



PCDC Footnotes

March-April 2025

In this issue...

- **The Portland Megaband Dance is coming March 8th—save your spot!** The 75 musicians of the Portland Megaband are bringing their collective energy to your dancing feet on March 8th. This crowd favorite is back at PSU Smith Ballroom this year—click [here](#) for details. Advance admission is recommended; sign up [here](#).
- **Are you a Titanium Dancer? Find out at Cascade Promenade and Portland Roadhouse!** Dance to your favorite wall of sound at the [Portland Megaband Dance](#). Recover the next day with five bands and five callers at the [Portland Roadhouse](#). Train for these two events and earn an Iron or Titanium Dancer award at [Cascade Promenade](#) events up and down the I-5 corridor. But start by reading Will Brown's [article on Cascade Promenade and Portland Roadhouse!](#)
- **Join the PCDC Board:** PCDC Board elections are in June. Interested in learning more about being on the Board? Read Kathy Story's article, "[Join the PCDC Board](#)."
- **Northwest Passage registration starts April 1:** In "[Registration opens for Northwest Passage 2025](#)" and "[Northwest Passage 2025: The talent](#)," Cynthia Stenger gives you the details you need to make your summer plans.
- **What's your jam?** You can choose from several different PCDC-sponsored tune sessions. See: "[Second Thursday Tune Sessions](#)" and "[Monday night jams at the Kennedy School](#)."
- **Registration opens for Westwind Weekend:** See "[Salem Folklore Community's 36th Annual Westwind Weekend](#)" for details on this fun dance and music weekend on the beach!



About PCDC Footnotes

PCDC Footnotes is a bimonthly publication of the Portland Country Dance Community. Article submissions are due one month prior to the publication date (the first day of an even-numbered month, such as February 1st for the March-April issue). For more information, contact Lori Shaffer at newsletter@portlandcountrydance.org.

It's time to sign up for the 2025 Portland Megaband Dance!



The 75 musicians of the Portland Megaband creating their customary wall of sound.

The big Portland Megaband Contra Dance is almost here! You don't *have* to purchase [advance admission](#), but it's recommended. Here are the details:

The Portland Megaband Dance

When: Saturday, March 8, 2025, **7:15–10:30 pm**. Newcomers' session at **6:45 pm** (note earlier time)

Where: Smith Memorial Ballroom at PSU, 1825 SW Broadway, Portland

Admission: \$25 suggested (\$15–\$40 sliding scale). This is a benefit dance for PCDC, with proceeds supporting dancer, musician, and caller development. Sign up [here](#) for advance admissions.

Callers: Laurel Thomas, Rich Goss, William Watson

Music: THE PORTLAND MEGABAND! 75 musicians playing with precision and enthusiasm

For more info and advance admission sales (recommended): portlandmegaband.com



The Portland Megaband plays at PSU Smith Hall on Saturday, March 8, 7:15 pm, with teaching session at 6:45. *Photo: Doug Plummer*

Cascade Promenade and Portland Roadhouse just around corner

By Will Brown, Portland Roadhouse Board Member

The week leading up to the Portland Megaband Dance on March 8 offers a unique dance experience called Cascade Promenade (cascadepromenade.org). Cascade Promenade links together dance events up and down the I-5 corridor from Eugene to Bellingham. Dancers pick up a passport at one of the dances (or print it from the website) and get it “stamped” at the dances they attend. At the final event, the Portland Roadhouse Dance on March 9, dancers turn in their passports for either an Iron Dancer ribbon (for dancers who attend 4 or 5 dances) or a Titanium Dancer ribbon (for dancers who attend 6 or more dances).

The Portland Roadhouse Dance (portlandroadhouse.org) is the traditional final event of Cascade Promenade and a benefit for Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle. This year’s event features five bands and five callers. Here are more details:

The Portland Roadhouse

When: Sunday, March 9, 2025, 12 noon–7:15 pm

Where: Milwaukie Community Club, 10666 SE 42nd Ave, Milwaukie, Oregon

Admission: \$15–\$40 sliding scale

Food: Potluck downstairs; bring simple snacks

Music and calling:

Campaign for Reel Time with Laurel Thomas calling

Hummingbird with Tom Wimmer calling

The Electrodes with Shell Stowell calling

Contra Quartet with Koren Wake calling

Joyride with Noah Grunzweig calling

To volunteer for tasks (small or large): Click [here](#) for the sign-up sheet.

