



Footnotes

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

Reaching Out to New Dancers

By Karsten Kelly

We see it at almost every contra dance: A “black hole” in your set from which people seem unable to escape and progress. Couples coming in from the set a few beats late. Neighbors walking in the opposite direction from you when you’re supposed to be balancing and swinging with them.

“It’s because of the new people, and it’s worse in the outer sets!” some say.

This is a common, though not always spoken, contra complaint. Many experienced dancers naturally respond to this by, at the end of one dance, quickly partnering with a nearby known, experienced dancer and heading for the center set for the next dance.

“This way we get better dancing!”

I disagree.

When most experienced dancers quickly pair up with other experienced dancers and aim for the center set, we end up with even more couples, and often some foursomes, with less dance experience than there otherwise would be. These clumps of newer dancers are usually the people lost, perceived as dance obstructions, treated poorly by experienced dancers and not having a good time.

The way to better dancing is for us experienced dancers to make a point of frequently asking unfamiliar and newer dancers from the periphery of the dance hall to dance and to choose our sets randomly.

Is this a matter of generosity, helping newer dancers enjoy their first tastes of contra dance at the expense of experienced dancers?

No, though generosity may be a persuasive reason for some

of us. If each newer dancer had an experienced partner and mostly experienced neighbors to help them along, they would generally be on time and headed in the right direction, and there would be no black holes. The sets would be less prone to breaking down, and the dancing would be smoother and easier for everybody, experienced dancers included.

Is this for the benefit of the wider contra dance community at the expense of the individual partners of the newer dancers?

No. I offer here two completely selfish reasons for each of us to dance with new and unfamiliar dancers:

I dance today because an experienced dancer saw me standing nervously at the side of a dance hall my first night there and asked me to dance. I have seen that first dance partner only a few times, but I can still recall her face clearly. Partnering with a new dancer is our opportunity to be that memory for somebody else.

Most new dancers are nervous and worried about being able to dance at all, much less well. Many times I have asked an unfamiliar person hugging a wall to dance and heard, “I don’t know how, and I’ll screw it up for everybody.”

With patience, kindness, good leading and strong body english from their partners and neighbors, they almost always do fine, of course. Some new dancers stay nervous through the whole dance. With others, however, there is a moment when their nervousness drains away and you can see them relax and start smiling.

I have been to more than a few dances where the highlight of my evening was not the smooth or flashy dancing with other experienced dancers: it was sharing, and knowing I helped make possible, that magic moment with a beginning dancer.

Tips for Dancing with Newer Dancers

- Smile. It helps new dancers feel welcome and relax.
- Offer only polite, positive suggestions for improving their dancing, if you offer any suggestions at all. One negative comment that seems minor to you can seem like a condemnation to a nervous new dancer.
- Minimize verbal suggestions for improving their dancing unless they ask for them or are doing something dangerous or painful. They are probably overloaded just from trying to remember the moves. Show them how to dance well by your example and they will learn by imitation.
- Swing with them slowly and in the traditional ballroom position until it is clear that they can comfortably swing faster or in other positions. Dizziness is probably the biggest cause of new dancer confusion, and slow swings will help reduce this. If they still have problems with dizziness remind them of techniques like keeping their head level and looking at some part of you straight ahead of them during swings.

- Do not twirl in courtesy turns. Twirls increase the dizziness of new women dancers and the question of “does she want to twirl or not” perplexes new men. In addition, courtesy turn twirls inhibit leading into the next move.

- Lead firmly, but don’t push. A strong lead in the right direction gets them started right on the next move whether they remember what to do or not. There is usually not much leading done in contra, but there are plenty of opportunities for experienced men and women to lead newer dancers.

- Provide good body english. Even when you’re not able to lead you can help direct them with exaggerated body movements.

- Be on time. Many new dancers have trouble matching moves to counts of music and crisp timing helps them learn how to do this.

- Warmly thank them for the dance after it is over. You don’t want them to think they disappointed you because they were not “good” dancers.

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.



- **PCDC Friday English Country Dance Series.** English country dance is a source of modern square and contra dance style. We dance every Friday at BWT, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. The dance begins with a teaching session. Tea and cookies at the break! \$7/\$6 seniors and PCDC members. Bring clean dance shoes for this wonderful wooden floor.

The First Friday of each month is an open mic for callers and open band for those who would like to play (bring a folding chair and music stand). Contact Cynthia Stenger, 503-722-4555, for more information.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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. (*Done for the season*)

- **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.

