

Nashville Old-Time String Band Association: Notsba

July **News** 2008

Post Office Box 160038 Nashville, Tennessee 37216

www.nashvilleoldtime.org

Scheduled Jams—

FIRST THURSDAY SLOW JAM – July 3rd, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Fort Negley Visitor’s Center
No Sounds game tonight, so parking should be plentiful.

Mike Baugh, Jim Hornsby and Mary Lou Durham plan to lead the jam. Here is the design:

- Play at a moderate pace the tunes reviewed 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
- Review tunes taught at the last slow jam:
 - 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
- Learn:
 - The Darker the Night in C
 - Camp Meeting on the Fourth of July in D (a Tune of the Month for July)
 - Garfield’s March in G (also a July Tune of the Month)
- If you wish, bring a copy of this newsletter, pages 2 and 3, with written music and chords for the tunes of the month.
- Recording devices are recommended.

SECOND THURSDAY REGULAR JAM – July 10th, 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. New tunes may be brought in.

THIRD THURSDAY REGULAR JAM – July 17th, 6:30-8:30 pm, Ft. Negley Visitors Center. No Sounds game tonight-there should be plenty of parking. Regular jam, tunes are played up-to-speed.

FOURTH SUNDAY JAM – July 27th, 2-6 pm

Our hosts’ welcome: I hope you will all join Eddy and me at the 4th Sunday jam this month. We have lots of room for a comfortable jam in a 16 x 38 foot room with good acoustics, so it makes for a good jam. I will even clean the house up!

There are many fun things to see at our house in addition to playing music. You can play with our miniature donkeys, including a very cute baby, 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, and 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.

We have a bass, so no need to bring one. Actually, we have two if needed.

From Nashville, come 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. I forget 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, we are 3rd mailbox on left, number 1015.

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

Tunes of the Month “Garfield’s March” and “Camp Meeting on the Fourth of July”

In previous months, we have only had one tune of the month. Those tunes were all ones that were familiar to most of us, and were picked from the Notsba tune list. This month we’ve decided to include an extra tune that is not presently included in the Notsba play list. The logic of this approach is to familiarize new members with some of the existing tunes we play, and also introduce a new tune to those of us familiar with most of the existing tunes.

We’ve selected “Camp Meeting on the Fourth of July” as the tune from the existing tune list because of the obvious-after going through it at the first Thursday slow jam which will be on July 3rd, we can play this tune during some July 4th jams or just for our own personal enjoyment to celebrate our nation’s birthday.

We’ve selected “Garfield’s March” as a tune to introduce to the Notsba play list this month. Several players already know this tune, so we’ll have a core group to help lead it during a jam. I think you’ll agree with us that this is a really nice tune that deserves to be played more often.

The scores for both tunes as well as some history for each tune are below. The midi version and an MP3 version are available on our Web-site at www.nashvilleoldtime.org. Thanks as always to Ray Mathes for the transcriptions and recordings and to Ed Gregory for putting these on our Web site. ~RW

“Camp Meeting on the Fourth of July”

Key-D; Form AABB

James Bryan has said that this tune was originally played as a processional for evening services at camp meetings in Arkansas in the 19th century. Bryan’s source was Tom Jackson, who learned it from Coleman Barwick, an old-time fiddler from Blountsville, Alabama. Source: Fiddler’s Companion

Camp Meeting On the Fourth of July

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

Old-Time
Transcribed from NOTSBA Jam

The musical score is written in D major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first two staves represent the first part (A) and the last two staves represent the second part (B). Chord symbols (D, A, G) are placed above the notes. The first ending (1.) and second ending (2.) are marked with '1. D' and '2. D' above the notes.

“Garfield’s March” aka “President Garfield’s March” aka “Garfield’s Funeral March”

Key-G; Form AABB

James Garfield was our 20th President. He was assassinated after only 6 months in office by a man who was disillusioned that he had not been appointed to a consul position by the new president. This tune dates from the 1881 assassination (Wolfe, 1997). The tune was recorded by West Virginia fiddler Clark Kessinger who learned it from local West Virginia fiddler Abe Glenn in 1903 when Kessinger was seven (Charles Wolfe, *Mountains of Music*, John Lilly ed., 1999, pg. 28). Source: Fiddler’s Companion and others

Garfield's March

1) GGGG CGGG GGGG CCDD (2X)

2) GGGG CCCC GGGG DDGG (2X)

Old-Time
From NOTSBA Jam
Nt: Ray Mathes

Membership News

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We’d like to welcome new members, all in Nashville; two individuals- Carol Dick and Jason Mentele, and one family, the Gebhardts -Alice, Richard, Carl and Christine. We’re glad you’ve joined us and look forward to seeing you at a jam real soon.

