
PCDC Footnotes

May-June 2025



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- **Meet the candidates running for the PCDC board.** The candidates introduce themselves in "[President's Corner: Meet the 2025-26 PCDC Board Candidates](#)." Get to know your PCDC candidates before you vote in June!
- **The 2025 Portland Megaband Dance was a great success,** thanks to the scores of volunteers who made the dance possible. In "[Portland Megaband Lights up the Dance Floor](#)," we attempt to name all of these volunteers! (Did we miss you? Let us know!)
- **Space is still available at 2025 Northwest Passage English Weekend:** Don't miss out on this fantastic four-day weekend of dance, music, workshops, and great food. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Do you participate in the Second Sunday Experienced English Dance?** The May dance will be held at the Burlingame Water Tower, after which the series takes a break for the summer. See "[Changes to Second Sunday Experienced English Dance Series](#)" for details.
- **Save the date for PCDC's Annual Member Appreciation Picnic!** Click [here](#) for details.
- **Jams continue during the summer:** Summer weather brings some nice outdoor jam opportunities for second Thursday jams as well as some optional outdoor hangouts at the Kennedy School. See "[Second Thursday Tune Sessions and Summertime Jams](#)" and "[Monday Night Jams Continue through the Summer](#)" for details.



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/.

President's Corner: Meet the 2025-26 PCDC Board Candidates

By Lindsey Grayzel, PCDC Board Secretary

The election of new PCDC board members will take place at the start of June. PCDC members in good standing will receive an email around June 1st with a link for voting electronically. All members are encouraged to vote! Join or renew your PCDC membership at portlandcountrydance.org/membership/. You can download a copy of the PCDC bylaws at portlandcountrydance.org/files/PCDC-Bylaws.pdf.

Kathy Story (board president), Dave Colpo (at-large representative), and Cynthia Stenger (ECD and NW Passage rep) are all eligible for re-election. Mark Swan (Contra Committee rep) has reached his term limit and will be retiring from the board. Thanks to Mark for six years of dedicated service to our dance and music community!

Below, the new and renewing candidates introduce themselves.



Becky Griswold, Contra Committee representative

I've been fortunate enough to call Portland home for my entire life—I'm a Portland native, the product of two Portland natives. My love for dancing began with tap dancing lessons at age 4, continuing with ballet. Later, my weekends were spent in discos and clubs. In the early 80s, I discovered the Stumptown Cloggers and, after taking lessons, happily joined the group. It was through clogging that I was introduced to the weekly contra and square dances, which I loved!

During a 30-year hiatus filled with home renovation, parenthood, and other life events, the memories of dancing and the wonderful PCDC community were never far from my mind. In early 2020, I finally returned to the dance floor—one of my better life decisions! And now I look forward to learning the ins and outs of PCDC and seeing it continue to be an amazing community for all of us. In my spare time, I like to pretend I know how to garden and do home projects. I also enjoy reading, walking my dog and grand-dog, and hiking.

Lisa Scott, ECD Committee representative

Over 40 years ago, I was introduced to Scottish country dancing and soon became a teacher and musician of that genre. Throughout those years, I've played for workshops and dances throughout Canada and the United States, as well as Scotland, Japan, and New Zealand. About 20 years ago, I fell in love with English country dancing and music and have found joy in developing friendships with dancers and musicians.

For several years, I have been a member of the Portland ECD Committee and aim to make decisions for the benefit of the community.





Cynthia Stenger, Northwest Passage Committee representative

I attended my first English country dance in Baltimore, Maryland, in May of 1982. A friend had been trying to persuade me to attend for over a year, and I finally ran out of excuses. To my great surprise, I took to it immediately. Soon, I tried rapper sword dance, Scottish country dance, contras and squares, vintage couple dance, and Morris dancing. My first love was and continues to be English country dance.

The same friend who introduced me to ECD was also the caller and organizer of the local dance series, and she drew me into those activities as well. Before long, I was calling dances and organizing balls. I met my husband, David Macemon, through dance. We lived in Maryland, California, Texas, and Oregon, and in each

location, we found and supported the local dance group through calling and organizing, including restarting English country dance in Austin. I was the manager of the BACDS Mendocino Woodlands English Dance Week for one year and served on and chaired the BACDS Playford Ball Committee. I have been involved nationally as a member of the board of the Country Dance and Song Society of America. I have served on and chaired the PCDC English Country Dance and English Ball Committees. I am currently the chair of the PCDC ECD Committee as well as the programmer and chair of the Northwest Passage Dance Committee. I also currently serve on the PCDC Board as representative for both the ECD and Northwest Passage committees. While now happily retired, in my professional life I worked in the fields of natural resource management and early childhood education.



