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SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

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A stompn' good time to be had at Lighthouse School hoedown

BY MARY LANCASTER INDEPENDENT WRITER

Pull out those swishy skirts, checkered shirts with their "pearl" snap buttons and polish off the stenciled western boots you could not resist but are reluctant to wear on Main Street.



COURTESY PHOTO Square dance caller Cliff Bordeur and his wife Senta will be calling the dance moves at the "Hoedown."

It is "Hoedown" time at the Nantucket Lighthouse School, its second annual benefit event of the cow-poke style that will feature a delicious barbeque by Jim Perelman, music by nationally renowned square dance caller Cliff Bordeur and the Square One Band, mechanical bull rides, live and silent auctions and announcement of winners of the Eight Painted Chairs raffle. All the food and lively do-si-dos and allemandes will take place at The Great Harbor Yacht Club on Saturday, Oct. 17.

"We did this last year, and people had so much fun," said Cheryl Evans, the Lighthouse School's administrative director. "You wouldn't believe the cowboy paraphernalia lurking in the back of people's closets. It all came out last year."

Bordeur, a 40-year country music veteran, has recorded on the Silver Sounds and Red Boot labels, appeared on program bills with the likes of country notables Loretta Lynn, Crystal Gale, Ricky Skaggs and Reba McEntyre and performed with Pete Seeger and Bobby Bare. He first played on the island at a 2006 Land Council benefit and brought his band to last year's Lighthouse School hoedown.

Bordeur has been a full-time square dance caller since he was 18 and met his wife, Senta, at a square dance in 1967. The two perform together, with Senta "getting out there in the crowd. She organizes the people in the squares and pumps up the audience. As a couple, it works really well," he said.

The Bordesurs hail from Pittsfield, Mass. The other five who are coming to the island, of Square One's total 12-member network of musicians, are guitarist Bobby Sweet, who recently toured with Arlo Guthrie; Paul Rice on fiddle; Andy Gordon on five-string banjo; Matt McKeever on bass and Bobby Gordon playing drums. Most are from the Berkshires, with Bobby Gordon based in

the Boston area.

The band will play square dance songs with all their traditional calls such as "This Land is Your Land," "May the Circle be Unbroken," "Rollin' in my Sweet Baby's Arms," and old fiddle tunes including "Boil the Cabbage Down," and "Old Joe Clark."

Jim Perelman's menu will be classic, finger lickin' B-B-Que ribs and chicken, potato salad, corn on the cob and brownies.

"It's very basic, but it's very good," said Evans.

Examples of auction items include a Colorado vacation, a getaway to the historic Harbor View Hotel and Resort on the Vineyard complete with air travel tickets, fine jewelry by Diana Kim England, art by Neeltje Westerlund, a handwoven shawl by Alison Herr, guitar lessons from Andy Bullington.

"Most of the package auction offerings are being donated by parents or alumni to support the school," said Evans.

Winners of The Eight Painted Chairs, with designs created by M.J. Levy Dickson, Gail Sharretts, Julie Gifford, Julija Mostykanova, Lou Guarnaccia, Robert McKee, David Lazarus and Randy Hudson will be drawn at the event. Tickets for the chair raffle are \$10 and will be sold until the night of the event. Winners need not be present.

Hoedown tickets are \$60 for individuals and \$100 per couple. Proceeds benefit The Lighthouse School. For more information call 508-228- 0427.

The Nantucket Lighthouse School is a nonprofit, independent day school founded in 1999 by Lizbet Carroll Fuller and Elizabeth Sundell. It serves students from pre-school age through sixth grade and focuses on developmentally appropriate education based, in part, on the philosophies of Rudolf Steiner to engage the whole child — head, heart and hand.