

**Looking back,
looking forward**

**The Festival: How
do we pay the
bills? Umm.....**



Summer 2008 – Vol. XXXIV #2

**More Minutes for
your amusement!**

**The Lost and Found
list was lost, but
now it is found**

On April 25-27, 2008 the New England Folk Festival returned to Mansfield, Massachusetts. In our second year at the Mansfield Public Schools, we continued to enjoy the traditional folk music, dance, arts, and crafts that arise from New England's cultural history and heritage.

The volunteers who organize the Festival sought your opinions about the 2008 event by means of an evaluation form. I have reviewed 423 evaluations submitted by our attendees. We thank you for these thoughtful and often detailed responses, which will help our committees to prepare effectively and creatively for next year's Festival. We appreciate how many of you noted logistical improvements over the 2007 Festival, many of which were developed in response to your evaluations of that event.



From the President's Desk

Robert Golder

218 of this year's evaluations were handwritten responses, most of which were turned in at the close of the Festival on single sheets of paper. This is a method we have used for many years. But 205 more evaluations were submitted electronically through NEFFA's web site,

(Continued on page 2)

Yep, NEFFA is a great place to indulge my English Dance mania, and to lead rounds and gospel. I miss Natick and the "mud lot", but am slowly getting accustomed to the new location. Here's a round I wrote to commemorate the big change, to be sung to the tune, Frere Jacques. (For extra solemnity, it can be done in a minor key, as in the powerful Mahler Symphony # 1, "The Titan".)

1. No more Natick, no more Natick.
2. Quote the raven, NEFFA-more!!
3. Now we are in Mansfield, now we are in Mansfield, for-
4. ever more, ever more.

Enjoy, and if you have rounds to share, I'm at solweber@juno.com .

Sol "Roundman" Weber

www.neffa.org. The fact that nearly half of this year's evaluations were submitted via the internet represents a sudden and dramatic increase in the use of modern technology to comment on a tradition-based event.

People found other electronic methods to communicate and enlarge upon their weekend at NEFFA. Many participants used cell phones, digital cameras, and digital video recorders to document their experiences. The images they captured have been showing up in personal blogs, on YouTube, and in other electronic venues.

Among the many postings that I've read, I particularly enjoyed a blog entry by "nhpeacenik" about his participation in the West Gallery Quire. There I learned that West Gallery singing is an antecedent of shape-note singing. Bruce Randall, who directed the Quire, told the group that the historical background of the tradition could be understood by reading Thomas Hardy's 1912 novel, *Under the Greenwood Tree*. After the Festival, nhpeacenik read Hardy's book, and tells us in his blog what he learned and how he felt about it. I was excited to see how a cultural experience at NEFFA could have a continuing effect beyond the weekend, in this case leading someone to discover a classic work of English literature that he might otherwise have missed. You can see all of this for yourself at nhpeacenik's blog, <http://nhpeacenik.livejournal.com/12785.html> where a YouTube video of the Quire in rehearsal, under the direction of Bruce Randall, may also be accessed.

Professional communicators have also created electronic responses to the Festival. Steve Ide of the Patriot Ledger wrote a traditional newspaper article about the 2008 Festival. But Steve Ide also posted his thoughts about NEFFA 2008 on his folk, bluegrass, and traditional music blog, where you can also find a well-crafted documentary video about the Festival, almost eight minutes in length, filled with performances, interviews, and observations. It's at <http://blogs.townonline.com/folkbluegrass/> under the heading, "Dance, Music and Fun at the New England Folk Festival," posted by Steve on April 27, 2008.

We will continue to see NEFFA participants use twenty-first century technology to interpret their experience of a tradition-based event. Increasingly, the volunteers who work hard

throughout the year to plan and prepare each annual Festival must also seek out the latest technologies in order to streamline and focus their efforts. None of this modern-day activity contradicts the fact that we remain deeply committed to celebrating folk traditions that were handed down to us. We use the tools of the present day to preserve the rich heritage of our past.

