

**The Lost - The Found**

**Wanna help run a  
dance? See inside.**

**NEFFA Know-it-alls  
answer your queries**

# NEFFA



# NEWS

Summer 2010 – Vol. XXXVI #2

**NEFFA Organizers  
Gone Wild!**

**A Poem**

**Beware of Imitations!**

**More!**



**Got questions? The folks at  
NEFFA have the answers!  
Submit questions to**

**neffa\_news@neffa.dreamhosters.com,  
with subject "ASK NEFFA"**

### **Q. Have you considered reviving the shuttle bus service to the hotels near the Festival site?**

A. During our first year in Mansfield, one branch of the town government had directed us to use the commuter parking lot at the downtown T station. We were concerned that this lot was too small to accommodate the possible onslaught of cars, so we provided early-in-the-day shuttle service from the nearby hotels on Saturday and Sunday, with return trips on demand. As it turned out, days before the Festival, the town forced us to move to a much larger lot. Had that lot been arranged for earlier, than we would not have provided hotel shuttle service.

Given that our current satellite lot is very large, the decision to provide a shuttle is transformed from one of necessity to one of balancing convenience and cost (buses are expensive). In recent years, NEFFA has had to rein in expenses, so the decision was clear. As NEFFA's finances have stabilized somewhat, we could consider providing this service again to some extent.

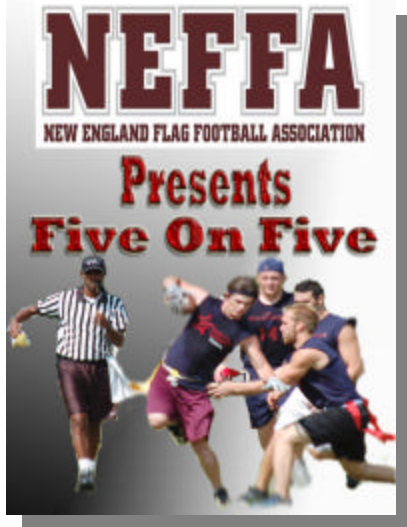
### **Q. I miss the selection of food booths that you had years ago when the Festival was in Natick. Can you bring them back?**

A. We like having food booths return to the Festival. It makes things easier for us, logistically, and we get to re-enjoy our favorites. Usually, the decision to leave the Festival is made by the booth, not by us, and the reasons are varied. Some booths have found that the professional-quality sanitation and preparation requirements from the Mansfield Health Department are too hard for them to comply with. Other booths can't rustle up enough helpers to staff the booth. Some just decide that they have not made enough money, so it is not worth their time. On the other hand, we have occasionally not invited back booths whose staffers are hard to work with, grab more kitchen resources than they have been allocated, pose continual problems for health and fire inspectors, and so on.

Running a booth at the NEFFA Festival is hard work, and we think that professionals are more likely than amateurs to have the resources and the knowledge to pull it off. We could always use more qualified candidates to improve our food offerings. If you have observed food vendors that you think would be a good fit at NEFFA, please let us know the particulars.

A NEFFA Public Service

## Beware of Imitations!



*Our motto: "NEFFA, the New England Folk Festival Association: oft imitated, but never copied... or duplicated, or something like that."*

## Concord Scout House Seeks Quotable Quotes

Hello dancers,

The Scout House could use some quotable comments about how dancers feel about the building. We are raising money to help repair the roof and other major projects, and are in the midst of writing grant applications. If we could include comments from one of our largest user groups (that's YOU), we would appreciate it.

Some ideas:

- Do you recognize what a unique resource the Scout House is to dancers of all ages?
- Do you appreciate the classic New England character of the building?
- Do you value the beautiful wooden floor and all of the community dances that have been held on it?
- Did you get married or hold a party there--why did you choose CSH as your venue?

Just a few short sentences would do the trick. Please send your quotable comments to [info@ConcordScoutHouse.org](mailto:info@ConcordScoutHouse.org).

Thanks,  
Lisa Greenleaf  
Concord Scout House Inc. Director

## Meltdown by Fred Wersan

When she squeezed my hand as we went forward and back, I thought,  
 "She probably squeezes everyone's hand."  
 And when she clamped my hand to her right hip during the promenade, I thought,  
 "Well, you've got to deal with centrifugal force somehow."  
 Then we gypsied,  
 And unlike so many, she looked into my eyes as if she really meant it.  
 So by the time we melted down into a swing, it was a bit of an anticlimax,  
 Because my heart had melted many beats before.



