

December 2008 - January 2009



TFTM *news*

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music
Volume 8, No. 10

Happy Holidays to All!
May the New Year bring Joy to
Your Hearts and Peace to the World



The Dusty Buskers - From the left. Fiddlin' Phoenix, Cousin Dylan and Dusty Squirrelfisher. (Mighty Joel wasn't there that day). Read story page 3.

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.

Nov. 22 - The Privy Tippers and Becky Nankivell

Nov. 29 - Open Band and Don Copler

Dec. 6 - The Jumping Chollas and Claire Zucker

Dec. 20 - Dan Levenson and the Old Boiled

Buzzards with Becky Nankivell

Dec. 31 - New Years Dance WELCOME 2009!

**Laila Lewis is coordinating the callers.

All callers are welcome to participate.

Hands Four will be the primary band;

Part of the evening will be open band,

Contact Suzanne Langtroth to participate.

Laila's and Suzanne's contact info is on the

TFTM board listing.

The Family Dance held the first Saturday of each month at our regular dance venue, has resumed and continued to be a rousing success! **DEC. 6 - MUSIC BY RARE OLDE TIMES, CALLING BY KATHLEEN HALSTEAD.** Check with Allison for January specifics!

Little tykes to elementary aged children and their parents enjoy intergenerational fun with live music and callers. The dance begins at **5:00 p.m.** With a potluck supper to follow. \$5 donation per family. Contact: allisonandjoost@netzero.net

Even if you do not have any little kids, come watch the fun. The kids do a great job and they are our future of TFTM!

Ain't No Dust On Me-- The Dusty Buskers

By Jim Whitesell

Editor's Note: Jim Whitesell is a 'moderately talented' multi-instrumentalist who has played in several Old Time, country and Bluegrass bands since retiring from U.S. Customs in 2002.



The Mighty Joel, Dusty Squirrelfisher, Fiddlin' Phoenix and Cousin Dylan

There are probably as many definitions of Old Time music as there are people doing the defining. This one refers to mountain stringband music and a mutant modern incarnation that blends Irish and a bit of Bluegrass and folk into their own modern take on Old Time mountain music. The mutant moderns call themselves the Dusty Buskers.

The Dusty Buskers. A catchy band name. And not just the name. Their web sites will grab your attention, too. These guys were not on the John McCain media consultation list. They are Gen Internet. They're plugged in to the Net but good. And, with their

musical names being Fiddlin' Phoenix and Dusty Squirrelfisher, Cousin Dylan and Mighty Joel, you might get an inkling that something different is up. It is. And it isn't. It's both. The old and new collided in a musical cyclotron and out popped the Dusty Buskers.

The Buskers had a gig in the center of Old Bisbee at the Bisbee Coffee Company's bare-bones outdoor stage just a few steps from the town's main post office. In front of the Wells Fargo office across the street the Women In Black For Peace were holding a vigil. It was late on Halloween afternoon. Nobody seemed to have advertised the Busk-

ers' performance. No audience, except for a handful of raggedy homeless people and Broken String, a Cochise County Old Time/Irish string-band who came to hear them. Then the Buskers launched into their colorful and frenetic adrenalin-charged show and the audience that wasn't, was. There was considerable foot traffic around the post office. People heard the music on the street and drifted in. They were soon hollering their appreciation.

And *some* audience it was. This was after all Halloween. In Bisbee. Ghosts and goblins, witches and monsters and assorted other costumed-up characters were pausing on their way to the famously creative-juiced Bisbee Halloween parties. Add to that the Women In Black For Peace from across the street, whose eyes and ears had noticed the band. And *some* band they were watching. A wild-haired punked out group that was one half Old Time Wild Men and the other half rowdy Irish Bar Band. It was a hell of a sight. The Women In Black For Peace and a Halloween-costumed audience watching a freaked-out punk

Old Time band decked out in thrift-store-sheik clothing no less bizarre than the audience. Even for eclectic weirded-out Bisbee, it was an eye-popping sight. And it fit nicely into the Dusty Buskers' own off-the-wall view of themselves.

