

**Nashville Old-Time String Band Association: NOTSBA**

*June*

*News*

*2008*

**Post Office Box 160038 Nashville, Tennessee 37216**

**www.nashvilleoldtime.org**

## **Regular Jams—**

### **First Thursday Slow Jam – June 5th at Fort Negley, 6:30-8:30**

Be aware that there is a game at Greer Stadium starting at 7 PM; you might want to get in a little early since parking could be an issue.

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

- Review briefly the tunes played at the last slow jam:
  - 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
- New Tunes:
  - New Five Cent Piece in Key of D
  - Little Dutch Girl in Key of A
  - Benton's Dream (Red Rocking Chair) in Key of A
  - Shove that Pig's Foot a Little Further in the Fire in Key of G
- Discussions:
  - Use of the "modal" chord in old-time music.
  - Playing in the Key of C – the easy way.
  - Shifting a tune to other keys to practice using other strings.
  - "Ornamentation" and why there are so many versions of the same tune.
- Guitar chord charts will be provided for all tunes.
- Recording devices are recommended.

### **Second Thursday Regular Jam – June 12th, at Buchanan Log House, 6:30 to 8:30, 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, June 19th, 6:30 to 8:30. Again**

there is a game at Greer Stadium starting at 7 PM; you might want to get in a little early because parking could be an issue. This is a central Nashville jam. The Third Thursday Jam has the same focus as the Second Thursday Jam.

### **Fourth Sunday Jam – June 22nd, 2 PM to 6 PM, Darlyne and Don Kent's home, north of Nashville.**

This gathering will be our tuneful good-bye to Jim Hornsby, our president of three years (two years this time around), long-time member and great contributor to NOTSBA as he pulls up stakes and heads south into retirement in Mexico. Although we are sad to see him go, this occasion celebrates his time with us and the fun we've had together. The Kents will have their grill going and will provide burgers and hotdogs. They ask that we fill in with sides, salads, drinks and desserts. Sounds like a party!

**For Directions to the 4th Sunday Jam, please call Darlyne and Don Kent at 868-9951**

# Tune of the Month “The New Five Cents”

This tune can be traced to 1913 around the time the new coin was introduced into circulation in the United States. It is also called “Buffalo Nickel” in the Ozarks. The tune is thought to have originated in the Cumberland Plateau region of Kentucky and Tennessee.

At Breakin’ Up Winter this year, Jeff Titon talked about Isham Monday of Tompkinsville, Kentucky who made one of the earliest recorded versions of this tune. The transcription and the field recording are available in Jeff’s book, Old-Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes.

Ray Mathes, who has done all of the transcriptions and recordings for our Tune of the Month, included three versions of “New Five Cents” this month. The first is a beginner’s version that was recorded at NOTSBA. The second and third are transcriptions and recordings of Todd Wright and Roy Turrentine, respectively.

These three versions illustrate a key point in learning old-time tunes; that is, that you may hear several different versions of the same tune from different fiddlers and from different regions. With old-time music being learned more by ear than from a written score or recording, it is natural for there to be variations.

In playing this tune and all old-time tunes, it’s important to listen to others you’re playing with and blend together, particularly on the key notes.

The three scores are shown below. A midi version and an MP3 recording of each are posted on our website, [www.nashvilleoldtime.org](http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org), under the “members only” section at the “Tune of the Month”.

Thanks to Ray Mathes for the fine job in recording and notating these three different versions and to Ed Gregory for getting them on the website. ~RW

## New Five Cents

- 1) DDGG DDAA DDGG DADD (2X)  
 2) DDDD DDAA DDGG DADD (2X)

Old-Time  
 From NOTSBA Jam  
 Variation 1 - Beginner  
 Nt: Ray Mathes

# New Five Cents

- 1) DDGG DDAA DDGG DADD (2X)  
 2) DDDD DDAA DDGG DADD (2X)

Old-Time  
 From NOTSBA Jam  
 As played by Todd Wright  
 Nt: Ray Mathes

# New Five Cents

- 1) DDGG DDAA DDGG DADD (2X)  
 2) DDDD DDAA DDGG DADD (2X)

Old-Time  
 From NOTSBA Jam  
 As played by Roy Turrentine  
 Nt: Ray Mathes

# The President's Corner

I have written a number of articles for the newsletter over the years, but this one, my last, is by far the most difficult. It is with regret that after nine years with the old-time community and three terms as NOTSBA's President, I am leaving the area to begin life as a retiree south of the border.