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

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\\_news@neffa.dreamhosters.com](mailto:neffa_news@neffa.dreamhosters.com). Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.

**Publicize your events!** Display advertising is available for qualifying folk-related organizations. For more information, contact the editor.      Copyright © 2010 by the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc.

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



## Found Items at the NEFFA Festival

Are any of these items yours? If so, contact the NEFFA Lost and Found Czar, Dan Pearl, at Daniel\_pearl AT yahoo DOT com. Items unclaimed by August 1st will be recycled, donated to charity, or vaporized, as appropriate.

### Musical Accessories

Rhythmtech Tambourine  
Fender guitar stand  
K&M guitar stand  
Electronic metronome  
Bongo drums (one head is broken)  
Two metal music stands

### Miscellaneous

Lots of water bottles  
Bag of chocolate bunnies  
Black/tan umbrella  
Light gray bandana  
Two mini-camera pouches (Case Logic, Lowepro)  
2" wide embroidered red strap  
Pouch, black with embroidered red  
"The Line Between" paperback book  
Pen knife  
Pouch, 3"x6"  
Black insulated lunch bag  
Red Sox baseball cap

### Sweatshirts

Hooded navy Atlantic City New Jersey  
Hooded medium blue Hanes  
Black floral swirl pattern hooded zipper front  
Champion medium blue hooded  
Under Armour XL medium blue hooded  
Black hooded  
Gray hooded

### Shoes

Black flip-flops  
Single dance slipper, green insole  
Single "Danshuz" shoe, black, 1/2" heel  
Pair black 7W "Lower East Side" rubber heels  
Well-worn women's dance shoes, 1/2" heels

### Sweaters

Loose tan fishnet sweater (small)  
"Mississippi Supply Company" small Medium gray  
"Basic Editions" large white long sleeve  
"Knightsbridge" L knitted dark blue

### Shirts

2009 NEFFA T-Shirt large  
Black "Bubba Pete"  
"Brown Sound" small  
White "Ann Taylor" small  
Indian Line Farm T-Shirt  
EMS blue T-Shirt  
"Banana Republic" black long-sleeve crew neck  
"Land's End" medium terra cotta

### Skirts

J.G. Hook size 10 skirt, dark paisley

### Jewelry and Accessories

Sunglasses, reading glasses, collapsible reading glasses  
"Skating Club of Boston" cloisonné pin  
Silver ring with clear faceted stone  
Crescent moon earring  
Brass earring with loops and ornaments 1" long  
"Rebecca" Dance Flurry badge  
One cuff link: Silver ring around black center

### Fleece/Jacket

Timberland black fleece  
North Face medium gray Large  
Sahlie light gray Large fuzzy fleece  
Quilted brown "Lauren" M  
"LL Bean" Men's XL dark green rain jacket  
Child's green padded vest "Arctic Exploration" badge

## NEFFA Thanks Zdravets

The Zdravets folk dance group held a fundraiser to benefit NEFFA on April 10. NEFFA thanks Zdravets for their consideration and generosity. Zdravets is Janet Yeracaris, Patrick Yacono, Ralph Iverson, Dean Brown, Chaya Bromberg, Dick and Martha Forsyth, and David Skidmore.

# Summaries of the Minutes of the NEFFA Exec Board

February 21, 2010

## President's Report (Bob Golder)

I sent thank-yous to invited performers who, unable to attend the 2010 Festival, gave monetary gifts to NEFFA instead. I sent flowers on behalf of the Board to Steve Moore, whose health prevents him from continuing as Director, Legal Advisor, and Early Entry Chair. I contacted Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce to advise that NEFFA will continue as a Chamber member (funded by a designated contribution from a NEFFA member). As the Festival date approaches, board members are urged to control costs and expenditures without sacrificing the joys of the Festival. If you are having money problems, don't suffer in silence. Let us know, so that we can work together to solve problems.

## P.O. Box Update (Terry Huffaker)

NEFFA has a new post office box. All NEFFA archives and materials have been recovered from the FAC office at 42 West Foster. NEFFA has a new phone; CDS has been notified that the old number is now "their" phone to do with as they choose.

