

**It's the 64th New  
England Folk  
Festival**

**Mansfield, Mass.  
April 25-27**



Spring 2008 – Vol. XXXIV #1

**Be there, or you'll  
miss it, and we'll  
miss you!**

***Bob McQuillen  
Chooses  
Publisher for  
his Hundreds  
and Hundreds  
of Tunes!***

Bob McQuillen, of Peterborough, New Hampshire and Great Meadow Music, of Westmoreland, New Hampshire, announced an agreement in February whereby Great Meadow would become publisher of McQuillen's music, handling licensing of his tune compositions, which number over 1300. Great Meadow will also exclusively handle worldwide wholesale marketing of McQuillen's six CD releases and thirteen tune books.

Bob McQuillen is a legend in the Monadnock region of New Hampshire and beyond, and an inspiration for the thriving Contra dance and traditional music community in the area. McQuillen was presented with the National Heritage Fellowship Award by the National Endowment of the Arts in 2002. This is the nation's highest honor for folk and traditional artists.

Great Meadow Music is a recording company focused on preserving and promoting Contra music and dance. They have released twenty-one CDs featuring the region's outstanding Contra artists, as well as a documentary film, *Together in Time*, relating the history of Contra music and dance.

Both McQuillen and Great Meadow have established endowments supporting traditional music and dance. McQuillen funded the Johnny Trombly Memorial Scholarship for young musicians playing traditional New England dance music. It is administered by the Monadnock Folklore Society. Great Meadow established the independently-run Bob McQuillen Musician's Fund in 2000, which supports the regional Contra dance community.

**A**s NEFFA members, we're proud of the long history and heritage of our organization. For sixty-four years we've been showcasing the very best of traditional New England folk music, dance, arts, and crafts. But, to the people of Mansfield, we're only entering our second year. Many townspeople still don't know who we are, and others have heard only a little bit about "the new kid on the block."

We have therefore invested time during the past year to introduce ourselves to and build relationships with local individuals and businesses. We want to shift local peoples' perception of NEFFA from "an event that outsiders bring to Mansfield in April" to "our local festival that my family and I enjoy."

One way to integrate smoothly into the local community was for NEFFA to join the Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce, which includes the towns of Mansfield, Norton, and Foxborough. I recently attended my first Chamber event, and was particularly pleased that this one was hosted by F. Jay Barrows, long-time Mansfield businessperson (Barrows Insurance Agency) and first-term state representative who was an early local supporter of the Festival in Mansfield. About sixty businesspeople were in attendance - a strong turnout, I thought - including a woman I recognized as an occasional dancer at the Medway, Massachusetts contra dance

venue where I frequently call contras! And boy was she surprised to see me!

As I watched these Mansfield people gossip and laugh and network, it occurred to me that they were probably a lot like the New Englanders who danced contras to Ralph Page (one of NEFFA's founders) many decades ago, or who enjoyed a Saturday night "kitchen junket." So I hobnobbed with them too, and handed out NEFFA fliers and volunteer forms. When I was called upon to say a few words about NEFFA,

it was a pleasure to promote our family-friendly, community-oriented, all-volunteer Festival to people who appreciated those qualities and who seemed quite willing, even eager, to accept and support and

welcome us into their community. Rep. Barrows also took the opportunity to say some very positive words about NEFFA to the assembled group.

This year, Maureen Carey has found three Mansfield businesses that will join the other food vendors in the cafeteria. They are Fresh Catch Restaurant & Sushi, Mangia Bene, and the G Connection: Home of Florencia's Kitchen. This last vendor has an Argentinian emphasis, and the owner hosts a local cable TV cooking show. Aside from the new foods and flavors that these vendors will bring us, the selection of local businesses signals to local people

*(Continued on page 3)*

## From the President's Desk

*Robert Golder*



Editor: **Dan Pearl** Mailing: **Dayle Watts**  
 Editorial Review: **Robert Golder, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Lisa Greenleaf, Robert Johnson**

The NEFFA News, a publication of the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc., is published four times a year to communicate with its membership and other interested persons. **Please send all editorial submissions** to Dan Pearl, 15 Buffalo Run, Southborough, MA 01772, or to [neffa@neffa.org](mailto:neffa@neffa.org). Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.

