

Newsletter of the North Alabama Country Dance Society

Established 1982

Group Affiliate, Country Dance & Song Society

November 2003

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

November 1st: Becca Impello with Tom, Kat and the Fiddle

Becca Impello, from Birmingham is back to call. Our own Tom Green and Katrina & Chuck Weber will play. This will be a great dance. Be there!

November 15th: Barb Kirchner with Bob, Cathy, Curt & Jim

From high atop Monte Sano mountain, Bob & Cathy White, Curt Lewis and Jim Holland will return to play as Barb Kirchner (from way over in Atlanta) calls for us. Don't miss it.

November 29th: No Dance in Huntsville

Many of us will gypsy down to Birmingham to dance at their "Turkey Trot" shindig. Join us!

The fine print: NACDS dances the 1st, 3rd, & 5th 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!

Blue Moon VII News

It looks as though the headliner band for our dance weekend next May will be the Clayfoot Strutters. Check out their web page at: <http://clayfootstrutters.com/>
Stay tuned for further developments.

Dance Gossip and Rumors

Sorry, I haven't heard any rumors this month. If you want to read 'em here, you've got to whisper 'em to me on the dance floor. Or, better yet, email them to me at the address above.

Contra Courtesies

I know this is "preaching to the choir" for many of us, but it's helpful to review certain points of dance etiquette from time to time. This month we'll cover dancing with beginners. Here goes:

First of all, smile and welcome newcomers. Help them to have fun. Be encouraging. They may feel shy or unsure of themselves. Remember that there was a first dance for all of us.

Occasionally come early enough to help in the beginners workshop. They will learn faster if they have a good model of how the various figures are done. Show them how to give weight and make eye contact with fellow dancers.

Mention to people who are "just watching" that the dances are easier early in the evening. Offer to answer their questions or explain some dance terminology like "hands four" or "improper formation."

Help your partner end swings in the correct position and direction. Don't do extra twirls and spins, especially in courtesy turns. Let them learn the basics before adding flourishes.

Be on time for the next move. Explain how the music and dance go together, and that if you're late for a figure, to skip it or cut it short rather than rush to make up time.

Point out that it's usually a good idea for two new dancers not to dance together for the first few dances. Have them ask experienced dancers instead. Later in the evening they'll be better partners for each other as a result.

Well, that's enough for now. If you have other suggestions, questions or a pet peeve (and/or possible solution) to be included in a future article on dance etiquette, send it to me: hdroth@pobox.com and we'll do this again sometime.

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.
3604 Mae Dr. SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

Calendar

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

Oct. 31 (Fri.) Nashville: No Dance

Nov. 1 (Sat.) NACDS dance - Becca Impello with Tom, Kat and the Fiddle

Nov. 7 (Fri.) Nashville: Susan Kevra with Russ Barenberg, James & Rachel Bryan

NCD dances almost every Friday at the Woodbine Community Center, Burbank & Oriol, 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).

Nov. 8 (Sat.) B'ham FoOTMaD: The Melmac Lickers with Chrissy Davis-Camp

B'ham FoOTMaD dances 2nd Saturdays at the YWCA, 2300 3rd Avenue North; 7:30 \$8. Info: <http://www.bamalong.com/bcds.htm>

Nov. 8 (Sat.) Chattanooga - Vicki Herndon with Tom Kat & the Fiddle <- *at Gorham's Bluff!*

For info contact: Steve at 706-937-4991 or Nancy at 256 451-2787 or: <http://gorhamsbluff.com>

Nov. 15 (Sat.) NACDS dance - Barb Kirchner with Bob & Cathy White, Curt Lewis and Jim Holland

Nov. 14 (Fri.) Nashville: Barb Kirchner with Nashville Weather

Nov. 21 (Fri.) Nashville: Emma Rushton & Kendal Broadie with Melmac Lickers

Nov. 22 (Sat.) Chattanooga - Chrissy Davis-Camp with the Melmac Lickers

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>

Nov. 28 (Fri.) Nashville: Ed Wilkinson with Playin' Possum

Nov. 29 (Sat.) NACDS - No Dance!

Nov. 29 (Sat.) B'ham FoOTMaD - Turkey Trot - Red Mountain White Trash with Barb Kirchner

Dec. 5 (Fri.) Nashville: Susan Kevra with Ed Baggott & Elsie Peterson <- *Huntsville band!*

Dec. 6 (Sat.) NACDS dance - Jane Ewing with Ed Baggott & Elsie Peterson

Dec. 12 (Fri.) Nashville: Eddie Doss calling with Wingates

Dec. 13 (Sat.) B'ham FoOTMaD - No Dance, but a party at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Dec. 19 (Fri.) Nashville: Jim Coode calling with Playin' Possum

Dec. 26 (Fri.) Nashville: NO DANCE

Dec. 31 (Wed.) B'ham FoOTMaD - New Year's Eve Dance - Cattywampus with Susan Davis

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

Don't forget: The Chattanooga group will dance at Gorham's Bluff on November 8th. It's just a little bit past Scottsboro. Arrange to carpool or caravan with other Huntsville dance gypsies at our dance on the first.

The Birmingham FoOTMaD Turkey Trot is a great way to burn off all those excess calories! Check at either of our dances this month for others who are planning to go. Rides are available.