If you note any place where an address change needs to be made, please make it. **Dan:** Vendors who bill us after the Festival need the current address. **Terry:** We receive newsletters from other folk organizations. We filed an address change at the post office, and that is not working. The PMB will not forward things that come to them.

**Dan:** Can we pay them for that service? **Terry:** As long as I maintain a box. I maintained the box for an extra three months so that we could attempt to do it, because basically it's the same fee - two dollars a day, plus shipping.

**Ralph:** Do you consider that you have given Judy Erickson, CDS President, notice of our withdrawal from the office? **Terry:** I talked to Judy, and told her that we are out. I would like to make that a formal thing, to say to her that I have talked to the NEFFA Board.

**Shelagh:** I think it should come from an Officer [of the NEFFA Board], to Judy. I think it should come from Bob, and in writing. You need a written document to terminate. If this whole thing falls through, we don't want to stay there. We've moved on.

**Bob:** NEFFA has benefited greatly from Terry being a strong advocate for pushing the process forward. I've helped where I could. NEFFA has taken a very different track from the one CDS has taken. We are the beneficiaries of Terry's effort. We need to continue to appropriately but firmly advocate for closure.

**Robert:** I move that the President be authorized to write a letter to CDS - copies to George Fogg and to FACONE - relative to terminating our agreement relative to the office and staff. **Ralph:** Second. **Shelagh:** Specifically, put in that we will terminate as of the last day of the last month in which CDS ceases to occupy the office, but not later than June 30, 2010. **Motion approved.**

## Volunteers (Bill Cowie, via e-mail)

The volunteer sign-up web site is open, the flyers are being distributed, and word has gone out to past volunteers through email. Also, a recruiting message went out to all members of the NEFFA Facebook page. I will be contacting the various chairpersons to update the instruction slip that goes to their volunteers. This is given to each volunteer when they check in at the Volunteer Table and pick

up their tickets. It tells them who to report to and lists the responsibilities of their job. Some of them may be out of date.

## Tickets (Don Veino)

I sent via e-mail a mock-up that lays out how on-line ticketing might work. It's a clickable image map that would be on a web page at neffa.org. The various steps of the process are highlighted in different colors. You'd click on the color and be taken to the desired page.

Implementation is waiting on whether we will have on-line membership capability. We could either direct to using a conventional membership form, or using on-line capability if that's available. Basically this implies that we will have two events listed on Brown Paper Tickets - one of them for member tickets, the other for non-member tickets, and that will handle the SKU pricing differences. I've taken the approach that NEFFA members who purchase full-Festival access can select to get the badge directly, or a ticket that they can turn in at the Festival for their badge. People who opt for the badge directly (additional \$6 charge paid by purchaser) can bypass check-in. My intent is to post this in the next week; we had set a deadline of March 1.

**Koren:** How easy would it be for me to indicate that I want one member ticket and one non-member ticket? **Don:** You'd have to purchase them as two separate events. And that's solely because we have such a complicated offering structure. When and if we get the capability to do this via PayPal, we could greatly decrease the complexity. It may be best for people who want to buy varied combinations of tickets to make a phone call. I'll build that option into the system. Remember that we set our ticket prices first, and then began developing on-line capability. If I were to do it over again - which I don't recommend! - the ticket vendor has a discount code, so it would have been easier to offer all tickets at set prices and then let members use the discount code to reduce their cost. We'd have to totally change how we view our ticket pricing to do that, but it would be way simpler.

## Sound (Michael Bergman, via e-mail)

After some difficulty finding a mutually suitable date, I've met with Eric Kilburn and agreed on a price and made arrangements for Bob Mills and Tony Hernandez to join his crew, with the specific task of handling house mix for contra dances, including the medleys. Eric and I also discussed system design issues, and have several possibilities for how to proceed, but have not nailed down which one we will go with. I need to tour the school and review some particulars of the MS Gym in order to proceed.

Depending on which option we take, there may be some additional costs for additional rigging, as we are going to fly at least 2 additional speakers in the MS Gym. The HS Gym design will be very similar to last year, but we will run splitter snakes and have analog sound boards at the back of each gym, as some of last year's problems were caused by crew being uncomfortable with the new digital boards.

