

You Too Can Be A Dance Gypsy

Donna Deaton & Wayne Hitt

Thoughts to Ponder.....Are you addicted to driving.... or flying... to other cities for one main reason? TO DANCE! Do you constantly check the calendar for the next big dance event? Do you regularly check the internet for the schedule of your favorite band? Do you enjoy extremely high energy dancing partners, fast twirls, and smooth dancing? Will you travel long distances (or short distances) to hear creative, unique, live music that makes you want to dance to oblivionnnnn? If you've answered yes to any of these questions, it's a fact, YOU are a DANCE GYPSY!

A Dance Gypsy experience can be as simple as a short drive to Birmingham, Chattanooga, Nashville, or Sewanee. Or it can be a quick overnight trip to dance in Atlanta. A dance weekend is another extended gypsy opportunity to experience great music, energetic dancers, lots of smiles and new friends. Some weekend dances offer classes in various dance styles, music jams, drumming and caller programs. You may be dancing with 150-300 experienced dancers. Dancing for up to fifteen hours over a weekend brings you home, exhausted, and READY FOR THE NEXT DANCE!

The costs of being a dance gypsy vary. Many contra dancers are eager to offer space in their homes for visiting dancers. Camping or cabins are available at many dance weekends and some hotels offer discounts to dancers. The initial registration fee ranges from \$35 to \$85, and some include cabin rental and food. You may also want

to check our local Yahoo Web Site to connect with other dancers who may want to carpool.
<http://yahoo.com/group/NACDScontraCommunity/>

Our own personal gypsysing includes nearby cities in Alabama and as far away as Tampa and Lexington. We have met dancers from Washington D.C. as well as Washington, Texas, and even California! We especially love our trips to Asheville, where they dance two times a week. Dancing at Warren Wilson College is always a unique, fun experience! In September, we went to Moondance at Table Rock State Park near Greenville, South Carolina. Brian and Diane Walls also went. This is a six hour drive from Huntsville but we danced to Latter Day Lizards and had a great time! We also recently went to Chattaboogie, Chattanooga's first dance weekend and danced with several other Huntsville dancers to the music of Wild Asparagus.

From our dance gypsysing experiences, we have made dear friends from many places, acquired many contra dance CDs from our favorite bands (Latter Day Lizards, Wild Asparagus, Elftones, Hotpoint, Airdance, Lift Ticket,and on, and on), and hopefully, have become better dancers!

Now, are you ready? We'll be heading this month to LEAF in Black Mountain, River Falls, SC for Halloween, (although we'll miss Nashville that weekend), and then on to Atlanta in November! Come dance with us!

"In life as in dance, grace glides on blistered feet."

Huntsville Calendar

Huntsville dances are the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month in the gym at Faith Presbyterian Church, 5003 Whitesburg Dr., South, (corner of Whitesburg & 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!

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

Date	Caller	Band
October 1	Seth Tepfer	Ed Baggott & Elsie Peterson
October 15	Chrissy Davis-Camp	Kaleidoscope – Chuck & Katrina Weber, Mike Bush
November 5	Jane Ewing	Maple Hill
November 19	Harry Delugach	Kaleidoscope – Chuck & Katrina Weber, Mike Bush
December 3	Janet Shepard	Ed Baggott & Elsie Peterson
December 17	Charley Harvey (Our big holiday dance)	Plaidgrass



Area Dance Gypsy Calendar

Date	Location	Caller	Band
Oct 28	Sewanee	Bryant Haynes	Fiery Gizzard Stringband
Oct 28-30 Dance Weekend Cost \$60 by Oct 15/\$70 later or individual sessions	Nashville Cohn Adult Learning Center	Robert Cromartie	String Beings & Local Talent – Neil & Susan Ramsay (Sunday waltzes)
Oct 8	Chattanooga	Adina Gordon	Citico
Oct 22	Chattanooga	Jane Ewing	Glory in the Meetinghouse
Nov 12	Chattanooga	Chrissy Davis-Camp	Fiddlin' Bob & Banjer Jim
Nov 26	Chattanooga	Bob Dalsemer	Free Range Turkeys

FoOTMaD (Birmingham) dances 2nd Saturdays at the YMCA, 3rd Ave & 23rd St, 7:30 PM <http://www.bamalong.com/bed.him>

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://contratooga.org>

Misty Mountain Dancers (Sewanee, TN) dances at the Legion Hall in Sewanee, TN. For dates, call (931) 598-0814 or check <http://www.mistycontra.zoomshare.com/>.html

NCD (Nashville) dances almost every Friday at 8:00 PM at Woodbine Community Center, Burbank & Oriel.

