

# The President's Report *by Diane Silver*

This is the last newsletter for 2007. It's hard to believe the year is almost through. As you read this, we are gearing up for our membership renewals for 2008, planning the New Year's Eve dance, and nominating Board members for next year's Board.

I encourage anyone who is interested in serving on the Board to come talk to me or any other Board member to let us know you are interested. Here's how the process works:

- ~I (the President) appoint a nominating committee, which may be made up of Board and non-Board members.
- ~The committee brainstorms individuals whom they think would make good Board members and contacts them to determine whether or not they are willing to serve.
- ~The Committee also considers individuals whose names are submitted. Names may be submitted by another Board member, by the person him/herself, or as a suggestion by another OFB member.
- ~After considering all the individuals, the nominating committee recommends a slate of Board members for the coming year.
- ~The Board as a whole then considers and votes on the slate.
- ~That slate then becomes the recommendation that the Board makes to the membership.

At the annual meeting, which will be held in January, the membership votes on the slate of nominees. The vote is on the entire slate, not for one nominee at a time. At the annual meeting, nominations may also be made from the floor. If there are nominations from the floor, then those nominations are voted on. If there are no nominations from the floor, then the entire slate is voted up or down by the membership. (Note: while nominations may be made from the floor, if you are interested in serving, please let us know now, so that you can be considered for the slate in the first place. Hopefully, the slate will be non-controversial and nominations from the floor will not be needed, but they are certainly allowable if someone is dissatisfied with the slate as it is presented). Once the Board has been elected by the membership, the new Board Members then vote for the officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Serving on the Board is a great way to make a serious contribution to the dance community. We are always emphasizing that this is an all-volunteer organization and we need help with ... everything. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work that makes the dance run smoothly and keeps us legal and accountable. You can review the various committees that need leadership on page 2 of this newsletter. If you've been dancing for a few years (or even just for a little while but you feel strongly about the health and continuance of the OFB), I urge you to consider serving on the Board and to let me or another Board member know that you are interested.

As we reach the end of 2007, I want to acknowledge and thank all the current Board members for their service. Names are listed in the adjacent column of this newsletter. Thanks to all for their time and contributions!

Also, thanks to Beth Molaro, for her leadership and time in initiating and producing this newsletter. She has done a great, and often thankless, job. Beth is stepping down as newsletter editor after this issue, so we're looking for someone to take it over. Beth leaves big shoes to be filled, but also a great model to follow. You don't have to be on the Board to serve as newsletter editor, so if you're interested, please let me know.

It has been an honor serving as your President this year. Happy dancing!

- Diane Silver

**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.....Beth Molaro  
bmolaro@earthlink.net

Volunteer Coordinator.....

Able Allen.....contramindset@yahoo.com

Joe Karpen.....jkarpen@lpcutting.com

John Combs .....johncombs@main.nc.us

Laurie Fisher.....fiddlewitch1111@main.nc.us

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-Line .....828-258-4809

Website .....www.oldfarmersball.com

List Serve groups.yahoo.com/group/ofb/



**DANCE THOUGHTS** from History compiled by Beth Molaro

from *Orchesographie* by Thoinot Arbeau published in France in 1589. This book not only summarised many musical styles, particularly of dance music, up to that point in history, but also quickly became a standard dance book that musicians throughout Europe would turn to for tunes and advice on playing the music and performing the dances. Along with advice on dancing it also includes many elegant illustrations.

Student:

But, I should like to have acquired skill in dancing during the hours between my serious studies -- an accomplishment which would have rendered my company welcome to all.

Monk:

That will be an easy thing by reading French books in order to sharpen your wit and by learning fencing, dancing, and tennis that you will be an agreeable companion alike to all ladies and gentlemen.

Student:

I much enjoyed fencing and tennis. And this placed me upon friendly terms with young men. But without a knowledge of dancing I could not please the ladies, upon whom it seems to me, the entire reputation of an eligible young man depends.

Monk:

You are quite right. As naturally the male and female seek one another, and nothing does more to stimulate a man to acts of courtesy, honor, and generosity, than love. And, if you desire to marry, you must realize that a mistress is won by good temper and grace displayed while dancing. For ladies do not like to be present at fencing or tennis lest a splintered sword or blow from a tennis ball should cause them injury. And there is more to it than this. For dancing is practised to reveal whether lovers are in good health and sound of limb after which they are permitted to kiss their mistresses in order that they may touch and savor one another, thus, to ascertain if they are shapely or emit an unpleasant odor as of bad meat. Therefore, from this standpoint, quite apart from the many other advantages to be derived from dancing, it becomes an essential in a well ordered society.



