

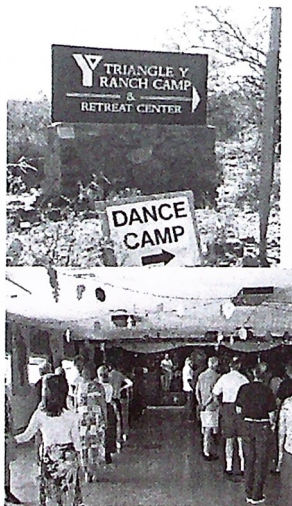
SEPTEMBER 2008



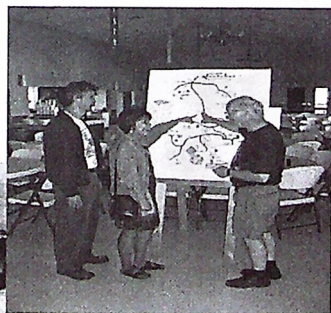
TFTM *news*

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music
Volume 8, Number 7

Have YOU Signed Up for Dance in the Desert Yet?



Don't get lost! Turn here!
Sign and Find Your
Cabin



Line Up for a Contra!
Don't forget the workshops



N
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7TH

TO

9TH

TFTM CONTRADANCE SCHEDULE

Location: First United Methodist Church, 915 4th Street.,

Time: 7:30 Free Introductory Lesson 8:00 Dance

Suggested Donations: \$8 public; \$7 TFTM members;
\$6 Student

First Timers?: Receive a Second Dance Free card.

Sept. 6 - Updraft with Deb Comly calling

Sept. 20 - Open Band

Check website tftm.org for more information
On rest of September dances.

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music Contradances

Are 1st, 3th, 4th, and 5th Saturdays of Month

Generally at above location unless otherwise noted.

2nd Saturday Dragoon Barn Dance

Dragoon Women's Club

September 12 - 7 pm to 9 pm

\$6.00 Admission

Laila Lewis calling

Music by Judy Francis and Friends

Directions: I-10 East to Exit 318 (Dragoon Road-13 miles east of Benson) Three miles east to Johnson Road (just before RR tracks). Turn left, go one-tenth mile to only building - Dragoon Women's Club.

Dances will be every 2nd St. -

Barb Hanson -520-586-3960

Time to Register! New Youth Scholarships Available!

By Marni Dittmar

My first Dance in the Desert Camp was in November of 1999. That was the time of the Food Tent, where tables and chairs were set up outside, under tarps. I believe that was also the year that it rained and rained, COLD rain, too.

At one point, the rising waters threatened to enter the Dance Hall, so campers were frantically running around outside, making trenches to divert the rainwater away from the door.

I was new to Arizona back then. Early one morning I stepped outside the cabin and got a strong whiff of something skunky. Another camper informed me that it was javelina scent- and maybe we would see the herd sometime. We didn't, but I did see my first scorpion! And some critter- maybe a coyote?- left a hank of fur while rubbing against the corner of

the cabin. It felt like the Wild West!

There is a nice cafeteria now, and it mostly doesn't rain during our camp. The cabins haven't changed much- they are rustic, but comfortable, and are furnished with bunkbeds and mattresses. There are several venues for workshops scattered on the sprawling Oracle Y grounds. The night sky is unbelievably clear and beautiful, with a million stars visible far away from city lights.

This year's Dance in the Desert promises to be one of the best yet. Two wonderful callers, Erik Weberg and Kathy Anderson, will take the dancers on grand flights of fun. The band, Bartlett, Brass, Schenckenburger and Kenney, is made up of fabulous musicians who play in this and a host of other assorted bands. There will be creative and intriguing workshops offered, including sessions devoted to individual instrument, singing, cool dance tips, and there may even be some surprises!

