

Nashville Old-Time String Band Association

May **News** **2008**

Post Office Box 160038 Nashville, Tennessee 37216

www.nashvilleoldtime.org

Regular Jams—Another out-of-the-ordinary jam schedule for May:

Note: NO 4th Sunday Jam. We'll meet on the 3rd Sunday.

First Thursday Slow Jam – May 1st at Fort Negley, 6:30-8:30.

Jim Hornsby will lead the jam. Here is the plan:

- 1) Review briefly tunes played at last slow jam:
 - Dry & Dusty in Key of D
 - Sara Armstrong's Tune in Key of D
 - Breakin' Up Christmas in Key of A
- 2) New Tunes:
 - Over the Waterfall in Key of D
 - Needle Case in Key of D
 - Hunting the Buffalo in Key of A
 - Seneca Square Dance (Waiting for the Federals) in Key of G
- 3) Guitar chord charts will be provided for all tunes.
- 4) Recording devices are recommended

Second Thursday Regular Jam – May 8th, 6:30 to 8:30, at Buchanan Log House, 2910 Elm Hill Pike. Tunes are played from moderate to up-to-speed. All skill levels are welcome and everyone's encouraged to play along. A list of tunes frequently played by the group is available; ask for your copy to have. New tunes can be brought and are sometimes the focus of the next month's slow jam.

Third Thursday Regular Jam – Ft. Negley Visitors Center, May 15th, 6:30 to 8:30. This is a central Nashville jam. The Third Thursday Jam has the same focus as the Second Thursday Jam.

THIRD Sunday Jam – We'll meet at Two Rivers Mansion, May 18th, 3130 McGavock Pike, Nashville, for Grand Old Dulcimer Days from noon to dusk. We usually gather in a circle that's easy to find and a bit away from the amplified music of the stage presentations. Last year we were under a huge shade tree behind the mansion. Grand Old Dulcimer Days brings in dulcimer masters and singer/songwriters for a gathering of performances and jams in the mansion and all over the lovely grounds. There is simple food and drink to purchase, and our jamming is low key with folks outside our group occasionally joining in. The 4th Sunday is Memorial Day week-end so it works out nicely to participate in Dulcimer Days.

Directions to the 3rd Sunday Jam

Two Rivers Mansion
3130 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN

From Nashville / Pegram / Bellevue / the west / the south

Take I-40 east from Nashville to Briley Pkwy north. Get off Briley at Elm Hill pike, Lebanon Rd., or Two Rivers Parkway going east to McGavock Pike. Turn left going north to the Mansion which is not far past Two Rivers Pkwy on the left side of McGavock.

From the north

Go east on Briley Pkwy to McGavock Pike just at the Opryland Hotel. Go east on McGavock (back over Briley Parkway) past Joya Drive on the left. Look for the entrance of gravel drive, small pillars and shrubbery on the right. If you get to Two Rivers Parkway you've gone just too far.

Tune of the Month

Our Tune of the Month for May is “Over the Waterfall.” Originally from fiddler Henry Reed of Glen Lyn, Virginia, it was learned directly from Reed and popularized in modern times by folklorist, fiddler, and friend of NOTSBA, Alan Jabbour. Reed himself may have learned it from hearing it emanating from a steam-driven calliope.

“Over the Waterfall” is a melody that is fairly widespread throughout the British Isles and North America, explains Jabbour, and was used both for a well-known British-American song sometimes called “Eggs and Marrowbones” (AKA “Old Woman from Wexford,” “Old Woman in Dover,” “Wily Auld Carle,” etc.) and as an instrumental tune.

Comparison with “The Dark Girl Dressed in Blue” in O’Neill’s *Music of Ireland* (1903) reveals a striking similarity between the two, and it is possible “Over the Water-

fall” was adapted from an Irish source. Others have suggested that it may originally have been a composed piece from the turn of the century that was spread by travelling circus and riverboat musicians.

From: “The Fiddler’s Companion” at: www.ibiblio.org/fiddlers

We will play this tune phrase-by-phrase at our slow jam on May 1st at the Ft. Negley visitor’s center and also at normal tempo at our second and third Thursday jams.

A score for the way we play it at NOTSBA is shown below. You can find a midi and MP3 file for “Over the Waterfall” recorded at a recent NOTSBA jam to listen to or download on our website. Just click on: www.nashvilleoldtime.org/members/tunes

Thanks again to Ray Mathes for our Tune of the Month.

