

The Arkansas Country Dancer

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1

SUMMER, 2007

The Arkansas Country Dance Society was founded in 1978 to develop and promote American folk dancing and the music to which it is danced. The Society is a non-profit educational organization open to the general public. ACDS holds dances on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday nights of the month in North Little Rock, sponsors dance events throughout the year, and performs at special events around the state. ACDS is a group affiliate of the Country Dance and Song Society.

28th Annual Dance Festival

The 28th annual Mt. View Dance Festival is September 7-9, 2007. David Peterson has an all-star line-up for this, the 28th annual festival weekend. Yes, Great Bear Trio will be back to play for the dances and this year our featured instructors are: Jim Morrison, our main Country Dance instructor and caller; Steve Smith, a master clogger and performer; and Craig and Laurie Morrison, clogging champions. We also have many other wonderful instructors who have been with us many times before and help make the weekend such a success: Pat Dennis, Mim Heinrichs, Neil Kelley, Judy Robertson, Bernadette Reiger, Kathey Wilson, Susan Todt, Harold Watson, Steve and Joanie Green, Darrell and Doris Hutchins, Leona Miller, Ann-Marie and Marie Lovelace, andour fearless leader and organizer himself, David Peterson. Registration forms and the schedule of events can be obtained by downloading from our website: www.arkansascountrydance.org or by calling the Ozark Folk Center at 870-269-3851

Mt. Nebo Dance Weekend

This year the Mt. Nebo Dance Weekend on November 9-11 2007 will be very special because during the event we are sponsoring our national parent organization, The Country Dance and Song Society, for their semi-annual board meeting. Members of the board will be on-hand during the evening and off-hours for calling and possibly even some instruction in English Country dance styles. The agenda is still in the works, but please mark your calendars for this wonderful dance weekend on top of Mt. Nebo, overlooking the Arkansas River valley. Not only do we have those amazing views but we dance in that historic WPA Pavilion, and we can hike the mountain trails and probably see deer up there, too.

From the President:

Dancers,

Well this certainly is a good year for Country Dancing in Arkansas. We have had some outstanding events throughout the state and there are many more to come in the next few months.

The Arkansas Country Dance Society has had our regular dance events on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday nights and they have been well attended by members and new-comers alike. In January we had our last Twelfth Night Ball that was attended by revelers from 15+ states and was a gala to remember for all time. Then, in March we had a great Irish Dance Party which was hosted by Harold Watson and a special band led by Bill Thurman and Bill Nesbitt. We also danced at Earth Day and at Historic Arkansas Museum's Territorial Faire so far this year. The audience feedback from both those events was wonderfully positive.

One of our members, Cynthia Henderson, has started a new dance group called the River Valley Dance Society and they are having dance events on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in Russellville. Their kick-off was a day of English Country Dancing led by Joseph LaFace. Rosemary Stroh up in Mt. View has been having periodic contra dances there that have drawn dancers locally and from Little Rock and Fayetteville. Susan Todt and the Searcy County Dance Society hold dances on 1st and 3rd Thursdays in Marshall. Fayetteville has dances on the 1st Saturday. And, Caven Clark is having Ceili dances monthly in Harrison. Way to go Arkansas! So, now on to upcoming events.

ACDS English Dancing. There is renewed interest from dancers at our regular dances that they would like to do more English dancing. Joseph LaFace has started an all-English Country Dance Friday Night . The next one is August 24 at 7:30pm. The 4th Friday is now reserved for English Country Dancing. Again, please come and add your support if you enjoy this dance style so we can keep having it in the future.

September 7-9th, 2007 is Mt. View Dance Festival, November 9-11th, 2007 is Mt. Nebo Dance Weekend, and April 5-6th, 2008 Petit Jean State Park Dance Weekend. Information concerning these events can be found in related articles in this publication.

There is one more thing I wanted to mention. Donna and David Peterson still have a number of clogging tapes for VCRs that they made as a project to explore the history and tradition of clogging and to be used as instructional material. They would like to give these to members and educators who are interested in having a copy. If you would like a tape, please contact David at DavidP@uca.edu .

Carolyn Shearman
President, Arkansas Country Dance Society

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Membership List

A current membership list is available to any current member. Please contact Mary Jane Beard at 758-3637 or mjquilter@sbcglobal.net. If you need a new membership button, please let me know.

ACDS dances are held each 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Park Hill

Presbyterian Church 3520 JFK Blvd., North Little Rock. Admission is \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members. Annual membership, which includes the newsletter, is \$7.50 per adult member.

The Arkansas Country Dancer is published periodically during the year. Articles, letters, and artwork are welcome and appreciated. Please send them directly to Mary Jane Beard at 3600 Cornwallis Dr., NLR, AR 72116 or mjquilter@sbaglobal.net.

All submissions are subject to editing and all opinions are those of the author only.

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ARKANSAS COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY 2007 SCHEDULE

Park Hill Presbyterian Church 3520 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock, AR 7:30 to 9:30 PM



August

- 17 Regular Dance
24 English Dance**
31 Party Dance Night

September

- 9/7-9/9/2007
7-9* Mt. View Dance Weekend
21 Regular Dance

October

- 5 Regular Dance
19 Regular Dance

** English dances may occur on the 4th Friday nights. If you are not on the e-mail list check with Joseph LaFace.

*Dances NOT held at Park Hill Presbyterian Church

Since schedule changes do occur for various reasons, please be sure that we have any changes in e-mail address. That is the usual method for letting members know of changes.

November

- 2 Regular Dance
9-11* Mt. Nebo Week-end
16 Semi-Annual Meeting 6:30 PM
Regular Dance 7:30 PM

December

- 7 Regular dance
21 Christmas Dance party
7 p.m.

2008 Petit Jean State Park Dance Weekend.

April 5 -6, 2008 may seem like a long time from now but this new dance event is already shaping up nicely. We are organizing this dance weekend to maybe start a new tradition since Twelfth Night Ball has come to a close. It will never "replace" Twelfth Night since nothing could ever do that. But, we wanted to create another dance opportunity that could draw from around the state and nearby states to celebrate our various dance interests and our friendships made through dancing together.

So far we have reserved a hall and some lodging rooms and we are going to be working on a program and a cook-out for Saturday night. The Petit Jean Park staff and the Winthrop Rockefeller Center have been most helpful in offering free workshop space and the Park Rangers will even lead a special Spring Wildflower hike for people who want to participate. Expect to hear more about this event from ACDS in the near future.

The Arkansas Country Dancer

Arkansas Country Dance Society
c/o Mary Jane Beard
3600 Cornwallis Drive
N. Little Rock, AR 72116



THE ARKANSAS COUNTRY DANCER

Dance Party

August 31 is our next fifth Friday Dance Party. Bring snack foods for this Dance Party.

Web Site

The **Arkansas Country Dance Society** web site is at:
www.arkansascountrydance.org

The **Country Dance and Song Society** web page can be found at:
<http://www.cdss.org>

ACDS Semi-Annual Meeting

November 16 is the next ACDS semi-annual business meeting at 6:30 PM, which will be followed by a dance at 7:30 PM at Park Hill Presbyterian Church. Please take the time to attend the business meeting. We need to have everyone involved in making ACDS events the best they can be.

Tax Deduction!

Remember that your contributions to ACDS are tax deductible!