Over on the volunteer side of the operation, the Sound Volunteer subcommittee, ably led by Bethany Seeger, has swung into action and begun recruiting sound volunteers. Peter Olszowka is working with John Gotthardt on the HS Auditorium sound system design. I expect Mike Piantedosi to return again to handle the MS Auditorium sound system design, but have not actually gotten confirmation yet. David Silber will be returning as lead Stage Manager for the dance performance blocks.

Harold: Michael B mentioned to me a possibility of relocating the sound stage in the MS Gym, moving it 90 degrees to the back of the room. I e-mailed him back and said I thought that was more of a

Program decision, although Inside Operations has no problem with it. For contra dancing, there will be fewer but longer lines.

Bob: I will make sure Linda Leslie is informed, so Program and Sound can talk about it.

## Quilt Project (Terry Huffaker)

We have a permit to run a raffle. My main concern is how to sell tickets at the Festival. I spoke to Marcie Van Cleave who has experience with this. She and Linda Leslie recommended having roving people selling tickets, plus selling tickets at set locations like Meet-the-Board and Information tables, plus hanging the quilt in a prominent place such as the HS entrance. We need to decide on raffle ticket prices. **Bob:** Board members will be willing to help sell tickets at the Festival, and elsewhere. **Dan:** Can we sell tickets through the newsletter? **Terry:** No, sales have to be in-state. This is a Massachusetts gaming permit. The transaction has to take place here. **Dan:** I'm uncomfortable with money being at tables that don't currently handle money. **Shelagh:** Board members could sell their designated tickets, with money to make change, at those stations that don't currently handle money. **Will:** I was just at the Dance Flurry. They also had people going around selling tickets for a quilt raffle. **Julia:** That's a designated volunteer job at the Flurry. **Harold:** So they may have audit controls in place for those volunteers: "This is your block of tickets." **Bob:** We may be able to contact the person who coordinated that effort, to learn what worked well and what didn't work. **Dan:** Leaders of large sessions might start with a few words about the quilt raffle, as long as we don't overdo it. **Terry:** I got the impression from Linda Leslie that she was not fond of that idea. **Harold:** A larger Festival event, like a Festival Orchestra session or the Medley session, would be an appropriate time, and would not take away from an individual performer's time slot. **Ann:** I think we want to create buzz. **Will:** At the Flurry, they also made announcements about their quilt. I led two different sessions and each started with an announcement. I don't think it was effective. People wanted to dance. So I suggested to them that I had no problem with it at the end. But even then, it's iffy. The other thing is, whoever's selling tickets - have change! And try not to interrupt conversations. I was sitting in a chair having conversation when someone stuck their head in and asked us, "Do you want to buy a raffle ticket?" The person I was talking to was super annoyed. **Frank:** They were really pushing tickets this year. **Terry:** When are we going to raffle it off? Sunday? **Koren:** When is the annual meeting? (Saturday - too early in the weekend). **Shelagh:** I think it could be done during the last Festival Orchestra session on Sunday. Bob, you could be there, with Terry. **Jane:** It should be as close to the end of the Festival as possible to maximize the sales opportunities. **Bob:** Let me check with Linda Leslie to see where the drawing will best fit in, but to me this seems like the best candidate spot. **Harold:** We need a little lead time for all ticket sellers to turn in their sold tickets and money, put the tickets in a bowl for the drawing. We need a set time in advance when all sales stop.

## Program Book (Frank Kreimendahl)

The quotes I've been getting from printers are higher than I would like. On Monday I'm going to contact a lot more printers. The format will be a lot like the Dance Flurry program book. Thanks to Marge Lewin and Bill Cowie, we have over a dozen advertisers thus far. The rate is less than what we had at this time last year. But the effort is underway, and we have some new advertisers this year.

## Inside Signs (Michael Resnick)

Michael R: Let me know if there are signs you need. I know that we need signs to a HS room that no one could find last year, that

Hospitality has become Information, I have to update ticket prices. I need to know from you whether we are doing an ATM this year and need signs for it, whether on-line tickets need new signs, do we need maps for the program book, do we need updated charts for the Benefit Bash, at \$100 - \$200, and do we also need them at the Meet-the-Board table? I assume you want the Quilt's display location on the maps this year.

