

**SUGAR ON THE FLOOR BARN DANCE SOCIETY**  
**STATE OF THE DANCE**  
**MARCH, 2006**

Hey Barndancers,

Last Fall I wrote about changes in the Barn Dances. Thanks to those of you who submitted feedback. And thanks to all of you who have supported the dances for the past 11 years.

I have been meeting with Ann Jenkins, Sarah Bradley, and LuAnn Desotelle to brainstorm ideas for future dances. They have been a great help to me; however, the following opinions are mine (if you do not like them):

The Barn Dances have been great overall. However, they have not been frequent enough to let people continue to practice and increase the skills they learn at our dances. So, we want to have dances more frequently. Another issue is the fact that the Barn Dances have been great family activities. This is not a problem and I love to see the intergenerational interactions of young and old. Many of the kids who come are great dancers. I do not want to lose this aspect of the dances. However, I am aware that there are some who want a different dance experience and they have not been served. They want to dance more contradances and do more complex dances. I know that many of these people do not attend the Barn Dances because it is not what they want. I would also like to try to serve their needs.

So, here is what I would like to try: We can have two separate series of dances. People would not be excluded from any dances. All are welcome. Dances would remain, for the most part, alcohol free (some day we may want to have a dance in a place that serves alcohol and though I am not particularly keen on it, I would not rule it out). One series of dances would be called Family Dances and would be held late afternoon or early evening, probably on a Sunday. I hope to be able to use local callers (anyone interested in learning to call and teach dances, please let me know). The Family Dances provide a great opportunity for beginning callers "to give it a try". Sharing the calling at Family Dances makes it easy for all the callers to dance as well as to gain experience and confidence calling a dance or two, and no one has to bear the total responsibility for the entire dance. I want to continue to hold Caller's Workshops when we bring in callers from outside the area. At the Family Dances we would do some "Play Party" dances and simpler dances. We would also do some international dances. This would remain a good time

for young and old. All dances would have a caller and live music.

The other series of dances would continue to be called Barn Dances. They would be held on Friday or Saturday night and would start around 8:00 PM (with maybe a half an hour of teaching dance figures starting at 7:30 PM). We would continue to bring in teachers from outside Door County until we have a solid core of callers locally (even then we would bring in other callers on occasion). The emphasis would be on more complex dances, moving faster through the dances, and doing more contras.

I would like to work towards having each series of dances at least six times a year, more if the interest is there. I want to keep the dances at no charge, but am happy to accept donations.

There are a few elements to having a dance. We need a place, musicians and a caller. We could use underwriters for specific dances (thanks to those who have helped underwrite past dances: the Pinkert Law Firm, Bill Parsons and DC Bikes, the Sturgeon Bay Kiwanis, the Earth Day Committee, the Sturgeon Bay Family Center, the Timothy Foundation, the Southern Door Family Center, Corpus Christi Parents Association, Sturgeon Bay PTG, the Door Community Auditorium, and to all of you who have given donations at the door). Thanks to all the musicians who have donated their time and talent. Also many places have donated their facilities to hold a dance. I will not name them. We have also paid rental on some locations.

So, this is what I need from you:

1. Your continued support.
2. Any donations or ideas about underwriting (we are not an official not for profit organization and I would like to keep costs to a minimum. All money collected will be used to support a growing dance community).
3. Suggestions for making the dances better.
4. A willingness to help out at a dance to move equipment, etc.
5. Ideas for places to hold dances (especially with no rental fee).
6. Spread the word about the dances.
7. Have fun. (Our motto is: "You can't beat fun for a good time.")