



Footnotes

Portland Country Dance Community • January/February 2002
PCDC Dance Hotline 503-972-0619 • www.kluberg.com/folknews.html

Be All You Can Be!

By Erik Weberg

I've been asked to write another short article for Footnotes, and the topic was initially to be something about how to dance smoothly, or some such admonition. In thinking about that, it became clear to me once again that there is a very fine line between addressing an issue which has a general standard among dancers and one which is entirely a matter of opinion and style.

For example, it is generally accepted that contra dances work best if folks dance in time with the music, dance smoothly and dance in a way that does not diminish the enjoyment of other participants. Not many will argue with those tenets.

On the other hand, whether a wrist-grip or a hands-across is the proper way to execute a star, whether or not to take hands on a right-and-left through, or how many times a "gypsy" should be included in an evening's program are all matters of opinion and tradition, and that jar of worms is best left sealed for the moment.

I'd like to address the accepted standards in a general sense, and let someone else approach the specifics at another time if that is desired.

So how does one learn to dance smoothly, considerately and with integrity (thanks, Penn)?

First, I'd say one needs to recognize there is something left to learn. Those who claim to be "good" dancers who already know what there is to know are possibly those who need help the most. Look around during a dance and pick out characteristics you admire about people's dancing style. That person always seems to be on time; how does she do that? That person's neighbors are always placed in the right position at the end of a swing; how can I learn to do that?

You've identified some traits you'd like to own; now we

can look at where and how to learn them.

Want to get the feel of dancing gracefully and on time with the music? Try English Country Dancing (ECD). The focus is very much on grace and timing, and you'll get the feel of it quickly. The dances are every Friday in Portland (see schedule). ECD features beautiful, live music and a light, even playful approach to the dancing.

Want to learn some style points more specific to contra dancing? Attend some dance camps where dance workshops are offered. Many workshops address issues such as timing, safe dancing or flourishes. Laura Me' Smith does a workshop titled "How to be the most desirable partner in the room." These workshops are fun as well as informative.

Unfortunately, workshops don't often take place other than in a dance camp setting, but mini-workshops, called style pointers are often included in an evening's program of contra dance. Be sure to pay attention to those when they occur.

Want to change your whole attitude about contra dancing? Attend a Scandinavian dance or a Balkan dance. This will let you remember the feeling of being a beginner once again and will focus your attention on the music and rhythms and footwork.

Don't want to step out of the comfort of the contra dance hall? That's OK. But don't be afraid to go ask someone whose dancing you admire just how they do what they do. Most folks will be happy to offer free advice.

The resources are out there for us to learn to be the best dancer we can be. We first need to decide that it's important to dance well for our own enjoyment and for the good of our community. Then we can choose from the bounty of learning opportunities that surround us.

Dance on, Friends.

Bands With A Different Beat

Afro Shillelagh

Take old-time fiddle tunes, beat in West African percussion and stir with a Celtic stick.

Add a pinch of music from Brittany, Sweden and Quebec.

Mix in marimba pulses, flute melody, driving fiddle, frailing banjo. Pour on funky guitar.

Simmer slowly over a deep groove.

Serves thousands of dancers.

And, they are coming to Portland February 9, at FCC, with Dave Smith calling.

The band features Mark Roberts on guitar, flute, whistle, 5-string banjo and bombard; Russell Shumsky on marimba,



(Continued on page 3)

Dance Locations

BC	Benton Center , 630 NW 7th, Corvallis
BWT	Burlingame Water Tower Dance Hall , SW 17th and Marigold (between Spring Garden and Taylor's Ferry Roads)— <i>no street shoes permitted on the dance floor</i>
FCC	Fulton Community Center , 68 SW Miles (off Barbur, traffic light just east of Terwilliger)
GP	Guthrie Park , 3 miles south of Dallas
KMS	Kelly Middle School , North Park & Howard, Eugene
KOC	Knights of Columbus Hall , 725 Shipping NE, Salem
MAC	Multnomah Art Center , 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. (at 31st)
MFMH	Multnomah Friends Meeting House , 4312 SE Stark
MG	Mountainview Grange , White Salmon. Call 509-386-6461 for address
NG	Netel Grange, Lewis & Clark Road , 3.9 miles south of Miles Crossing at "Logan Road Chapel" sign. Call 503-325-7279 if lost.
PPAA	Portland Police Athletic Association , 618 SE Alder
RG	Rockford Grange , 4250 Barrett Drive, Hood River
SAC	Saint Andrew's Church , SW Dosch Road at Sunset Boulevard (near Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy)
SBEC	Saint Barnabus Episcopal Church , 2201 SW Vermont (about 3 blocks west of Bertha)
SCB	Sunlight Community Center , 6404 SW Barnes Road, Portland

Regular Portland Dances

Unless stated, all dances are open to everyone—experienced or not, with or without partners—and feature live music. All dances are taught. PCDC encourages sit-in musicians (unmiked) at regular PCDC dances at the discretion of the hired band and caller.