RENEWING MEMBERS

This month, we have four renewing members: Jim and Teresa Tomlinson of Mt. Juliet and Myra Gann and Tony Tyler of Nashville. You’re old friends, and we’re happy to have you staying with us. ~RW

The President's Corner

The *News* loved the idea that Notsba president Jim Hornsby wanted to keep members up-to-date on what is happening within the organization, it's governing body, the board of directors, and the committees that operate its functions by writing "The President's Corner". How this is accomplished, however, is up to the people in those positions, and we are about to have an election.

The election of officers will happen during July and we will announce the results in August's edition. A format for letting you know what's happening and how you can be a part of this busy organization will emerge. The new president might wish to informally let you know through a column appearing here where we are going, or it might be that summaries of the board meetings will appear.

Watch for developments; this section is under construction!

A Little Ornamentation:

♪ **The 10 Commandments of Jamming**

(Abstracted from forgotten Web sites and modified by the Albuquerque Megaband)

1. Pay attention to what's going on. Sit so that you can see and hear the other musicians.
2. Keep the beat, do not rush, do not drag.
3. Keep your instrument in tune and play in tune.
4. Play extra softly if someone is singing.
5. The musician who starts a tune is generally the one who decides when to end it. Refer to Rule 1.
6. Be mindful of the banjo section; do not change keys more often than necessary.
7. Do not practice licks on your instrument between tunes.
8. Do not come to a jam session expecting to impress others with your virtuosity. Jam sessions are opportunities to share tunes and songs.
9. Play some tunes that everybody knows.
10. It is never a sin to play too softly.

--**The Golden Rule of Jamming:** If you don't know what you're doing, play softly.

♪ **Information on an Interview on Tommy Jarrell and a new blogspot at the *Old-Time Herald* Website.**

From: Gail Gillespie <editor@oldtimeherald.org>

Here's a link to an interview by NPR's David Brower with Alice G. & Brad Leftwich on Tommy Jarrell. It was on last Fri. in honor of the fact that Tommy has just been inducted into Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame.

http://wunc.org/programs/news/archive/NDB0613TOMMY_JARRELL.mp3/view

The *Old-Time Herald* Website will soon have a blogspot/forum on which this & many other old-time musical tidbits-- sound clips & videos--will be posted in the hopes of stimulating interesting discussion. It's not live yet, but Steve Terrill has put up a rough draft so you can get an idea of how it will look (the 3 Stooges are a bonus!)

http://www.oldtimeherald.org/old_time_herald_blog/

Hope you will check it out and feel moved to contribute your thoughts and ideas.

♪ **News Flash—Man Gives Birth to a Fiddle**

If you ever wanted to see how a fiddle is made, check out this link: www.pbs.org:80/www/schedule/video.html

It was sent to us by Kirk Pickering and others and shows luthier Joe Thrift making a fiddle from raw wood. The video runs 27 minutes. It was produced by UNCTV and does a really nice job of detailing the process he uses. It's quite informative and enjoyable to watch even if you don't play the fiddle. ~RW

Announcements:

Uncle Dave Macon Days Murfreesboro, July 11-13 is a free three-day, family-oriented, 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. Gathering and jamming is the order of the day. Many old-time players gather to the right behind the stage along the walkway by the creek running away from Cannonsburgh. You will see and hear players from throughout our region. Remember sunscreen and insect repellent.

For more information visit www.uncledavemacondays.com, or call the Rutherford County tourism and visitors center at 615-893-6565.

Old-Time Events at Uncle Dave Macon Days

Members of Notsba have helped organize two old-time music events for this year's celebration

•**A beginning workshop in old-time banjo** - Saturday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Cannonsburgh in the meeting room of the Antique Car Garage building (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 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 to be stress-free, fun-filled experiences for the absolute beginner who may never have tried to dance or to pick a banjo but would like to know more.

•**Slow/Learning Jam:** at the Story Telling Tent in Cannonsburgh Village from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM. Notsba members will teach the basics of some widely known old-time tunes.

We need Notsba members' help

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, or call him at 615-430-4951.

Happy 200th Birthday - Buchanan Log House

On July 11, 12, and 13, Buchanan Log House, our home for the 2nd Thursday jam and the Performance Group Rehearsals as well as most of our Board of Directors meetings, will be celebrating its 200th birthday.

There is a full weekend of events planned that will be highlighted by Friday night's 200th birthday party. The party is planned from 5 until 8 p.m. There will be a Bar B-Q dinner for \$10 (\$6 for children under 7). The Notsba Performance Group will provide music from 5 until 6.

During the 3 days, there will be workshops, a series of events focused on the Buchanan family's history and genealogy, and on Sunday, a non-denominational worship service followed by gospel singing and lunch with music provided.

You can learn more at www.buchananloghouse.com under the events section. The folks at Buchanan Log House have been good to Notsba, so support this cause if you can.

