



FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

APRIL 1998

Spring Fling '98

April 25th

Noon till whenever

Port Orange Senior Center



Julius has planned another great Spring Fling. Dancing, food, dancing, ethnic flea market, dancing, good friends, and of course dancing. As usual, Spring Fling is free.

Drive East off I-95 at Exit 85 - Port Orange - onto Dunlawton Ave. one block after crossing U.S. 1 (Ridgewood Ave.) turn left onto North Halifax Drive. The Senior Center will be a little over one block on left.

See you at Spring Fling!!



South Brevard International Dancers

Pat and Bobby in Orlando are happily dancing to music on Mini-Disc, while here in South Brevard I'm still in the process of putting some of our music on CD's. For those who are interested, here's the review.

I had the Mini-Disc recorder for several weeks and generally liked it. Recording to it is quick and easy. Just play your source material for long enough to set the recording levels, then start the recorder. During the approximately three minutes it takes to record, enter a title track. At the end, press pause and go on to the next dance. Total time, roughly four minutes per dance.

It's hard to hear any difference between Mini-Disc recording and the original. It seemed to me that if the original was in very poor condition, the Mini-Disc might sound just a little worse, but if the original was pretty good, the Mini-Disc would be every bit as good. Too bad the recordings can't get better than the original.

Add a computer to the project and it is possible to improve the recordings just a bit. There is software which will use digital impulse filters to remove pops and scratches, which goes a long way to making it sound better. Various high-pass filters, either digital or analog, can eliminate that same noise throughout the recording. With that done, it's possible to record back out to tape, or the Mini-Disc, or one of the stand-alone CD-recorders.

There are several limiting factors in using the computer. Most current computers have ample processing speed, memory, and disc storage. But few sound cards are really adequate for recording and playing back analog sound. The primary design criteria for most sound cards is sound for games, and they do that very well. But the conversion of analog sound from outside the computer into a digital wave file is not a priority in their design. Even the more expensive cards, such as the SoundBlaster Gold, introduce a surprising amount of noise into the recording. That comment has to be balanced against the fact that most of our recordings already have a great deal of noise which masks what the sound card introduces. But the better the original recording, the more noticeable will be the noise from the sound card. So far, the Turtle Beach Fiji seems to be considered a good bet — at \$300.00. Add a bit more and get the digital i/o card and use an external a/d converter if you have one.

The other limiting factor to the computer is time. Using Cool Edit, it takes 3 minutes to record the dance, however long you want to spend cleaning up the sound — and 30 minutes isn't unreasonable, then another 3 minutes to record back to hard disc or play back out the port. So be prepared for a time-consuming project.

I chose to add a CD-recorder to my PC, rather than go the Mini-Disc route. It's great, but I'm not sure I'd recommend it without some reservations. We had to do something because our tapes were deteriorating rapidly.

If you're facing the same decision, here are a few thoughts.

Mini-Discs are quick and easy to use and to edit. In a teaching situation it's very easy to add a mark at appropriate points in the dance and instantly return to the start of the music for a particular figure.

Mini-Discs should be more durable in a dance environment than CD's. The Mini-Disc has a cartridge very much like a 3-1/2" floppy, and can be handled much more casually than a CD.

Mini-Discs can easily be given electronic labels. It's just downright neat to pop an MD in the player and scroll quickly through the dance labels to find the one you want.

CD's are much more portable in the sense that almost everyone has a CD player. Maybe if all the dance groups agreed to go to Mini-Disc it would be more convenient. But I like the fact that I can make a CD and play it readily. A portable CD player is under \$100.00. A portable MD player is under \$200.00. Not much of a price difference, but it is a difference.

I spent a lot of time thinking about this whole process. If you want to talk, give me a call, or e-mail. I'd feel less as though my time was wasted if I could share it with others.

John Daly



Your Group's Activities

can go here

The Florida Folk Dancer

is about keeping

in touch.

Meet An Editor

I started dancing back in the 70's when I was living in the Mojave Desert. The group there was largely made up of members of the mountain rescue team and the Thursday night dance session had a strong flavor of staying in condition for the weekend climbing. Nonetheless, they offered a very supportive beginner's program and folk dancing soon became an important part of my life.