A new feature this year is a **special sponsorship** program for young dancers. In an effort to encourage young folks aged twelve to "college age", sponsors Bill and Judy Norman will cover \$50 towards the dance camp fee. This generosity will hopefully permit people who might not be able to swing the whole fee to attend the camp. This is NOT a scholarship (we are still offering that program), and the recipients do not have to work, beyond the volunteer chore that all of the campers do. Please contact the registrar by email at: dancecamp@tftm.org for details or to apply for the sponsorship. A limited number of sponsorships are available, so please do apply early!

For dance fans who have not yet registered for this year's camp, please do so soon! At the time of this writing, a waiting list for women has been started. Men, please go ahead and register! You'll help get another happy dancer into the party. Women, feel free to register, or better yet, get a guy friend to sign up with you! Just go to

<http://www.tftm.org/>, and follow the link to Dance in the Desert. Come and join our party!



Raffle Donations Items Wanted! CD Sale!

Dance in the Desert is only two months away and its time to begin thinking about THE RAFFLE. Each year at camp there is an incredible assortment of gift baskets, hand crafted items, jewelry, dance clothing and other creative prizes assembled.

Through the sale of raffle tickets during the dance weekend, money is raised to offer camperships to dancers needing assistance to attend and willing to work for part of camp to earn their keep.

All raffle items are donated by campers and other Tucson

Friends of Traditional Music. So think about donating a gift basket, items that could become a part of a gift basket, or special items that can stand alone.

It's particularly nice to get donations that showcase the craft and art talents of our community. New and gently used items are welcome.

We can also always use any extra empty baskets you have on hand.

In addition, last year saw the inauguration a used CD sale during camp, which we hope to continue as an annual event. Donated CDs will be available for purchase at

camp for extremely reasonable prices with all proceeds also benefiting the Camper-ship Fund. If you have CDs in good condition that you're ready to part with, this is just the ticket for you. Look for the convenient donation box at the weekly Tucson contradances or contact Deborah Thorn at dnithorn@comcast.net or 498-3989 or to drop off CDs or raffle related donations.

This is a great way to give back to your dance community, help keep Dance in the Desert solvent and add to the fun.

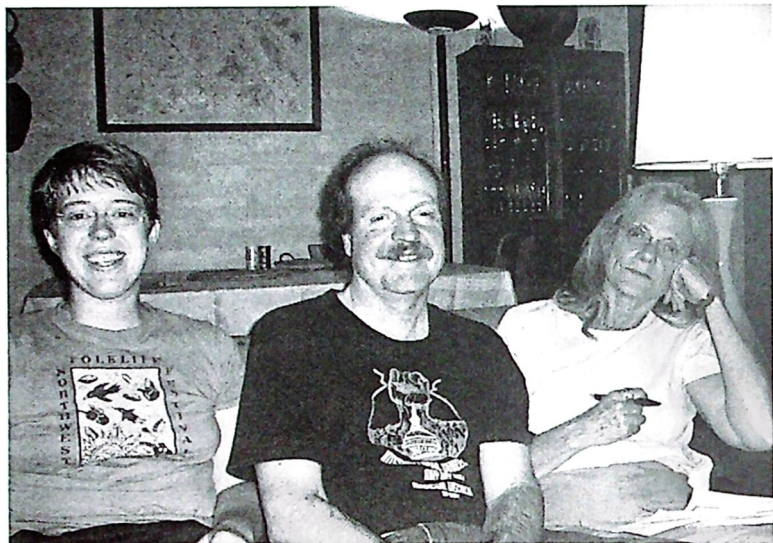
YOU TUBES OF THE MONTH:

Did you go to the Noon to Moon dance?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfYjK1sGAUQ>

While you are there, put in the following...or check out other contradance videos!

Snow Bowl Contra Dance in Peterborough, NH ...now that is a crowded floor!



Meet The New Board Members

TFTM welcomes new board members Laila Lewis, Mike Cease, and Judy Francis.

