



September 2007

TFTM *news*

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

Fresh Meat, er um, New Blood in the Tucson Open Band

By Suzanne Langstroth

So you wanna play in the Open Band on Open Band Contra Dance nights? Well, now's your chance to jump in the fun. The open band is a long favorite tradition in the Old Pueblo. From a pile of great tunes at the Rincon Market jams, you learn the repertoire, show up for the dance, and play.

It sounds kinda simple, right? Well, for many musicians, particularly those who learn a tune quickly by ear, it really is, and it's great fun. It's what has worked for over two decades, keeping the contra dancers in the Old Pueblo moving and smiling. On the open band stage, though, some of us in the 2nd row struggled a little more. Some of us are a little hidebound by sheet music. Some of us sweat cold bullets showing up at a dance wondering if we put in the time on learning the right tunes. So, this past summer a few of the 2nd row-ers started talking, compiled a list of tunes that seem to show up a lot, started talking about holding practices in addition to the Rincon Market jams, and passing around e-mail addresses. Then taking a cue from a few other open bands around the country, a subscription based e-mail discussion list was launched. As of this writing, the discussion list is not even two weeks old, and time and place for any additional practice sessions have not yet been set. But our next open band contra dance is not expected until some time in October, so if you wanna get in on the fun, contribute to the discussion, pick up a current hits tune list, and get up to dance speed, now's the time to join.

Continued on next page

There have already been some great discussions in the list, such as the history of the TFTM Open Band, the origins of the TFTM Tune Book, and workshop notes on coordinating with callers, all which you can read by subscribing. There is a great mix of the local long time Irish & Old Time masters, some masters of the cowboy repertoire from Sierra Vista, a caller or two, and some of us who just want to learn some of everything. So come on and join the fun, <http://groups.google.com/group/tucson-open-band>.

Don't be intimidated. The only reason the list uses an "approval" process is to keep out spammers that are occasionally seen prowling open online groups. But musicians know musicians know other musicians, so please do invite anyone you think might be interested in playing with us.

UPCOMING DANCES

Location: First Unitarian Methodist church, 915 4th Ave.,

Time: 7:30 Free Lesson 8:00 Dance

Cost: \$8 public; \$7 TFTM members; \$6 Student

- :Sept. 1 *****NO DANCE*****
- :Sept. 15 **Hands Four and Peg Hesley**
- :Sept. 22 **Clusterfolk and Don Copler**
- :Sept. 29 **The Privy Tippers and Deb Comly**
- :Oct. 6 **TBA,**
- :Oct. 20 **The Privy Tippers and Claire Zucker**
- :Oct. 27 **TBA**
- :Nov. 3 **Buz Lloyd and Friends**
- :Nov. 17 **TBA**
- :Nov. 24 **TBA**
- :Dec. 1 **TBA**
- :Dec. 15 **Round the House and Claire Zucker**
- :Dec. 22 **TBA**
- :Dec. 29 **TBA**
- :Dec. 31 **New Years! Open Band and Callers**

*F*rom the Editors Desk

Well, hello, dancers and musicians. I want to first thank Jorga Riegenbach for doing such a great job with the newsletter. I've enjoyed reading each edition and seeing who "showed up" in Jorga's camera lens. I hope you will enjoy my efforts as I take on this task.

My goal is simply to get the newsletter out on time. The content of the newsletter is almost entirely up to the members and other interested parties of the TFTM organization. Some of the most interesting past articles, such as the recent one on gender balance, were submitted by TFTM members.

I would like to "prime the pump" and encourage our Dance Gypsies to write about their experiences. Robin Lewis took on the challenge to write the first installment of the Dance Gypsy Chronicles. Thanks, Robin!

Dance Gypsies, for the uninitiated, are dancers who like to travel to dances in other communities or attend a variety of dance camps either in the United States or abroad. It is always a delight to arrive at a new destination and meet someone you recognize from some other dance community, who is also on that gypsy journey!

I don't know if there is a phrase which describes musicians that travel in the same way, but of course, your travels are of equal interest. Please call me directly at 544-2137 or submit an idea/article to susiet66@hotmail.com for consideration.