## Benefit Bash (Julia Nickles, Ashley Zanca)

Please take flyers and distribute them. The band is Rebecca McCallum, Mark Koyama, Anna Patton, and Max Newman. The caller is Will Mentor. **Ashley:** We also have a silent auction. Many Grange dances are donating passes. We'll have the NEFFA parking pass auction. We hope to display the quilt and sell tickets (the event is in Massachusetts).

## Parking (Will Mentor)

Gene told me that in the past you ask what each person needs and then try to fulfill it. Angela wants 25 slots. If you're coming early and you know you'll stay all day, just park in the big east lot; that would help. The small lot, I'll count on to be overflow. I'll count on all of you to advise on slots for town officials, etc. **Harold:** I need a parking plan, including Cabot Business Park parking, from you for the Selectmen's Meeting on March 17. Usually three spots are set aside in front for town officials. Custodians rope off their own spots.

## Evaluation Forms (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

I'm working on moving evaluations toward all-electronic format. We're still going to have paper. Historically there are two ways to handle distribution of evaluations: 1) hand out sheets and let committee sort through the comments, and 2) an individual (Dan, in the past) sorts through all the comments and summarizes for the committee - an incredible amount of work that has to be done in a timely fashion. So the other alternative is an electronic sorting mechanism to distill comments and direct to those who need them. Another possibility: have a computer at the Festival for attendee evaluations, writing directly to a spreadsheet - although one computer may not be enough. But some people want paper, so I'm considering a hybrid system. **Koren:** I will help you set up a Google form for electronic evaluations. **Harold:** Some people like to write evaluations as a cathartic experience, other like to check a form, and a third type will want to tweet NEFFA immediately after a event. **Don:** That will make it real-time. If someone gets on Twitter about an issue, we may have the opportunity to solve a problem quickly (example: bathrooms).

## Membership (Beth Parkes)

I sent out a membership renewal letter and a call for nominations. 77 people renewed, including 3 at Donor level (\$75), 3 at Patron level (\$125), 5 at Friend level (\$250), and one at Benefactor level (\$1000). **Dan:** I'm working with PayPal on the web site. Paypal requires "fresh" 501(c)(3) documentation.

## Inside Operations (Harold Henry)

Harold: Bob LaConte says that the school will renew our contract at the same rate as last year. He does not have the staff to support a late-night dance at the school. He contacted the Food people to smooth the way for their accommodation of NEFFA. Bushell Piano will give us the same rates as last year. I haven't negotiated rates with Petersen (Rentals) yet. I haven't seen major changes in our room use. Lesley College may not be as big an issue this year. March 17, 7 pm - NEFFA appears at Mansfield Board of Selectmen's meeting. **Dan:** What about

the High School ventilation issue? **Harold:** I talked with Bob. They do have an HVAC engineer. He will look to see if we can get more ventilation. Bob is adamant about not opening the door to the lockers (security and liability concerns). We talked about opening it but "blocking" with tape, etc. Still under discussion. I don't know what their plans for making HVAC improvements might be.

**Harold:** Do you want me to contact the school electrician on behalf of the Food Court and the Crafts Room? **Koren:** That would be great! **Ann:** Yes, please. We'll be the same as last year. **Koren:** I think we will be too. **Harold:** The electrician's big cost is mounting and then removing the power box just for us. The precise number of users is not so important.

## Crafts Room (Ann Schunior)

Ann: Crafts will have five new people this year. Sat. and Sun. opening procedures: problem last year, building doors opened at 9, but Crafts Room opened at 10, giving access to Crafts Rm. before vendor opening. Would like lobby door access locked until 9:45 am, while back door access is OK because fewer people will wander in that way, and our vendors need the access. **Harold:** A workable idea, but keep in mind that some non-vendor people will get through (example: a vendor exiting Crafts Room via front access holds door open for non-vendor to get in). **Dan:** I suggest that Ann request a volunteer to monitor the front door access to the Crafts Room - and another one for the rear doors. **Ann:** Nice idea! Thank you.

## Other Business

### NEXT YEAR'S FESTIVAL DATES

**Dan:** I've started to get inquiries about next year's Festival dates. Alternate Festival dates to be considered due to religious holidays: April 15, 16, 17 - 2011. We have not set up alternative dates at Mansfield before.

**Harold:** We will need to clear an alternate weekend with Bob LaConte at Mansfield Public Schools. He may have to confer with the School Board.

