

Nashville Old-Time String Band Association: Notsba

May

News

2009

Post Office Box 160038 Nashville, Tennessee 37216

www.nashvilleoldtime.org

Breakin' Up Winter XV - 2010

Yes, yes, we know that we just finished *BUW XIV* and most of us have recovered from that, but it's never too early to be thinking about the next *BUW*. In fact, right after the previous event is a good time to catch everyone while memories are recent and get the things that need to be adjusted written down as well as starting the planning process for the next event.

With that in mind, the *BUW* committee met on April 19 to accomplish just that and we had a very good meeting which covered a great deal of ground for getting ready for *BUW XV*. Mary Lou Durham and Pat Gill have agreed to co-direct the event for the coming year. We are very fortunate to have several folks who are willing to accept responsibility for various parts of the event for the coming year including Ron Whitlow for the task list, Don Kent for working with the caterer, Darlyne Kent for working with the hospitality and signage, Joe Lipman for working with the budget, Andy Shivas for working with the grant, Martin Fisher for working with the sound system, Mary Alice Bernal for working with the buttons, Mary Lou Durham for working with the flyer, and Pat Gill for working with the registration.

And, although these people have been good enough to offer to work in these different areas, we are always looking for more people to get involved and help. So if you are willing to spend some time we have some really experienced mentors who would be happy to show you some ropes!

So, plans for the next *BUW* are already getting started, we're looking forward to having the 15th year and our voices of experience can say without hesitation that the year will go quickly and it will be here almost before we can catch up to it. Plan for a good ride with us and again, our sincere thanks to all of you who make it happen! -PG

Pat and Mary Lou

New Monthly Slow Jam Starting Up at Mansker's Station

Laura Blankenship and her friends at Mansker's Station will begin hosting an old-time slow jam on the second Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, beginning Monday, May 11.

Mansker's Station is located close to Rivergate Mall on Caldwell Drive in Goodlettsville.

Take I - 65 north to Long Hollow Pike. Go east on Long Hollow Pike and turn right on Caldwell. The jam will be in the Visitor's Center building.

Jim Hornsby is helping organize the jam. The jam is open to all ages and skill levels, and the goal is to learn and play traditional old-time music. A variety of old-time tunes will be played and taught, but in keeping with the history of Mansker's Station and the Bowen House, the focus of the jam will be on early old-time tunes from the late 1700's and early 1800's.

The President's Corner

Ron Whitlow

Now that some of the responsibility for *Breakin' Up Winter XIV* and our April Board of Directors meeting has faded to the background, I have had time to get back to what I love to do most - play music. Thanks to a good friend, I recently had the chance to have my playing recorded in a small group setting (only two of us), and then was afforded the opportunity of actually listening to myself play. This was very interesting for me.

I've been playing old-time music for a few years now, and although I knew I had a lot to learn and much ground to cover to get to a point where I was actually satisfied with my playing, I had no idea just how many mistakes I made, how I tended to speed up and slow down, and how inconsistent my tone quality was.

After this ear-opening experience, I have committed myself to listening more and trying to really work on the areas of my playing that are both below standard and inconsistent. I'm fortunate in that I can sit in a quiet environment and practice while listening to and playing along with some really good players whose CD's I have or who I've recorded while they were

President's Corner, cont.,

playing. In doing this, what I plan to focus on is not speed or making sure I play all of the notes in a difficult and "notey" passage, but on accuracy of the note, the tonal quality of the note, and staying with the melody.

I talked to a few people whose playing I respect about how to improve my own and, in a general sense, anyone's playing. After hearing what these teachers and excellent players have said, I decided that although much has been written about how to improve, I would try to share what I thought were some very good suggestions. In next month's newsletter, I plan to begin talking about some of these suggestions. Until then, if you have any thoughts or ideas on how to improve our playing, either as individuals or as a group please send them to me at mwhitlow@comcast.net so I can include them.

Notsba Business

Membership

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

We'd like to welcome one new member this month:

David Clarke of Glasgow, Missouri

Thanks for joining us. We look forward to meeting you if you're in Nashville. Please try to make one of our jams if you're down our way.

THANKS TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS!