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Issue	Deadline
Spring	Feb. 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	Aug. 15
Winter	Nov. 1

that we truly want to become part of their community, as does welcoming the Mansfield Little League and high school baseball team, who will sell drinks and snacks. (Fear not, fans of the Lithuanian desserts, the fruit smoothies, the Turkish meals, and the Italian and kid-friendly menu served by the Boston Gay & Lesbian role-free dancers: all these and more will still be found in the cafeteria).

Speaking of the cafeteria, this year we will add a nearby overflow room for your convenience in case of inclement weather. In the high school building, a new Café room will serve food and beverages, and provide a new eating and hanging-out space.

As the 64<sup>th</sup> annual New England Folk Festival approaches, the volunteer effort shifts into high gear as final preparations are made. If you have had problems contacting Bill Cowie, our Volunteer Coordinator, by means of previously-published e-mail and web addresses, here is a new contact e-mail address for Bill: [volunteering@neffa.org](mailto:volunteering@neffa.org)

Remember that volunteers can receive immediate benefits for their labor, such as free entrance to a session or even to the entire Festival, depending upon the amount of time you donate. As a long-lasting benefit of volunteerism, you help to assure that NEFFA remains a vital resource for preserving and participating in the very best of New England's joyful tradition of folk music and dance, and arts and crafts. See you at the Festival!

Bob Golder  
President  
New England Folk Festival Association  
Cambridge, MA

## San Francisco Contra Weekend

**Fri May 9 to  
Sun May 11, 2008**

featuring

**Carol Ormand**

calling to the music of

**Lift Ticket**

(C.W. Abbott, Rex Blazer,  
Seth Houston, Russell Shumsky)

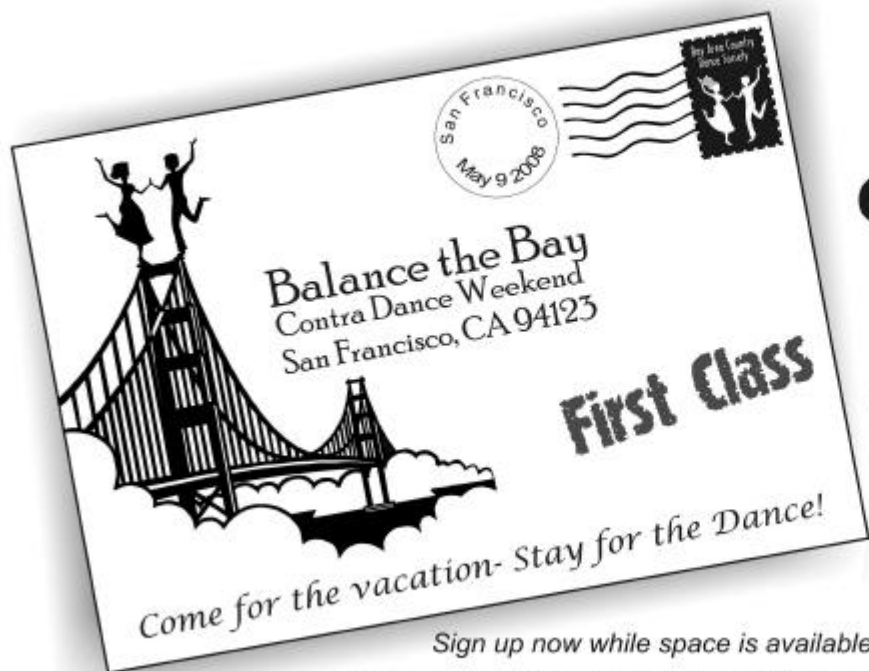
with local favorites

**Lynn Ackerson**

and

**The Crabapples**

(Norm Cotton, Marta Lynch,  
Bob Silberstein, Sarah Springer)



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# Summaries of the Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Board

2 December 2007

## Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

Sometimes the idea of using the school across the street has been brought up. This would be a major expense – we should remember this when we think about space.