Laila has been in Tucson for four years having grown up in the Bay Area and spending time in Las Vegas. A recent college graduate, Laila is a budding caller whose clear instructions are a big plus for the dancers. Laila was asked to join the board as the chairperson of the "Next Generation" committee. This committee is charged with reaching out to dancers and

musicians under 35 to ensure that the enjoyment of traditional music and dance continues. Laila became a more active volunteer for TFTM in March. "I just figured it was about time I stepped in to do my part" she said. Laila will soon be traveling to Vermont to a Young Dancers Weekend for some leadership training and fun. Laila hopes to attract more people to TFTM who will stick around. She wants to encourage a more lively and playful attitude at dances and hopes the website can be kept updated.

Continued next page

Mike Cease grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Including the time that he was in graduate school, he has been in this area for 28 years. A good friend of Mike's first introduced him to TFTM in 1989. Mike is a great dance partner. What he likes most about TFTM is the music, the people, the flow, the energy, the friends and the sense of community. Mike says, "I would like for our non-profit organization to continue to be viable and to increase its presence in and its availability to the larger community." Mike has taken on the task of book-keeper.

Keyboardist Judy Francis moved to Arizona about five years ago after having lived in the Boston area for many years. In Boston she was an avid contradancer and became a contradance musician. Since she was such an advocate of traditional music, when she moved to the area, she just looked up TFTM and became active. Locally she is part of Hands Four. Judy states she appreciates the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of TFTM folks. She likes that there are venues that encourage the develop-

ment of new musicians. She especially likes that TFTM is willing to sponsor satellite dances in rural communities such as the one she is involved in coordinating in Draagoon. Judy strongly supports the leadership development of younger dances and the development of the family dances. She thinks TFTM should continue bringing contradances to the larger community to encourage dancers and musicians of other genres to learn about our traditional roots. Judy serves as board secretary.

Come one and all
to a Seven Pipers
gathering!

Friday evening, Aug. 29, 6-8:30 p.m. at The Auld Dubliner Pub Corner of University and Euclid Ave. Piping, drumming, dancing, and merriment will ensue!!! Bring acoustic instruments to play Celtic music.

Food and libations will be available for purchase. No cover charge. No partner needed for dancing.

Sponsored in part by the University students who are members of the Seven Pipers Scottish Society.

www.sevenpipers.org



*Harry Stacy, Liz Healy
and Sharon Goldwasser
"model" walking sticks.*

Raffles Galore!

Help TFTM continue on its missions of traditional music and dance.

TFTM has embarked on different fund raiser ventures this fall. TFTM does not receive funding from outside sources and all its programs and dances must be self-sustaining. Through the generosity of folks buying raffle tickets, our budget gets a bit of "nest egg" to cover those fixed costs when events, such as low attendance at dances, do not make enough money to pay for themselves.

Thanks to the generous donation of hiking sticks handmade by Warren Wilson from Flagstaff, you will see tickets for sale each dance beginning in September. One walking stick will be raffled off at the last dance of each month

(September, October, and November). All tickets sold during the month of the individual raffle will be put in one "pot" and the winner chosen at the last dance of the month. New tickets for the following month's raffle need to be purchased. You do not need to be present to win, however, we must have clearly printed name and phone number so we can contact you. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Our second fund raising effort will benefit the New Generation Committee of the TFTM Board. This committee is charged with attracting and keeping younger dancers and musicians to our organization. If you have looked around lately, we are an aging group. Yet in parts of the country it is the dancer/musician younger than 35 who drive the events of other traditional groups. The proceeds will be used to

fund outreach efforts and leadership training. Offered will be a framed print by Appalachian pencil artist Willard Gayheart. Entitled "Four Days in August", it depicts a musicians jam at a Galax, Virginia fiddle festival. The winner will be chosen at the Dance in the Desert. You need not be present to win and TFTM will ship it to any out of area winner. Tickets are \$3 each or two for \$5.

Drop an email to susiet66@hotmail.com if you will not be at any dances over the next three months and want to purchase raffle tickets. We will see that your name gets onto the tickets of your choice.

FAMILY DANCE 1ST SATURDAYS

Please join us for a Family Dance on Saturday, September 6th at 5:30 PM in the Social Hall of the First United Methodist Church. We'll have a live band with violin, Irish drum, accordion, piano, and bass. A caller will lead us through the steps.. All ages welcome! No experience necessary! Bring friends!