This month, we have three renewing members:

Ed and Ellen Gregory of Nashville, Tennessee, and

Tom Johnson of Martin, Tennessee

Thank you for your continued support. We're glad you're renewing your membership. -RW

The April 2009 Notsba Board of Directors Meeting

The Notsba Board of Directors held its scheduled meeting on April 20, 2009 at the Buchanan Log House. President Ron Whitlow chaired the meeting attended by board members Don Kent, Mary Lou Durham, Jim Hornsby, Joe Lipman, Martin Fisher, Lilly Hsu, Darlyne Kent, and Pat Gill.

Also attending was Mary Alice Bernal.

The nominating committee recommended Mary Alice Bernal for the Board of Directors and she was unanimously elected. Mary Alice's enthusiasm and skills make her a welcome addition to the board.

The business conducted included reports and/or discussion on the following:

A review of *Breakin' Up Winter XIV*

A discussion of the planning of *Breakin' Up Winter XV*

A progress review of several initiatives from the January planning retreat

A review of recent and upcoming performances by the Notsba Performance Group

A review of several Notsba business related items

All members are welcome to attend board meetings. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 15, 2009 at 6:30 PM. The dates are published in the newsletter and on the website, www.nashvilleoldtime.org. If you are unable to attend but wish to bring up business, you may always consult with and make requests through board members.

The Newsletter

We'd love your input and any newsworthy information. Please email us by the 20th of the month for inclusion in next month's edition. Ron - rwhitlow@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*.

Notsba is a volunteer organization and as its seen voice, the **News** publishes material from members and others who wish to contribute to the body of knowledge about old-time music.

While we strive for accuracy, we do not label "official" any content found here. We hope that you will take what is useful to you and simply leave the rest; someone else might find valuable what you do not. We appreciate the generousness of our contributors!

Scheduled Jams: We're back to our customary jam schedule for May

FIRST THURSDAY SLOW JAM – May 7th, 6:30-8:30 pm, Ft. Negley Visitors Center.

Jim Hornsby was to begin a run of three slow jams starting last month. That jam got rained out so this will be his first one. He will emphasize cross tuning on the fiddle in GDGD. See the article last month for more information on his plan.

Keep these tunes taught at previous recent slow jams in mind to request.

D—West Fork Gals, Lady of the Lake, Over the Waterfall, Needle Case, New Five Cent Piece, Shoo! Fly, Martha Campbell, Year of Jubilo and Cherokee Shuffle

A—Booth Shot Lincoln, Hunting the Buffalo, Little Dutch Girl, Red Rocking Chair, June Apple

G—Nail That Catfish to a Tree, Seneca Square Dance (Waiting for the Federals), Shove that Pig's Foot a Little Further in the Fire, Garfield's March, Georgia Railroad, Old Yeller Dog, Cora Dye, Sweet Jenny

C –Tennessee Wagoner, The Darker the Night (& G), Texas Gales

Am—Cold Frosty Morning

SECOND THURSDAY REGULAR JAM - May 14th, 6:30-8:30 pm, 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 on our website and a copy will be at the jam. New tunes may be brought in.

THIRD THURSDAY REGULAR JAM - May 21st, 6:30-8:30 pm, Ft. Negley Visitors Center. This is a regular jam, so tunes are played up-to-speed. Play the chestnuts or bring in something new!

FOURTH SUNDAY JAM - May 24th - Eddy and Julie Mavity-Hudson host us from 2 until 6 pm.

Their 16 x 38 foot room with good acoustics makes for a good jam.

There are many fun things to see in addition to playing music. You can play with our donkeys, you can pet unusual breeds of cavies (guinea pigs), you can see some very beautiful dogs including a Champion Toy Fox Terrier, and a Papillon and Shiba Inu, both of very good breeding. There are boats aquariums and motorcycles and lots and lots of Gesneriads (the family of plants that includes the African Violet and many others), both under lights and in a small greenhouse. All in all, you won't be bored.

Eddy and Julie have a bass, so no need to bring one. Actually, they have two if needed.

DIRECTIONS;

From Nashville, go out I24 W, exit New Hope Road, turn left at bottom of the ramp.

