

Old Farmers Ball
PO Box 2852
Weaverville, NC 28787

U.S. Mail
\$ 0.42

FIND YOUR MAR/APR 2011 DANCE FLYER ON THE BACK COVER.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting went well on all counts. There were lively discussions on volunteers, workshops and the dance in general, followed by a wonderful potluck anchored by Jonathan Gilbert's tamarind-plum ham and paprika-spice turkey, and a dance to a community band led by Laura Lengnick and Karen Gaughan with open mic callers. As has been the case in the past, the music was fantastic.

There was formal business to discuss at the meeting, the main bit being the election of new board members. Our new board members are:

Laura Lengnick, who is an extraordinary musician and professor at Warren Wilson, with an interest in developing local talent.

Terry Doyle, who brings lots of experience running dances (Contra Dancers Delight, Appalachian Spring, etc.) to the organization.

Owen Shaffer, who is a key organizer for Splash Dance and is the inspiration and energy behind our new advanced dances.

Able Alan, who has been on the board before, is a terrific organizer and is working on the volunteers.

Workshops

The OFB will be starting a series of workshops for musicians, callers and dancers over the next few months. Keep your eye on the Web site, email and Facebook for details.

Let us know what sort of workshops you're interested by using the OFB Website contact sheet and sending a message to 'workshops'.

Advanced Dance

The first two advanced dances were well attended and enjoyed by all. The next two are 3/18 & 4/15.

No or brief walkthroughs, and/or slightly more challenging dances make up a great evening of dance for anyone with a little contra experience.

The Mathematics of Contra & the Key to Being on Time

Contra tunes are 64 beats, with each beat corresponding to a step in the dance. The music is broken into 4 phrases of 16 beats each, which the callers call A1, A2, B1 and B2.

The two A phrases echo each other, and then the music changes for the two B phrases, which also echo. Each phrase has two 8 count halves, which are also easily heard.

Listen for this timing the next time you dance, count the music in your head, 1-8, hear the changes for each of the two A and two B phrases.

The figures of the dance are aligned with these phrases. Balance and swings are often 16 counts, for example, and will take up one of the main A or B phrases.

If you're listening to the beats, you'll know exactly when to end that swing and nail the next figure, right on time.

OFB Contra Jam & Splash Dance

The OFB Contra Jams with open mics and pie and cake nights have been a blast. The stage has been overflowing. Laura Lengnick led one jam band and Laurie Fisher the other. Both nights we got awesome big band sounds that you simply can't get most nights (and bagpipes!). And deserts!

The next is April 28th with AnneMarie Walter leading the callers with David White and Roger Gold leading the jam band.

What does this have to do with Splash Dance?

Unlike most dance weekends, **Splash Dance** is a solid weekend of this type of musical/calling/dancing fun. It's affordable, it's fun, it's at a camp, there's a lake, there's excellent food, ...

Registration is open now!
August 26-28

www.olderfarmersball.com/SplashDance

Finger Nails & Hygiene

We had an unfortunate incident with a fingernail at a recent dance. It was long and pointed and punctured another dancer's hand, which then got infected and required serious medical treatment.

Please keep your nails dull.

And while the subject is up, there have also been complaints about bad breath from women dancing under noxious clouds emitting from some dancers.

A little care here would be courteous, and maybe some gentle hints from those offended to those offending? One doesn't always know...

2011 Board of Directors

Officers

President.....Allen Bergal
 Vice-President.....Jonathan Gilbert
 SecretaryDavid Stahnaker
 TreasurerJoe Karpen
 Past President.....David Stahnaker

Members-at-Large

Jonathan Gilbert	Genevieve Vesely
Holly Hixson	Owen Shaffer
Dennis Merritt	Able Alan
Crawford Rizer	Laura Lengnick
Taija Tevia Clark	Terry Doyle

OFB Contact Information:

Website: www.oudfarmersball.com

Look for links to:

become a member,
 see the member directory,
 volunteer,
 find someone to carpool with,
 report incidents or make suggestions directly to the board,
 see this newsletter,
 and a host of other things.