**HEY, GET CONNECTED!**

**Old Farmers Ball Board Meetings** are generally held on the 2nd Monday of the Month: 6:30 PM @ the Grey Eagle... You are welcome to attend. Check [oldfarmersball.com](http://oldfarmersball.com) for details.

**Special Meeting of the Old Farmers Ball Reminder.**

We will be having a special meeting of the OFB at the break during the dance on Nov 1. This meeting is to vote for the revised bylaws. If you have any questions or please e-mail Joe Karpen @ [jkarpen@lpcutting.com](mailto:jkarpen@lpcutting.com). Copies of both the current and proposed revisions can be found at our web site [www.oldfarmersball.com](http://www.oldfarmersball.com)

**Old Farmers Ball's New Year's Eve Dance**

Monday, Dec. 31, 8:00 PM-12:30 AM Featuring the Skytones - Laura Lengnick, Roger Gold, Mara Shea, and Paul Moore with Diane Silver calling. Admission: \$15.00 at the door. Bring snacks to share, and show off your best festive threads!

**Old Farmers Ball Annual Meeting** Save the date and plan to attend on Sunday, January 27, 2008. Take part in election of new Board members and other Old Farmers Ball business.

- Meeting: 4:00 - 6:00
- Community Potluck: 6:00-7:30
- FREE Dance: 7:30 - 10:00

**Membership Renewals:** the Old Farmers Ball is shifting its membership year to coincide with the academic calendar. Starting in November, new memberships will be for 2008, not 2007. All memberships since Sept. 30 will be honored for 2008, so if you just joined recently, be sure to pick up your new keytags. Both 2007 and 2008 memberships will be honored during Nov. and Dec. Memberships for 2007 will expire Dec. 31, and all members will need to renew for 2008, so go ahead and do it before the rush. The 2008 year will run through Aug. 31.

**Beginner/Intermediate Music Jam.** The group meets on Thursday evenings in Room 25 in Kittredge Music Building at Warren Wilson College before the dance. 6:30-8:00. All beginners and early intermediate players are invited. This group plays tunes very slowly and a lot... the idea is to get comfortable playing with others, playing both by ear and with some reading if there is interest. Bring a tune to play... and share ... or just come to pick at strings. for more information please email Suzanne at [suzhosch@yahoo.com](mailto:suzhosch@yahoo.com) with slowjam in the title line. Or call 828-215-3625 and leave a message.

**Membership Directories are READY!** If you are a current member and have not received your copy by NOW, please let us know so we can get one to you!

**Join the List-Serve.** [ofb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ofb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Post on dance related subjects, thoughts, etc. Organize Carpools to dances, etc. Discuss Dance Stuff. Just simply stay connected!

**Regional Contra Dance Carpooling Website.**

<http://ofb-events.pbwiki.com/Carpooling> Don't let the price of gas keep you from going to your favorite regional dances. Us the Old Farmers Ball 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 attend with your contact info so others can call you to carpool. Or, call someone else who has listed their name. (Enter EXACTLY as shown. Note the capital C.)

**THE COMMITTEES & Their CHAIRS**  
 Watch here and on the web for more information on what these committees are up to!

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Governance Committee.....                 | Joe Karpen       |
| Policy Committee.....                     | Able Allen       |
| Volunteer Committee.....                  | needs new chair  |
| Finance Committee.....                    | Jonathan Gilbert |
| Membership Committee.....                 | Deborah Swanson  |
| Sound Committee.....                      | needs new chair  |
| Booking Advisory Committee.....           | Beth Molaro      |
| Newsletter.....                           | needs new editor |
| Dance Development Committee.....          | Suzannah Park    |
| Community Outreach Program Committee..... | David Hayes      |
| Marketing and PR Committee.....           | Jonthan Gilbert  |
| Special Events Guidelines Committee.....  | Suzanne Hosch    |

Special Events Committees – Committees are formed each year for Reunion, New Year's Eve, and any other official Old Farmers Ball event. These committees plan and carry out the event from start to finish according to the guidelines set forth by the Board.