Over the Waterfall

- 1) DADD DADD DADD CCGG (2X)
- 2) DGDD DADD DGDD DADD (2X)

Old-Time
From NOTSBA Jam
Nt: Ray Mathes

The President's Corner

You may have heard that I am retiring from my employment at the end of June and setting off for parts unknown. I will be completing my term as President of NOTSBA at the same time and stepping down from that position also; but more about that next month.

One pre-travel project has been to whittle down my collection of about 100 old-time CD's to 32 that I can't live without. Fellow pickers have been shocked that I could part with so much good music (and it was a painful process), but since I couldn't be talked out of it, some have suggested that I write an article about the CD's I am keeping - sort of a "what-would-you-take-to-a-deserted-island?" piece.

I was skeptical at first. It is presumptuous of me to think that the reader cares what I listen to, and as I said in a prior article, it is impossible to mention an old-time player or band without inadvertently slighting others who should be mentioned.

But, after thinking it over, I do believe it's a good idea. In fact, I think all of us should provide *The News* with a list of maybe five CD's that we are listening to. It would make a good monthly article. Not everyone who reads it will be interested, but there will likely be a number of people who are curious about unfamiliar groups and tunes.

I chose to keep 32 CD's because that is the number (with liner notes) that my small travel case holds. I know that the computer age has ushered in a raft of new ways to obtain, store, and listen to music, and I know that some day I will load all this, and more, onto a gadget the size of a paperclip, but for now I am sentimentally clinging to my CD's.

Here's what I'm taking with me:

Bad Dog's "Oldtime Blah Blah Blah"; **The Reeltime Travelers'** "Reeltime Oldtime String Band Music" and "Livin' Reeltime - Thinkin' Old-Time"; **Dirk Powell's** "Hand Me Down", "Time Again", and "If I Go Ten Thousand Miles";

Bob Carlin's "Banging & Sawing"; **Big Medicine's** "To Old To Be Controlled";

Dirk Powell, Tim O'Brien and John Herrmann's "Songs From The Mountain"; **The Freight Hoppers'** "Waiting On The Gravy Train" and "Where'd You Come From, Where'd You Go"; **The Crooked Jades'** "Seven Sisters"; **The Tall Boys'** "Rubber Dolly";

Mike Seeger's "Solo" and "Way Down In North Carolina" with **Paul Brown**; **The Old Crow Medicine Show's** "Greetings From Wawa" and "Eutaw"; **Dan Gellert's** "Waitin' On The Break Of Day";

Bob Townsend's "Old Time Fiddlin' Tunes From The South Cumberland"; **The Georgia Mudcats'** "Across The Big Pond" and "Barefoot In The Hen House";

Rayna Gellert's "Ways of the World" and "Starch and Iron" with **Susie Goehring**; **Uncle Earl's** "She Waits for Night";

Amy Hopper & Karen Heil's "15 Quality Tunes and Songs"; **The Lonesome Stragglers'** "Susquehanna Waltz"; **Troublesome Creek String Band's** "Fast As Time Can Take Me";

The Flat Mountain Girls' "Honey Take Your Whiskers Off" and "Idle Talk & Wicked Deeds"; **Ida Red's** "Fine Times At Our House"; **The Gilded Bats'** "The Gilded Bats"; and **Mac Benford's** "Half Past Four".

I chose these because they have a variety of material and styles, and I enjoy playing along with them. I anticipate a shortage of old-time players in Mexico, but I'll be working to correct that. Happy Pickin' ~ Jim Hornsby

Membership Update

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We'd like to welcome 6 new members this month. Thank you-we're glad you've joined us.

Karen Kennedy	Decherd, TN
Jeff Todd Titon	Providence, RI
Marta Daniels	Middlesex, CT
Rick Fretter	Nashville, TN
Meghann Byerline	Nashville, TN
Richard Dress	Lebanon, TN

Renewing Members

This month, we have three renewing members, Don and Mary Ann Masters and Jeff Cales. We appreciate your renewal. You're an important part of NOTSBA.

Announcements

Old-time Fiddler, Alan Jabbour, in concert

2:00 PM CDT, Sunday, May 18, 2008 (Reservation confirmation deadline May 10), at Western KY U., Bowling Green KY, \$15.00 a seat.

To reserve your place, or for more information about the concert and the artist, please email me at <erika.brady@wku.edu>, or call me at (270) 745-5902. Note: our website is not fully up-to-date or secure for reservations, although it still has accurate information concerning directions to the cabin at: <www.wku.edu/folkstudies/cabinconcerts/directions.html>.

About the Artist

Alan Jabbour is one of the most admired old-time fiddlers in the country, and a respected scholar of the music.