Kathy Story, at-large representative and current PCDC Board president

I began contra dancing in Memphis, Tennessee, in 2005 and soon was helping to organize our dance weekend. I moved to Portland in 2019 and was delighted to discover the vibrant contra and ECD communities. I joined the Contra Committee in 2020 and was elected chair at my first meeting, just as the world shut down from COVID. Like so many, I was devastated. But the important work of the committee and the friendships I developed over Zoom with other members sustained me.

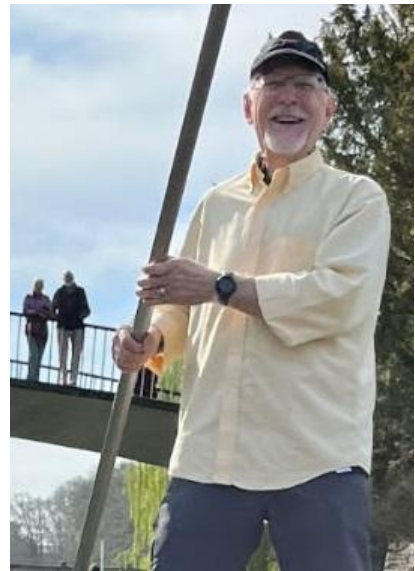
After three years as chair of the Contra Committee, I was elected to an at-large position on the PCDC Board. At my first meeting, I became president. (I think there's a pattern here.) During the last two years, the board has completed the work on our foundational documents, including our *Code of Conduct and Community Standards*. We've initiated a sound apprenticeship program and weekly contra and ECD slow jams, and purchased sound equipment for

Fulton Hall. All our special events are back and attendance at these events and at our regular dance series has returned to pre-COVID levels. With increased attendance and donations from our members, PCDC is much better off financially than we were a year ago.

The best part of being on the board is getting to know the folks—board and committee members, key volunteers, dancers, musicians, callers, and sound techs—who make our community so special and want to share their joy with others through music and dance.

Dave Colpo, at-large representative

I first started folk dancing with international dance, which morphed into dancing Balkan. After a hiatus from community dancing, I was introduced to contra just over 10 years ago by a contra dancing friend.



Save the Date for PCDC's Annual Member Appreciation Picnic



When: Saturday, July 26,
3:00–6:00

Where: Fulton Park

What: Picnic with some food provided by PCDC, as well as our usual awesome potluck, jam session, games, and clothing exchange. This is a great event where you can get to know your fellow dancers and musicians off the dance floor. Please join us!

PCDC's Annual Member Appreciation Picnic is July 26—save the date!



Panorama view of dancers at the 2025 Portland Megaband Dance. Photo by Will Simpson

2025 Portland Megaband Lights up the Dance Floor

By Kathy Story, PCDC Board President



What do you get when 73 musicians, 2 conductors, 3 callers, 3 sound techs, 350 dancers (including 60 newcomers!), 54 volunteers, and one videographer come together to Light up the Dance Floor? You get the 2025 Megaband Dance! Our annual night of music, dancing, laughter, and community on March 8 at Portland State's Smith Ballroom was a roaring success. And in addition to all the fun, we raised \$3300 for PCDC's Community Development initiatives, which include member grants to attend dance and music weekends, music workshops, caller workshops, and sound apprenticeships.

Huge thanks and kudos to Sue Songer, the founder and organizer of this event since its beginning in 1996, and to the band members who put in 16 hours of group rehearsal time and countless hours of at-home practice! Below are the folks who made it happen.