Go straight the through 1st flashing red light/4-way stop (Clarksville Pk. or Rd. or Hwy. Julie forgets what it's called at that point).

Go to second flashing red light/2-way stop (Old Clarksville) and turn left.

Go to the second street on left, Park Lane, turn left, they are 3rd mailbox on left, number 1015.

Call if you need more information, 746-3532. Julie Mavity-Hudson and Eddy Hudson

About that 4th Sunday Jam: We need a space for July. Please consider opening your doors or those of some space you control for our gentle but definitely not quiet use. Email Ron Whitlow, Mary Lou Durham or Darlyne Kent. Thanks!

Tune of the Month

FOLDING DOWN THE SHEETS. AKA "[Hanging Out the Sheets](#)" (Ky. title), "[Mackilmoyle Reel](#)," "[Missouri Hornpipe](#)," "[Republican Spirit](#)," "[Winding Sheep](#)." Old-Time, Breakdown. USA; southwestern Va., West Virginia, Kentucky. D Major. Standard or ADae tunings. AB (Silberberg): AABB. A somewhat-similar tune, perhaps a version of the melody, appears under the title "Republican Spirit" in George P. Knaff's Virginia Reels, volume I (1839), and elsewhere the tune appears in mid-nineteenth century Elias Howe volumes as "Missouri Hornpipe." Canadian fiddlers, such as Don Messer, have a version of the melody (most similar in the 'B' parts) calling it "The Mackilmoyle." Most modern sources learned the tune from the playing of southwest Virginia fiddler Henry Reed (Glen Lyn, Va.), however, another set of "Folding Down the Sheets" was recorded in 1954 by Wyatt Insko from the playing of Floyd Burchett in Pike County, Kentucky. Bruce Greene says the title "Hanging Out the Sheets" was a local Barren County, Kentucky, name for the tune and that it may have been brought to Southern Kentucky by one John Gregory, originally from Virginia. Henry Reed told Alan Jabbour that he learned the tune from his mentor, Old Man Quince Dillion (formerly a fifer in the Civil War), and from John Dillion and an unidentified "Falls", but that "all of 'em played it" {see note for "[Quince Dillion's High 'D' Tune](#)" for more on Dillon}. Indeed, Reed was right, for as "Folding Down the Sheets" or one of the alternate titles, this tune was well-known to both Northern and Southern musicians at the time of the Civil War (Jim Taylor). See also the Kentucky variants "[Winding Sheep](#)" and "[Jimmy Arthur's](#)," and West Virginia fiddler Melvin Wine's "Lady's Waist Ribbon." Sources for notated versions: Henry Reed (Glen Lyn, Va.) [Krassen]; Henry Reed via Alan Jabbour with the Hollow Rock String Band [Phillips]. Brody (Fiddler's Fakebook), 1983; pg. 110. Krassen (Masters of Old Time Fiddling), 1983; pg. 91-92. Phillips (Traditional American Fiddle Tunes), Vol. 1, 1994; pg. 91. Silberberg (Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern), 2002; pg. 45. Spandaro (10 Cents a Dance), 1980; pg. 8. Cassette C-7625, Wilson Douglas - "Back Porch Symphony." Kicking Mule 209, Bob Carlin - "Melodic Clawhammer Banjo." Kanawha 311, Hollow Rock String Band - "Traditional Dance Tunes." June Appal 028, Wry Straw - "From Earth to Heaven" (1978).

Learned from Pete Vigour and Ellen Scherer).

Thanks to Andrew Kuntz for this information at Fiddler's Companion, copyright 1996-2009.

Todd Wright spoke with Franklin George and has this to say: "The tune is credited to Henry Reed and Franklin learned it from Oscar Wright of Bluefield WV, who learned it directly from Reed. Franklin thinks the title is referring to hauling down the sails...folding down the sheets, rather than bed sheets."

Folding Down the Sheets

- A) DADD GDAD DADD GDAD (1X)
 B) AAAA AAAD AAAA AGAD (1X)

Old-Time
 As played by Franklin George
 At 2009 Breaking Up Winter
 Nt: Ray Mathes

GUITAR CHORDS

MANDOLIN CHORDS