Reunion 2007 Committee.....John Combs  
 New Year's Eve '07-'08.....run by various committes  
 Long-Range Vision Committee.....needs chair  
 This committee was originally called the "Dream Dance Hall" Committee, and grew out of discussions about whether sometime in the future we might want to have our own building for holding dances. What is the long-range vision for our organization?

UP-DATE PROPOSED FOR BY-LAWS

The Board of Directors has voted to present updated Bylaws for a membership vote on November 1, 2007. Significant changes include conformance to the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, term limits and rotating membership for the board. In order to save paper, a copy of the proposed bylaws is at www.oldfarmersball.com. There will also be copies of the proposed bylaws at the Old Farmers Ball dances, and also by request by sending an e-mail to Joe Karpen. jkarpen@lpcutting.com

If you would like to comment or propose any changes, let Joe Karpen know before September 9 so that there will be sufficient time for the board to make changes before the special meeting. Please e-mail Joe Karpen - jkarpen@lpcutting if you would like further explanation of the proposed bylaws. A response will be provided as soon as possible. The November 1 vote for the bylaws is either accept or reject, as any amendments would have to be noticed 30 days in advance.

You do not have to be present at the meeting to vote, just fill in the proxy and give to someone who will be at the meeting or mail to Old Farmers Ball, PO Box 9000, WWC Box 6278, Asheville NC 28815.

..... PROXY .....

..... The Old Farmers Ball By-Laws Special Meeting .....

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_, being a member of the Old Farmers Ball, does hereby constitute and appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as my Proxy, with full power of substitution, to act for and on my behalf at the November 1, 2007. Special Meeting of the Old Farmers Ball membership, and all adjournments thereof, to act, vote, and execute consents with respect to my membership interest in the Old Farmers Ball as fully and to the same extent and effect as I might do myself.

In specific, I direct my Proxy to:

..... Accept proposed by-laws presented at this Special meeting. ....

..... Reject proposed by-laws presented at this Special meeting. ....

..... This proxy is authorized by North Carolina General Statutes 55A-7-24. ....

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Meet Your '07 Board of Directors (continued)

In the last few issues of Old Farmers Ball News we have introduced you to most of the members of our current board of directors.

In this issue we introduce you to member-at-large, Hank Morris.

You are as likely to see Hank sweeping the dance floor as you are to see him calling the dance. He is more often that not the one to lock the door at the end of the night!



Hank Morris.....Member-at-Large

Hank Morris has been a part of the Contra Dance community for around twenty-three years, starting in Charlotte and moving to Asheville about ten years ago. His first experience with contra dance was actually in Asheville while on a white water paddling trip some thirty years ago. A group of paddlers went to the now defunct "Bill Stanley's Bluegrass and Barbecue" for supper and entertainment and Hank joined in some squares and first heard the words "dig for the oyster, dive for the clam, go for the hole in the old tin can"! Although he didn't go to a "real" contra dance until years later, that experience impressed upon him the value of the beginner dance venue and he continues to enjoy calling at small community dances.

Hank grew up in Alabama and graduated from Auburn University, where he was president of Action Ecology, an environmental student group. He's proud of starting the first recycling project in that area that still continues today. After graduation, he moved to Charlotte and was active in the Carolina Berg Wanderers, Ski Bees, Piedmont Paddlers, Sierra Club, and Charlotte Volleyball Club. The great outdoors shaped his world view, and he started Contra Dancing reluctantly, only after being pestered relentlessly by friends. Once at the dance however he fell in love with it and rarely misses a dance today. He currently lives in Black Mountain with his sweetheart June who also dances and plays in dance bands.

About fifteen years ago, he started calling dances in an effort to give back something to the dance community and has called dances and festivals throughout the Southeast. He has always been a ready volunteer, whether closing down the hall after dances, sweeping the dance floor or serving on the board. Hank is proud of the volunteer nature of the dance community and feels that the fact that virtually all dances across the country are organized by volunteers is a real tribute to the character of the community.

The Old Farmers Ball is "Dance Central" in the South, and Hank feels blessed to be a part of this community. He loves experiencing the continuing evolution of the dance and hopes to be able to help with the fortunate challenges of this growing and changing group.

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 September  
Membership Forms are available online  
or at the Old Farmers Ball Thursday dance.