Deadline for submissions of all types is the 15th of the month before publication. Remember that TFTM is an entirely volunteer effort and the flow of communications is an important part of getting all the information out in a timely manner. Thanks to those members and interested others for submitting articles that are in this issue.

I know this newsletter will be getting out a bit late...learning curve you know. Hope it hasn't curtailed anyone's plans.

Happy Dancing and Playing~Susie T

Dance in the Desert- Come Dance with Us!

Submitted by Marni Dittmar

Registration for the fabulous Dance in the Desert dance camp weekend is going strong! Already 110 enthusiastic dancers have signed up for a weekend of music, dance, workshops and fun.

The camp this year features the incredible fiddle music of **Rodney Miller**, traveling to the desert with his band, Airdance. Rodney himself has been designated a "National Treasure", and we are very pleased to present this talented lineup.

Airdance is comprised of Rodney on fiddle, **Owen Morrison** on guitar and mandolin, Elvie Miller on keyboards, and Michael Ayles, coming out from Canada, on flute, guitar and banjo (but not all at the same time!).

Our callers this year are imported from New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Sue Dupre, from central Jersey, not only calls for contra dances but is also active in American and English ceremonial dance. She wields a sword for her hometown Shandygaff Longsword dance team, of which she is foreman and founder.

Rick Mohr from Watertown, MA, is a caller who has so much fun calling dances that he's written several of his own. His offerings for the dance camp could well include **squantras** and **contrares**- an experience you don't want to miss!

Our high spirited local bands are ready to provide a wide range of danceable tunes.

The Privy Tippers are a Southwest favorite, with driving Southern rhythms and hot music. They'll make you jump with joy- and keep you guessing with a wide variety of stage props! Who ARE those old time Mexican wrestling musicians? The Tippers are **Craig Tinney** on guitar and banjo, **Jacque**

Men Wanted



for

Dance In The Desert 2007

WWW.TFTM.ORG

**GUYS!
DON'T KEEP THOSE LADIES
WAITING!**

Continued from Pg 4 DID

Wohl on fiddle, **Dave Firestine** on mandolin, and **Jerry Weinert** on bass.

Round the House offers a fine selection of Irish tunes, with a fresh and lively take on the traditional music from the Emerald Isle. One reviewer notes that the band is "True to the music's spirit, but willing to move beyond conventional boundaries"- an experience not to be missed. The band is comprised of **Sharon Goldwasser** on fiddle, **Dave Firestine** on mandolin, bouzouki, and banjo. **Mark Robertson-Tessi** on guitar, bouzouki and mandolin and **Claire Zucker** on vocals and bodhran.

Hands Four is **Judy Francis** and **Jeff Thorn**. Judy, from Benson, Arizona plays the electric keyboard and Jeff, from Tucson, plays the fiddle. Two people and four hands that are able to keep hundreds of feet from being still. They offer their very own interpretations of happy dance tunes.

You won't want to miss this weekend! Just go to www.tftm.org for more information and to register for this event. See you there!



Photo by Steve Langford using Jim Whitesell's camera.

Now That's a Switch!

Craig Tinney and Steve Richard "Gender Bend" during a rare occasion: More men than women dancers!

At least of this summer's lightly attended dances had an abundance of males looking for female partners.

Good practice for "lead-follower" techniques.

A Little Wine, A Little Ocean View, Some Old and New Friends, and A Whole Lot of Dancing!

By Robin Lewis

Faultline Frolic contra-dance weekend took place in Santa Rosa, California in June. We decided to attend because we could combine a trip to see an old high school friend with lots of dancing. What a great decision that was!

Everything about the dance weekend was as close to perfect as it gets. The caller was Cis Hinkle – always smiling, giving efficient walk-thrus, and calling dance after dance of interesting, engaging contras. Plus she was calling to Notorious, an energetic band with an intense, driving style.

The hall was located in a quiet part of Santa Rosa, and had a very danceable wooden floor. Local dancers opened their homes to provide overnight hospitality to out of town dancers. The local dancers also provided snacks that included fresh California fruit, a welcomed treat.

The skill level of the dancers was quite high, but

folks were nevertheless quite accommodating to people with less experience. The locals were very gracious and welcoming, and thanked us multiple times for coming to their camp.

