

Newsletter of the North Alabama Country Dance Society

Established 1982

Group Affiliate, Country Dance & Song Society

January 2005

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NACDS home page: <http://secontra.com/NACDS.html>

January 1st

No Dance - Happy New Year!

January 7th

"After the Holidays" Party at the Walls

Friday at 7:00! Soup and Chilli provided with a variety of beverages. Bring something fun to eat & share. Games (Outburst, Scrabble, Poker, what have you?) Music and Conversation. Everyone is invited.

January 15th

Jane Ewing with Chip Gulbro and Steve Nix

Our own **Steve Nix** and fellow musician **Chip Gulbro** will provide the tunes as **Jane Ewing** calls for our first dance of 2005. Don't miss it!

February 5th:

Susan Kevra with Contratopia - Potluck too!

A band from "the upper midwest" (Minnesota & Iowa) is swinging thru the southeast in early February, and we get them on Saturday. They'll also play in Atlanta and Knoxville. **Susan Kevra** from Nashville will call. There will be a **potluck** dinner before the dance. Details as they develop!

The fine print: NACDS dances the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month in the gym at Faith Presbyterian Church on Whitesburg at Airport Rd. in Huntsville. Come to the refresher workshop at 7PM, then dance until 10:30 for \$7 (\$6 for members, \$4 for teens.) Don't forget to bring comfortable shoes to dance in and please wear a name tag. Bring someone new to a dance this month!

Only one dance in January

Because New Years Day falls on Saturday this year, it was decided that we wouldn't have a dance. Instead, Bryan and Diane Walls are having a party "for all who will" at their house. Bring a favorite party food and be prepared for soup, chili, games, music, conversation and more. Spontaneous swing dancing has been known to occur at past events. You have been warned!

What Makes Our Community Work?

The simple answer is – all of us!

The saying "many hands make light work" is true of our group. The contra dance scene in North Alabama is made up of many wonderful people.

Specifically, here's what makes NACDS tick:

At The Dances

There are those that give their time by showing up early to open the doors and prepare the hall for our evening of fun. We have others that take care of the sound and electronics, including the storage and transport of this equipment to and from the dances. There are those that take turns attending the entrance table and greeting folks as they arrive. Some folks help newcomers by wearing a "Dance Buddy" badge to show willingness to assist them with their first few dances. Others bring fans and/or food to make all of us more comfortable. Then there are bands and callers that share their talents for minimal compensation, because of their love of this type of communal experience. After the dance there are those who take a few moments to put up chairs and sweep the floor.

Between The Dances

Every few months we have a Steering Committee meeting. Those who attend - and this is open to anyone - give an hour or two of their time so that many will benefit. The meetings shape the direction of our regular dances as well as our annual Blue Moon dance weekend.

Other activities include – a Dance Producer giving countless hours throughout the year booking bands and callers; a Newsletter Editor putting together the news on a monthly basis; a Membership Chair keeping up the data base and following up with first time dancers; a Treasurer keeping the money balanced; someone hosting and updating our web site; someone notifying local newspapers of the dances; someone creating flyers and ads; various people opening their homes to house out of town bands, dancers and callers – the list goes on! All these tasks are done by volunteers. The act of giving of one's time and talents is part of the camaraderie that keeps our group going.

Please consider Volunteering in 2005 and making the dances even more enjoyable for everyone. Even a small amount of your time helps! So, enjoy the dance, but remember that it would not happen without those who care enough to give up some of their time!

Many thanks go to all who make Huntsville contra dancing possible! Here's looking to a New Year filled with fun dancing – see you on the dance floor!

You may join us or renew your membership (check date on mailing label) at any of our dances, or by sending \$10 (\$15 for families), payable to NACDS at the address below. You will receive this monthly newsletter & 2 free guest passes, plus you will pay \$1 less to get into each of our regular dances.

N.A.C.D.S.
4304 Holmes Ave.
Huntsville, AL 35816

Calendar

*Local events in **bold**; contact Bryan Walls (256 837-0656; bwalls@pobox.com) for more info.*

Jan. 1 (Sat.) NACDS - No Dance - Check out B'ham or Hotlanta!

Jan. 7 (Fri.) Nashville - Eddie Doss with Nashville Weather

NCD dances almost every Friday at the Woodbine Community Center, Burbank & Oriel, near I-440 & Nolensville Rd.

Instruction at 7:30, dance at 8:00. For more info, contact Chrissy (615-210-6808) or John (DanceFools@aol.com).

Jan. 7 (Fri) "After the Holidays" Party at the Walls - Chilli, Soup, Music and Games

Jan. 8 (Sat.) Chattanooga - Nick Boulet with Nashville Weather

CTDS dances 2nd and 4th Saturdays at All Saints Academy, 310 E. 8th St., downtown; 8-11 P.M.; \$5.

For info contact: Steve at 706-937-4991 or Claire & Bryant at 423-876-7359 or: <http://contranooga.org>

Jan. 8 (Sat.) B'ham FoOTMaD - No Dance

FoOTMaD dances 2nd Saturdays at the YWCA, 3rd Ave. & 23rd St. in Birmingham. 7:30 - \$8.

Jan. 14 (Fri.) Nashville - Chrissy Davis-Camp with Plaidgrass

Jan. 15 (Sat.) NACDS - Jane Ewing with Chip Gulbro & Steve Nix

Jan. 21 (Fri.) Nashville - Susan Kevra with Ed Baggott & Elsie Peterson <- *Huntsville band*

Jan. 22 (Sat.) Chattanooga - Vicki Herndon with Citigo String Band

Jan. 28 (Fri.) Nashville - Ed Wilkinson with Playin' Possum

Jan. 28 (Fri.) Sewanee - Chrissy Davis-Camp with Firey Gizzard Stringband

This Misty Mountain Dance starts at 8 in the Legion Hall in Sewanee TN. Call 931 598-0814 for more info.

Jan. 29 (Sat.) NACDS - No Dance

Jan. 29 (Sat.) Nashville - Playford Workshop - Ginger Pyron with Playin' Possum

Feb. 4 (Fri.) Nashville - Chrissy Davis-Camp with Nashville Weather

Feb. 5 (Sat.) NACDS - Susan Kevra with Contratopia - \$8 adults \$5 teens - Potluck!

Feb. 11 (Fri.) Nashville - Barb Kirchner with the Wingates

Feb. 12 (Sat.) Chattanooga - Rob Harper with TBA

Feb. 18 (Fri.) Nashville - Susan Kevra with Nashville Ceili

Feb. 19 (Sat.) NACDS - TBA with Chuck & Katrina Weber and Ian Panton

Feb. 25 (Fri.) Nashville - John Sharlet with NOTSBA (Nashville Old Time String Band Association)

Feb. 26 (Sat.) Chattanooga - TBA with Danny Gammon

In Atlanta they dance on Fridays and Tuesdays - see <http://contradance.org>

In Knoxville they dance every Monday - see <http://www.kornet.org/kcd/>

In Memphis they dance 1st and 3rd Fridays - see <http://hometown.aol.com/horselovers/index.html>

To get your dances on the schedule, e-mail us with the particulars by the 20th of the month. - Doug & Bryan

Other Dance Events of Note

NACDS - Feb. 5th - Special band: Contratopia here in Huntsville - Susan Kevra calling?

Knoxville 31st Annual Dance Festival 2005 - Feb. 18-20 - Flapjack & Cis Hinkle