- **First Friday English Country Dance, Dessert Potluck and Open Band.** Open mic for callers, and open band for those who would like to play. 7:30 p.m. at BWT. \$7/\$6 PCDC members.

- **First Saturday Cats & Dogs Contra Dance.** UnLeashed! and various Cat bands alternate months with guest callers. FCC, 8 p.m., beginners' workshop 7:30 p.m. \$7.

- **Second and Fourth Friday English Country Dances.** BWT, Beginners' workshop at 7:30 p.m. \$7/\$6 PCDC members. (No street shoes allowed at BWT.)

- **PCDC Second Saturday Contra Dance.** The longest continuously running contra dance in the state. FCC, 8 p.m., beginners' workshop 7:30 p.m. \$7/\$6 seniors and PCDC members.

- **PCDC Second Saturday Family Dance.** The family dance is a dance for all ages. It's a great way for families to have fun together with a potluck following the dance. MAC, 5 p.m., potluck 7 p.m. Call 503-281-2888 or e-mail judith@mediate.com for information. Dance runs October to April. Off in the summer.

- **PCDC Third Friday English Country Dance.** English Country dance is a source of modern square and contra dance style. BWT, 8 p.m., beginners' workshop 7:30 p.m. \$7/\$6 seniors and PCDC members.

- **Third Saturday Contra dance** is organized by Jigsaw. FCC, 8 p.m., beginners' workshop 7:30 p.m. \$7.

- **Fourth Saturday Contra dance** is organized and called by Mary Devlin. FCC, 8 p.m., beginners' workshop 7:30 p.m. \$7/\$6 CDSS members.

- **PCDC Fifth Saturday Contra dance** is an open mic session for callers and musicians. FCC, 8 p.m., beginners' workshop 7:30 p.m. \$7/\$6 seniors and PCDC members.

Out of Town Dances

- **Fourth Friday Scandinavian Dance**, KOC, Salem. 8 p.m. Call 503-364-6713 to confirm.

- **First and Third Saturday Dances**, BC, Corvallis. 8 p.m. Call 541-754-1839.

- **Second and Fourth Saturday Dance**, KMS, Eugene, 8 p.m. Beginners' instruction at 7:30 p.m. For info or places to stay, call Ellen at 541-686-2053.

- **Astoria Old-Time Country Dance**, NG, Astoria. Call 503-325-1082.

- **Hood River Saturday Dances**, RG, 8 p.m. Dances are the first Saturday of every month. Off in June, July and August. Call 541-386-6471.

- **Bend Community Contra dance**, 3rd Saturday at Kenwood Gym, dance "parties" for summer, 2nd Saturday in the fall. Call 541-317-1458, or e-mail kanestdt@bendnet.com.

Get weekly updates about dances in the Portland area by e-mail. Just e-mail Erik Weberg at kluberg@kluberg.com, and ask to be put on the list.

(Continued from cover)

djembe, didgeridoo and bodhran; Shiho Mizumoto on fiddle and viola; and Andrea Cooper on flute, whistle and 5-string banjo.

Mark has been playing traditional music for 25 years. He has recorded and toured extensively, playing 5 string banjo, flute and guitar with the bands Touchstone, The Red Clay Ramblers, The Sevens and The Clay Foot Strutters.

His music has been heard on the Rounder compilation, "Light through the Leaves," and on the soundtrack of the Jon Sayles film *The Secret of Roan Inish*. He has performed in the Tony Award-winning Broadway show "Fool Moon" with Bill Irwin and David Shiner. He played the penny whistle on Don Henley's "Inside Job Tour" summer of '00.

Russell teaches African and Cuban drumming. His performance experience includes touring in Canada with Sarah McLachlan and touring in Europe with the Toronto dance company, Dancemakers. He travels regularly to West Africa to study with his drum teachers. Afro Shillelagh gives Russell an opportunity to play Celtic and old-time dance music on marimba.