A violinist by early training, he put himself through college at the University of Miami playing classical music. While a graduate student at Duke University in the 1960s, he began documenting old-time fiddlers in the Upper South. Documentation turned to apprenticeship, and he relearned the fiddle in the style of the Upper South from musicians like Henry Reed of Glen Lyn, Virginia, and Tommy Jarrell of Toast, North Carolina. He taught a repertory of old-time fiddle tunes to his band, the Hollow Rock String Band, which was an important link in the instrumental music revival in the 1960s.

After receiving his Ph.D. in 1968, he taught English, folklore, and ethnomusicology at UCLA in 1968-69. He then moved to Washington, D.C., for over thirty years of service with Federal cultural agencies. He was head of the Archive of Folk Song at the Library of Congress 1969-74, director of the folk arts program at the National Endowment for the Arts 1974-76, and director of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress 1976-99. Since his retirement, he has turned enthusiastically to a life of writing, consulting, lecturing, and playing the fiddle.

Erika Brady, Cabin Concert Series Coordinator

The Contradance Community

Here is part of an email that is sent out weekly by Joyce Eyler to members of the Nashville Country Dancers that alerts them to what is happening at their weekly dance. This is a thriving community that provides a great wood dancefloor, music by noted regional bands and accomplished callers from Nashville and everywhere. You can hear the likes of old-time musicians James and Rachel Bryan, Matt Combs, Russ Barenburg, Ed Baggott and Elsie Patterson, Jeff Rohrbough; bands from Atlanta, Huntsville, Knoxville, and even further away.

“Hey and howdy dancer ~ join us this Friday at Second Presbyterian Church, 3511 Belmont Blvd., for a fun evening of music and folk dancing....

Arrive at 7:30 for lessons, with music and dancing from 8-10:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled, non-marking shoes that will stay on your feet, no high heels or boots please. General admission is \$7 and \$5 for all students and those 65+ years. Bring a friend and share this evening of dance, music and full contact expression.

Visit our website for details of upcoming events and links to dance information: www.dancenashville.org.”

If you love the old-time music and have a hankering to dance to it, give this weekly Friday dance a try. ~ MLD

Two Banjo Workshops: One Down, One to Go

The Past: Through the afternoon and evening of Saturday, April 12, at the Fiddle and Pick, Ken Perlman, banjoist extraordinaire, held a workshop and then a concert.

Ten people attended the workshop, where Ken reviewed the basics of the clawhammer style, and then moved on to more challenging topics like drop-thumbing, double-thumbing, and the use of pull-offs to master the difficult forward roll.

Around twenty people came to the evening concert where Ken did some simply amazing work with the banjo and the guitar. Ken's use of so many Northern and Canadian tunes, gave us a rare opportunity to experience some different and incredibly beautiful pieces.

Finally, about eight of us stuck around for a late evening jam and had a delightful time.

Ken is an accomplished musician and a pleasant (and patient!) person to spend the afternoon with. I think we all learned a great deal and had a good time in the process. It was a banner day. ~PS

Two Banjo Workshops, continued

The Future: On Saturday, May 10, Adam Hurt will be in Nashville at Todd Wright's Deering Banjo Showroom to hold two workshops and an evening house concert. Adam comes to us from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and he specializes in the Round Peak style. He is also a master, perhaps THE master, of the more modern melodic clawhammer banjo style. Those of us who follow the Adam's work consider him to be the banjo genius of our time.

I attended the workshop he held in Huntsville at Joyce and Jim Cauthen's home back in January. It was challenging, well organized, and highly instructive, certainly the best workshop I have ever attended. At that workshop, Adam mentioned that he does a "fun and not too hard" workshop on special G tunings that make many tunes more accessible to banjo pickers. Luke Richardson, a student of Adam's and an excellent banjo player in his own right, set about to give Adam a chance to present that workshop here in Nashville. Now, with the cooperation of Todd Wright and the Deering Banjo organization, Adam will give us his G tunings workshop on May 10.

Beth Hartness, a rock-solid guitar player, will accompany Adam. Beth was an integral part of Adam's most recent CD, *Insight*, as well as a second CD, simply called *Adam Hurt and Beth Hartness*.

If you are interested in playing the banjo, you absolutely must attend one of Adam's workshops on May 10. If you love old-time music, you must attend the evening concert. Adam will play the banjo and the fiddle while Beth backs him on guitar. The schedule is as follows:

Beginner's Class, 11 AM to 12:30 PM (\$30)

Intermediate Class, 1:30 to 4:30 PM (\$50)

House Concert, 7:30 to 9:30 PM (\$20)

If you want to attend one of the classes, please e-mail Todd Wright at todd@deeringbanjos.com and let him know that you will be there. You can pay when you show up for your event.