### BUSINESS CARDS:

**Don:** I've drafted a business card design [hands out samples]. They are inexpensive, generic, and can be handed out by anyone. Do you want me to go forward with production? **Dan:** I like the idea and would like to see improved graphic design.

**Frank:** I could help with that.

### CONTRA CHALLENGE:

**Don:** We're doing it again this year. Five nights of contra dancing, built around the Festival. It increased Monday and Thursday night contra dance attendance at the Scout House last year.

### NEW PHONE SERVICE:

**Don:** We are now listed with SuperPages. (Discussion of which street address to use, as SuperPages requires one. Cambridge address will be deleted). We had our first phone call at our new number - it came through to Dan.

### TWITTER ACCOUNT:

**Don:** We now have a Twitter account, neffaorg, and we have our first tweet which I made, talking about the board meeting and great plans for the Festival.

### THE LATE DANCE CONCEPT:

**Don:** I know we are not doing a late-night dance this year for the Festival. But we recently tried the concept at the Monday Scout House contra dance. It was a very successful techno-contra. We might consider it as a Benefit Bash event.

**Dan:** I enjoyed it... up to a point. It could be good as a once-in-a-while concept.

**Bob:** It would be good to publicize in advance that we are using special lighting, mirror balls, strobes, and so forth, so that those who are prone to seizures can make an informed choice whether or not to attend (I fielded one call about the event that dealt with this issue). We make special accommodation regarding perfumes for those who react badly to perfume, and should do the same through proper publicity for those who are seizure-prone. **Don:** We made the proper effort in publicity for the Monday dance. **Bob:** Yes, I'm sure you did, and unfortunately she did not see it. **Don:** We offered their money back, but they declined. The point is, we have an opportunity to do something unique, which can be a great multi-generational event. I want to summarize that this concept would be great to use as an annual fundraiser, on a half-year cycle with the annual Benefit Bash. I'd be willing to donate some of the acquired equipment to produce this event.

March 28, 2010

## President's Report (Bob Golder)

Bob reports that we are still trying to find a volunteer Legal Advisor. Maureen will contact an acquaintance who has done work for similar organizations.

Bob reminded the Board that we often receive last-minute unsolicited ideas from people wishing to participate in the 2010 Festival, such as face-painting. At this time it is too late to accommodate them. Bob suggests that anyone who receives an inquiry ask them to submit a proposal for the 2011 Festival, or refer them to Bob.

## Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

Ralph reported that he has filed tax returns for FY ending July 1, 2009, for IRS, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Ralph is confident that he will be able to file them in upcoming years, thanks to help from Jane Goetter.

## Office update

Bob has drafted a letter to CDS informing them that we will be ending financial participation in the office no later than June 30, and sent it to several Board members for review. The Board discussed the wording of the message and made suggestions. Bob will revise his drafts based on the feedback he received.

Terry Huffaker reported that the NEFFA archive materials is being sorted and indexed.

## Volunteers

Bill Cowie reported that the sign-up web site is about to close. Updated job descriptions are almost complete.

## Tickets

Don Veino reported that 36 tickets have been bought on-line so far, for a total of \$1970. Most of them are full-festival passes, and six express

badges. Don passed around a sample ticket. Brown Paper Tickets will issue a check for receipts as soon as sales close.

Maureen reported that paid and unpaid (volunteer, performer, etc) tickets will be different colors. Printing was about \$200.

## Food

Maureen said there are no confirmed new food vendors, although there are two possibilities. Uncle Jay (Chili and pulled pork) will return this year after being absent last year. The Turkish booth will not return this year. Fresh Catch will have two booths, one inside and one outside, including a newly introduced potato-on-a-stick, which will make its Massachusetts debut at the Festival. Maureen asked the vendors to increase their vegetarian selections to make up for the loss of the Turkish group. Shelagh's Ellman-Pearl's Girl Scout troop will take over the drinks and snacks booth.

## Crafts

Ann Schunior discussed the logistics of early entry for craft vendors on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The discussion then moved to general early entry logistics.

## Sound

Bob reported that the sound contract is about to be signed. Expenses are slightly higher due to attempts to improve the sound. Linda reported that the middle school dance hall orientation will be rotated 90 degrees, putting the stage on the shorter wall. The introductory dance room will have a sound system this year.