Shiho was born in Tokyo in 1970. She studied classical violin from age 6. In 1992 Shiho left a dual career in heavy metal guitar and bartending to be closer to the American fiddle music she loved, in Vancouver. With time, a circle of musical friends gathered her in, and she has played in a number of old-time and other groups these last 10 years. These include Green Acres, Back Porch Stomp, Crooked Shed, Dyad and Afro Shillelagh.

Andrea was turned onto Irish and Southern Appalachian music while living in Toronto. There, she formed a contra dance band with a few friends, and discovered the love of playing for dancers. She continues this passion in Vancouver with both English and contra dance bands. Andrea has also toured through obscure villages with Alaska's fiddling poet, Ken Waldman—she is on two of his CD's, *A Week in Eek* and *Burnt Down House*.

Megaband

A most unique sound is rumbbling on the horizon. That distant thundering isn't the latest storm, but the Portland Megaband rehearsing for its annual dance, Saturday, March 9. And this year, the event will be in a new location, with plenty of elbow room for great swinging (and free parking, too).

Smith Ballroom at Portland State University is large and elegant hall. The all-volunteer Portland Megaband will excite the dancers with a full, and energetic sound using musicians on many different instruments, and at all levels of experience. It will once again approach or even exceed 70 members in size.

Don't miss this unique and exceptional dance!

The Third Annual Portland Old-Time Music Gathering will be January 11 and 12.

Events include concerts both days, music and dance workshops, an old-time song session, and a Saturday night square dance with three bands and two callers (Suzanne Girardot and Bill Martin). Nine local and regional old-time bands are participating in

the festival. For all the info see www.bubbaguitar.com.

Cascade Contraband will be April 12 to 14. It will be at Sky Camp, located along Fall Creek Reservoir, outside of Eugene. The bands are The Clayfoot Strutters and Dave Goldman and Kathleen Tower. Callers for the weekend are Beth

Molaro and Laura Taylor. The food will be provided by Annie Johnson. If you have any questions, see their Web site at www.efn.org/~efs/camp.html, or call Lia Davis at (541) 344-7764.

Remember, you can now run ads in Footnotes—contact Mike Teegarden for details at mike_tee-garden@pmug.org.

The Prez Says:

Here we are again in another new year. Stay tuned for lots of fun dancing in 2002!

Beginning in July, PCDC will be taking over management of the 4th Saturday dance, which has been run by Mary Devlin for many years. This will give PCDC more opportunity to bring great bands and callers to Portland, as well as featuring our own excellent PDX performers. Since the demise of the Friday dance series in September, we've been down to just one adult PCDC dance a month plus a 5th Saturday, open mic once in a while—now this will give us an additional dance to plan.

Also, stay tuned for a special Clayfoot Strutters dance April 15, details to be announced.

Special thought of the day:

"Many people will walk in and out of your life. But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart."

—Anon.

Betty Woerner

This and That

Volunteers Needed

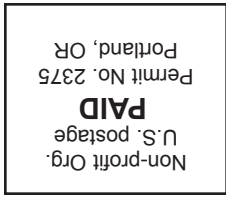
This year's Megaband dance will be at Smith Hall on the PSU campus. If you would like to volunteer for one of the many extra tasks required for this dance, please contact Erik Weberg at kluberg@kluberg.com.

March Open Mic

There will be an open mic 5th Saturday dance in March. All you budding callers and musicians, start polishing up your acts. There will be a caller's workshop sometime before the dance—contact Betty Woerner for details at bwoerner@reed.edu.

Lost and Found

If you attended the Danceable Feast Weekend with Wild Asparagus in November, there is a large pile of "found" items currently being stored by our Eugene colleagues. If you lost something at this weekend, contact Ellen Cantor at cantore@lanecc.edu.



Return Service Requested

Portland, OR 97293
PO Box 14636

Portland Country Dance Community

PLEASE let us know immediately if your address changes. We are charged 34¢ for each newsletter that is returned. And worse yet, you won't get your newsletter. Provide your old and new address. Contact Sue Songer, PO Box 14636, Portland, OR 97293, 503-293-1446, songer@pacifier.com.