The Notsba Board of Directors Meeting for July, 2008

All members are encouraged to attend board meetings. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, July 21, 2008, at 6:30 PM, at the Buchanan Log House. The dates are published in the newsletter and on the Website, www.nashvilleoldtime.org. Check with a board member to be sure the meeting has not had to be postponed or 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 work to be done that would just suit your gifts and talents! ~RW

The agenda includes reports, actions and/or discussion on the following:

- The budget and status of next year's Breakin' Up Winter
- A report on investing Notsba funds
- Election of new officers for the board. Our charter calls for us to have a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.
- A review of performances both accomplished and coming up for the performance group
- A status report on a grant that Notsba has applied for from the Tennessee Arts Commission
- Discussion of the Board Retreat Report submitted by Bill Kornrich

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. Last month we continued with Martin Fisher, Lilly Hsu, Joe Lipman and Jim Hornsby. This month we have more, but not the last.

Andy Shivas

I am originally from Pulaski, TN, and have lived in Nashville since 1975. I have been married to Beverly for going on 37 years. Our two children are Hannah, a sophomore at Auburn, and Jessica, who is studying genetics in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin.

The instruments I play old-time on are banjo and mandolin. I also have played Irish bouzouki, Irish tenor banjo, bodhran and some guitar in a previous life.

It's hard for me to pick just one, but I guess my favorite old-timer may be Tommy Jarrell along with Fred Cockerham. I think Tommy really captures the essence of old time music. I never met him, but from interviews and video I've seen it appears he would have been a hoot to be around. I really like Roundpeak stuff, it's distinctive banjo style, fiddle tunes with vocals. I also like Henry Reed, John Salyer, Buddy Thomas, James Bryan, Wilson Douglas, Alan Jabbour, Norman Blake, the late Tommy Thompson and his fellow Fuzzy Mountain String Banders, Bruce Molsky, Hollow Rock String Band; I could go on. ~APS

Todd Wright

My introduction to old-time music was in the 1960's in the form of recorded music on the *Folkways* and *Vanguard* labels. The first live old-time music I heard was probably the New Lost City Ramblers, followed by the Fat City String Band (an early trio version of the Highwoods String Band with Walt Koken, Mac Bedford and Bob Potts). I had already been playing guitar and decided to pick up the fiddle at that time.

In the early 70's I found myself living in the rural Smoky Mountain community of Grassy Fork, TN where I met Ralph Ford, Uncle Charlie Williams and Rufus Grooms, all great old-time banjo players. I performed with Ralph Ford thru the 70's and up to his passing in 1982 as the Grassy Fork String Band. That was with Haskel Williams, Guitar, and Logan Asbury, mandolin. I played fiddle mostly with the band but picked up my banjo technique and tunes from Ralph and Uncle Charlie as well as through interaction with players at festivals like the Asheville Song and Dance Festival, at Galax, Union Grove and the Folk-life Center of the Smokies.

There are so many great old-time players but Tommy Jarrell is still one of my favorites. Walt Koken and Mac Benford have both been strong influences on my playing.

About the same time I met Ralph Ford I was introduced to Guy Carawan who in turn introduced me to the hammer dulcimer, which I love to play and teach, and the Knoxville old-time scene at the Laurel Theater.

I moved to Nashville in 1993, working with the Gibson Mandolin and Guitar Company. I now operate the Deering Banjo Company's Nashville showroom and enjoy hosting workshops and concerts.

I love to play OTM on fiddle, guitar, mandolin, banjo, autoharp and hammer dulcimer. ~TW

Meet the Notsba Board of Directors, continued, continued

Mary Lou Durham

I was born in Brooklyn, New York, and have lived in Tennessee now for long enough that I'm probably about as native here as I could be anywhere. My two children and all but one of my four grandchildren can and do claim to be from hereabouts.

I came to OTM and the group through the Nashville Country Dancers, a wonderful community of people and a great place to hear and dance with local and regional old-time musicians. After a few years dancing there I took out the fiddle that'd been given to me twenty years before and started tentatively sawing away about the time the adult education old-time stringband group at Stratford High School started up in the mid-nineties; I was one of the two raw recruits.

I love the fiddling of John Salyer and Ed Haley and their playing and others' transports me through time in the haze of static, skips and the ever-changing speed of the recording devices that were used to preserve their amazing music. I'm an OTM omnivore and might never have heard an old-time CD that doesn't have something in it that attracts me. I listen to the fiddling of Bruce Greene, Marcus Martin, Emmitt Lundy, James Bryan, Wilson Douglas, Edden Hammons, Tommy Jarrell, Rafe Stefanini, Matt Brown, Bob White, Bob Townsend and others, and I love the elemental duet and trio units. I'm blessed that life has dealt me a veritable tsunami of old-time music. ~MLD

The Newsletter ~~~ We'd love your input and any newsworthy information. 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.