We ask for a \$5 donation per family to pay the musicians and caller.

We'll have a potluck dinner afterwards in the Arizona Room. We ask everyone to bring their own plates, flatware and cups to avoid using disposables.

This event is sponsored by Tucson Friends of Traditional Music (see www.tftm.org). TFTM's regular contradance will follow with a 7:30 beginners lesson, regular dance starts at 8 p.m.

The Family Dance will happen regularly on the first Saturday of each month, same time, same place. So put this on your calendar in advance! Please help us spread the word to anyone you think may be interested.

Sorry, two boring administrative points: (1) Kids are welcome to play on the dance floor, but please don't let them run elsewhere in the church. (2) Please sign the clipboard at the door, so you will be covered by TFTM's insurance policy.

Questions? Send me an email at allisonandjoost@netzero.net

Thomson's Tune of the Month

Bruce Thomson
(LibTNov1@aol.com)

The Recording Studio

One of the raffle prizes at the New Mexico Folk Festival (www.abqfolkfest.org) this past June was 20 hours of studio time offered by Transductions Productions

(www.transductionsproductions.com).

Recognizing a good deal, Erika Gerety, bassist/vocalist with Hands 5 and other bands, bought all of the tickets she could, and lo and behold, she won! This sparked great consternation in the band with the general sentiment being "oh my gosh, what have we gotten ourselves into?"

I've written before about band dynamics and the similarity to being in a marriage. Just like a marriage, the idea of recording introduced a whole bunch of issues that we'd never considered or discussed, and they all came with all sorts of emotional values and interpersonal challenges. What material should we record? When can we find the time? Are we really good enough? 20 hours isn't nearly enough time, what are the other costs? And of course underlying it all was the

question will anybody buy our stuff? But Erika had won the time and that pretty much forced the issue.

I've been involved in recording projects a number of times and I can report that it is among the most humbling experiences I have known. When you're playing for an audience there's a lot going on with feedback from the audience, distractions from the surroundings, lots of competing sounds and generally little consequences if you foul up. In the recording studio there's nothing but a microphone faithfully capturing every wrong note, fractured phrase, transcendent tempo, and other blunder that you make. A classical-musician-turned-physicist friend said he gave up music because his ears were better than his fingers. What he meant was that he could hear what he wanted to play, but that sound never managed to make it out of his instrument. Every time I go into the recording studio his observation is reinforced.

Before you ever set foot in the studio you need to know what material you're going to record, figure out the arrangements, and have it well rehearsed. Discussing (arguing?) about that stuff in a hot room in front of a couple of burly recording engineers with the clock running is like discuss-

ing marital problems at a PTA meeting. Hands 5 worked for several weeks on this stuff by recording material at practices with a portable digital recorder, burning it to CDs, and critiquing it at the next session. That worked pretty well, but even those private discussions are tough because you've got all of your band's musical abilities and core musical values under the microscope. It would have been nicer to have more time to practice, but this band, like most, is comprised of very busy people, and sometimes you just have to go with what you got.

There are two different approaches to recording in the studio, everybody in separate soundproof rooms or everybody together in one room. The sound engineers want the maximum acoustic separation of each track so that they can go back later and use their magic to fix things. Musicians want to play together because that allows the best feel of the music, and that's how they play all the time. There are all sorts of non-aural clues that you get by being together that really help the recording that aren't possible in sound proof rooms. I've used both strategies and greatly prefer the later and have had good luck with it. But it's hard to convince the engineers and in this

case, it was their studio and the first 20 hours was on them.

I recently bought a CD titled "Merle Haggard, the Bluegrass Sessions" (MCM008) in which Merle went into a Nashville studio with the top bluegrass pickers in the business. They started off in separate, acoustically isolated rooms and it didn't work. Then the bluegrassers said something to the effect, "Merle that's not how we play this kind of music." They set up the mics in a circle in the main studio and knocked out a dynamic CD in two days. But those guys are so good I doubt there were many mistakes that needed fixing.