In addition to new tools, the present day also brings some new problems for NEFFA's executive board to address. We thank those of you who stopped in at the information table in the High School lobby to talk to board members, and to view the big pie chart diagrams that showed where NEFFA gets its money, and how the money is spent to produce a Festival. It comes as no surprise to anyone dealing with fifty-dollar fill-ups at the gas station that a nonprofit organization like NEFFA is feeling the pinch too. In these tough times, I hope you'll continue to be an active member of the NEFFA community, lending your financial and volunteer support to our ongoing mission.

Please continue to help us build NEFFA's membership base. You're probably a NEFFA member already, but when the time comes please be sure to renew your membership, and encourage friends and family members to join. We're an all-volunteer organization, so please consider taking an active role in NEFFA. Please visit www.neffa.org often for the latest updates on planning for the 2009 Festival, plus other NEFFA programs such as the annual Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend in Durham, NH, and the Family Dance Series and Thursday Night Contra Dance Series in Concord, MA. As always, thank you for helping NEFFA to create joyful celebrations of music, dance, and crafts for the New England folk community.

Bob Golder
President
New England Folk Festival Association
Cambridge, MA



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. 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

Folk Dancers Swing Their Partners



The festival is a great variety show of native costumes and general folk and square dancing, with champion callers, favorite fiddlers and fun for all.

A program of year-round events of the New England Folk Festival Association will be climaxed by the 19th annual New England Folk Festival to be held next Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. Let's promenade on down through the months with a look at some of the other activities.



Accordionist and NEFFA secretary Sylvia Misko and popular caller Ted Sansella check program notes prior to one of his evening square dance parties.

A blast from the past, as printed in the Boston Sunday Globe, April 21, 1963



Dick Crum, right, researcher and expert authority on Slavic and Balkan dances, leads a Winter workshop coinciding with the annual Boston appearance of the Duquesne University Tamburitzaans.

The annual Fall workshop gives members a special treat with instruction and participation in some specific ethnic folk dance, such as this class in Hungarian dancing, with guest teacher Andor Czompos.

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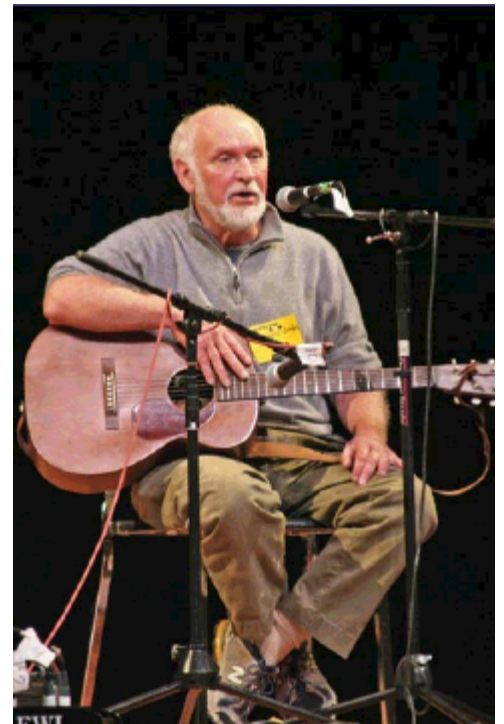


BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE, APRIL 21, 1963



Festival 2008 Memories

Photos by Arthur Ferguson
(more at tinyurl.com/4t2ar8)



Items Found at the NEFFA Festival

These items were found at the 2008 NEFFA Festival. If you think any of these items may be yours, please contact Dan Pearl at 508-229-2854 (normal waking hours, please) or fill out the form at www.neffa.org/lost_and_found.html. Any items not claimed by July 30, 2008 will be recycled or donated to charity.