This newsletter, Footnotes, is published every other month. If you have a dance announcement for the newsletter, please contact the newsletter committee, or send it to PCDC, PO Box 14636, Portland, 97293. Give a concise description of your event, including featured band and callers, date, time, place, cost, and phone number for further information. The information provided here is as accurate as we can make it, but changes or cancellations may not be reflected in this calendar. We encourage submission of letters and articles of interest to the community. Letters and articles become the property of Footnotes on publication and may be edited. The DEADLINE for the March/April calendar is February 1.

Portland Country Dance Community is a consortium of dancers, musicians and callers promoting country dance and music traditions through regular dances, workshops and other events. Everyone is welcome. Our interests include

American, English, Celtic, Scandinavian and related traditions, expressed through live performance and participation. With this newsletter, we hope to exchange information and share concerns about traditional music and dance. We publish the newsletter every other month and distribute it to members of PCDC and other folk organizations in the Pacific Northwest. Individual membership is \$15 a year (\$12 for seniors), and \$25 a year for families, which provides a \$1 discount at our regular dances and subscription to the newsletter. Donations in excess of membership fees are tax deductible. Correspondence may be sent to PCDC, PO Box 14636, Portland, OR 97293. We are an educational, nonprofit corporation and also a center of the Country Dance and Song Society, a national organization, whose address is 132 Main St./PO Box 338, Haydenville, MA 01039-0338.

The PCDC board is an elected body of volunteers from the community. Meetings are held once a month, and community members are always welcome. Help, ideas and feedback from the community, in whatever form, is necessary to make PCDC events happen. Your contributions of time and support are appreciated. Call any board member for further info.

- The PCDC board members are:
- Ron Bekey 503-293-3122
rbekey@pcc.edu
 - Kaye Blesener-Publicity 503-636-6203
kblesener@plix.com
 - Janene Benfield-Treasurer 503-657-8988
celtic_flame@hotmail.com
 - John Coon/Mary Olsen-Secretary 503-636-6993
john.coon@noaa.gov
 - Dave Hamlin 503-691-1758
dhamlin@campbellgroup.com
 - Eliza Romick-Bookings 503-289-8669
eromick@teleport.com
 - Bev Stewart-Volunteer Coordinator 503-656-9964
bevstewart@uswest.net
 - Mike Teegarden-Newsletter 503-357-5997
mike_teegarden@pmug.org
 - Ken Yates-Newsletter 503-675-0454
yates_bird@yaboo.com
 - Betty Woerner-Chair 503-244-1593
bwoerner@reed.edu

Publicity: John Benecki (flyers)
Mailing list & membership: Sue Songer
(503-293-1446) songer@pacifier.com

PCDC Board Meeting Minutes—November 29, 2001. **Board Members Present:** Janene Benfield, Eliza Romick, Ron Bekey, Bev Stewart, Kaye Blesener, Betty Woerner, John Coon, Mike Teegarden, Dave Hamlin, Ken Yates and Mary Olsen. **The board** approved two scholarship applications. The board heard a report about some floor damage at a Family Dance. The board heard a financial report. The board will review PCDC's liability insurance. The board agreed to hold a special dance with the Clayfoot Strutters in April. The board agreed to take over the 4th Saturday dance beginning in July of 2002.

CALENDAR • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2002

PCDC Hotline 503-972-0619 • www.kluberg.com/folknews.html

January

2nd (We) First Wednesday Beginner Music Teaching Session. Call Charlie at 503-231-0205 for details.

4th (Fr) PCDC First Friday English Country Dance, dessert potluck and open band (dance begins with a teaching session). Lead Caller Molly Libby. Lead Musician TBA. *Bring dance shoes for this hall.*

5th (Sa) First Saturday Cats & Dogs Contra Caller: Dave Smith. Music: UnLeashed!

5th (Sa) Corvallis First Saturday Dance.

11th (Fr) PCDC Second Friday English Country Dance. 7:30 p.m. at BWT (dance begins with a teaching session). Caller: Elinor Preston. Music: Carl Thor, Molly Porterfield and Beverly Stafford. *Bring dance shoes for this hall.*

12th (Sa) PCDC Family Dance. 5 p.m. at MAC. Potluck at 7 p.m. Caller: TBA. Music: TBA.

12th (Sa) PCDC Second Saturday Contra Dance. 8 p.m. at FCC. Caller: Woody Lane. Music: The Nettles.