A couple of years ago the Old Time Herald ran an article about young people coming into Old Time music from punk rock. Gadzooks! Punk rockers in Old Time? What in the devil would *that* be like? The strange thought was still hanging in mental digestive limbo when some of those thrift-store-dressed punkers showed up at the 2006 Tucson fiddle contest in Reid Park. They called themselves the Ramblin' Ales. The generations met head on as the punked-out young Ales hunkered around a picnic table jamming away with the graying geezers--Big Jim Griffith and the Arthritis Brothers--to the raw and rough edges of back porch stringband tunes. In odd counterpoint to the jamming of the Ales and the Geezers, the polished performance music of the typical modern fiddle

contest was going just on the edge of hearing over on the nearby stage. The fiddle contest main-streamers didn't seem to notice, but the passersby sure did. Sensing the energy and excitement of the impromptu young/old jam, an enthralled crowd started to build up. Then the contest was over, everyone went home and the colorful little group of punk Old Timers seemed to disappear from the radar screen of local Old Time music. It was like a comet had flashed vividly across the musical sky and then was gone.

Not so. They were still there. Below the radar. The Ramblin' Ales split. Some of them went back east and hit a bunch of the Old Time and Bluegrass festivals that summer and came back incandescent with their own vision of Old Time music. But Fiddlin' Phoenix and Dusty stayed in Tucson and worked on honing their street musicians' busking act. They morphed into the Dusty Buskers, filling out their sound with Cousin Dylan on mandolin and Mighty Joel Ford on washboard. A doghouse thumper is likely the next addition. The formerly

underground Dusty Buskers came up for air--at least some of the time--and are performing with increasing frequency. You can catch them at the Fourth Avenue Winter Street Fair in mid-December. Or check their web sites for gig dates.

The Buskers don't have the finely honed charged musicianship of the Privy Tippers contra dance band or the Round The House Irish band. They don't have the rock solid Old Time professionalism of Dan and Jennifer Levenson or the bodhran-flavored sound of another Old Time/Irish band, Cochise County's Broken String. But they do have a wild, balls-to-the-wall way of performing Old Time and Irish music that will not fail to grab your attention. When these boys are on stage, they ARE on stage! If they played in a cemetery, even the ground would probably start rocking.

Leader Fiddlin' Phoenix is an ain't-no-fat-on-me dynamo whose onstage persona is one part Karate Kid doing the Stork and one part Gid Tanner fiddling wild man. His onstage performance is manic. Probably offstage, too.

The guy is intense. He doesn't just play music. He *is* the music. That balls-to-the-wall manic intensity carries over to the entire band. Zany, agreeably disheveled co-leader Dusty Squirrelfisher plays guitar and harmonica and sings harmony, with lanky Cousin Dylan's mandolin and Mighty Joel's washboard filling out the sound. They might look strange as hell in their mismatched 60's cast-off clothing, and with their foot-stomping onstage antics, but these guys can actually *play* their instruments and sing spot-on harmonies while putting on one hell of an entertaining act showcasing their mixture of Old Time, Irish and a hint of Bluegrass music.

In a very real sense, they are musical ambassadors for Old Time music. And, in another very real sense, the Buskers are a palpable link to those wild Old Time bands from the earliest days of recorded music. These young dudes might shock the staid among us and set the more hide-bound to grumbling. But you better believe that they get the attention of young people. And without young people Old

Time music has no future.

It'd just be another fading tombstone in the untended graveyard of forgotten old music.

Send your browser to the Dusty Buskers and visit their web sites for more information

The Dusty Buskers will be playing at the Fourth Ave. Street Fair, Dec 12 and 13 at noon.

busker Dictionary.com

1. Chiefly British. to entertain by dancing, singing, or reciting on the street or in a public place.

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Reflections on Dance in the Desert, 2008

By Jackie Newlove

Fabulous music! Great workshops! Friendly people! The Arizona Desert! Could anything be better?! I loved Dance in the Desert as usual.

Highlights for me included Mary Cay Brass's Harmony Singing Workshop. The singing was fun and better yet, I am contemplating going to Bosnia to participate in her two-week Village Harmony Workshop there. Probably won't happen, but who knows!