When I decided to go back to school, the first school which accepted me also offered an attractive scholarship. But when I asked them about folk dancing in the community I was told that the school was affiliated with the Baptist Church and discouraged its students from dancing. So I went to the University of Florida, called Joyce Dewsbury, and happily continued dancing. After graduation, Barbara and I came to Melbourne and with help from many friends have kept the South Brevard group dancing.

Long before I started folk dancing I was interested in musical instruments and in sound recording techniques. This interest has covered a wide range of technologies, including metal pins in wooden cylinders, holes punched in paper, grooves cut in wax or shellac, variations in a magnetic field, and finally today pits pressed or burned in compact discs. I write this at the end of a day of pounding tuning pins in a piano. Barbara and I are restringing. So it's natural that my collecting interests should turn to gathering the music to which we dance.

John Daly

11th Annual Israel Dance Workshop

Featuring Choreographer and teacher Seadia Amishai, direct from Israel.

Saturday, April 25 (7:30pm to 11:20pm) and Sunday, April 26 (9:00am to 5:00pm) followed by potluck dinner.

JCC of Central Florida (Orlando)
851 N. Maitland Avenue
Maitland, FL 32751

For more information contact:

Debbie Dorsky Meitin
407/788-7277

e-mail: debbie_meitin@mail.fhmis.net

Price: \$40.00 for the whole workshop paid in advance. \$45.00 at the door. Call for other prices for portions of the workshop.

Advertising and Event Listings:

We are happy to list upcoming events for our members. However, if you are not a member and wish to have a full page flyer placed in the newsletter, there will be a separate charge to do so. This is to cover our production and mailing costs. We are going to determine a price for this in the near future. Below are advertising options per issue for everyone.

Business Card (2"x3.5")	\$ 5.00
Quarter Page (3.75"x5")	\$ 7.50
Half Page (3.75"x105" or 8"x5")	\$15.00
Full Page (8"x105")	\$30.00

These prices are for camera ready ads. There will be an additional charge for ads that are not camera ready.

Send your ads and check to:

John Daly
Florida Folk Dancer
779 Acacia Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32904



A FULL SERVICE GRAPHICS COMPANY

NEWSLETTERS

CUSTOM T-SHIRTS

CUSTOM ADVERTISING

MARY BEASOM

407/459-4417

407/725-7813 FAX



Orlando International Folk Dance Club and VCC Cultural Dance Club

We had a great time at camp as usual. Unfortunately, two of our members became ill and had to leave early. We are working on a few of the dances but we will add more once we get the video. We are still dancing on Thursday through the end of April when we will switch back to Wednesday for the months of May and June.

Our biggest news is that the club purchased a mini-CD recorder. Now Bobby and I are in the process of recording all our music on the CD's. John Daly and I have been following CD technology for years and this is the year that both our clubs will have CD recordings. John is recording on standard CD's through his computer. Our unit plugs into our stereo system and acts like a tape deck. It is faster than doing the recording with the computer but we are not able to edit the sound as you can do with the computer. If any clubs are interested in changing technology to get away from tapes, send any questions to John for the newsletter. Perhaps we could have a technology forum in the newsletter. John and I are seeking the best quality recordings also. We will be creating a want list of dances which will be published in the newsletter.

Pat Henderson

Babiak Dance Ensemble

The BABIAK DANCE ENSEMBLE reached a peak this March doing Irish shows for a mobile home park and two assisted-living centers. We had 9 dancers all decked out: the laddies in derbies and green ties and the lassies with elegant white dresses and a green drape secured with a Tara brooch.

What made these shows different and tickled the audiences were the songs and jokes. My generation — the same as the “residents” — grew up in the Depression singing Irish songs around the piano. We handed out sing-a-long sheets, but, sure enough, the audience knew the lyrics by heart. Our jokers got more Irish with each repetition.

