

Florida Folk Dancer

April 1999

**Spring Fling '99
Port Orange
May 8th
11 a.m. - 11 p.m.**

Julius has gotten that beautiful Port Orange Senior Center for one more time. Dancing, food and refreshments, dancing, wood dance floor, air conditioning, ethnic flea market, tables (to get rid of your old stuff to make room for new stuff), dancing --- you get the picture. 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 the left.

President's Message

The only person who's written us so far on the Camp was not happy with the live music. From the comments we hear, the reason so many international dancers are unhappy with live music is our desire for variety. If we wanted to dance all Greek dances, at least in a big city, we would join a Greek group. The same is true for any of many nationalities with marvelous music and marvelous dances. But International dancers enjoy the change of pace of different rhythms and instrumentation as we move from one culture to another. Unfortunately, few musicians are comfortable trying to distinguish the 3/4 rhythm of a waltz from the subtly different 3/4 rhythm of a Scandinavian Hambo or the entirely different flavor of a 3/4 rhythm in an English Country Dance. Music for a Balkan dance whose meter defies expression in classic music notation is even more different. This isn't so much a matter of talent or ability as of taste on the part of the musician. One tends to play what one likes best.

Other dancers simply like the predictability of a familiar recording. Your President well remembers trying to slip in a newer recording when Alexandrovsky was requested. It didn't take long for someone to produce the familiar (if well-worn) recording with which we are all familiar.

The great advantage of live music is its spontaneity. A good band can communicate with the dancers in wonderful ways. A highlight of my dancing experiences is a Polish workshop where the band played a generic Zweifache just forever. It was wonderful to just flow with the music as the band improvised it. But I'm well aware that other dancers much prefer a set pattern.

Finally we come to costs. At the last two camps the live music has cost a significant fraction of the cost of the instructors. Recorded music has been much cheaper. But that low cost can also be reflected in lower sound quality. Think about it. Even a band that knows no more than three or four different chords will have invested far more in instruments and gear than several average dance groups put together.

Dancing is rhythm and music. Whether we go for live or recorded music, we owe it to ourselves to get good stuff. If that means live music, then we should look for musicians who care about the dancing and who will be part of the event. If it means recorded music, then we should have first generation recordings and a sound system at least as good as what live musicians would bring.

John Daly

A Camp Survey

What do you think of FFDC's Major Activity?

Last month we promised a more focussed questionnaire. President's Day Camp is the most visible activity of the FFDC. So let us know if you have an opinion, what did you like, what did you dislike, why did you come, why did you not come, what would persuade you to come next year, what would keep you away. This form will be read by humans, write as much or as little as you wish. The questions often represent extremes. Feel free to modify the adjectives as you feel appropriate.

- I came to Camp this year and had a great time
- I came to Camp this year and had a lousy time
- I didn't come to Camp this year and here are some comments

This form will be read by humans, write as little or a much as you want.

Live Music

- I loved the live music
- I hated the live music
- I could care less about live music
- They played a good variety of music
- I liked it when they accompanied the instructor

Recorded Music

- I love recorded music
- I hate recorded music and prefer the band
- They're both good and both have their place
- The sound quality was great
- The sound quality needed a lot of improvement

Dance Room

- I hate the concrete floor
- The acoustics are terrible

Food

- The food is great
- The food is okay

Please complete and mail to John Daly, 779
Acacia Ave., Melbourne Village, FL 32904.
Free form and e-mail comments are also
welcome.

_____ The food is terrible

_____ Too spicy

_____ Should be more ethnic

Cabins

_____ Cabins are wonderful

_____ Cabins are too cold / too hot

_____ Cabins have too many people in them

_____ Cabins have too little privacy

_____ It's great to share camp with other people in the cabin

Fees

_____ In line with similar camps

_____ Too high

_____ Too low

Dances

_____ I love couple dances

_____ There aren't enough couples for couple dances

_____ I like set dances

_____ Set dances are boring and old fashioned

_____ Balkan is best

Next and future Years. Got to get it planned for 2000.

What nationalities would you like to see? List in order of your preference.

How do you feel about repeating nationalities and or instructors?

What teachers would you like to have. List in order of your preference.

Live music adds about \$35 to each individual's camp costs. Is it worth it too you?

I didn't come to camp this year because:

_____ Didn't have time/other committment. Not much we can do about that, but run through the remaining questions. Are there things we could do to encourage you to come next year?