## Access (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

Diane Mathieson is interested in working on mobility issues. Does anyone have ideas? The big issue is the number of HP parking spaces. Other issues are elevator access and seating (re, capacity issues).

## Evaluations (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

Suggestions for Evaluation questions:

- Are attendees interested in buying tickets on-line?
- Would attendees be willing to pay for the Program Book?
- Have attendees offer suggestions for saving money on Festival costs?

## Hospitality (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

Linda: Will we have a Hospitality table in both schools?

Shelagh: We'll have something; we'll work it out with Nancy (Performer Sales).

## Inside Facilities (Harold Henry)

Jamming: Laura: Will people still be able to jam in the corner near last year's Instrument Check? Harold: Yes, there are other areas that will be restricted. Beth: I'd like to underscore the importance of signage. If we tell people where not to jam, we need to tell them where they can. Harold: We might use some of the smaller rooms for jamming. Laura: Having jams in rooms makes them seem private, less inviting. Harold: We are in a new situation now – we got away with a lot at Natick. We should coordinate with Bob about how to monitor the number of people in rooms.

## Inside Signs (Michael Resnick)

I have handouts of the HS and MS. I added a site map which shows the two schools. The "Café" will be where Instrument Check was last year.

## Membership (Beth Parkes)

Beth: What constitutes a membership year now? Dan: Do what's easy for you. It's set up so that you get one Festival discount per year. Memberships expire just before the Festival. Koren: How about going with the calendar year? Dan: So if you join after the Festival, you get the rest of the year free? Koren: Can people's memberships expire at different times? General consensus: No. Angela: What is the argument against April to April? Why let people buy a membership any time they want? Beth: Because people send in their membership money in December to get a tax deduction. Dan: We should be as generous as possible with the run-in period. Ralph: What do you get for your membership? Ralph Page Festival, Family Dance, NEFFA Festival. Gene: I suggest that Beth make a proposal. Robert: I suggest we email our ideas to Beth. Koren: A way to set up memberships is to make partnerships with local organizations. Beth: Then we'd need year-to-year memberships. (Robert J., Koren and Harold volunteered to be on the committee with Beth.)

## Parking (Gene Fry)

We need the most parking spaces on Saturday. We have about 900 spaces adjacent to the schools – at peak time we need twice this number. I'm focusing on getting spaces outside of the school. The Clemmey lot plus buses cost us a lot of money last year, especially as the Clemmey lot required a police detail. I'm looking at the REIT lot – it's about 15 blocks away.

## Performer Sales (Nancy Hanssen)

Nancy: I still have two boxes full of performer CD's – one performer is coming back, one isn't. Dan: Is there any wording on the form regarding unclaimed property? Nancy: The forms have already gone out – I can't put in any new wording this year. Dan: Why don't we mail them? Nancy: They're heavy and expensive. Bob G: Send them back as media mail. Dan: Sending them back is probably an investment in good will.

13 January 2008

## President's Report (Bob Golder)

Sad news discussed at the meeting was the death of Patrick

**The New England Folk Festival Association, Inc.** is a non-profit educational and cultural organization, incorporated under the general laws of Massachusetts to preserve folk traditions in New England and elsewhere; to encourage the development of a living folk culture; and to encourage high standards of quality and performance in the folk arts.

**Membership** entitles one to voting privileges, publications, and to reduced admission to selected NEFFA-sponsored activities. It is open to interested persons who support our objectives.

**Annual Dues** are \$20/individual, \$38/family (up to 2 people over 18). Contributions beyond these basic amounts are welcome and tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Send check, payable to NEFFA, to the office. Occasionally, NEFFA shares its mailing list for a one-time use by like-minded folk organizations. If you do not want your name and address shared in this way, tell us with your membership. **Please direct all inquiries** to the NEFFA office: PMB 282, 1770 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140 or (781) 662-6710, or via email: [neffa@neffa.org](mailto:neffa@neffa.org)

Interested persons may get on NEFFA's mailing list for one year at no charge. Send request with full name and address to the office.