Accessories	Black fringed scarf Slate blue scarf Scarf, silver with harbor celebration design	Packs	Jansport dark green w. shirt and umbrella
Caps & Hats	"Free for All at Town Hall" baseball cap Dark blue cap with snowflake design "Courageous Sailing Center" baseball cap Adidas visor "Santa Fe Institute" cap	Shirts	"Dark Side of the Moon" T Purple v-neck cotton "Mc DSP Project Studio" T Brown M "Breakwater" with "Case from CT" badge Red with grid pattern flannel Roaring Jelly T-Shirt "Expedition" gray, white trim, long sleeves "Land's End" oxford, blue Souhegan Valley United T-shirt "Nordic Fiddles and Feet" long sleeve red
Children's	Multicolored Children's' Place M sweater Potty seat w. Sesame Street design "Charter Club" cotton sweater youth M	Shoes	Capezio 8M medium high heel Worn black dance slippers Men's left Hush Puppie Black flip flops Keen sandals
Glasses, etc.	Case, "sampler-type" knit Reading glasses with silver frame Sunglasses in lime green vinyl case Silver frame, oval lenses, farsighted Gold frame, oval lenses, farsighted Sunglasses with tortoise plastic frame	Sweaters	Red M Garland Sports zippered sweat "Rugged Trails" dark gray cotton Blue "Polo" L blend fleece Dark blue XL "Banana Republic" wool "Oddfellows Playhouse" hooded sweatshirt Hanes dark blue hooded sweatshirt Aeropostale purple hooded sweatshirt "Sacred Thread" patchwork vest Green "Daikini"
Jacket	Gray/red tweed jacket "Warehouse" Denim Windbreaker with velcro closure, blue	Umbrella	Black standard Black compact (2) Compact green plaid
Jewelry	Ear Ring, silver, small red beads two silver hoop bracelets "Chuck" magnetic name badge Metal necklace with pink fabric interweave	Water Bottle	Red "Tiki" motif transparent 1000ml Red Nalgene narrow neck "Smile" pink Nalgene, hooked on plain pink Nalgene Bottle with teal foam carrier Purple Nalgene O-top Small gray nalgene ProAir HFA Nalgene bottle
Misc	Case for Kodak camera, with a surprise inside. 1" x 6" strap with spangles and beads Golden fan used by dance demo performer? key with Washington DC humane society fob Bag of D cells Ilco car key Sony camera case Ilco door key on "Humane Society" fob 3"x3" leather pouch		
Musical	Books including "Portland Collection" probably lost by Youth Festival Orchestra participant "Twiddlum Twaddlum" CD Instrument strap? 2" wide jacquard pattern Mouthpiece for wind instrument		



Summaries of the Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Board

March 9, 2008

President's Report (Bob Golder)

On March 12, I attended Mansfield Board of Selectmen meeting with Harold Henry and Steve Moore. Our twenty-minute appearance before the Board was successful; the Selectmen gave their blessing to the Festival.

Activity Room The room adjacent to the Activity Room will be used for storage, (both Activity Room and general NEFFA supplies). Michael should make signs for both rooms – we'll just use the sign that we need.

Crafts (Ann Schunior) We've reduced the number of booths from 31 to 30 to make a better demo area. We've had one person drop out and we're scrambling to fill that space. Sound near the demo area is an issue (Linda has a small amp with a mike that can be used for demos). Someone who does henna hand decoration contacted us. We decided not to do it this year – we'll think about it and discuss it for next year.

Folk Bazaar (Angela Taylor) Folk Bazaar will be in both schools this year.

Food (Maureen Carey) We're going to stop selling food at 10:30 to make it easier on the kitchen people and custodians. They can still buy sodas etc. but not food. We'll need signs. The café will be run by Mange Bene, we won't be using the cafeteria staff. They'll do their prep off-site. They'll have coffee, tea, cold drinks, salads, sandwiches, desserts both meat and vegetarian options. Not sure about hot food. General consensus to call the space the "Bistro".

Inside Facilities (Harold Henry) I've been in touch with the Police and Fire Departments and everything is going OK. I'll talk to the selectmen on Wed, (Bob G., Steve M. and Harold are going). The meeting are broadcast to the town - we'll have to handle some questions. Next time we need to set up the meeting before fliers come out. Some people commented that fliers were out before we met

with the selectmen. Umbrellas have been purchased. The cost was \$460. We need to get bins for them.