Hands 5 did a little of both. The rhythm folks (guitar, bass, percussion) were together while the rest of us were in separate rooms. I got the cherry red velvet Elvis room. Recording was tough. The rhythms wandered. Soundproof rooms get real hot in August in NM, so our 86 string analog thermometer (i.e. hammered dulcimer) was constantly changing pitch. It was tough getting the right mix in the headphones. My fiddle, recorded with no EQ or effects, sounded flat as a board. Worst of all, my fiddle playing sucked. And after every tune came the voice of the sound engineer, "well what did you think?" perfectly reproduced

through high quality stereo headphones as though he was speaking directly into both ears from a distance of 6 inches. "Hell, I don't know what I think – let me outta here!"

After all was said and done we got about 15 tracks down in about 15 hours. We've got to do some mixing and processing to figure out if the material is any good. The experience was awful and great. I'm really glad it's over and I've got a whole new list of things to work on in my fiddle playing. Everybody should do something like this, even if you're just recording yourself onto a cassette tape recorder in your living room. At the least you'll increase your appreciation of the effort and musicianship involved in producing a CD. But even more, it forces you to listen to yourself in a way not otherwise possible. I guarantee that you will learn a lot.

This month's tune is Squirrel Hunters, a traditional tune recorded by the Wilders on their Throwdown CD. It's in A-mixolydian and resolves to a D chord at the end of each phrase. Or maybe it's in D and starts off with A chords. A neat twist.

ABC Notation

X:186
T:Squirrel Hunters

N:The Wilders, "Throwdown"
Dit-CD-0053

N:Transcribed by Bruce Thomson

R:Reel

L:1/8

M:C

K:Amix

[: "Amix" e3d BABd|efed
BABA|"G"GABc d2Bc|dAcA
BABd|

"A" e3d BABd|efed

BABA|"G"GABc

dAB2|"D"[A3D3][AD][A4D4]:|

[: "A" e3ga2ag|edef g2

BA|"G"GABc d2Bc|dAcA BABd|

"A" e3g a2ag|edef

g2BA|"G"GABc

dAB2|"D"[A3D3][AD][A4D4]:|

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Squirrel Hunters

Musical score for 'Squirrel Hunters' in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a whole note chord labeled 'Amix'. The second staff has a whole note chord labeled 'A' at the beginning, followed by a whole note chord labeled 'G' and a half note chord labeled 'D'. The third and fourth staves follow a similar pattern with chords 'A', 'G', and 'D'.

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Please support these fine businesses with your patronage!

Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp

By Jennifer Sordyl

We enjoyed concerts and dancing to the music of Peter Barnes, who took turns accompanying almost every performer there. Some of the other highlights of artists who taught and performed at camp this year:

Topher Gayle - Mandolin, Guitar, Song Writing who's an amazing musician with the contra dance band "The Opportunists" [who feature fiddler Erik Hoffman].

Many of you who attend Winfield [Walnut Valley Music Festival] know Tina Gugeler, Hammered Dulcimer player who won the National Competition there in 2000. She's a master at leading jam ses-

sions, and was at the helm most evenings in the dining hall jams.

A few of the other artists were: Richard Greene - Bluegrass Fiddle, Ward MacDonald - Cape Breton Fiddle, Laura Risk - Quebecois Fiddle, Pete Clark - Scottish Fiddle, Abby Newton - Cello, Ken Perlman - Clawhammer Banjo, Guitar, Larry Edelman - Dance Calling, Mandolin, Guitar, South-west Tunes

It was a fabulous seven days and had a great time teaching, playing and dancing in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Also, meeting and connecting with other musicians from all over the U.S. Many of whom return to RMFC year after year. There is a real feeling of family and community at this camp



*Jennifer Sordyl
And Friends!*

NOTE:

The Oracle Barn Dance is currently on hiatus until a new venue can be found. Jennifer thanks everyone who has attended.