Suttle Lake Dance Camp—Labor Day 2002

Contras, an introduction to Scandinavian dance, music and singing workshops, hiking, canoeing and great food. Be sure to mark your calendars for PCDC's annual Labor Day dance and music weekend at Suttle Lake, August 30-September 2, 2002. Applications will be appearing at dances and in your mailbox in early May, so be ready!

Joining caller **David Kaynor** and the trio of **Lissa Schneckenburger**, **Cathie Whitesides** and **Laurie Andres**, all profiled last issue, will be **Becky Hill** and the **Guppies**.

Becky Hill

We are excited to have this opportunity to welcome Becky back to Suttle Lake, where her appearance five years ago made her an immediate Oregon favorite. A caller since 1986, Becky has delighted contra dancers throughout the country with her smooth calling, efficient teaching and wonderful selection of well-crafted dances. She has published two books of her own dances, many of which have entered the regular repertoire of callers throughout the Northwest.

Becky worked as a special education teacher for 19 years before leaving to devote full time to dance and storytelling. One of her more interesting gigs was as the caller in George Ballanchine's "Square Dance" with the Cleveland/San Jose Ballet in both of those cities, calling old time square dance patten calls to Vivaldi and Corelli—and making it work!

The Guppies

Look at any dance schedule in the San Francisco or Monterey Bay area and you will find the Guppies. This multifaceted trio has been playing together for 20 years, and their name on a dance camp flyer always guarantees a sell-out.

It is easier to ask what instruments **Jim Oakden** *does not* play than which he does. His mastery of mandolin, guitar, accordion, clarinet, bouzouki, dumbek, piano, hurdy gurdy, bombard, banjo and pennywhistle reflects his passion for playing for all kinds of dance, from contras and squares to English and French to Balkan and Breton.

For **Craig Johnson**, performing traditional dance music began with Irish tunes on the guitar and piano, progressed in 1981 to piano for contra dance and English country dance, and finally degenerated to accordion for the Morris. A member of several bands with odd names, he has been on staff at a dozen dance and music weeks and weekends throughout the U.S. and as far afield as Finland and the then Soviet Union.

Kathrine Gardner has been playing fiddle and sometimes piano for contra, square and English country dances and dance camps since the '80s. Voted the sweetest sounding fiddler at California's Lark in the Morning camp, Kathrine always goes for the pure heart and soul of a tune. In addition to playing in several Bay Area bands, she is the organizer of the Hell Broke Loose in Berkeley open band.



Becky Hill



The Guppies

CALENDAR • MAY/JUNE 2002

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Note: All contra and English country dances begin at 8 p.m. with a 30-minute teaching session at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