For more info: Go to portlandroadhouse.org, or contact Will Brown, William Watson, Victoria Fox, Carissa Albin, or Ric Goldman.



President's Corner: Join the PCDC Board

By Kathy Story, PCDC Board President

Hey you—join the PCDC Board!

Want to be part of a dedicated and experienced team of fun folks who are committed to promoting dance and music traditions in Portland? Want to get to know folks better and feel like you're giving back to our wonderful community? Have ideas about how PCDC can better fulfill its mission? If so, I hope you will consider serving on the PCDC Board.

What does the PCDC Board do? We develop policy and oversee infrastructure; work with the Contra, ECD, Raindance, and Northwest Passage Committees; promote musician, caller, and sound engineer development; award grants for members to attend dance and music camps and workshops; and host the annual picnic. Through responsible management of PCDC resources, we create a sustainable and thriving organization. We meet every other month, usually in person.

The election of new PCDC board members takes place via email around June 1st. The new term begins at our meeting on June 17th. Board members are elected to two-year terms and can serve for three consecutive terms.

Questions about specific responsibilities and time commitment? Curious about who you would be serving with? Interested in volunteering but not sure the board is a good fit for you? Please contact me at board-chair@portlandcountrydance.org or contact any other board member. You can find the list of current board members [here](#).

I trust that 2025 will bring more opportunities for us to share the joy that is dance and music and to improve our organization. If you have ideas on how to do that, I'm interested! You can always reach me at board-chair@portlandcountrydance.org or see me on the dance floor.



For calendar listings and board and committee information...

For a calendar of upcoming dances and events, go to the [PCDC calendar](#), plug in the month you want to see, and click **Go**. You can customize your view by choosing the category of events you want to display.

For info on the PCDC board and committees: For a peek into the goings-on of the PCDC Board, see the [PCDC board meeting summaries](#). For a list of board and committee members, see portlandcountrydance.org/board-members/.

Registration opens for Northwest Passage 2025

By Cynthia Stenger, Northwest Passage Committee Chair and PCDC Board Member



Northwest Passage English Country Dance Weekend

Registration opens: April 1st

What: A long weekend of great dance and food, including music and singing workshops

When: Labor Day weekend, August 29 to September 1

Where: Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp, Rhododendron, Oregon

Callers: Brooke Friendly and Jenny Beer

Musicians: Roguery (Anita Anderson, Dave Bartley, Shira Kammen, and Jim Oakden) and Idlewild (Clara Byom, Jacob Chen, and Mirinisa Stewart-Tengco)

More info: See below and also nwpdancecamp.org.

Spring is in the air, which means it's time to start thinking about your end-of-summer plans!

A wonderful way to wrap up the summer is to attend PCDC's Northwest Passage English Country Dance Camp on Labor Day weekend. The event is held at the Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp, where the days are warm, the evenings cool, and the scenery spectacular. Enjoy three evening dances, two full days of workshops, two concerts, and a final dance party on Monday before heading home.

Northwest Passage is known for friendly dancers, a high level of dancing, great callers, and out-of-this-world music. This year will be no exception. Our featured callers are Brooke Friendly (OR) and Jenny Beer (PA). We are pleased to bring back Roguery (CA/WA), who last appeared together at NWP in 2012, and to introduce Idlewild (OK, TX, NM). John Oorthuys, our camp sound engineer for years and years, will return and use his wizardry to make the sound fantastic.

While primarily focused on English Country dance, workshop offerings include a musician's track, singing, calling workshops, and, new this year, gentle yoga led by Caroline Klug. Caroline will also lead morning stretches for those who want to join in. Concerts and musical workshops highlight the many talents of our staff in addition to their ECD prowess.

We plan to open registration on April 1. See "[Northwest Passage 2025: The talent](#)," below, for descriptions of our talented callers and bands. Also visit our website for more information about the camp: nwpdancecamp.org.

Northwest Passage 2025: The talent



Brooke Friendly, caller

Brooke Friendly is known for her warm, yet commanding, personality; her clear and concise teaching; her creativity; and her sense of whimsy. A dancer for more than 40 years, she teaches English Country dance and community dance using global/positional language. While she hails from Ashland, Oregon, Brooke has been on staff at weeklong dance and music camps, weekends, festivals, and events throughout North America, England, and Australia. She has led numerous workshops for callers, including online courses, using a balance of engaging material, lively discussions, and interesting exercises. Also a dance choreographer, Brooke, in collaboration with Chris Sackett, has published six books of dances (Impropriety Vols. 1–6) and produced seven CDs with the band Roguery.