2025 Megaband callers, conductors, sound, and more

Callers

Rich Goss, William Watson, Laurel Thomas

Conductors

Sue Songer (Megaband director), Gordy Euler

Music selection, practice recordings

Sue Songer, Betsy Branch, Erik Weberg

Sound

John Oorthuys, William Watson, Cliff Smith

Megaband website

Bill Tomczak

Year-round assistance to director

Betsy Branch, Erik Weberg

2025 Megaband musicians

Alice Sufka—fiddle

Anita Mortimer—fiddle

Ann Nokes—flute

Anne Duston—fiddle

Anne Heimlich—percussion

Ben Blechman—fiddle

Betsy Branch—fiddle

Bill Tomczak—sax, clarinet

BJ Tighe—fiddle

Bonnie Voss—uke

Brian Davies—accordion

Brooke Tanner—flute

Carl Thor—mandolin

Christiana Biermann—fiddle

Chuck McConnell—fiddle

Claire Williams—mandolin,
whistle

Curtis Roth—sax

Dan Faulkner—fiddle

Dave Hamlin—mandolin

Dave Robison—autoharp

David Blanchard—mandolin

Delona Lang—fiddle

Doug Cumming—fiddle

Eliza Romick—uke/percussion

Ella Smith—fiddle

Ellen Hansen—fiddle

Erica Liebert—fiddle

Erik Weberg—flute, bombarde

Gordy Euler—fiddle, conducting

Greta Hazilla-Dean—fiddle

Hal Day—concertina

Ivan Camacho—mandolin

Jeremy Waterman—fiddle

Jerry Nelson—guitar

John Cushing—guitar

Jon Neff—bass

Kate Lyman—fiddle

Kathy Holley—fiddle

Katie Songer—guitar

Kaye Blesener—trombone

Keith Moe—fiddle

Landon Kuhn—fiddle

Lanny Martin—accordion

Laura Kuhlman—sax, flute

Lisa Bauböck—fiddle

Lisa Scott—keyboard

Lori Shaffer—fiddle

Maria Los—fiddle

Marty Henick—mandolin

Mary Olsen—percussion

Melissa Fischer—fiddle

Michael Kuhn—fiddle

Michael Miller—fiddle

Mike Teegarden—banjo uke

Mike Voss—concertina

Norman Farrell—sax, whistle

Patricia Donohue—fiddle

Peggy O'Neill—mandolin

Rich Goss—percussion

Ron Swick—concertina

Sara Martin—flute

Sarah Hart—fiddle

Sharon Allen—fiddle

Steve Hand—guitar

Steve Wojahn—accordion

Sue Songer—fiddle, conducting

Susan Kuhn—fiddle

Syd Newell—fiddle

Tamara Mattice—fiddle

Therese Vogel—fiddle

Tracy Wisher—fiddle

Van Fister—mandolin

William Mehan—4-string banjo

Megaband musician-volunteers and friend-of-band volunteers

Major musician-volunteers

Erik Weberg	Maria Los
Betsy Branch	Lori Shaffer
Bill Tomczak	

Other musician-volunteers

Anne Heimlich	Sharon Allen	Dave Hamlin
Syd Newell	Laura Kuhlman	Mary Olsen
Doug Cumming	Norman Farrell	Anita Mortimer
Kathy Holley	Therese Vogel	

Friend-of-band volunteers

Tyler Robinson	Teri Kaliher	Ed Lohr
Will Simpson	Jenine Moscove	Mark Douglass
John Coon	Carol Jeanne	Jennie Davidson

Contra committee member-volunteers and helpers

Adrian Mickel, co-chair	Kevin Lane
Carissa Albin, co-chair	Libby Wentz
Amy Lupro	Laura Clor
Alison Saichek	Leonie Way
Becky Griswold	Lindsey Grayzel
Bryce Holt	Mark Swan
Carmen Doerge	Marianne O'Doherty
Caroline Klug	Mary Martin-Nelson
Cayley Buckner	Melanie Speicher
Claire Lynch	Oshi Simsarian
Cynthia Crandall	Paul Williamson
David King	Regina Dana
Dawn Mott	Sam Dana
Haakon Ogbeide	Tyler Robinson
Kathy Story	Yosef Trachtenberg



2025 Megaband t-shirt design by Maria Los

Space Available at 2025 Northwest Passage English Weekend

By Cynthia Stenger, Chair, Northwest Passage and ECD Committees



Join us for 3 nights and 4 days of end-of-summer magic!

What: A 4-day English Country Dance weekend that includes music and singing workshops

When: Labor Day weekend, August 29 to September 1, 2025

Where: Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp, near 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 and registration: nwpdancecamp.org.

Changes to Second Sunday Experienced English Dance Series

By Cynthia Stenger, Chair, Northwest Passage and ECD Committees

The Second Sunday Experienced English Dance series is taking a break for the summer months (June through August). There will still be a dance in May, but at an alternate location—the Burlingame Water Tower. Here are the details for the May dance at Burlingame Water Tower:

What: Second Sunday Experienced English Dance for May (last of the series before the summer break)

When: Sunday, May 11, from 3–5 pm

Where: Burlingame Water Tower Dance Hall (8936 SW 17th Avenue)

Caller: Lindsey Dono

Musicians: Fine Companions (Betsy Branch, Bill Tomczak, Erik Weberg, and Lisa Scott)

Admission: Sliding scale, suggested \$10–\$20



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 (i.e., the first day of even-numbered months, such as February 1st for the March-April issue). For more information, contact Lori Shaffer at newsletter@portlandcountrydance.org.

Second Thursday Tune Sessions and Summertime Jams

By Betsy Branch and Sharon Allen



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

- May 8, 7–9 pm: Betsy teaching in SE
- June 12, 7–9 pm: George teaching in SW
- July 10, 7–9 pm: Backyard jam led by Betsy (location TBD)
- August 14, 7–9 pm: Backyard jam led by George (location TBD)

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 Continue through the Summer

By Kathy Story, PCDC Board President

The Kennedy School Monday night jam sessions are continuing throughout the summer—please join 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: for details, 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.