Inside Signs (Michael Resnick) Peter O. called me – he's putting in an order for gaffers tape. If you want some, let me know. Can we have an "I" sign at the Hospitality sites in both schools, (also on the maps).

Membership Table Beth is working on the Membership database. Can we connect the Membership table to the Volunteer table or the "Meet a Board Member" (MABM) table? Dan: I think Membership should be separate from the MABM function. Membership takes concentration. We also need to think about what hours we should have a MABM staffer. Shelagh: I think Membership and MABM could be combined. Bill: Membership is staffed during ticket sales hours. Nancy: Why not have a MABM table next to the Membership table.

Printed Materials and Program (Linda Leslie) The Program is all set, barring cancellations etc. The preliminary grid is available. If there's any info to go in the Program Book, let me know now. Ads: Would the Board support the idea of selling ads? For example, \$100 for a business card size ad, \$250 for a half page ad etc. This would be a real philosophical shift for us. Discussion: Bob G: I think the ads should all go in the back. Dan: We can say "please support our sponsors". Shelagh: Do we have criteria for accepting ads? Steve: We should avoid political material. Motion to allow commercial advertising for this year in the Program Book at prices to be determined by the Program Committee carried unanimously by voice vote.

Publicity Linda will speak on WGBH on April 15. Koren: NEFFA has been on Facebook for about a year and a half now – somebody else had put it up. I am now part of that group and post updates in the news section. You need to be a Facebook member to see the posting. I'm also advertising for volunteers and sending people to the website.

Room Capacity (Bob Solosko) This year we can double our

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

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.

room capacity from 20 sq. ft./person to 10 sq. ft./person. Volunteers (Bill Cowie) The website is open for volunteers. Should we do a volunteer mailing or wait for the NEFFA News? We'll go ahead with a mailing to non-members.

6 April 2008

Membership Report (Beth Parkes)

A lot of people are working behind the scenes on getting tables staffed – thank you to all these people.

I'm hoping to do membership cards this year – people do want them. Linda: It can also serve as a reminder that membership is due. Beth: We should save discussion of expiration dates for the retreat. The bylaws specify when memberships expire. For now, I'm planning on issuing cards that simply say "2008" without an expiration date. Dan: If we have cards, the TNDC would consider having member specials, for example an occasional half-price admission. Beth: I also think that members should be able to pay for tickets on-line ahead of time and not have to wait on line. I'm willing to do fulfillment.

Beth passed around cards with potential logos.

Grant Committee Report (Robert Johnson)

We will provide a \$500 grant to the "Friends of Sheffield Senior Center". Their event was this past weekend. It was open to the town. We were mentioned in their publicity and at the events. There were two dances and an instructional workshop.

Access (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl) Michael and I are talking about maps. The elevator is difficult – we will highlight the HP Access route around the building instead. We will have Access maps in the lobby and at Hospitality.

Accessible seating for the auditorium is 1 wheelchair space for every 25 people. Do we deduct these spaces from our room capacity? Bob G: I think we could just move a chair out. Shelagh: As for parking, we need 20 HP Access spaces for 1000 total spaces, plus 1 for every 100 over 1000. The spaces don't have to be in each lot. We don't need to add HP Access spaces to the remote lots. Bob G: The existing number of spaces at the school should be right. Gene: I estimate that we'll need 80 HP Access spaces.

Crafts (Jean Schwartz) Ann asks that we make sure not to put the lobby banners across the Crafts Room windows, (Harold has the banners and Jean will talk to Harold). The placement of volunteer coat racks was a bit of an issue, but not as major.

Evaluations (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl) I have a preliminary evaluation from that I'll post online for comments. Is there a preference for having forms available on packets on the wall? Linda: I think it's a good idea – people will not go to a specific place to get

them. Shelagh: I'm getting new collection boxes. Don't throw the old ones away yet. (Steve has some plastic containers that Shelagh can look at.) Ralph: Where will the forms be dropped off? Shelagh: We can put something on the sleeves telling people where to deposit them.

Hospitality (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

Nancy, Lee and I are coordinating the two Hospitality areas. Performer Sales will have some info, there will be a Lost & Found, people can drop off their evaluations there. We will have only one message board, at the Middle School.