Jenny Beer, caller

Jenny Beer calls Philadelphia her home dance community. She leads English Country dancing and occasionally Scottish and contra. A joyful caller, she strives to give everyone in the hall a good time—the long-time dancers, the musicians, the now-and-then dancers, those with high energy, those who are feeling less spry, those eager to experience new dances, and those who love old favorites. Post-pandemic, she has started a new community contra dance series that mentors callers and musicians, as well as an afternoon "Gentle English" dance. And, yes, she crafts a new dance now and again and will bring some of those with her to Northwest Passage!



Northwest Passage: The talent, continued



Roguary

Roguary (Anita Anderson, piano; Dave Bartley, mandolin, cittern, guitar; Shira Kammen, violin; Jim Oakden, clarinet, mandolin, recorders, whistles, and more) formed in 2008 to record *Impropriety*, an album to go with Brooke Friendly and Chris Sackett's first volume of dances. Since then, they have met in Oregon's Rogue Valley to record six more albums. The band's varied influences include English, contra, early music, classical, Breton, Scottish, Irish, Cape Breton, Galician, French, Balkan, jazz-fusion, gospel, Scandinavian, and Greek.

Idlewild

Idlewild is the Southwest's newest English Country and contra dance band featuring the joyous melodic fancies of Mirinisa Stewart-Tengco (violin) and the rowdy grooves of multi-instrumentalists

Clara Byom (clarinet, accordion, bass clarinet, piano) and Jacob Chen (piano, accordion, fiddle). Originally united in

March of 2024 for "one night only," this playful trio brings together The Parson Sisters from New Mexico and Jacob Chen from Oklahoma. Whether playing for an elegant English Country dance or a rowdy contra, dancers are captivated by Idlewild's ever-changing instrumentation, whimsy, and spontaneity.



Second Thursday tune sessions for winter and spring

By Betsy Branch and Sharon Allen



Greetings, dance musicians! Here is our schedule for upcoming Second Thursday tune teaching sessions and quarterly jams:

- Mar 13, 7–9 pm: Betsy teaching in SE
- Apr 10, 7–9 pm: jam (location TBD)
- May 8, 7–9 pm: George teaching in SW

To sign up for these free dance tune sessions, email Betsy at fiddlefrau@gmail.com or Sharon Allen at sharonjeanallen@yahoo.com. You can also email Betsy or Sharon to be added to the Second Thursday tune session email list.

For more information, including recordings and lists of tunes taught over the years, visit the [PCDC Dance Tune Session website](#).



Monday night jams at the Kennedy School

By Kathy Story, PCDC Board President

The Kennedy School Monday night jam sessions draw musicians at all levels. Come make music with us!

What: Jams for all acoustic instruments and levels of musicians, whether you read music or play by ear

Where: McMenamins Kennedy School, 5763 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland (off-street parking available)

When: Contra and waltz jam: 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7–9 pm

ECD jam: 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7–9 pm

Quebecois jam: 5th Mondays, 7–9 pm (other months, location TBA: email pdxqjam@gmail.com)

Additional details: At contra and waltz jams, we play tunes from the *Portland Collection* and Bill Matthiesen's waltz books. At ECD jams, we play tunes from the Barnes books. If you don't have these books, we're happy to share.

Questions? Contact Kathy Story at board-chair@portlandcountrydance.org.

Salem Folklore Community's 36th Annual Westwind Weekend



Westwind is a weekend of music and dance at the beautiful Oregon coast that runs Friday evening, May 2, through Sunday, May 4, 2025.

Campers/participants (including some of the Northwest's finest talents) provide the music, dances, and workshops—there is no paid staff. Check out the [Westwind Weekend website](#) to see the wonderful isolated beach setting of Camp Westwind, just north of Lincoln City, at the mouth of the Salmon river.

Accommodations are rustic cabins; food is vegetarian. Cost: Adults \$195; 17 and under \$65.

Registration opens February 23, 2025, via website or snail mail.

For more information, contact Teal at westwindweekend@gmail.com or Jana at contactjar302@gmail.com (541-342-1850), or visit westwindweekend.org.