From the beginning, this enterprise was assisted by FFDC members. Julieta Brambila had a Miami library book at camp with detailed diagrams of Irish dances; she sent me photocopies. Thank you, Julieta, they proved priceless! And then the Master Dancers from New York, Pat and Marty O'Littman, who live just down the street from us, joined the troupe and Marty accompanied the Irish singing on his harmonic. Diane Kralick, who is temporarily back from Fort Meyers, came up to rehearse and perform and had such a great time that she may “move” to Sarasota!

Our troupe is currently primarily working women: 2 school teachers, a masseuse, a postal carrier, and a systems analyst. Kathleen is 100% Irish and demonstrated the jig steps she learned in Boston as a two-year old.

We are planning to end this season with a Russian-Ukrainian show at Ringling Museum. A “Russian” immigrant from Kiev is holding his wedding reception there. This show will feature 3 generations: our grand-daughter Andrea Sturgess and her ballerina friend, Lisa Berg; Cindy Harrison and Juan de la Sierra of “International Production”; and Dmitri and I. We take great satisfaction in passing on this valuable heritage to these young people. We also costume them and provide the music that we inherited from Michael Herman.

We plan to take April off to prepare for a trip with Friendship Force to Chile and Brazil. .

Shirley Babiak



SUBMISSIONS TO FLORIDA FOLKDANCER

Send all materials to:

John Daly
Florida FolkDancer
 779 Acacia Ave.
 Melbourne, FL 32904

*Deadline is the 15th
 of the month!!!!*

407/951-9623 or e-mail to: jdaly@palmnet.net

Include reference to source for any material by other author's. Law, good practice and common decency require us to recognize the work of others.

OFFICERS

President: Jenneine Lambert, 5310 N.W. 24th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606. (352)376-7473. dancnaro@atlantic.net

Vice-President: Sal Tufekci, 2220 S.W. 34th St., #180, Gainesville, FL 32608. (352)378-2548 (tufekci@ise.ufl.edu)

Treasurer: Jack Seltzer, 5805 S.W. 89th Terr., Gainesville, FL 32608. (352)373-1876. seltzej@mail.firm.edu

Secretary: Toshi Nishida, 2256 N.W. 5th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32603 (352)335-2637 (nishida@ufl.edu)

Co-Editors: John Daly (see above). Karen Boon von Ochssee, 4258 Cardinal Way So., St., Petersburg, FL 33712 * (813)864-3427 (sunray101@aol.com)

The Florida Folk Dancer is a monthly newsletter from the Florida Folk Dance Council. A non-profit organization. Our purpose is to facilitate communication among Florida international folk dance groups, to educate and inform individual international folk dancers and other interested persons, to organize international folk dance seminars, and to undertake from time to time such projects as may be put forth by the Executive Committee to further knowledge of, appreciation for, and participation in international folk dance and related cultural activities in Florida.

MEMBERSHIP '98

Keep in touch with other Folk Dancers in Florida and the South-East. Encourage your friends to renew or join. Membership is \$12.00.

