

Miami Valley Folk Dancers

NEWSLETTER

Thursday, June 7, 1990

Plan Ahead For . . .

1. The **June Ethnic Sunday**, June 10, will feature dances from the British Isles.
2. The **Greek Workshop** with John Pappas (from California) will be held on July 7 and 8. Have you gotten your flier for the workshop?!?!? If not, see John Pappas (from Dayton) -- he's the one chairing the workshop (that is, John Pappas is chairing it . . . not the one from California . . . he's the one that's giving it . . . I mean the one from Dayton . . . the one who's chairing it . . . for the one who's giving it . . . from California . . . *does someone have an aspirin, I think I'm getting a headache!*).
3. "**Day in the Park**" will be held on August 5 this year. Lorraine Fortner will no doubt be talking more about that in the weeks to come.

Plan Behind For . . .

1. The Tri-City Workshop, which was held in Columbus on April 21, was a success. Approximately 15 MVFDers attended. Three of the dances taught by the other groups at Tri-City will be taught to our group: Djurdjevica, Varnensko Tropanka, and the Swing.
2. The ethnic wedding reception for Bette Kelley and Wayne Gulden, held at the Pavilion on May 13, was enjoyed by all. In fact, it has given me an idea (alright, alright, calm down . . . it's merely a suggestion). In future years I think that the Program Committee should think about having a "Costume Ethnic Sunday" in which people are encouraged (but not required) to come in costume, and the program is all request dancing--very much like the wedding reception. People seemed to enjoy dancing in their costumes so much that a "Costume Ethnic Sunday" every now and again might be well-attended and enjoyed by the membership.
3. The Open House was a smashing success, with at least 48 newcomers attending. I would like to thank Rosanne Gessel and Leslie Hyll for the publicity job they did for the

Open House. In fact, Ann Ballinger tells me that attendance at the 7:00 - 8:00 teaching hour has been up this year -- I suspect that this could be attributed, in part at least, to the job that the publicity committee has been doing. I would also like to thank those who taught dances at the Open House, and all others who helped out. I think these efforts are worthwhile. My folk dance students from Wright State said they enjoyed the Open House a lot and thought it was a nice idea; a number of them said they would try to come on Thursday nights. Of the new dances they learned at the Open House their favorite was, believe it or not, Atlantic Mixer (this was the favorite of last year's class too)!!

Other News . . .

1. Congratulations to **Carol Culbertson** for receiving a "Teacher of the Year Award." Job well done!!!
2. We have three new members: **Pete Hovey** and **Janet** and **Julie Ramsey**. Congratulations, and we hope to see you regularly at Thursday nights, ethnic Sundays, and workshops.
3. Thanks to **Charles Krainz** for replacing the lock on the cupboard in the kitchen where we store snack supplies.
4. **Dick Clair** has become a trend-setter -- he started using columns on the request board headed by "line dance," "couples dance," "set dance," etc. There are a number of benefits in having people categorize their requests; I think the most important one is that it helps the people giving the program to keep track of the type of dances that are played and to maintain a balance of couples and non-couples dances. In fact, I think that this simple little modification will lead naturally to more balanced programs . . . for instance, if I see 15 line dances and two couples dances on the request board, you can be sure that I would put up one or two more couples dances.
5. **Bill Lynch** is continuing to recuperate nicely from his disagreement with a chainsaw. We're hoping to see him and **Nova Sanders** back with us soon!!

Editorial . . .

On a number of occasions I have heard people say, on their way out of the Pavilion, "gee wiz golly darned, they never got around to playing my request." Does this sound like you?!? Well then, I would like to suggest to you that you have the option of asking the person giving the program if they would please put on *%#)(@* kolo in the next ten or fifteen minutes, explaining that you put it on the request board early in the evening and would like to leave soon, but are dying to do that dance. I think this is a preferable course of action to your going home frustrated because you weren't able to do your favorite dance (although, anyone who enjoys *%)(@* kolo has to be sick). Of course, you need to exercise some discretion when doing this; for instance, such verbal requests should probably only be made, in general, after 10:00 p.m. And please be understanding and considerate of the people giving the program . . . they have an awful lot to deal with, and getting to every request on the request board is not an easy chore.

Now, when **YOU** are giving the program, and someone comes up to you late in the evening and says, "thank you so much for a fabulous program . . . by the way, I plan to leave in the next ten or fifteen minutes and if you could manage to put on *%)(@* kolo within the next few requests I would greatly appreciate it," wouldn't you make a special effort to put this dance on (even though you hate *%)(@* kolo)?

Of course, the purpose of this informal "system" is to minimize the chance of someone going home without having danced their favorite dance. The ultimate decision of what gets played belongs to those who are giving the program, within the guidelines set out by the Program Committee. However, with compromise, understanding, consideration, patience, and moderation on the parts of both those attending the program and those giving the program, I believe that no one should have to go home without getting their weekly "dance fix."

In Closing . . .

Y'all come back now!

Respectfully submitted,

Harry

Harry Khamis, Chair
MVFD Council