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# ATTIC WINDOWS

❖ The Newsletter and Calendar of CFOOTMAD ❖  
The Colorado Friends of Old Time Music and Dance

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**May/June 2009**

**24-hour Hotline: 303-592-3972**

**Denver/Boulder Area**

**www.cfootmad.org**

Colorado Friends of Old Time Music and Dance (CFOOTMAD) Mission Statement: CFOOTMAD fosters enjoyment and promotion of American traditional music and dance. CFOOTMAD welcomes all to participate in community events organized by its members, performers and volunteers.

## PERFORMER SPOTLIGHT – DEB AND THE PARIAHS

Deb and the Pariahs is a contra band made up of Deb Carstensen, Eric Olson, Mark Brissenden and Rodney Sauer. Rodney named the band because he always wanted to be in a band called "The Pariahs." A "pariah" is a scorned, outcast individual, or a musician playing a pariah instrument. Mark plays banjo. Eric is on uilleanne pipes, or Irish bagpipes. Rodney ventures into accordion, although he plays mostly keyboard for the dances. Deb is the fiddler.

Most of the band members have been connected with CFOOTMAD for years in various groupings. They got together for a contra dance, and haven't quit playing together since.

Both Mark and Deb have been musician representatives on the board for CFOOTMAD. Deb says, "We have all contra danced and love it so much that it only makes sense that we love to play for them!" It helps the band know what the dancers want and what music makes it exciting for the dancers to dance.

The band enjoys playing music that moves the dancers up and down the hall, whipping them into a shout filled frenzy of turns and swings. Deb



exclaims, "The energy we put out flows back to us and then grows as it bounces back and forth from stage to dancers. It's great to know that we play a part in a dance that's going well, enabling dancers to escape from the worries of the day into the ecstasy of the dance."

The band members all enjoy performances other than contra dances, specializing in Celtic music. They play for weddings and Irish dances. Rodney and Deb play for the English Country dances. Rodney is very successful with his Mont Alto Silent Movie Orchestra. In addition to banjo, Mark plays fiddle, guitar and bazouki. Besides the uilleanne pipes, Eric plays guitar and sings. Deb teaches fiddle at the Denver Folklore Center.

Outside of music, Deb is a nurse, Eric is a computer programmer, and Rodney is a desktop publisher for scientific publications. Mark is a professional musician!

For the future of CFOOTMAD the band hopes for an ongoing infusion of young people who will carry it through the generations. *By Carol Fey*

## CFOOTMAD NEEDS YOU

As many of you are aware, CFOOTMAD is a volunteer organization. But like me, you may never have considered all the volunteer talent that goes into making the dance you attend a highlight of your week.

Here we go: the dance series coordinator(s) who have negotiated the contract for the hall, booked the bands, callers and sound person; the volunteers who teach the class before the dance; the volunteer dance "angels" who partner the new dancers attending the pre-dance class; the volunteer coordinator; the door volunteers who greet you with a smile and accept your money; the refreshment volunteers, who cheerfully prepare the food in the kitchen, put it out at the break and whisk the empty serving trays away; the volunteers who go to the store to purchase the refreshments or even bake them; the volunteers who fill the water containers and keep them refilled throughout the dance; the volunteer who bought the ice for the water container; the volunteers who stay after the dance to help with cleanup, including picking up water cups, sweeping the floor, emptying the trash and storing the sound equipment until the next dance. One reason that we are able to get the good rental prices for the venues that we have is because of the care taken to leave the dance hall in good condition.

Our volunteer opportunities do not stop there. Volunteers include the Treasurer Sue Horne, Grant Writer Caroline Fuller assisted by Robbi Cartwright, Newsletter Attic Windows Editor Cathie Grow, Volunteer Spotlight writer Carol Fey, Attic Windows proofreaders, Newsletter Distributor Jennifer Rodehaver, Webmaster Ron Bich, Village Arts Coalition Liaison Dave Saunders, Hotline Susan Frontczak and Jerry Olson, Membership Coordinator Thomas Miller, Equipment Coordinators, Coordinating Committee members and CFOOTMAD Board members.

In these times of economic hardship it is being reported that monetary donations are down but there are ample opportunities to donate your time to organizations dear to your heart. If you would like to donate your talents to CFOOTMAD, please notify the dance series coordinator of the dance you attend or a Board member. If you have graphic design or marketing experience, please let us know. Also please share your ideas about how to improve CFOOTMAD.

Thank you, dancers, for your regular attendance at CFOOTMAD events. Each individual dancer contributes in a significant way to the overall dance experience. We know that "word of mouth" is the best way for our dances to grow. Keep on inviting friends and family to come. Also please continue to dance with new dancers. Encourage newcomers to come back and become part of our CFOOTMAD dance community.

*By Cindi Rixey Scott, CFOOTMAD Board President*