It has been a great pleasure to be a part of it all. Playing old-time music began as a pleasant pastime, but it has become a way of life. I can say without reservation that the people I have met through this music are the warmest and most welcoming of any I have ever known, and I am a better person for having been in your company.

It is difficult to remember what I did with my time before I began playing and impossible to think of the future without it. I consider it a privilege to play old-time music, and I am deeply grateful to all those people who helped me learn - especially those who tolerated my ragged beginnings. Listening to me scratch out a tune couldn't have been very pleasant for you, but it meant the world to me.

I am, of course, keeping my NOTSBA membership. It is a fine organization and deserves the support of anyone interested in old-time music. It has a lot to offer us all, wherever we may be. Without the group, I wouldn't be playing old-time music, and that sums up how important it has been in my life.

The players that I learned from have been very generous to me, and I am grateful to NOTSBA for providing me the opportunity to give back some of that assistance to others. The degree of my usefulness may be debatable, but not the sincerity of my interest.

Thank you for all the good times and memories. ~ Jim Hornsby

## A Little Ornamentation:

- Here's a link to a list of 20 essential recordings compiled by *Breakin' Up Winter* guest speaker and musician, Jeff Todd Titon; [http://www.oldtimeherald.org/archive/back\\_issues/volume-6/6-6/20-recordings.html](http://www.oldtimeherald.org/archive/back_issues/volume-6/6-6/20-recordings.html)
- Here's a link acquired through Kirk Pickering: Someone on the [rec.music.country.oldtime](mailto:rec.music.country.oldtime@listserv.com) listserv posted this link to an entire CCD concert on [www.fabchannel.com](http://www.fabchannel.com) <<http://www.fabchannel.com/>> (an interesting site in its own right). Here is the direct link to a high quality CCD concert video: [http://www.fabchannel.com/carolina\\_chocolate\\_drops\\_concert](http://www.fabchannel.com/carolina_chocolate_drops_concert)

## Adam Hurt's Workshops and Concert

On Saturday, May 10, Adam Hurt held two banjo workshops and a concert at Todd Wright's Deering Banjo Showroom.

The workshops, held outside in beautiful weather, were well attended, each with 10 participants. The morning session was for beginners and dealt with the rudiments of the clawhammer style. I wasn't at that one, but I heard numerous favorable comments on it. The afternoon session, "Alternate G Tunings," was extremely interesting. Adam showed us how different G tunes are best suited to different G tunings. At the end of that session, he asked us to call out the names of various G tunes so he could show us which tuning suited each tune. I was simply amazed! Again and again, he switched tunings and played tunes so expertly that they could have been recorded for a CD—even tunes that were not in his performance repertoire.

That evening, perhaps 30 people attended the concert. Adam, accompanied on guitar by the talented Beth Hartness, played the banjo and fiddle for about two hours. Most of the tunes were drawn from his two CDs, *Intrigue* and *Insight*. He has an abiding interest in the repertoire and recordings of Ed Haley. His flawless picking and his tasteful arrangements held me in a trance. Beth also treated us to a few Carter Family songs and did an excellent job.

In the announcements I sent out prior to the workshops and concert, I described Adam as "probably the best living clawhammer banjo picker." Frankly, I caught some flak for that statement. Still, Saturday, May 10, left me more convinced than ever that I was right. ~ Phil Sparks

## Membership Update

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We'd like to welcome three new members this month- Patrick Gallagher and Bill Eickmeier from Nashville and Mike Duncan from Brentwood, TN. Thanks Mike, Bill and Patrick; we're glad you've joined us and look forward to jamming with you soon.

### RENEWING MEMBERS

This month we have two renewing members, Don and Darlyne Kent. They've been members since the beginning of NOTSBA, are board members and are involved in many activities that keep the organization vital and alive. You're both VIPs- very important people to us!

## Announcements:

**Uncle Dave Macon Days** is a three-day, family-oriented, free old-time and bluegrass music contest and performance event. It takes place in Murfreesboro at the restored historic Cannonsburgh pioneer village, just off of Broad Street behind Shoney's.

For more information visit [www.uncledavemacondays.com](http://www.uncledavemacondays.com), or call the Rutherford County tourism and visitors center at 615-893-6565. This newsletter will likely have more information and updates in July's edition.