I enjoyed the Slow Jam. This is the first time since I started playing guitar three years ago after my first Dance in the Desert, that I brought my guitar. It proved to me that yes, I am making progress.

The concert on Saturday afternoon was wonderful. It allowed us to get to know these fine musicians a bit as individuals. What a talented, interesting bunch.

Working at the registration table selling raffle tickets gave me the opportunity to get to know some of the movers and shakers of our community better – talking with Claire and Susie was a particular treat.

There were some challenges. The food was less than healthy and dealing with 136 people is hard for a shy person. But the dancing was so great and there wasn't a dearth of men that sometimes makes Tucson dances disgruntling.

I'll be back next year...a little creakier, but raring to go!

HEADS UP! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Dance in the Desert Committee has announced next year's dance camp dates. The weekend is one week later than this year; November 13 –15, 2009 with the Early Bird Special November 12. The French Canadian Group, Tidal Wave, (also featuring our favorite New England bassist, Stuart Kenney) will be the band with at least one caller already set, Seth Tepfer. Stay tuned for all the details as they are confirmed.

Plan now. Put up an old mason jar, an old coffee can, or your old piggy bank and make it a habit of putting \$10 from every paycheck away. You'll have your registration fee in no time! In a time of economic stress, give yourself a treat by dancing and having fun with great friends, new friends, and musicians par excellence!

A NOTE OF THANKS!

A great big thank you to all the folks who donated raffle items to the Dance in the Desert Raffle. The Raffle is designated to support the scholarship fund for dancers needing assistance to attend.

Over 100 baskets, hiking staff, and items were put together by Deb Thorn. Winners were chosen and announced in record time by Dave Firestine and over \$1400 was raised.

Check out our February issue for more information, photos, and thank you's for DiTD.

Photographers...please submit your camp photos to Susiet66@hotmail.com.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Jim Mordecai, Phyllis Davies and Bill Ganoe were all winners of one of the wonderful hiking staffs donated by Flagstaff dancer Warren Walters raffled over the last two three months at our local dances.

Grace Hartman is the winner of the "Four Days in August" print by Appalachian pencil artist Willard Gayheart.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you from the Next Generation Committee for helping to raise over \$300 in funds.

IT WAS A GOOD EFFORT!

Sadly the monthly dance in Dragoon did not generate enough attendance to continue to pay the band and caller. It will be discontinued for now.

The last dance had a good turnout of families with young children and organizer Barbara Hanson reports that everyone enjoyed themselves, but finance is finance!

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES SCHEDULE

English Country and Scottish Country Dancing Series

Hosted by Seven Pipers and TFTM

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., do not need a partner,

Donation per person: \$5.00

The dances are called and you do not need any prior experience. www.sevenpipers.org

Dec. 18 Christmas Party

Feb. 12 Valentine's Party

Apr. 2 Tartan Day Party

You may bring a snack to share. Live music provided.

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BEOGA in Concert

Saturday, February 28th, 8 pm
Berger Performing Art Center.

Beoga is a lively young band from Ireland with two accordions, fiddle, award-winning bodhran (Irish drum), keyboards, and a vocalist Niamh Dunne, whose voice is reminiscent of Mary Black in her early years. With Tir Conaill Irish dancers, their show Saturday, February 28th will be the Celtic show of the spring. visit www.beogamusic.com for more info.

Reserved seating \$20, \$18 for TFTM members and seniors now on sale on line at www.inconcerttucson.com. For on line discount, TFTM members can use the senior drop down price. \$3/ticket fee on line. Tickets also available, with no fee, at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave. or the Folk Shop, 2525 N. Campbell. Info. or disability seats, call 981-1475.

**The Food Conspiracy Co-op
Third Annual Co-op Community
Contradance**

Saturday, December 13th

7 p.m. to 10 p.m

[7 to 7:30 will be beginner lessons].