Ralph reported that the sound contract includes a provision for a bonus if the Board is pleased with the quality of the sound and has the financial resources.

## Quilt Project

The quilt will be displayed at the 2010 Festival but will not be raffled at this time. A large poster of the quilt might be hung in the middle school. Laura suggested the possibility of selling posters of the quilt. Will suggested that the quilt might become an ongoing symbol of NEFFA.

## Benefit Bash

Julia and Ashley reported that the Benefit Bash took in \$2100, including 4 full-year Thursday Night Dance passes at \$300 each, the auction of the Festival parking spot and other items, and ticket sales. Linda asked the Board for agreement to give each of the Benefit Bash performers a free NEFFA membership. The Board was in agreement. Will Mentor would like NEFFA to hold a benefit in Vermont, and would be willing to help produce it. The Board was in general agreement. Ralph asked whether we would need a certificate of solicitation to solicit donations in states outside Massachusetts, and if we would need to file tax returns in states where it is held. Linda suggested that this be discussed as a retreat topic, as well as the idea of sponsoring a free dance as a gift for the community.

## Publicity

Bill reported that 30 Program booklet ads have been sold, for \$3700, the majority of which came from the efforts of Marge Lewin. Linda and Julia were recently taped for an eight-minute segment of an arts program on Mansfield Community television. Linda would like to give two free Festival tickets to the interviewer and videographer. No objections from those present. Dan Pearl has recorded four radio

public service announcements for radio, which Bill has distributed to four folk-music oriented radio stations. Linda will be interviewed for WCUW in Worcester the week before the Festival.

Bill worked with WCUW to get NEFFA performers to send music samples, which the station will play on a weekly traditional music show, and let listeners know that those performers would be appearing at the Festival.

## Printed Materials

Bob recommends that we start calling the "Program Book" the "Program Guide". Angela asked that we remember to put the NEFFA mission statement into the Program Guide. Dan and Bob will assist Frank by proofreading the guide.

## Parking

Will distributed Parking permits. Will said that he will probably not be able to be the Parking manager next year, and is looking for someone to apprentice with him at this year's Festival.

## Outside Signs

Dayle said she has not received any requests for new signs.

## Membership

Dan reported that we have received about \$1200 in memberships on line.

Don noted that some people bought tickets on line and then bought membership on line.

## Inside Operations

Harold reported that he is looking for bigger fans for the two big dance halls.

Harold said that he asked Bob LaConte about availability dates for the 2011 Festival. The Board discussed Festival dates, Easter and Passover, tax deadline day and the Boston Marathon. Shelagh moved that the Board propose April 15-17 for the 2011 Festival. David seconded. The motion carried.

Harold will confirm those dates with schools and town officials.

## Evaluations

Shelagh has prepared a proposed evaluation form. It will be available both on-line and on paper. Information will go into a searchable database.

## Early Entry

Dick George will manage early entry this year. He has talked with Steve Moore about procedures. He is recruiting for two more volunteers. Bob asked Robert Johnson, who has been on early entry in the past, to contact Dick. Linda will send the operations schedule to Dick.

# The Thursday Dance Committee Needs Your Help



**WE NEED  
YOU!**

Now is your chance to help run the Thursday night contra dance! This popular dance, run by the Thursday Night Dance Committee of NEFFA for nearly 20 years, is going lose some committee members in the near future, and we could use some new folks to fill the openings.

The week-to-week jobs are:

- Hall clean up at the end of the evening (10:30pm to around 11:10)
- Water maintenance (occasionally throughout evening)
- Sound system schlepping, setup, and operation.

Committee members will also participate in *very* occasional planning meetings to discuss what performers we want to feature, special events, issues and problems, etc.

These positions require dedication on your part to attend most of our dance evenings, a feeling that you want to “give back” to help the dance prosper, and a genuine urge to help make the dance as good as it can be.

Committee members get free admission to the dance.

If you are interested, please talk to Dan Pearl at a dance, or email him at Daniel\_Pearl AT yahoo DOT com.



**N·E·F·F·A**

New England Folk Festival Association

PO Box 2789, Acton MA 01720

[www.neffa.org](http://www.neffa.org)

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FRAMINGHAM, MA  
PERMIT No. 120**