Santa Rosa is located near the California wine country, so combining dancing with a trip there would make for a nice vacation. Also, the ocean is less than an hour away, another good reason to make the journey.

Which brings me to about the only bad part about our trip – trying to decide between all of the wonderful things there were to do near the camp. And then, of course, there were our high school friends, who we always felt we were deserting when we went to our camp activities.

Of course, the obvious solution to that dilemma is to get the friends involved in contra dancing too! I haven't had much success yet, but wish me luck.!

First in the "Dance Gypsy Chronicles"

"If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your Revolution! Emma Goldman"

Thomson's Tune of the Month

Bruce Thomson

(LibTNov1@aol.com)

It's All in the Name

The Virginia Creepers taught a 1-credit old time music class at UNM last spring. During the course the students were divided into bands which were then directed to develop a repertoire of five or so tunes to be played at an end-of-the-semester performance. But the first and most challenging assignment given by Steve Huestis (banjoist & co-instructor) was to come up with a band name. And he's right, it's tough to come up with a good band name. The name goes a long ways towards identifying the character of the band, so you want it to be descriptive, but also unique and clever.

There are a lot southwestern old time or bluegrass bands with imaginative, interesting or otherwise remarkable names. Most musicians at one time or another have to come up with a band name, so I thought I'd try to help them out and put some organization to the process. Thus, I've picked some of the more interesting names and lumped 'em into loose categories. But first a disclaimer – this is simply a list of names I thought were noteworthy. It is no reflection on the music or musicians. And omissions

don't mean that your band name sucks horse bowel sausages (ever been to Kazakhstan?) – just that I didn't find it as interesting as others.

The Traditional Approach

– Many of the old bands were named after the leader and then a local geographical or cultural feature (i.e. Flatt and Scruggs and the Foggy Mountain Boys). While some of the bluegrassers still use this approach not many of the old timey bands do. But there're still many band names that refer to local geographical or regional characteristics. Some of the notables include Adobe Brothers (all buildings in NM are either real or wannabe adobes), Atomic Grass (a hot band from Los Alamos), Bayou Seco (dry bayou), Big River Boys (named after the Rio Grande. Called the Pickled Liver Boys by Obie Juan Adobe based on their legendary beer consumption), Jimmy Shank and the Chilitones, the Nob Hillbillies (an upscale area in Albuquerque), and the Sandia Hots (a brand of NM chile),

Imagery and Word Play

– Some band names provoke vivid pictures in the mind; sometimes good, sometimes not. Some of my favorites are the Privvy Tippers (use care in the porta-potties if Dave Firestone is around), the Denying Fusiliers, Cluster Folk, and Poultry in Motion (dancing chickens?). Would anybody attend a concert by the Grouchy Geezers

(from CO), the Gnattering Nabobs (from NM) and the Estrotones (from NM)?

Reference to Obscure Music & Dance Moves— I've noted several bands with names to dance steps or musical attributes. These include Hands Four (from AZ), Hands Five (NM), Balance and Swing (CO), and Hey (NM). Perhaps most obscure is a band from CO called the Dreaded Wolftones (ask a cello player about wolftones).

Huh? — Last in my categorizations are the band names that don't make any sense, at least at first pass. These include the Arizona Raccoon Tours, Crustaceans, Five Dog String Band, Roaring Jelly, Ten Cats Laughing, and the Virginia Creepers (named after a weed in Peter White's back yard).

My favorite name of the bands I've been in was the Totally Nude Dancing Girls. This was a long time before a rock band of similar name came upon the scene and made a zillion dollars. Unfortunately, we were awful — about the only place we ever got to play was the on-campus coffee shop. This confirms my theory that there's no correlation between a good band name and a good band.

Information on many of these bands can be found on some of these web sites: www.folkmaids.org, www.cfootmad.org, www.ffotm.net, www.tftm.org. Watch for them and support local music.

My apologies to Bruce and his readers...I was unable to "transfer" his tune of the month. My learning curve will be better next month!

Easy Stress Relief Technique

Submitted by Wally Evans

Step 1. Close your eyes and think of a situation where you FEEL stress. Notice it in your body and calibrate a level (from 1 to 10 etc.)