May

- 1st (We) First Wednesday
Beginner Music Teaching
Session. Call Charlie at 503-
231-0205 for details.
- 3rd (Fr) PCDC First Friday
English Country Dance at
BWT. Open Band, Open Mic.
Lead Caller: Molly Libby.
Lead Musician: Paula Hamlin.
Bring dance shoes for this hall.
- 4th (Sa) First Saturday Cats &
Dogs Contra at FCC. Caller:
Merilee Karr. Music:
UnLeashed!
- 4th (Sa) Corvallis First Saturday
Dance.
- 10th (Fr) PCDC Second Friday
English Country Dance at
BWT. Caller: Phillippe Callens
(from Belgium). Music: Dave
Goldman, Kathleen Towers
and Fred Nussbaum. *Bring
dance shoes for this hall.*
- 11th (Sa) PCDC Dance
Workshop, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at
FCC. Potluck to follow.
- 11th (Sa) Eugene Second Saturday
Dance.
- 11th (Sa) PCDC Family Dance,
5 p.m. at MAC. Potluck at 7
p.m. Heidi Vorst will lead
international dancing. (Last
Family Dance until next Fall.)
- 11th (Sa) PCDC Second
Saturday Contra Dance at
FCC. Caller: Phillippe Callens.
Music: Three Wheeling and
Fred Nussbaum and David
Kaynor.
- 17th (Fr) PCDC Third Friday
English Country Dance at
BWT. Caller: Nan Evans.
- Music: Beverly Stafford, Molly
Porterfield and friends. *Bring
dance shoes for this hall.*
- 17th (Fr) Portland Ceili Society
Dance.
- 18th (Sa) Third Saturday Contra
Dance at FCC. Caller: Carol
Piening of Olympia. Music:
Pied-A-Terre with Eric
Schlorff.
- 18th (Sa) Corvallis Third Saturday
Dance.
- 24th (Fr) No PCDC Fourth
Friday English Country
Dance. Canceled for
Folklife!!!
- 25th (Sa) No Fourth Saturday
dance. Canceled for Folklife!!!
- 31st (Fr) PCDC Fifth Friday
English Country Dance at
BWT. Caller: Mary Devlin.
Music: Carl Thor, Paula
Hamlin and Laura Bissonette.
Bring dance shoes for this hall.
- ## June
- 1st (Sa) First Saturday Cats &
Dogs Contra at FCC. Caller:
David Kaynor. Music: Calico.
- 1st (Sa) Corvallis First Saturday
Dance.
- 5th (We) First Wednesday
Beginner Music Teaching
Session. Call Charlie at 503-
231-0205 for details.
- 7th (Fr) PCDC First Friday
English Country Dance at
BWT. Open Band, Open Mic,
Lead Caller: Elinor Preston.
Lead Musician: Paula Hamlin.
Bring dance shoes for this hall.
- 8th (Sa) PCDC Dusk-Til-Dawn
Dance at Kinton Grange.
Elinor Preston with
Unleashed!; Dave Smith with
The Canotes; Woody Lane
with Pied-a-Terre; Todd
Silverstein with Calico.
- 8th (Sa) Eugene Second Saturday
Dance.
- 14th (Fr) PCDC Second Friday
English Country Dance at
BWT. Caller: Nan Evans.
Music: Carl Thor, Ellen
Hansen and Beverly Stafford.
Bring dance shoes for this hall.
- 15th (Sa) Third Saturday Contra
Dance at FCC. Caller: Mary
Devlin. Music: Jigsaw.
- 15th (Sa) Corvallis Third Saturday
Dance.
- 21st (Fr) PCDC Third Friday
English Country Dance at
BWT. Caller: Dave Macemon.
Music: Mark Douglass & Betsy
Branch. *Bring dance shoes for
this hall.*
- 21st (Fr) Portland Ceili Society
Dance.
- 22nd (Sa) Fourth Saturday Contra
Dance at FCC. Caller: Laura
Me' Smith. Music: Mystic
Spatula.
- 28th (Fr) PCDC Fourth Friday
English Country Dance at
BWT. Caller: Molly Libby.
Music: TBA. *Bring dance shoes
for this hall.*
- 29th (Sa) PCDC Fifth Saturday
Contra Dance at FCC. Open
Mic. Caller coordinator: Todd
Silverstein. Music
Coordinators: Mark Douglass
and Betsy Branch.
- ## July
- 13th (Sa) PCDC Second
Saturday Contra Dance at
FCC. Caller: Dave Smith.
Music: Dragonfly.
- 27th (Sa) PCDC Fourth
Saturday Contra Dance at
FCC. Caller: TBD. Music:
TBD.

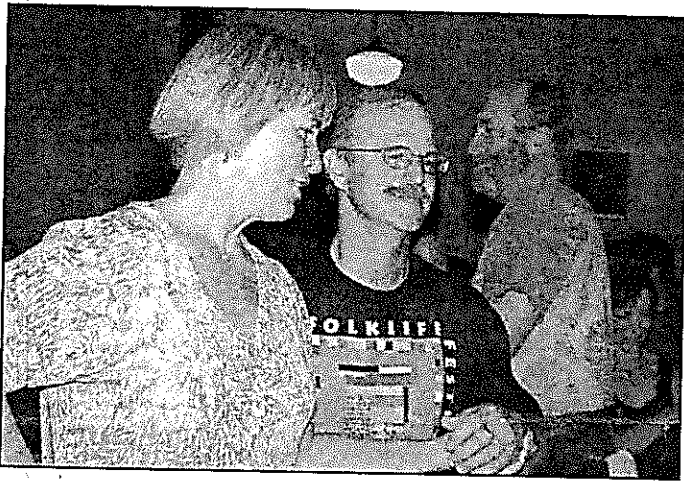


Photo courtesy of Wm Leler

Dance From Dusk to Dawn!!!

Four great bands and four great callers are ready to keep dancers on their toes at the annual PCDC Dusk to Dawn dance June 8 and 9 at the Kinton Grange.

We will kick the night off with Elinor Preston and UnLeashed! from Portland, followed by The Canotes, that genetically matched music duo from Seattle, with Dave Smith calling. Heading into the wee hours, Woody Lane from Roseberg will call with our own Pied-A-Terre. Those bagpipes wake you up every time! And for those hearty souls ready to dance in the dawn we have Todd Silverstein and Calico straight from a gig in Eugene—definitely on a caffeine high!

Please bring a contribution for the potluck—we will need those carbs—coffee and utensils will be supplied. Cost is \$9 for PCDC members and \$10 for non-members. A teaching session is at 7:30 p.m. and dancing starts at 8 p.m.

