joy, smiles and life it gives me! I also do Argentine Tango and enjoy ball room dancing as well.

I think my greatest concern currently is the ongoing evolution of the Old Farmers Ball dance. How do we best meet the needs of our aging dance population while keeping the dance inviting to the younger set? Are there other venues to explore in addition to Warren Wilson College? How do we manage the dance nonprofit organization in a professional yet personal way?

Linda Mitchell.....Secretary

When I was in first grade I went to Newton School where dance was a big part of the curriculum. My Dad said I got reading, writing and rhythm. I was only at Newton one year and then we moved. In the late seventies my brother took me to a dance, and who was there but Boz Clark, the principal of Newton School, who had been doing English dance all over the world. Boz also ran a weekly English Dance at the Harvest House in Kenilworth. By the time Harvey and I started dancing at the Harvest House, Bob Thompson was doing most of the calling. At the Harvest House live music was a thing of the future, but we had a wonderful time dancing with a wonderful bunch of people many of whom were in their eighties and are no longer with us.

My daughter Emily is named after one of these special people who died a few days after she got back from a dance weekend. I went to the hospital after a Thursday night dance, and Emily was born the next day. The first dance lesson I had in English dance (since first grade) was at UNC-A, then the dance moved to the Manor Inn's old ballroom and we had one hour of English dance and one hour of International dance. Bob Thompson taught the English and Ilene Goldstein taught the International. There was a group called MountainLaurelFolkDancers which performed at festivals: Bele Chere, Byard Ray Folk Festival, and other traditional festivals in WNC. Mountain Laurel hosted five dance weekends in the Asheville area. When Mountain Laurel stopped hosting weekends Laurie Fisher started hosting the Summer Soiree.

I have been dancing for almost 30 years, and by volunteering on the Board of the Old Farmers Ball, I hope to help keep this dance running smoothly, providing a wonderful Thursday night event for the Asheville area. I love English dance and would like to see a regular English dance again in this area. I have been a member of the Ashgrove Garland Dancers for twenty plus years.



Jonathan Gilbert.....Treasurer

I volunteered for the board because the majority of our membership are dancers. I have been dancing since '94 and have attended countless dance weekends. I am just a dancer, nay I cannot play a lick. I felt we needed more representation of the majority of our membership. I have run businesses that both market products and that have managed Real Estate. I am a member of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce.

What questions/issues/directions relating to the future of the Old Farmers Ball are of the greatest concern to you personally? Change is part of life. Sometime in the future Warren Wilson College could have another fire or similar event and need to change the use of Bryson Gym. Our community needs to put away during the times of plenty so that we can transition during times of hardship. Long range planning will help us determine whether the Old Farmers Ball organization is just to run the dance at Warren Wilson College or an organization that will be capable of fostering Appalachian folk dances well into the future.

The Old Farmers Ball is a Community Dance. It is given life by individuals in this community volunteering their time and efforts. You are encouraged to volunteer where and when you can. Contact any member of the board with comments, suggestions, or offers of help.

Old Farmer's Ball

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

- 3-1 **The Goosebone Prophets** w/ Hank Morris
 Laura Lengnick, Roger Gold, Jeff Hersk w/ Bill Tomczak
- 3-8 **Waverly Station** w/ Myra & Tom
 David Knight, Liz Donaldson
- 3-15 **Ants in the Pantry** w/ Margaret Matthews
 Laurie Fisher, Karen Gaughan, John Culp, Skip Metheny
- 3-22 **Wild Goose Chase** w/ Diane Silver
 Bob Kogut, Karen Gaughan, Art Shuster, Skip Metheny
- 3-29 **Great Bear Trio** w/ Barbara Groh
 Andrew, Kim and Noah Van Norstrand
- 4-5 **Avant Gardeners** w/ Beth Molaro
 Laura Light, George Paul
- 4-12 **Get Reel** w/ Anne Marie Walter
 Vincent Fogerty, Beanie O'Dell, Duncan Wickle
- 4-19 **New Southern Ramblers** w/ Phil Jamison
 Gordy Hinner, Phil Jamison, Andy Deaver, John Lilly
- 4-26 **Community Open Band** MC TBA
 Led by Laura Lengnick - Open Mic for callers

Music Jam - Before The Dance, Every Thursday
 Beginning & Intermediate - all players welcome
 WWC Kettredge Hall - Rm 25 6:60pm - 8:00pm

OFB Board Meetings – New Location

6:30pm – at the Grey Eagle

3-TBD, 4-9 Before the MONDAY dance - Everyone Welcome

Other Regional Dances & Instruction

Asheville Community Dance Scene

Second Saturday - 8:15pm - Venue Varies

Info: 828.582.9222 828.216.5115

3-10 Mock Turtle Soup w/ Barbara Groh

Family Dance w/ Diane Silver

Saturday - 5pm Potluck – 6pm to 7:30 Dancing

www.diane-silver.com/FamilyDance.html info: (828) 298-7084

3-10 Before the ACDS dance at Calvary Episcopal Church, Fletcher

advancedANCE w/ Beth Molaro

We Are Looking For A New Hall

Info: (828) 277-4068

English Country Dance Julia – (828) 669-5907

1st Wed of the month 7:00PM to 9:00PM with beg. class at 6:45PM

Black Mountain Center For The Arts

225 West State Street in downtown Black Mountain

Celo Dance – Friday 8pm rlevin@trcccomputing .com

"Green Cay" at Arthur Morgan School \$3

Music by Bruce Greene & Friends (828) 675-4331

Cross-Step Waltz Tom (828) 298-4688

synergycenter@bellsouth.net

Almond Dance (formerly the Webster Dance)r 4th Saturdays

At the SCC Almond Center in Bryson City NC

call Kathy (828) 497-4709 or Ron (828) 586-5478

River Falls Dance – Greenville SC www.harvestmoonfolk.org

Dates: 3-17, 3-24, 3-25 (Sunday), 4-7, 4-21, 4-28

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

Find current information and other dance links at:

oldfarmersball.com

Swing Dance Information.....www.swingasheville.com