Step 2. Get a ball about the size/weight of an apple or orange (they will do). Begin tossing the object from hand to hand in a slight arc with your arms about shoulder width.

Step 3. This is the important part! Close your eyes while tossing! Keep your eyes closed tossing and then think of the situation you calibrated and get a number while tossing with your eyes closed.

Step 4. What's the difference? Is the feeling gone, changed...at what number now?

If there hasn't been a useful change maybe because...

Two caveats: First, it's important to KEEP BREATHING; second, the context may need to be changed.

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DONATE EARLY AND OFTEN! CAMP RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED

By Deborah Thorn

It's time to start thinking about this year's Dance in the Desert Raffle. Each year the proceeds from the raffle play a significant role in funding the camp scholarships. The great donations from the dance community are what makes it fun and such a success. If you've been to the camp before, you know that the donated items run the gamut and have included, but definitely not been limited to: *bath/beauty/foot care items; cool socks; jewelry; dance clothes in "like new" condition; non-perishable foods; chocolate, coffee or teas; artwork/crafts; music or dance related items; anything else you can think of that could make a fun raffle prize!*

Items can stand alone, or be

grouped together to make a basket. We've had themed baskets, like garden items, cat or dog stuff, an X-rated basket (items beginning with the letter X). If you want to go the basket route, you can make up the basket yourself, or the raffle folks will do it for you, either from the items you donate or by combining donations from different people and figuring out a theme. Its a great opportunity to go shopping or do a little "re-gifting".

We also can use any empty baskets(recycled ones are fine), since our stock was depleted last year. So check the back of your closets for last year's Easter baskets and bring 'em on down too. Donations can be dropped off at any of the TFTM contradances starting September 15. If that's not a convenient drop off location, contact Deborah Thorn at 498-3989 to make other arrangements.

This year's slogan is "donate early and often", though last minute donations are also welcome.

Deborah came up with a great idea! Let's start a list of all the dance camps our members have attended. In this way, those who may be contemplating going to one of them can check with others about their experience! Submit your list to susiet66@hotmail.com,

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Contra Dance

2nd Saturday, September 8th

Location: VFW Hall (1550 Main Ave.) Durango, CO
7 pm Lesson/ 7:30 Dancing

Band: Kitchen Jam Band of Durango, CO

Caller: Lewis Land, Carlsbad, NM

First timers get a pass to come back FREE!

Great for all ages!

\$10

More Info: 970-259-6820

Ongoing Activities Of Traditional Music and Dance

These are not TFTM events

Irish Jam Session at the Auld Dubliner, 800 E. University Blvd (Southeast corner of Euclid and University): Traditional Irish jam session every Sunday from 4-8 PM. Info: (520) 206-0323

Scottish Country Dancing: Thursday, 7:30 PM, First United Methodist Church, 915 E. 4th St. Info: (520) 299-5566

Celtic & Old-Time Jam: Open Jam session on the first and third Tuesdays. Slow Jam from 7-8 PM. Fast jam from 8-10 PM. Rincon Market, 6th St. At Tucson Blvd. Set up in the Deli area. Tunes from the TFTM Tune Book and some other sources.

Shape Note Singing: First and third Saturdays, 3-5 PM, Sonoran Co-Housing Common Room, 501 E. Roger Rd. Info: (520) 682-6201

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Membership benefits include: Discounts on many events, including all TFTM events, plus a subscription to this newsletter and free classified listings in the newsletter.

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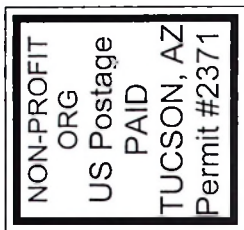
Dance Camp Newsletter Sound Website
 Contra Dances Special Events
 FUNd Raising

TFTM is a solely volunteer motivated and run, non-profit organization dedicated to having a great deal of fun. Please do what you can to partake in all the fun and to add to the enjoyment of fellow members, dancers and music lovers!



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Return Service Requested



Newsletter Deadline: the deadline for articles, announcements, ads, upcoming dances, events and reviews is the 18th of each month. Please email your articles to susiet66@hotmail.com