
ATTIC WINDOWS

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



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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 – ERIC CURL

Have you ever wondered how a caller becomes a caller? Here's how Eric Curl did it.

Eric became involved with CFOOTMAD just over a year ago when he moved here. He says, "Thanks to the gracious willingness of local dance organizers to book me as an unknown, I began calling local area dances."



Before that Eric called dances in northern California for about nine years. He says he got started kind of on a whim. A friend encouraged him to come to a callers workshop in Sacramento where he learned the basics of contra dance calling. After that he would occasionally call one or two dances at open mike nights. After several years of practice, Eric began calling entire evenings of dance.

Eric says, "One of the most rewarding aspects of calling for me is the interaction and rapport with the band and dancers. Contra dancing is a great social connection and each dance feels like a room full of friends!"

Another strong draw for Eric is the music. He says, "I really enjoy the reels and jigs that contra dances are done to. For a few years I've been dabbling with playing the mandolin and bouzuki, but recently I've been learning the tunes on the piano, which has been even more rewarding."

Eric has great things to say about contra dancing here. "The dance scene in the Front Range is one of the best I've seen. While in other parts of the country attendance and energy seem to be on the decline, the feeling here is of a healthy community. This is due to lots of people at the dances and a relatively good mix of ages, including more young people - our future. I think it helps that the organizers get a good mix of different bands and callers, which keep it interesting for the dancers."

Eric does many non-dance activities, too. When he's not dancing, calling, or jamming, he enjoys hiking, backpacking, traveling, and flying.

Now get ready to let go of your stereotypes about professions—Eric is a mechanical engineer, specializing in manufacturing.

By Carol Fey

NEW HOME FOR MANY CFOOTMAD DANCES

Renovations are nearly complete at the VAC building, called the Avalon, 6185 Arapahoe Avenue in Boulder. CFOOTMAD dancers have already had the opportunity to try out the large 62' x 72' cushioned hardwood dance floor at this new venue. The picture at the right is from the first dance at the Avalon with Wild Asparagus on October 22, 2005. The Boulder contra dances have been held there since November 12, Waltz Nights since December 23rd, and beginning January 8, 2006, the Tea Dances will also be there. Check www.cfootmad.org to confirm dance venues and visit www.villageartscoalition.org for progress updates and to learn how to volunteer to help at the Avalon. It's a wonderful place to dance!