### NOTSBA Members Organize Old-Time Events at Uncle Dave Macon Days

Members of the Nashville Old-Time String Band Association will help organize two old-time music events at the 2008 Uncle Dave Macon Days Celebration in Murfreesboro, July 11-13.

- **A beginning workshop in old-time banjo** will be held Saturday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Cannonsburgh in the meeting room of the Antique Car Garage building, which is located behind the Village Old Country Store. The banjo workshop will be taught by 2004 State of Tennessee Old-Time Banjo Champion Rebekah Weiler. If possible, bring your own banjo. Any style of an acoustic, five-string banjo is fine. If you want to attend but do not have a banjo, a limited number of loaner banjos will be available.
- **A demonstration/workshop of old-time buckdancing** will be held from 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM at the Gazebo. The dance demonstration will be taught by five-time National Buckdancing Champion Thomas Maupin, assisted by Jay Bland. Tap shoes are not necessary for the dance class.

The events are free and designed for the absolute beginner who may never have tried to dance or to pick a banjo but would like to know more. These events are designed to be stress-free, fun-filled experiences.

- **Slow/Learning Jam:** Held at the Story Telling Tent in Cannonsburgh Village, NOTSBA members will teach participants four to five Old-Time tunes. Many interested musicians just don't know the tunes. We'll teach the basics of some widely known tunes. The Slow Jam will be from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

**How NOTSBA Members Can Help** We need your help to ensure that these workshops are successful.

1. We need loaner banjos.
2. We need two or three good-natured banjo players willing to give an hour of their time to sit in the banjo class and help as mentors to the students.
3. We need you to help us spread the word.

If you can help, please contact Ray Mathes at [ray.mathes@comcast.net](mailto:ray.mathes@comcast.net), or call him at 615-430-4951.

### Special Room Rates in Murfreesboro During Uncle Dave Macon Days

Special room rates have been negotiated by the festival and are being offered by the Baymont Inn & Suites in Murfreesboro during Uncle Dave Macon Days, July 11-13, 2008.

The motel is holding a small block of rooms at a festival rate of \$59 plus tax per night. Request the UDM special rate by contacting the motel directly. This offer is good through June 25, 2008.

Two other events are being held in Murfreesboro the same weekend so rooms could be scarce.

UDM days worked out this agreement to assist people contacting them looking for suggestions on where to stay.

The Baymont is just minutes from the festival grounds. Call 615-896-1172 for more information. The Chamber of Commerce has a list of motels/hotels in the area. The number is 615-893-6565. ~P. Weiler

### Rebekah Weiler to Teach Old-Time Banjo Class at Augusta in August, 2008

Another one of our homegrown young musicians, Rebekah Weiler, will be helping others learn the joys of playing traditional music this summer.

On August 3-10, Rebekah will be teaching beginning old-time banjo at the Augusta Heritage Center at Davis-Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia. Some of you may have seen her name mentioned in the teacher listings in the ad that has been running in the Old Time Herald for the last couple months.

During her early teens, Rebekah was a youth scholar winner and studied old-time banjo at the Augusta Heritage Center and says it is an honor and humbling to invited back to teach.

We wish her well.

At Augusta, week-long music programs in several genres are offered each summer. For more information you can visit their website at [www.augustaheritage.com](http://www.augustaheritage.com) or call 304-637-1209.

## **The NOTSBA Board of Directors Meeting for May, 2008**

The NOTSBA Board of Directors held its regular bi-monthly meeting on May 19th at the Buchanan Log House at 6:30 PM. President Jim Hornsby chaired the meeting attended by board members Darlyne Kent, Don Kent, Lilly Hsu, Ed Gregory, Todd Wright, Mary Lou Durham and Ron Whitlow. Absent were Martin Fisher, Andy Shivas, and Pat Gill.

Breakin' Up Winter Budget Committee member Joe Lipman was nominated and approved to join the NOTSBA Board of Directors. Joe has accepted the invitation and brings excellent skills to the board.

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

- The budget for next year's Breakin' Up Winter
- A discussion about how to best invest NOTSBA funds and resolution to do so
- A discussion on new officers for the board. Our charter calls for us to have a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- A discussion on amending our by-laws regarding the number of board members (increasing from 11 to 15), and their term lengths
- A discussion about our jams, improvements made and changes desired
- Thanks were issued to our performance group for playing two recent events-an evening paid performance at the Carnton Mansion and a performance at the Buchanan Log House fish fry fulfilling agreements for our ongoing use of the facility for jams.
- A status report on two grants that NOTSBA has applied for from the Tennessee Arts Commission; one that we have received and utilized, and the other outstanding

A report by Ed Gregory on the NOTSBA website which is one of the most visited old-time sites and which has new expanded features

All members are welcome to attend board meetings. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, July 21, 2008. The dates are published in the newsletter and on the website, [www.nashvilleoldtime.org](http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org).