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914 4th Street

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**AZ We Dance Friday Dances in Flagstaff
Mountain Elementary School
311 Cattle Drive Road
Lesson 7:00-7:30
Dance 7:30-10:30
\$6 per dancer \$5 per students
half price for dancing children**

*Friday December 19,
Privy Tippers
"Stocking Stuffer and CD Release party!!"*

No dance in January - Go to the Cottonwood Caper!!

*Friday February 20, 2009
Updraft
Special Flagstaff Winterfest Dance*

**AZ We Dance 3RD Saturday Dances in Cottonwood
Cottonwood Civic Center
805 Main Street, Old Town Cottonwood
Pot Luck 5:30-6:30
Lesson 6:30-7:00
Dance 7:00-10:00
\$5 per dancer
half price for dancing children**

*Saturday December 20
SPECIAL 5th Annual Holiday Extravaganza featuring
gift exchange, door prizes, festive foods and decorations
The Privy Tippers, Deb Comly and guest appearances by
Kris Kontra Kringle and Vixen Dancer*

Stellar Days & Nights - Colorado Camp

February 19 - 22, 2009

Stellar 2009 will feature music by **LIFT TICKET** (Seth Houston - piano, Rex Blazer - fiddle, TJ Johnson - mandolin) and **LIZ MASTERSON & THE AUGUSTA SWING SERENADERS** (Liz Masterson - vocals & guitar, Ron Jones - fiddle, Marv Reitz - sax & clarinet, Kathy Reitz - vocals & acoustic bass). These two bands will bring us an incredible combination of groovin' contra music and fun, lively swing tunes. With David Kirchner (from St. Paul, MN) calling contras & squares, David Vinson (of Denver, CO) teaching Lindy Hop, and Andrea Earley-Coen (of Salida, CO) teaching clogging, the dancing is sure to be outstanding! This year, pack your best western garb for our Honky Tonk Swing Party Friday night (following the contra dance).

Find out more at www.stellardaysandnights.org <<http://www.stellardaysandnights.org/>> or contact Amy at 802-522-6123 or registration@stellardaysandnights.org <<mailto:registration@stellardaysandnights.org>> . Pre-registration is required for this event and the price goes up February 1st. However, space is limited, so register now to ensure your admission!

Burn the Calories Contra Dance

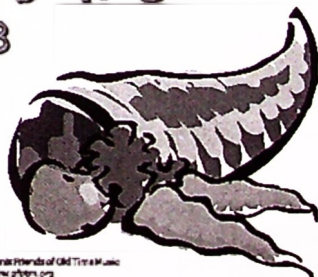
Fri. November 28

7:30 - 10:00 pm

Irish Cultural Center
1106 N. Central Ave, Phx

Calling by **Peg Hesley**
Music by **Clusterfolk**

All Dancers \$7



Sponsored by Phoenix Friends of Old Time Music
www.pftm.org

Spend New Years at a music and dance camp in Malibu!

Join the Privy Tippers, Irish band, Banshee in the Kitchen, Tom & Patrick Sauber, Jim & Amber Mueller and many more at the California Traditional Music Society New Year's Camp, December 31, 2008 to January 3, 2009. The camp is a beautiful facility directly across the road from the Pacific Ocean. There are many slots still available in the \$175 cabins. A good deal for 4 days! For more info:
<http://www.ctmsfolkmusic.org/newyearscomp/default.asp>

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 nearby 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

Saturday night, January 17, 2009

Special dance, open to the public with Cottonwood Caper talent \$10.00.

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. .NAU Ashurst/Old Main Hall
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 6:00 Pot Luck, 7:00 Instruction, 7:30 Dance

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
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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

WEBSITE MANAGER NEEDED/CALL DALE

**The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music
Newsletter is Published Ten Times a Year By
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

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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 & Sing-along: 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.

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.

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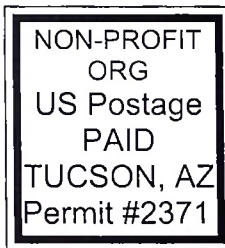
TFTM is a solely volunteer motivated and run, non-profit organization dedicated to having a great deal of fun. Please do what you can to partake in all the fun and to add to the enjoyment of fellow members, dancers and music lovers!



*TFTM*news

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