Housing Bob G: I talked to Diane, she asked about hotel bus pick-up. Dan: We won't do that this year, the satellite lot is close to many of the hotels. Harold: The hotels will also have taxi info..

Inside Facilities (Harold Henry) Tell me your table requirements now. Peterson lets us adjust up until the week before.

Thursday night we'll have pizza at 6:00 in the Middle School cafeteria for set-up people.

I have the formal permit signed by the town. We just need formal approval from the police for the bus route. Dan is working on this. Electric cables: some of the Folk Bazaar vendors will be in classrooms. This makes electricity easier. Jean: Our cables were just left on the ceiling.

Outside Facilities (Dan Pearl) We need to finish up the bus routes and the bus stops in the satellite lot.

There will be one port-a-potty between the High School and the Middle School, mostly for Middle School use. There will also be a HP accessible one near the High School entrance. There will be one near each bus stop at the lot. Shelagh: The HP accessible one should be marked on the map.

I want to get a land line at the Hospitality Table. We will be able to hook into a land line from the main office. The number for the line is the Middle School fax number – it bypasses the voice mail system.

Parking (Gene Fry) Permits have been passed out (Gene has permits for Lesley College students and town officials). Ellen Frith is getting official Handicapped Parking signs. Signs are \$13-\$21 per sign. Do we need 80 signs? Dan: You could sign the strip in front. The 33 car lot can be for "walking wounded". Where did the "80" figure come from? Bob G: We may not need 80. (?): Some evaluations said that we ran out of HP parking last year. Gene: How do we know how many people didn't get parking last year? Shelagh: We've got 44 spaces in front and 33 on the side – that's pretty close to 80 anyway.

The "33" side lot will be the "emergency" parking area for late performers etc.; it will include HP and other

permitted uses. Shelagh: People got emergency placards at Tickets in the lobby last year. Linda: I did this for performers, but if you have a good volunteer let them make the call about "emergency" situations. Gene will print blue permits for the small lot.

Printed Materials and Program (Linda Leslie) Marianne Taylor is seriously ill and will not be able to MC on Saturday night or lead bourrees.

Linda: Is the Board willing to confirm dates for 2009? I already am hearing from performers. The dates will be April 24-26 2009. Shelagh: It will need to be listed as tentative until we sign a contract with the school.

Linda: We'll print up the same number of program books and grids as last year.

Linda: What are we doing at the "Meet the Board Member" table – what is the vision for this? Beth: My experience has been that I've talked to a lot of people in the cafeteria. Steve: No one has ever asked me any questions. Michael: It was suggested that we put together a list of "Ways that you help NEFFA". Bob G: Do we still have the will to do this? Harold: I like the idea of being in the cafeteria. It's friendlier and less hectic. Linda: We need seats in the cafeteria. We could have a handout of "Ways that you help NEFFA": # 1 would be becoming a member. The handout could be a discussion starter. Robert: I think the table should be in the lobby, adjacent to but not part of membership – there should be a couple of chairs. Linda: Let's get a 4x4 table. **Other Business**

Dan: I had an inquiry from someone in Rochester about the scheduling of the Festival and the conflict with the end of Passover. Bob G: Jacob Bloom offered to host this person. I've thanked Jacob for his generosity.

The Chattahoochee Country Dancers in Atlanta, Georgia have been busy! They've produced a series of short videos for training new contra dancers. They aim to cover the basics, and hope that the videos will help dancers increase their skills, give confidence, and induce the dancers to return for more.

The nine vignettes are about 3 to 6 minutes each. The instructors are Rob Harper and Susan Davis who are just off camera providing instruction while experienced dancers illustrate and dance on screen.

The videos can only go so far. For instance, they don't present the "wrist-lock" star - only the "hands across" star. The videos don't capture the excitement and fun of a real dance, but for those that want a little orientation, they might be useful.

You can find the videos from the list at http://www.contradance.org/html/what_is.php In addition, there are ordering instructions for a DVD version of the same videos.



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