

Old Farmers Ball
PO Box 9000, WWC Box 6278
Asheville, NC 28815

U.S. Mail
\$ 0.42

FIND YOUR MAY/JUNE 2010 DANCE FLYER ON THE BACK

HENRY FORD

I danced with a lady who was clearly new to our dance, but an experienced dancer. Turns out she was from Toronto, an active contra dancer, and passing through on a trip to Florida. I was asking about dance in her area, and she said there was a lot from Detroit, given the Henry Ford connection.

Well I'd never heard of Henry Ford and contra before. It turns out he thought dance was valuable for his employees state of mind and built dance halls and hired musicians, but not just any type of dance. He didn't think "modern" (1920) dance was healthy.

In his own words: *"The old American dancing was clean and healthful. In the square dances and the circle two-step, one finds rhythm and grace of motion, and people are thrown together and get to know one another. The old dances were social. The modern dances are not. The same two people may dance together all evening, but the old dances gave one a dozen partners in an evening."*

And to think, one of the fun trends in "modern" (2010) contra is the integration of moves from those "modern" (1920) swing dances. What would Henry think?

Read more from Henry Ford: <http://www.heinerfischle.de/history/ford-e.htm>

English Country Dance

English Dance is a dance tradition dating back to the 1500's, spreading from British Isles into some European countries such as France. It was continued here in America by early settlers who lived in New England. New England Contra Dance grew out of English Country Dance because the dance figures began to change with time, and folks were writing new dances to create and include new dance figures, such as the "balance and swing, hey and gypsie."

Traditional square dance and waltzing also grew out of the English Dance. The word, "country" morphed into the word, "contra," which comes from the French word, "contredanse," and also referring to two lines opposite each other. English Country Dance is still alive and well in the US. Check it out every 1st and 3rd Sunday afternoons at the Asheville Arts Center, 308 Merrimon Ave.

3-5:30 PM. \$6. January through May;
September through December.
Fascinating, elegant and lively dances with a caller and live music. Information is posted on the OFB website.

In keeping with OFB Mission Statement: "The Old Farmers Ball cultivates traditional folk and social dance in our community," the English Country Dance Series is partially funded and promoted by the Old Farmers Ball.

The English Country Dance organizers, Anne-Marie Walter and Karen Gaughan, greatly appreciate the generosity of the OFB for this support.

Huge thanks to OFB for your interest and support,

You're welcome, our pleasure

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP

The OFB membership is now online, and members can login and update their own information.

An e-mail was sent to all the members giving them their secret password, needed to access the member section of the OFB Website, where all our secret rituals and ceremonies are described.

You can also browse the online version of the member directory, which eventually will have search capability so you can find other dancers in your zip code, a plumber if you need one, photographer? etc.

As with the printed version, only information you authorize is displayed in the online directory.

But we know some of the addresses we have are incorrect, as is some of the information. And some members might not even be entered. **So, if you are a member, and didn't get an email from me...**

Please send me one at:

dennismerritt1@gmail.com, and I'll send you your password.



Jessica Weir 1988-2010
Touched the soul of those who
danced with her.

2010 Board of Directors

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OFB Contact Information:

Website: www.olderfarmersball.com

Look for links to:
 sign up as a 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:
ofb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To send us a card or letter, use:
 Old Farmers Ball
 P.O. Box 2852
 Weaverville, NC 28787

Committee Chairs

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 Technology M.-J. Taylor

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 and supports other forms of social dance in our community.

the Old Farmers 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.

Deadline for the next *Old Farmer's Ball News* is June 8.

REGIONAL CONTRA DANCE CARPOOLING WEBSITE

Don't let the price of gas keep you from going to your favorite regional dances. Use the OFB wiki-webpage to connect with other travelers.

A wiki is a webpage that anyone can edit. Go to the page and follow the easy directions to log-on. Then add your text to list the dance you want to go to and your contact info so others can call you to carpool. OR, call someone else who listed their name.

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

Asheville Contra — May/June 2010

The Monday Night Dance at the Grey Eagle

8pm Beginners Always Welcome
185 Clingman Avenue - Asheville NC (828) 232-5800

5/3—**Firefly** (Pearl Mueller, Julia Weatherford, Barbara and Laurel Davis) with Keith Eustis Cornett

5/10—**The Euphoria String Band** (Patrick Crouch, Don Francis, Joe Hasty and Bob Kogut) with Diane Silver

5/17—**Magic Foot** (Brendan Taaffe, Junior Stevens, Stefan Amidon, Colin Lindsay) with Nils Fredland

5/24—**The Red Wellies** (Beanie Odell, Duncan Wickel and Vincent Fogarty) with AnneMarie Walter

5/31—**Fly by Night** (Laura Lengnick, Beth McGill, Julia Weatherford, Karen Gaughen) with Hank Morris

6/7—**Gypsy Meltdown** (Kathy Kerr, Coleen Reed, Keith Gillis) with Jack Mitchell

6/14—**The Dancing Bears** (Lew Gelfond, John Culp, Mark Langner, Skip Metheny) with Barbara Groh

6/21—**Chivarie** (Jack Devereux, Hannah Seng, Sean Sutherland) with Beth Molaro

6/28—**The Spring Chickens** (Rob & Beth Mangum, Art Schuster, Ben Harvey, McClain Bissell) with John Combs

Thursdays! Old Farmer's Ball

8pm (lesson 7:30pm)
Warren Wilson College, Bryson Gym

5/6—**Land of Sky** (Laura Lengnick, Paul Moore, Roger Gold) with Beth Molaro calling...

5/13—**The Nightshades** (Chloe Edmonstone, Ariel Dixon, Isaiah Thalmayer, Dylan Flynn) with Phil Jamison and callers from the WWC Southern Square Dance Class.

5/20—**Magic Foot** (Colin Lindsay, Christian Stevens, Brendan Taaffe, Stephan Amidon) with Jesse Edgerton calling

5/27—**Chicken Train** (John Engle, John Crutchfield, Meredith McIntosh, John Herrmann) with Beverly Smith calling.

6/3—**Gypsy Meltdown** ((Kathy Kerr, Colleen Reed, Keith Gillis) with Jack Mitchell calling

6/10—**Anadama** (Amelia Mason, Emily Troll, Bethany Waickman) with Anne Marie Walter

6/17—**Firefly** (Julia Weatherford, Pearl Mueller, Laurel Willoughby, Barbara David) with John Combs calling

6/24—**Fiddlewitch** (Laurie Fisher, Karen Gaughan, Art Shuster, Skip Metheny) with Barbara Groh calling

OFB Board Meetings — Everyone welcome
Second Mondays — 6:30 — Grey Eagle

See www.oldfarmersball.com for all the other Local and Regional Dance links!