Stevens. Steve Moore has talked to Dave Bateman and learned that a selection of Patrick's photos will be displayed at the Ralph Page Weekend.

News about Mansfield: The meeting with school officials was very useful; many details were taken care of. Steve: The new School Superintendent (Brenda Hodges) seems enthusiastic. This was the first meeting that she was involved in. Bob G: We will be able to use the REIT lot (Cabot Business {Park} for free. The lot is about 2.5 miles from the schools, it's big, and we will not need a police detail.

I've talked to a marketing company about ordering 75-100 umbrellas with the NEFFA logo for going between buildings (pick up in one building, drop off where you're going)

#### **Folk Bazaar (Angela Taylor)**

I'll start calling vendors this week to see who's on board. We had special parking for Crafts/ Folk Bazaar last year – can we do this again? Bob S: There was no problem last year. Angela: I'll find out what kind of vehicles people have so I'll know what kind of parking I need. Gene: I'll be giving permits out this year. I'll find out from Jean where people went last year. Bob S: I may still have the forms on my computer. Nancy: The permits should be a different color this year.

#### **Hospitality (presented by Dan Pearl)**

After the Thursday walk-through, it was clear that phone connections at Hospitality need upgrading. Dan has written up a spec page for Hospitality that will be given to Bob LeConte

#### **Inside Signs (Michael Resnick)**

When will we know where the Folk Bazaar will be? Angela: Jane is in charge of that. This year we are putting some vendors in large rooms. Michael: Have Jane send me a copy of the layout. Bob G: We found some rooms that will be very good for the Bazaar. We should make great new signs for these vendors. Bob S: We need to think about capacities of these rooms and post signs – we need to let the Fire Department know that we're always thinking about this. Michael: There was a question about large maps last year: how many to make and where to put them. I suggest intersections and outside of venues. Gene: But not too close, we need to make sure that exits are clear.

#### **Parking (Gene Fry)**

We are firming up details. There are 3 adjacent lots that can be conceptualized as 1, 2, or 3 lots. The lots are about 15 blocks away from the Festival. Buses will stop here and at the MBTA lot. Bob S: Our goal is to have no more than 10-15 minutes between buses.

#### **Printed Materials and Program (presented by Bob Golder)**

Things are going well; the Program is in place. Bob S: What rooms are being used instead of 101/103? Michael: 187, 189 in the HS. Bob S: How does the size compare? Bob G: One is distinctly larger, the other is about the same. Michael R: The rooms are in the westward wing that we didn't use last year.

#### **Publicity (presented by Bob Golder)**

I'm making up a list of local connections, I want people to think of us as part of the community. Getting press on the local Cooking Show would be great. I want to connect with the local papers. Bill: The New England Conservatory has a facility for putting information up on their website.

#### **Volunteers (Bill Cowie)**

Volunteer recruiting begins Feb. 1; the website will open up in early February. I'll get in touch with functional heads to check on their needs soon. I posted NEFFA on a website called Volunteer Match.com.

**10 February 2008**

#### **President's Report**

##### **TRI-TOWN (MANSFIELD) CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

On Feb. 5 I was in Mansfield. Stopped off at Jay Barrows office (state rep), also the auto body shop that promoted NEFFA last year on their blinky-light roadside sign (they'll do it again) and stopped in at Fresh Catch restaurant just to shake hands. Gave flyers to these people.

Main purpose of Mansfield visit was to go to Chamber of Commerce. We are now a member organization. Met with New Chamber Exec. Director Kara Griffen on February 5. Described NEFFA's mission and vision as it applies to Mansfield, with membership will seek to further build our local connections.