12th (Sa) Public Square Dance, 8 p.m. at Norse Hall. Callers: Suzanne Girardot and Bill Marti. Music: Foghorn Leghorn, Spud Mountain, Stumptown Revelers. \$3.

9th (Sa) Eugene Second Saturday Dance.

15th (Tu) Third Tuesday Portland Folk Song and Old-time Music Jam, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Call 503-452-9961 for directions/information.

18th (Fr) PCDC Third Friday English Country Dance. 7:30 p.m. at BWT (dance begins with a teaching session). Caller: Molly Libby. Music: Kathleen Towers, Dave Goldman and Paula Hamlin. *Bring dance shoes for this hall.*

18th (Fr) Portland Ceili Society Dance.

19th (Sa) Third Saturday Contra Dance. 8 p.m. at FCC. Caller: Todd Silverstein. Music: Pied-A-

Terre (Dan Compton, Rob Barrick and Fran Slefer).

19th (Sa) Corvallis Third Saturday Dance.

25th (Fr) PCDC Fourth Friday English Country Dance. 7:30 p.m. at BWT (dance begins with a teaching session). Caller: Mary Devlin. Music: Flashpoint (Howard Booster, Jon Berger and Rebecca King). *Bring dance shoes for this hall.*

25th (Fr) Fourth Friday Scandia of Salem Dance, 8 p.m., KOC. Call 503-364-6713 for more information.

26th (Sa) Fourth Saturday Contra Dance. 8 p.m. at FCC. Caller: Mary Devlin. Music: Flashpoint (Howard Booster, Jon Berger and Rebecca King).

26th (Sa) Eugene Fourth Saturday Dance.

February

1st (Fr) PCDC First Friday English Country Dance, dessert potluck and open band/open mike. 7:30 p.m. at BWT (dance begins with a teaching session). Lead Caller Mary Devlin. Lead Musician TBA. *Bring dance shoes for this hall.*

2nd (Sa) First Saturday Cats & Dogs Contra Caller: Todd Silverstein. Music: Calico (formerly Feline Groovy).

2nd (Sa) Astoria First Saturday Dance.

2nd (Sa) Corvallis First Saturday Dance.

2nd (Sa) Hood River First Saturday Dance.

6th (We) First Wednesday Beginner Music Teaching Session. Call Charlie at 503-231-0205 for details.

8th (Fr) PCDC Second Friday English Country Dance. 7:30 p.m. at BWT (dance begins with a teaching session). Caller: Odette Foster. Music: Beverly Stafford, Ellen Hansen and Dave Goldman. *Bring dance shoes for this hall.*

9th (Sa) PCDC Family Dance. 5 p.m. at MAC. Potluck at 7 p.m. Caller: Bill Martin. Music: Nancy Martin.

9th (Sa) PCDC Second Saturday Contra Dance. 8 p.m. at FCC. Caller: Dave Smith. Music: Afro Shillelagh.

9th (Sa) Eugene Second Saturday Dance.

15th (Fr) PCDC Third Friday English Country Dance. 7:30 p.m. at BWT (dance begins with a teaching session). Caller: Dave Macemon. Music: Dave Goldman, Denis Wilkinson and friends. *Bring dance shoes for this hall.*

15th (Fr) Portland Ceili Society Dance.

16th (Sa) Third Saturday Contra Dance. 8 p.m. at FCC. Caller: Luther Black. Music: Jigsaw (George Penk, Dan Compton and Heather Pinney).

19th (Tu) Third Tuesday Portland Folk Song and Old-time Music Jam, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Call 503-452-9961 for directions/information.

22nd (Fr) PCDC Fourth Friday English Country Dance. 8 p.m. at BWT (dance begins with a teaching session). Caller: Nan Evans. Music: Carl Thor, Beverly Stafford and Laura Bissonette. *Bring dance shoes for this hall.*

22nd (Fr) Portland Ceili Society Dance.

22nd (Fr) Fourth Friday Scandia of Salem Dance, 8 p.m., KOC. Call 503-364-6713 for more information.

23rd (Sa) Fourth Saturday Contra Dance. 8 p.m. at FCC. Caller: Mary Devlin. Music: The Nettles.

23rd (Sa) Eugene Fourth Saturday Dance.

March

9th (Sa) PCDC Second Saturday Contra Dance—MEGABAND. 8 p.m. at Smith Hall, PSU campus. Caller: Erik Weberg. Music: The Megaband.