_____ Didn't like the prospect of live music.

_____ Didn't like the recorded music.

_____ Acoustics are terrible

_____ Can't dance on a concrete floor

_____ Didn't like one or both instructors.

_____ Had recently been to another workshop with the instructors

_____ Didn't look forward to the food

_____ Don't like camping in a cabin

_____ Location is too far away

_____ Other Comments?

Motley Deakin

Motley Deakin passed away on April 2nd. Motley was proud to be an OPV in the Gainesville group. He and his wife, Lydia, who died some years ago, were gracious regulars on Friday night and hosts at frequent house parties. They taught and led many dances, especially the couple dances which they loved. Motley died at his son's home in Atlanta

Florida FolkDancer

The Florida FolkDancer is a monthly publication of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc, a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to further knowledge, performance, and recreational enjoyment of International Folk Dance.

President: John Daly
779 Acacia Ave.
Melbourne Village, FL 32904
407-951-9623

Vice-President: Bernice Roth
Treasurer: Willa Davidsohn
Secretary: Bernice Roth

Please send all submissions to:

Editor: Barbara Daly
e-mail in plain text is very helpful:
jdaly@palmnet.net

Written material:

779 Acacia Ave.
Melbourne Village, FL 32904

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SPRING FLING

SATURDAY, 8 MAY 1999

11 AM -- 11 PM

THE PORT ORANGE FOLK DANCE CLUB WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL "SPRING FLING" FROM 11 AM TO 11 PM ON SATURDAY, 8 MAY 1999 AT THE PORT ORANGE SENIOR CENTER, NORTH HALIFAX DRIVE, PORT ORANGE. (SOUTH OF DAYTONA BEACH). TURN EAST OFF 1-95 AT EXIT 85, PORT ORANGE EXIT, ONTO DUNLAWTON AVE. TAKE THE FIRST LEFT, ONE BLOCK AFTER CROSSING RIDGEWOOD AVE (US-1), ONTO NORTH HALIFAX DRIVE, JUST BEFORE THE BRIDGE. IT WILL A LITTLE OVER A BLOCK ON YOUR LEFT. NEW WOOD DANCE FLOOR!! AIR CONDITIONED. (SAME PLACE AS LAST FEW YEARS.)

SPRING FLING IS A FULL DAY OF REQUEST INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING AND IS, AS USUAL, **FREE** TO ALL DANCERS! VISITING INSTRUCTORS ARE ASKED TO SHARE A FAVORITE DANCE OR TWO TO HELP "CROSS POLLINATE" OUR GROUPS. PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU IN THIS FULL DAY OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FUN... OF COURSE, THERE IS PLENTY OF REFRESHMENTS.

AGAIN THIS YEAR -- AN ETHNIC FLEA MARKET! BRING THOSE ITEMS YOU WISH TO SELL: COSTUMES, ETHNIC COLLECTABLES, BOOKS, MUSIC, VIDEOS, ETC. YOU KEEP ALL THE PROCEEDS!! THIS IS NOT FOR THE OLGA PRINCI SCHOLARSHIP FUND. THE PURPOSE IS TO LET YOU CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS OF GREAT ETHNIC STUFF --SO YOU CAN REFILL IT DIFFERENT GREAT ETHNIC STUFF. IT SHOULD BE GREAT FUN! (PLEASE TAG ITEMS WITH YOUR PRICE AND NAME BEFORE YOU PLACE THEM ON THE SALE TABLE...THANK YOU!)

QUESTIONS? PROBLEMS? SUGGESTIONS? PLEASE CALL 904-252-5738

SEE YOU IN PORT ORANGE MAY 8TH!

JULIUS HORVATH
JulHorvath@aol.com

Culture Corner

Ciulin (Romanian)=tumble weed Ciuleandra (Romanian)=(aprox) the tumble weed dance

Romanian

1)Foaie verde siminoc,
Tineti Ciuleandra pe loc,
Si-ncodata mai baieti,
Hop-s-asa-s-asa

Approximate English Translation

1)Green leaf of 'siminoc*'
Keep the circle in place,
One more time,boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

{*siminoc=everlasting flower , xeranthemum the name of the flower is not essential; 'foaie verde de..' is the usual starting verse of Romanian folk songs, the flower or tree varying from song to song for rhyme sake }

{puica, puico=(F) my darling --means in the initial sense pullet, female chicken; however it does not have the negative connotations that its American exact translation has; it is also used in its masculin form 'puile'=my darling }

2)Tineti-o flacai asa,
Pina n-o ajunge puica,
Si-nc-o-data, mai baieti,
Hop-s-asa-s-asa.