## LOOK FOR YOUR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER DANCE FLYER INSIDE

the OLD FARMERS BALL NEWS

November/December 2007



### From the Editor

This is our 14th issue of the *Old Farmers Ball News* and I am in need of a break! I have been your editor since the beginning of the *Old Farmers Ball News* in 2004 and the time has come to pass the torch on to someone else.

So, we are looking for a new editor for the *Old Farmers Ball News*. If you are interested please contact Old Farmers Ball Board President, Diane Silver. Thank you,  
Beth Molaro

**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 DECEMBER 8. Please send your submissions: photos, jokes, letters, thoughts, articles, ideas etc the editor c/o [diane@diane-silver.com](mailto:diane@diane-silver.com)

# Asheville Area Dances Nov - Dec 2007

## Grey Eagle

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

- 11-5 Euphoria String Band..... w/ Gary Nelson  
Bob Kogut, Joe Hasty, Patrick Crouch, Don Francis
- 11-12 Land of Sky .....w/ Margaret Mathews  
Laura Lengnick, Paul Moore, Roger Gold
- 11-19 Dancing Bears.....w/ Barbara Groh  
Lew Gelfond, Mark Langner, John Culp, Skip Metheny
- 11-26 Cailen Campbell & Friends ..... w/ TBA
- 12-3 Tenth Annual Benefit Waltz  
Dress relentlessly elegant – bring Hors D'oeuvres – and  
contribute generously to help people in need.
- 12-10 House Red .....w/ Bob Dalsemer  
Shawn Brenneman, John Theilan, Owen Morrison
- 12-17 Far Horizons..... w/ Beth Molaro  
Julia Weatherford, Barbara Davis, Art Shuster
- 12-24 **\*\* Dance Cancelled \*\*** (Grey Eagle Closed)
- 12-31 OFB New Years Eve Dance at Warren Wilson  
(The Grey Eagle is having a Big New Years Bash too.)
- 1-7 Mock Turtle Soup .....w/ Barbara Groh

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays – Grey Eagle - 6:30pm

- 11-12, 12-13 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

- 11-1 Bartley Buzz ..... w/ Beth Molaro  
Laura Light, George Paul, Dave Bartley
- 11-8 Steam Shovel..... w/ Mark Langner  
David White, Roger Gold
- 11-15 Phil-n-the-Blanks ..... w/ Beverly Smith  
Phil Jamison, Carl Jones, et al
- 11-22 Community Open Band... mc/ Anne Marie Walter  
Led by Julia Weatherford & Pearl Mueller - Come join the  
band or call a dance
- 11-29 Rumble Strip..... w/ Diane Silver  
Nat Hewitt, Liza Constable, Glen Loper
- 12-6 Wild Goose Chase..... w/ Laurie Fisher  
Bob Kogut, Karen Gaughan, Art Shuster, Skip Metheny
- 12-13 Far Horizons ..... w/ Barbara Groh  
Julia Weatherford, Barbara Davis, Art Shuster
- 12-20 Wilson All Stars .....w/ John Combs
- 12-27 Burning Desire String Band .....w/ Fred Park  
Mark Mueller, Bob Lucas, Bob Willoughby
- 12-31 **NEW YEARS EVE DANCE**  
See the newsletter and website for details

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

## Other Regional Dances & Instruction

### Asheville Community Dance Scene

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

Sep 15 TBA; Oct 13 TBA

### Family Dance

w/ Diane Silver

**Saturday** - 5pm Potluck – 6pm to 7:30 Dancing  
www.diane-silver.com/FamilyDance.html info: (828) 298-7084  
**Nov 10, Dec 8 Before the ACDS Dance** – Fletcher NC

### advancedANCE

w/ Beth Molaro

www.bethmolaro.com/ Info: (828) 277-4068  
12-7 River Falls Lodge – Greenville SC

### English Country Dance

Karen – (828) 230-8449

1st and 3rd Wednesdays - Begins Sep 5th  
7:30pm - 9:30pm, \$5.00 donation  
FILO Pastries & Coffee/Tea, 1155 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC

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

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

Dates: 11-3, 11-9, 11-17, 11-24, 12-1, 12-7, 12-15, 12-22

### 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 (828) 675-4331

Music by Bruce Greene & Friends

Nov 2 with Diane Silver

Dec 7 with Bob Thompson

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**