The Seven Pipers Scottish Society

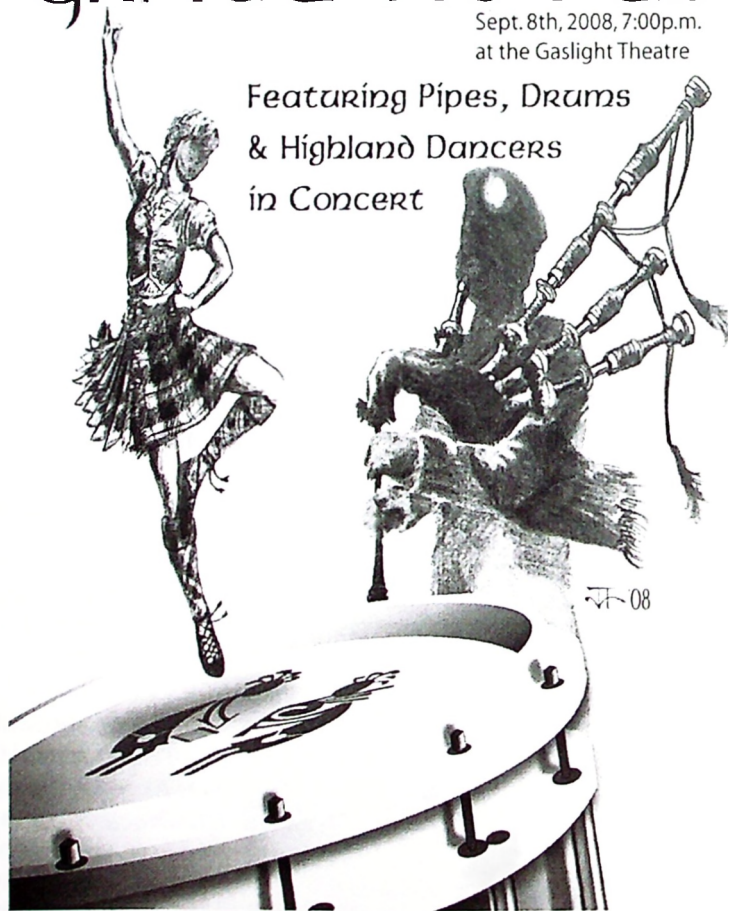
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○ ○ ○ ○
**COMING IN OCTOBER
TUCSON MEET
YOURSELF - WATCH
FOR DETAILS!** ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○

Plan Way Ahead! Don't Miss The Second Annual Cottonwood Capers! January 16-18, 2009

Join Susan Michaels and Round the House, Claire Zucker and Traditional Blend for fine music and contra dancing all weekend in Cottonwood, AZ. The dance hall, Cottonwood Community Center is an old armory with a wonderful ambience and a good, wood floor. The weather will be cool to chilly. There are lots of reasonably priced hotels near and a state campground with electrical hookup and bathroom/shower facilities available. Continental breakfasts will be provided Sat. and Sun. mornings along with healthy snacks and refreshing beverages throughout the dance weekend. Registration is only \$65. There are special sponsorships available for young dancers. Info at judy.Norman@juno.com or 623-979-4875

Second Annual Turquoise Valley Old Time Music Festival - Naco, AZ

Turquoise Valley Country Club

October 10 - 12 - \$30 advance tickets

- *Friday night dinner, old time fashion show, and concert.*
 - *Saturday night contra, square, Cajun and every other type of dancing - Claire Zucker and The Privy Tippers*
 - *Workshops all day Saturday and Sunday*
 - *RV and tent camping on-site -*
- www.turquoisevalley.com**
- *Other accommodations, Bisbee or Sierra Vista*



More info: 520 266 0697
520-432-3091

Arthritis@epowerc.net



Chipper Thompson/Roger Landes/Arthritis Brothers



Avril Bird Christopher Dean The Privy Tippers

Arizona Dance Scene and Beyond!