To get on the ListServe send a blank e-mail to:
oufb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To send us a card or letter, use:

Old Farmers Ball
 P.O. Box 2852
 Weaverville, NC 28787

Committee Chairs

Finance Joe Karpen	Governance Joe Karpen
Marketing & PR .. Jonathan Gilbert	Special Events
Booking Beth Molaro	Community Outreach Lacy Hagan
Newsletter Dennis Merritt	Workshops..... Diane Silver
Volunteers Able Alan	Splash Dance Dennis Merritt
Sound..... Jonathan Gilbert	Webmaster Dennis Merritt

The Old Farmer's Ball is an **all volunteer** organization. Be a part of the dance *community*. Join one (or more) of these committees to help with behind-the-scenes work that makes the contra dance happen week after week. OFB also supports other forms of social dance in our community.
president@oudfarmersball.com

the Old Farmer's Ball News is published bi-monthly by the Old Farmer's Ball, and includes the Asheville Area Dance Flyer, project reports, contact info, announcements, and more.

REGIONAL CONTRA DANCE CARPOOLING WEBSITE

<http://oufb-events.pbwiki.com/carpooling>

OFB Board Meetings — Everyone welcome
 Second Mondays — 6:30 — Grey Eagle
 See www.oudfarmersball.com for all the other Local and Regional Dance links!

Asheville Social Dance Calendar

Thursdays — OFB @ Warren Wilson

Bryson Gym, beginners welcome, lesson 7:30, dance 8:00, members \$5, non-members \$6

3/3 **Dry Ridge Runners** (Roy Andrades, Parrish Ellis, Stephanie Wolf) w/Tom & Myra

3/10 **Flying the Tune** (Lew Gelfond, June Avincula) w/Hank Morris

3/17 **Carolina Dingos** (Jamie Laval, Roger Gold) w/Beth Molaro

3/24 **Riptide** (Alden Robinson, Owen Marshall, Glen Loper) w/Rebecca Lay

3/31 **Atlantic Crossing** (Viveka Fox, Peter Macfarlane, Brian Perkins, Rick Klein) w/Diane Silver

4/7 **Wildcat** (Laurie Fisher, Karen Gaughan) w/Terry Doyle

4/14 **Blue Ridge Rounders** (Bob & Amy Buckingham, Dan Wood, Joshua Johnson) w/Barbara Groh

4/21 **Firefly** (Julia Weatherford, Pearl Mueller, Barbara Davis, Laurel Willoughby) w/Mark Langner

4/28 **Open Band** w/Anne Marie Walter MC
Pie & Cake! Bring a desert, dance for \$3

The Monday Night Dance at the Grey Eagle

185 Clingman Ave., Asheville. Beginners welcome, dance 8:00. \$6 828-232-5800

3/7 **Appalachian Storm** (Kris Wallace, Terrell Jones, David Hayes, David White) w/Diane Silver

3/14 **The Red Wellies** (Beanie Odell, Duncan Wickel, Vincent Fogarty) w/ Charlotte Crittenden

3/21 **Riptide** (Glen Loper, Alden Robinson, Owen Marshall) w/Rebecca Lay

3/28 **Contraversial** (Cailen Campbell, David Brown) w/Barbara Groh

4/4 **The Rhythm Method** w/Beverly Smith

4/11 **Morning Coffee** (Steve Kimball, Diane & Jeff Baker) w/AnneMarie Walter

4/18 **The Dancing Bears** (Lew Gelfond, John Culp, Mark Langner, Skip Methany) w/ Fred Park

4/25 **Steamshovel** (David White, Roger Gold) w/Laurie Fisher

Sundays — OFB English Country Dance

1st & 3rd Sundays (sometimes more—check dates below) Asheville Arts Center, 308 Merrimon Ave. Asheville. 3-5:30. \$6, \$5 for OFB members

3/6 Bob Thomsom calling w/ Paul Moore & Julia Weatherford

3/20 AnneMarie Walter calling w/ Cathy Arps, Suzanne Hosch, Esther Holsen, Michael Garner, Karen Gaughan

4/3 John Quinley calling w/ Laurie Fisher, Nic Coker, Karen Gaughan, Esther Holsen, Michael Garner

4/17 AnneMarie Walter calling w/ Linda and George Schissler, Anna Stenger, Esther Holsen, Michael Garner

Fridays — OFB Advanced Dance

3rd Fridays at the Masonic Lodge in downtown Asheville. 8:00, \$8

3/18 **Wildcat** (Laurie Fisher, Karen Gaughan, Nic Coker) w/AnneMarie Walter

4/15 **Contraversial** (Cailen Campbell, David Brown) w/Charlie Harvey

Saturdays — OFB/YMCA Dance

4th Saturdays Asheville YMCA, beginners welcome, lesson 7:30, dance 8:00

3/26 **Big Dog** (Laura Lengnick, Roger Gold) w/Charlie Harvey

4/23 no dance

For more information and the latest updates:
www.oldfarmersball.com