Jack Seltzer, Treas.
 5805 SW 89th Terr.
 Gainesville, FL 32608

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-Mail _____

WHERE TO DANCE IN FLORIDA

- Clearwater (Internat'l) Every other Mon. at Clearwater Rec. Center - 7:15-9pm. \$3.50. Dances for all levels. Contact: Ann Kessler (813)446-8479. Meets Oct. thru May.
- Daytona Beach (Athenian Folk Dancers) Monday, 7:30 pm, Contact: Steve Photiades (904)788-2749
- Deland (Internat'l) First and Third Tues., 6-8pm at Deland Library, 130 E. Howry. Contact Joan or Wally Washington (904)738-4391. Does not meet in summer.
- Delray Beach - Sydelles' Int'l Folk Danc. Advanced, Delray Beach Cure Center, Thurs. 10-11:45, \$4.00. Contact 561/547-1865
- Gainesville (University of Florida International Folk Dancers) Friday, 8:15pm, Contact: John Ward (352)376-0224 to arrange admission.
- Margate (Intern'l/Israeli) Wed. and Sat., 1-3:30pm both days. Does not meet in summer. Contact: Ira Weisburd (561)393-8895.
- Melbourne (South Brevard International Dancers) Fridays, 7:00 pm, Contact: John Daly (407)951-9623
- Melbourne (Contra Dance) Every Second Saturday, Contact: John Daly (407)951-9623
- Melbourne (Scottish Country Dance) Monday, 7:00 pm, Contact: Catie Condran Geist (407)727-7752
- Ocala (Scottish Dancing Lessons) Wed., 7:30-9:30pm free. Men's kilts not required. Contact Rick Swinn (352)347-2873
- Orlando/Maitland (Israeli Folk Dance) Mondays, 7 to 8 teaching, 8 to 10 requests. Contact: Debbie Meitin (407)788-7277
- Orlando (International Dance at Valencia Community College) Thursday, 7:30 pm, then Wed. in May and June. Contact: Bobby Qui bodeaux
- Palm Beach. Sydel's Int'l Folk dance intermediate. Royal Palm Beach Cure Center. Wed. 10-12, \$3.00, Contact: 561/547-1865. (407)275-6247 or bobbyjquideaux@worldnet.att.net
- Pembroke Pines (Internat'l/Israeli) First mon. of month, 7:30-9:30pm. Nov to April at Fletcher Park Rec Hall, 7850 Johnson St., East of the University. Contact: Elaine Hendricks (954)435-0827.
- Pensacola (International Folk Dancing) Second Saturday, 7-10 pm, Contact: Georgeanna Presnell,(904) 492-3956
- Pensacola (Scottish Country Dancing) Tuesday, 7-9 pm, Contact: Richard Walker (904)477-7136
- Port Orange (Port Orange Folk Dancers) Second Wednesday, 7:30 pm, Contact: Julius Horvath (904)252-5738
- Sarasota (Grapevine International Folk Dancers) Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Contact: (941)351-6281
- Sarasota (Scottish Country Dancers) Thursday, 7:30 pm, Contact: Gladys Wiedorn (941)485-7488 or Kay Callinan (941)924-0293
- St. Petersburg The following all take place at SPIFFS Center, 2201 1st Ave. No., (813)327-7999
 (Irish Step) Wednesday, 7 pm
 (Italian Folk) Mondays, 8 pm.
 (Scottish Country) Wednesday, 7 pm.
 (Scottish Highland) Tuesday, 6 pm.
 (SPICE) Children's Folk) Thursdays, 6 pm.
 (SPIFFS International Folk Ensemble) Thurs., 7-9 pm, Karen Boon von Ochssee (813)864-3427 or sunray101@aol.com.
- Tallahassee (International) First and Third Fridays, Call before arriving, Contact: Pat Pieratte (904)878-1560
- Tampa (Scandinavian Dance) Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, call first. Contact: Judith Baizan (813)254-3359.
- Tampa (International) Friday, 8:00 pm, Contact: Andy Pollock (813)882-4472
- Tampa (Israeli) Tuesday, 7:45 pm, Call before arriving, Contact: Andi Kapplin (813)985-5611
- Titusville (Easy International) Thursday, 2:30 pm, Contact: George Senyk (407)636-2209
- Titusville (Scottish Country)



Folklore Village Farm, Wisconsin

If your travels are taking you to Wisconsin, plan a side trip to Folklore Village Farm in Dodgeville. Your Melbourne editor did so last summer and had a wonderful time. Here are some upcoming events.

April 24-26 Swedish Dance and Music Weekend featuring Stig and Helen Erikson, Thomas Westling.

July 2-5 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival.

July 25-26 Festival of Southwest Wisconsin Folklore.

Registration required for weekend events. Request individual flyers. Folklore Village Farm, 3210 Co. Hwy. BB, Dodgeville, WI 53533. Phone: 608/924-4000

Renew

More or less by necessity this issue will go only to those who have paid their dues.

But we don't want to lose touch. Please help by encouraging friends who ask about Florida Folk Dancer to renew. More information inside

John

Faint handwritten notes or a stamp.

 Florida Folk Dance Council
c/o John Daly
779 Acacia Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32904