If you have questions, please call or e-mail Phil Sparks (615-797-4356/kpsparks@msn.com) or call Todd Wright at 619-840-8739. I will be e-mailing directions to Todd's showroom soon. If you do not receive your set, please let me know.

~Phil Sparks

The NOTSBA Board of Directors

Last month, we introduced you to four of the Board of Directors: Pat Gill, Ed Gregory, Darlyne Kent, and Ron Whitlow. There are an additional seven directors including the two officers, Jim Hornsby, the President and Lilly Hsu the Treasurer. Serving with them are Mary Lou Durham, Martin Fisher, Don Kent, Andy Shivas, and Todd Wright.

The Board of Directors of NOTSBA or of any organization exist to manage the conduct and business of that organization. Within NOTSBA, our by-laws allow us to have fifteen directors (currently we're at eleven). Typically, each director serves for a defined period of time such as two years or four years. We currently have a proposal to stagger the terms of the NOTSBA board members so that in any given year there won't be too large a change in the people serving, thereby allowing more continuity.

Probably the main thing you as a member should know about your Board of Directors is that they are the people making decisions on most of the things affecting you within NOTSBA; if there are areas you would like to see changed in some way, or if you have ideas you'd like to see implemented, you may talk to one or more of the directors and you may attend the board meetings.

The planned schedule is to have a board meeting every other month so that not too much time transpires and issues before the board are current. These meetings are typically held on the third Monday at the Buchanan Log House from 6:30 until around 9 pm; however, if you'd like to attend, check the website for the location in case the BLH is not available.

Our next meeting will be held May 19. Contact Jim Hornsby, NOTSBA president, to bring business to the attention of the board. If you are interested in joining the board as a working member, see or contact Jim through the website for more information. We encourage you to get involved with the board on any items you're concerned about. ~RW

Finding Old-Time Music for Listening

(Part II)

In last month's newsletter I introduced the website www.sugarinthegourd.com. If you missed it, it's available on our website under newsletter.

This month I'd like to introduce you to Pandora, a relatively new site located at www.pandora.com. To connect to Pandora, you go to the website, register with your name, email address, and create a personal user ID and password (you can have your computer remember these for you so you don't have to enter them each time). There is no fee to do this. Once you're registered as a Pandora member, you can access the broadcast any time day or night.

Pandora uses a formula or algorithm to train itself to respond to the type of music you would like to hear. An actual example is shown below. You can use the rating scheme (thumbs up if you like it, thumbs down if you don't) to feed information that is used to determine what artists and tunes Pandora will give you. Alternately, you can let Pandora "roam" through many different artists and music types similar to those you initially gave it. There is some value to doing this because you may find artists you're unaware of, new or just undiscovered by you, who are playing music you like.

To give you an example of a sequence of tunes I heard on Pandora recently, after logging in, I started on a station I had set up titled "James Bryan". The artists and tunes in the order played were:

<u>Artist</u>	<u>Tune</u>
1. Etta Baker	"Johnson Boys"
2. Mike Marshall	"Lime Rock"
3. Owen "Snake" Chapman	"Can You Dance a Tobacco Hill"
4. Patrick Ross	"Camptown Races"
5. Dave Swarbrick	"Bonaparte's Retreat"
6. "Snake" Chapman	"Boating Up Sandy"
7. Walt Koken	"Leather Britches"
8. Tony Furtado	"La Pointe Two Step"
9. The Black Twigs	"Banjo Instrumental"
10. Jason Davis	"Billy in the Lowground"

If you're not familiar with all of the above, every one except Mike Marshall's "Lime Rock" featured either fiddle and/or banjo.

Our primary interest is in the old-time music, but Pandora will also allow you to set up other types of music. If, for example, you prefer to listen to classical music in the background while you're working, you can use Pandora to program a classical station for you.

Again, one of the best features to both of these is that they both allow you access to the music you want free, with no commercials at any time.

Give both [sugarinthegourd](http://sugarinthegourd.com) and Pandora a test drive. I think you'll enjoy both and will save them for frequent use like I have.

If you know other sources for listening to free old-time music, please drop me an email so I can pass it on to others.~ RW

The Newsletter ~~~

We're trying to get the pertinent items to come to you on your desktop when you need the information. Please send material for inclusion in next month's newsletter to us by email by the 20th of the current month; that gives us a little breathing space, much appreciated. Thanks.

We'd like to share your news or content in June or beyond. Please email us.

Ron - rnwhitlow@comcast.net,

Mary Lou - mldurham1@juno.com

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Nashville Old-time String Band Association.