Phoenix: Phoenix Friends of Traditional Music. 2nd Saturdays, Kenilworth School; 4th Wednesdays, Irish Cultural Center. www.pfotm.org

Prescott: Folks Happens! Contras 1st Friday, Grace Sparks Memorial Activity Center – Steve 928-445-3373; English Country, Tuesdays at Mile High Middle School, Archie 928-443-8906.

Cottonwood: Third Saturdays, Cottonwood Civic Center – contact Deb 928-774-5836

Flagstaff: Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music, 1st Saturday Contradance. Ashurst/Old Main Hall, NAU Campus. www.ffotm.org ***Check out their website – it's the best with their newsletters online***

New Mexico

Albuquerque : www.folkmaids.org 1st and 3rd Saturdays Contradance, Heights Community Center. 505-345-8041

Las Cruces: 3rd Friday Contra dance, Mesilla Community Center

Taos, 3rd Saturdays, 505-776-1589

Santa Fe: 2nd and 4th Saturdays, Odd Fellow Hall

Colorado (also see CDSS.org listings)

Durango Contra Dance: 1st Saturdays, Durango American Legion, 970-903-9402

Always double-check information either on the web, or through contact phone numbers given before hitting the road. Form a car pool and offer a friend or two a ride.

Officer Committees	Name Telephone	Email Address
President	Dale Tersey 906-0352	Terseydale@qwest.net
Treasurer	Steve Richards 882-3068	Stephen.richard@att.net
Secretary	Judy Francis 221-3035	Francisinbenson@ yahoo.com
Dance Committee	Lorien Tersey 591-2432	Dreamflower@qwest.net
Bookkeeper	Mike Cease 327-4705	Mikecease@yahoo.com
Next Generation Committee	Laila Lewis 858-539-5101	Lewisllewis@yahoo.com
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Dance in the Desert Chair	Liz Healy 444-3914	Lizhealy@theriver.com
Newsletter Editor	Susie Tomlinson 544-2137	Susiet66@hotmail.com

**The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music
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 The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music
 P.O. Box 40654, Tucson, AZ 85717-0654**

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music (TFTM) Is dedicated to keeping the traditions of community music and dance alive and growing in Tucson. TFTM sponsors and promotes concerts, dances, workshops and informal music sessions. Through these activities and a newsletter publication, TFTM builds awareness, educates, and fosters diversity in music and dance in the Tucson community.

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music is incorporated in the State of Arizona as a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization. For more info visit www.tftm.org or call us at 520-408-6181

TFTM Classified Ads

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Ongoing Activities Of Traditional Music and Dance

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. First hour is for beginners/intermediate. Tunelist can be found at (www.tucsonirishsession.org) 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. **Rincon Market**, 6th St. At Tucson Blvd. Set up in the Deli area

- Slow Jam from 7-8:30 PM. 2nd, 4th, 5th Tues. Contact Jamie Massey (er4az@aol.com) with questions and for playlist.
- Fast jam from 7:30-9:30 PM. 1st and 3rd Tues. Contact Dave Firestine 440-4716. 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

Second Saturday Acoustic Music Song Circle & Singalong: 7 PM 3071 W San Juan Dr. Lead a song, perform a song, or just sing/play along. Lyric books supplied, bring a snack if you choose. Contact Fred Grosvenor for directions Fdg_sd@yahoo.com.

Monthly Pot Lucks (for TFTM members and friends) - 4 pm-9pm, typically 1st Sundays, but sometimes on the 2nd Sunday. 3227 E. Glenn St., 906-0352.

Tucson Area Slow Session - Celtic: Open jam on the second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 to 10 pm at 2035 North Sahuara. Learn Irish Session Tunes by ear or "dot". Beginners welcome. Tunes played about half speed or slower. Contact 722-9485, or (sharonsmalley@webtv.net)

JOIN TUCSON FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC!

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

Send this form and your check to: TFTM, P.O. Box 40654, Tucson, AZ 85717-0654

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Yes, Include me in the TFTM contact email list for event update

I am a multi-talented individual with a friendly personality and willing heart to help with:

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Special Events FUNd Raising

Open Band Jam Sessions

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!



TFTM *news*

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