##### **NOMAD & NEFFA**

Made contact with NOMAD's (Northeast Music, Art, and Dance festival) leadership regarding NOMAD's recent cancellation of their 2008 festival due to "lack of sufficient personnel in key organizing-committee positions." I wanted to talk with NOMAD's leaders to find out more concerning what went wrong, what they may try to do to regain their footing, and what lessons NEFFA can draw from their situation so as to avoid pitfalls that NEFFA may not see coming. I received responses from three NOMAD leaders, including the chair (equiv. to president) Alice Griffin, and the vice-chair, Fran Hendrickson, who also founded the festival over 20 years ago, based on her experiences and enjoyment of NEFFA.

##### **NEW BUSINESS: UMBRELLAS**

I have received quotes from a company to supply folding umbrellas imprinted with the NEFFA logo. Of the options I have explored, I will propose a purchase of seventy-five 43"-arc super mini telescopic folding umbrellas, screenprinted with a one-color logo imprint. The price is \$5 per umbrella, plus a \$50 print set-up charge for a total of \$425, plus shipping to be determined.

In the event of rain, bins of these compact little umbrellas would be positioned at exterior doorways. You take an umbrella from a bin as you exit, you walk from one building to the other building, you put the umbrella in the bin at the doorway where you enter.

##### **Access (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)**

Ellen Frith will be talking to Diane about Parking. Linda: Before we increase the number of HP spaces we should have some kind of needs assessment. Shelagh: There's a legal requirement based on total number of parking spaces, whether we need them or not. Anything open to the public falls under ADA requirements. We start out with a certain number of spaces because they are labeled by the school. Harold: Then the school has already allocated the necessary number of spaces.

Shelagh: Bob and I talked about the problem with the MS elevator (near the loading dock): a custodian is needed to operate it but we can't have somebody standing there all the time. We have to make the HP path into the building clear. We should find out if we can operate the elevator and have someone on call.

#### **Hospitality (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)**

There is going to be signage about Information Services at the HS. The walkie-talkie last year worked well. There will be a Lost and Found site at the HS, but items will be taken to the Hospitality Table.

#### **Inside Operations (Harold Henry)**

An issue is documentation of jobs, not just for transition but in case someone is sick etc. I need updated documentation for Mansfield from everyone: contact information etc.

Rain issues: We need 3 canopies and about 200 umbrellas. Umbrellas cost about \$3.50 apiece. Do we want raised mats as well? Dan: Just do the basics – do we need canopy?

Harold: Definitely for the main entrance of the MS. If we don't have a canopy where do we put bins so the umbrellas won't be in the rain? Linda: We're using two new rooms, more people will be going down the back hall of the HS, that's a quick trip to the MS gym. We could have bins at the end of that hallway. Shelagh: What about selling ponchos? General consensus: Ponchos drip. Same with umbrellas - we want

them to use our umbrellas and leave them at the door.

Harold: We don't want them just labeled "NEFFA" – that makes them souvenirs.

Linda: Has the contract with Mansfield been signed? Harold: Not yet.

#### **Printed Materials and Program (Linda Leslie)**

The Program grid is 99% done; we have a few cancellations that I should be able to fill in. We have a tentative program for Dance Performance. Janet has been helping me out - I am doing this on an emergency basis this year. I need a master of ceremonies for one of the Saturday night sessions. You need to learn how to say the names of the groups, dances etc.

Re, Sound: Peter says that the sound sheets are behind, but it's not that bad. We have a new Sound Liaison – she didn't have a lot of help so it's taking a little longer.

This should be a retreat topic, but I will just mention it: how have we been handling performers and free tickets: would performers be willing to pay a small amount? Also, how many performers are too many for one group?

A while back there was a suggestion to have a 'meet your board member' table in the lobby. We need to plan this – are there people who will volunteer an hour at this table? (Koren will put together a schedule). Think about what we want at the table: committee sign-up sheets, a donation jar, NEFFA business cards, membership forms...

#### **Publicity (presented by Bob Golder)**

I've been focusing on local papers in Mansfield, WGBH will do an interview with Linda on April 5. (?): I suggest that you get publicity to Wheaton College. Maureen: Stonehill is close also. Dan: Do we have a press release we can send to their schools. (?): Both students and faculty might be interested.



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