To get to the Grange, go west on Scholl's Ferry Road, past Washington Square, approximately five miles west of Hwy. 217. The Grange is on the right.

If you bring a water bottle, please have your name on it; we can not take water bottles into the dance hall and are asked to leave them in the vestibule.

Parking at the Grange is extremely limited. Please carpool and follow the directions of the parking attendants when you arrive.

This event requires a lot of volunteer help to happen. See the story below for how you can help.

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held during the evening to vote on new board members. See any of the board members listed on the back page if

you would like to serve on the board, or nominate someone else.

This is an annual event not to be missed! You have not lived until you have danced from dusk to dawn. See you there!

Volunteers Needed

- PCDC needs volunteers to help with the Dusk to Dawn dance June 8 and 9. Help is needed with parking, food oversight and door duty. If you want to help, call Bev Stewart at 503-293-3122, or e-mail at bmaystewart@msn.com.

The Prez Says:

With any luck, by the time this is published the weather will have become a little nicer and we will be able to work and play outside again. But save enough energy for dancing!

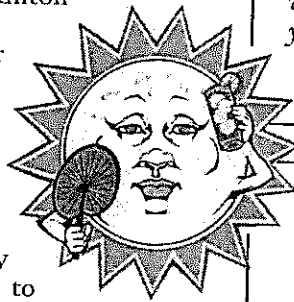
With June coming up, that means the Dusk to Dawn dance is here again, held as usual at the Kinton Grange. See elsewhere in this issue for the lineup of great bands and callers, lasting until the wee hours of the morning (5:30 am). There will be potluck dishes in the basement, coffee to help us stay awake, and lots of fun for everybody. So mark down June 8 and 9 on your calendars!

Betty Woerner

Special thought of the day:

Lots of people will want to ride with you in a limo, but what you really want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down.

Anonymous



This and That

Dancing in the Zone

Don't forget the dance workshop scheduled for May 11, with a contra dance to follow. The workshop starts at 3:45 p.m. at Fulton Community Center. Costs is \$15 a person, which includes the entry fee to that evening's dance. Call Elinor Preston at 503-735-2625 to sign up.

Morris Dance Group Seeks New Members

Join Trillium Morris Dancers! This group of Portland men and women perform ancient English folk dances on May Day and at community events. We will teach you the dances; practices on Monday evenings.

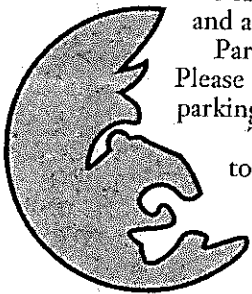
Visit <http://www.eastsidewebsites.com/morris/>, or call Kathryn at 503-234-4594.

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

- PCDC is looking for a volunteer who is well-versed in publicity matters. Anyone want to step forward? Call Kaye Blesener at 503-636-6203.

- PCDC is looking for a volunteer who is well-versed in financial and/or accounting matters. Call Betty Woerner at 503-244-1593.

- Do you have page design and editing skills? PCDC is looking for a volunteer to work on Footnotes. If you can help, call Mike Teegarden at 503-357-5997.



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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 July/August calendar is June 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@pplx.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 503-293-3122
bmaystewart@msn.com
 - Mike Teegarden—Newsletter 503-357-5997
mike_teegarden@pmug.org
 - Ken Yates—Newsletter 503-675-0454
yates_bird@yahoo.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, February 28, 2002—Board Members Present: Janene Benfield, Betty Woerner, Ron Bekey, Mike Teegarden, John Coon, Ken Yates. **Others Present:** Sue Songer, Susan McGinn. **Meeting Process:** The board agreed that if decisions on agenda issues cannot be made quickly, we will assign a committee to work on the issue rather than prolonging the current meeting. **Entry Fees at Special Dances for the Board and Volunteers:** Board members and volunteers attending special dances should donate the equivalent of the difference between a regular dance and the special dance as the entry fee. **Change in Board Members:** The terms for Bev and Mike expire this year and both expect to step down. **Family Dance:** The most recent dance was well attended and there appear to be several possibilities for improving the overall situation for the dance, including change of location, better publicity, and volunteers among the parents to monitor the dance better. **Financial Report:** The English Country dance netted \$1,200 during the last two months. **Insurance:** Based on cost comparisons, we will stay with our own liability insurance rather than going through CDSS. **Nonprofit Status:** Betty will continue to work toward completing our own nonprofit status and check with Dave Vogel to ensure there are no increased paperwork or tax reporting issues. **Reciprocity:** The reciprocity agreement between PCDC and PFS has been completed and Betty handed out a copy of the form.

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