2) Keep it like that, lads,
Until my darling catch up to me,
One more time,boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

3)Intariti-o nitelus
c-ajunge acus-acus,
Si-nc-o-data, mai baieti
Hop-s-asa-s-asa.

3)Strengthen it (fasten it) just a little,
She is close to catch me up,
One more time,boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

4)Mai intariti-o de-un pas
C-ajuns si n-a ramas
Si-nc-o-data, mai baieti
Hop-s-asa-s-asa.

4)Fasten it one more step.
she caught me up, but didn't stay,
One more time,boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

5)Doua fire, doua paie,
Luati Ciuleandra la bataie
Si-nc-o-data, mai baieti
Hop-s-asa-s-asa.

5)Two straws, two grains,
Let's stomp* the Ciuleandra,
One more time,boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

{a more exact translation will be 'let us beat' , in Romanian the same form one uses for describe the action against a person }

6)Tot asa ca nu ma las,
Ca sint cu puica pe-un pas,
Si-nc-o-data, mai baieti
Hop-s-asa-s-asa.

6)Keep it like that, don't let it down,
'Cause i'm on same step with my darling,
One more time,boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

7)Doua fire, doua paie,
Ia Ciuleandra la bataie
Si-nc-o-data, mai baieti
Hop-s-asa-s-asa.

7)Two straws, two grains,
Stomp the Ciuleandra now,
One more time,boys,

(this last one calls the beginning of the second part of the dance, the side-close-side-close-side-close-side-stamp one)

Si-nc-o-data, mai baieti
Hop-s-asa-s-asa.

Hop-and-so-and so.

(and you go into the second, stomping part)

One more time, boys,

Hop-and-so-and so.

(each qutrene is sung on theswing-swing-swing-swing -swing-close-close-lift-brush stamp part) (no words on the grape wine part)

The name comes probably from the rhythm of the dance, which speeds toward the end. Also the air and dust moved by a closed circle of good dancers in the end of the dance resemble too well the one moved by a tumbleweed wheel.

The dance used to be done in the South part of Romania , in the times of the ox-and-horse propelled agricultural machines. The region is a large, very flat plane, with very fertile soil (that is , 'if Good Lord grant us rain'). In the drought periods, everything was dry and , at the smallest wind, dust and tumble weed started moving. The introduction of the mechanized agriculture, added to the development of an intensive irrigation system eradicated the tumbleweeds and their dance altogether. The dance can be found today only in the performance groups repertory. -----The version on the group tape is the 'classical' one, sung by Maria anase(1913-1963), one of the greatest if not the greatest female voice in the Romanian folk song. If you are interested to hear more of her records, I can lend you my CD (the nicest part is that the 20 records are from all over Romania, representing very diverse regions and styles of folk music)

Raluca

Raluca was one of the winners of the Olga Princi Scholarship at Camp this year.

A Personal Note

I might not have been so enthusiastic about becoming President if I had known what Barbara and I would find when we got home. The weekend following Camp my Mother, who has lived with us for the past 10 years, was admitted to the hospital with double pneumonia and congestive heart failure. During her working career she was a Registered Nurse and was always ready to assist anyone in the family when they were ill. We felt we could do no less for her and so during most of the next eight days one of us was at her bedside. After a few more weeks in a sub-acute care facility, the doctors decided they could do no more for her and we brought her home. At 87 the experience has truly taken all the starch out of her and it has been difficult adjusting to the need to care for a bedridden patient.

Barbara has borne most of the burden of caring for her and we are both sorry that the publication schedule for the Florida FolkDancer has suffered considerably during this process. Thanks so much to those who have written or called with words of support. Look for improvement as we get our routines better adjusted.

John & Barbara Daly

MEMBERSHIP FORM
FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL

Membership in the Florida Folk Dance Council keeps you in touch with Dance events through the Florida FolkDancer. If you haven't already renewed for 1999, please do so now.

Please complete one form for each family:

Name: _____ **\$12.00**

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Circle if NOT to be printed Circle if NOT to be printed

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "FFDC" SEND TO:
Willa Davidsohn, TREASURER
1643 Old Colonial Way
Melbourne, FL 32935

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