Contact Chrissy at (615) 210-6808 or John, email: DanceFools@aol.com or <http://dancenashville.org/>

A Bit Farther Away, But Well Worth The Travel

CCD (Atlanta) dances on Fridays & alternate Tuesdays. <http://contradance.org>

KCD (Knoxville) dances every Monday. <http://www.kornet.org/kcd/>

MCD (Memphis) dances on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. <http://hometown.aol.com/horselovers/index.html>

Sautee Community Dances (N. GA) once a month from Sept – May. <http://sauteecontra.home.mindspring.com/>

Upcoming Dance Weekends – for all Gypsies

Music City Masquerade - Nashville's weekend. Oct 28-30. <http://mistycontra.zoomshare.com/0.html>

Dance Tapestry – Atlanta's 29th annual dance, Nov 11-13 - Robert Cromartie, Cis Hinkle, Airdance, Elftones & Smoke & Mirrors

Getting To Know You

<h2>Doug Roth</h2>	<h2>Jane Ewing</h2>	<h2>Harry Delugach</h2>
<p>Doug is a self-proclaimed “computer nerd.” He has two sons and they both are great dancers. Matt is a sophomore at Montevallo University and Chris is a senior at Huntsville High School. Doug says he can juggle a bit but basically has no time left for hobbies since he’s busy with dancing and computers.</p> <p>He has been contra dancing more than eight years and thought it was great fun from the beginning. He says, “I hope my foolish grin has not alarmed other dancers.” He likes the fellowship, exercise, and great music at contra dances and says, “When the caller has a dance that flows, and the band has a groovy medley going with all the dancers effortlessly moving through the figures up and down the line...what could be better?”</p> <p>He has danced in San Francisco and Palo Alto when on business trips. He has also gysied to Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham, Mentone, Chattanooga, Brasstown, Tuscaloosa and Syracuse, NY.</p> <p>Doug is the NACDS producer – which means that he is responsible for securing all of the callers and bands for dances and he also sets up the dance hall for each dance. He got off to a great start this year since Carol Mebane had already lined up several bands and callers and also many dancers have been willing to help with set up and clean up at the Saturday night dances. He has also been a great help in learning to do the newsletter.</p> 	<p>Jane is a very active caller in dance circles and has called dances locally and from coast to coast.</p> <p>In 1992 her husband died of cancer and her sister insisted that she should not just devote herself to running the business, so she started dancing. Later her curiosity about bands and their role at dances and the encouragement of Kathy Anderson led her to being a caller. Jane said, “When I started dancing, the contra community I entered knew of my recent past and made the experience of dancing all warm and fuzzy and comforting. When I started calling, a band and a group of Elderhostel encouraged me greatly, giving me the desire to continue. So I strive to pass that positive experience on to others.”</p> <p>Jane and Terry (her present husband) are retired from traveling sales jobs which gave them the opportunity to dance all over the country. They retired in 1999 but still enjoy traveling. In fact, Jane attends at least one summer dance camp every summer.</p> <p>Besides being an active grandmother of 14 by helping with homework, going to softball games, etc., she is a busy neighborhood volunteer. She is involved in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Lake Watch at Lake Guntersville, Water Watch with Auburn University and TVA on the Tennessee River, Grant, Alabama CERT, Storm Spotters, Marshall County Citizens Police Academy and more. She even teaches boating safety at Scottsboro High School.</p> <p>Jane’s philosophy – “Life is good. I learned early that you never know about tomorrow so enjoy today to its fullest!”</p> 	<p>Harry has been a computer science teacher at UAH for 15 years and loves it. His family includes cats and a sister in Memphis who has been a dancer longer than him. They had both honed their dancing skills by doing international dancing for many years prior to contra dancing.</p> <p>Harry’s hobbies include playing guitar and singing at the Kaffeeklatsch acoustic open mike, and he is involved in local theater. He will be directing a little musical for Renaissance in January. And he enjoys cooking, baking bread, wine-tasting, bike-riding, swimming.</p> <p>Harry began contra dancing in 1987 in Charlottesville, Virginia, and his first impressions were mixed. He said, “When the caller was good, I had a great time, but I remember one time the caller was doing complicated dances that I didn’t get, and though people helped me, I felt frustrated. So, as a caller, I learned that dances don’t have to be complicated to be fun, and I try to help beginners get over those first few doubts so they can learn to enjoy the dance.”</p> <p>When asked if there was anything unique he could tell about himself, Harry said, “Everyone’s unique, but I am one of the few people still around who contracted polio as an infant. Dancing is one of the many ways for me to affirm that I can establish my own limitations. At one point I was concerned that I would not be able to dance when I got older, so I learned to be a caller as a way to stay involved in the dance community. Luckily, I’m still dancing.”</p> 

Dance Fun For All Ages

Jerry Mebane, UAH Prof and one of his students, Elizabeth Berquist

Local high school students, a little sister and a dancer's grandson from TN



Above: Bertram Mau & Chris Colane

Below: Natasha Kunin & others



Middle left: Shelly Vann & Bill McAllister

Left: Diane & Bryan Walls

NACDS

North Alabama Country Dance Society
4304 Holmes Ave., NW, Huntsville, AL 35816
Address correction requested

Please Join Us!
Or Renew Your Membership!

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!