During this period of expansion and change, the board meets regularly every other month on the third Monday at 6: 30 PM at Buchanan Log House; check with a board member to be sure the meeting has not had to be moved.

If you are unable to attend but wish to bring up business, you may always consult with and make requests through board members.

Please plan to join in the fun of working for NOTSBA, your organization; there is probably work to be done that would just suit your gifts and talents! ~RW

## **Meet the NOTSBA Board of Directors, continued**

In April we began introducing the members of the board. We included short biographies on Pat Gill, Ed Gregory, Darlyne Kent and Ron Whitlow. This month we continue with the following four members, one, Jim Hornsby, about to leave the board and go off to adventure in another country.

### **Martin Fisher**

Martin, and parents Bill and Doris Fisher, met NOTSBA and the fiddle at the second annual Breakin' Up Winter in 1996 where he had gone to record cylinders. Little did he know what turns life would take and the friends he would make along the way. ;-) You might run into him perusing the local flea markets and antique shops looking for ways to spend Beth's (that's the lovely wife of six years) money or leading music at Mill Creek Baptist Church. He enjoys playing fiddle, trombone and dulcimer and making attempts at piano and various other assorted instruments and listening to opera, light music and sentimental ballads of the late 19th and early 20th century. Favorite tenors du jour are John McCormack and Richard Tauber.~MF

### **Jim Hornsby**

Jim, an original founder of NOTSBA, has been president of the organization for three terms. He plays various instruments and has been active in organizing local educational jams. His major influences for fiddle are Charlie Acuff and Rick Roberts. His major influences for guitar and banjo are Mike Baugh and Martin Cerjan. ~JH

## **Lilly Hsu**

Lilly Hsu started playing fiddle music with a small group when she was at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She began coming to NOTSBA jams when it was still formally a community education class at Stratford High School. Lilly is drawn to harmonies and is acutely proficient at playing them on fiddle. Her musical influences include the 60's folk rock group the Mamas and the Papas (particularly for their harmonies), REM, as well as the Red Clay Ramblers. Lilly would like to find a small group to play with. In addition to fiddling with NOTSBA, Lilly is an avid runner. She generally runs from 25-30 miles a week, more when in training for marathons, of which she has run several, the last one in Cleveland, OH on May 19th.

Lilly serves as Secretary/Treasurer for NOTSBA, to our great benefit; NOTSBA would like to lighten her workload by finding a person who would take on the Secretary mantle.

Her two sons, Ben, fourteen years old, and Daniel, ten years, attend Metro Nashville schools and keep her very busy. ~LH

## **Joe Lipman**

I grew up in eastern NC. My wife and I lived in Richmond, VA for 20 years. We moved to Nashville about 2 years ago.

My first exposure to old time music was my freshman year in college. I was a recent ex-rock guitarist who had just discovered Gary Davis and Merle Travis. I had just met a couple of old-time musicians from Long Island. One was a fiddle player, who had taken guitar lessons with Gary Davis, and one was a banjo player. Both played old time and had just started at the same college in Greensboro, NC. They were making weekend trips to visit Tommy Jarrell and Kyle Creed. They needed a guitar player and talked me into the job. Unfortunately, I was never able to make the pilgrimage to visit Tommy and Kyle. After a year or so, I decided to stick with ragtime guitar, which I did for the next 20+ years.

Many years later, in Richmond, VA, I rediscovered old-time music as a much more social form of music. I had lost some interest in the detail work required for ragtime guitar and decided that old time banjo was more suited to what I wanted to do.

Probably, my favorite musical sound these days is a fiddle/banjo duet in a modal tuning.

I'm looking forward to working with NOTSBA and playing more string band music~JL

## **The Newsletter** ~~~ We'd love your input and any newsworthy information. Please send material for next month's newsletter to us by email by the 20th of the current month; that gives us a little breathing space, much needed and appreciated.

Please email us.

Ron - [rwhitlow@comcast.net](mailto:rwhitlow@comcast.net),

Mary Lou - [mldurham1@juno.com](mailto: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.