
PCDC Footnotes

September-October 2023

Footnotes to transition to new format

Footnotes is changing! Please excuse our growth pains and construction dust while we gradually transition to a new format. The end goal: a newsletter format that is easy to navigate, is compatible with current reading habits, and doesn't break the backs of volunteer editors! We'll link to longer articles and info you may want to revisit ("Danciquette" articles, dance schedules, board meeting minutes) while keeping you up-to-date on upcoming events.

To comment, contribute, or volunteer, please contact Lori Shaffer at newsletter@portlandcountrydance.org and include the word **Footnotes** in the subject line. In the meantime, watch this space!

The PCDC Community Outreach Task Force wants you!

By Kathy Story, PCDC Board President

Do you love dancing to live music and want to get the word out to the larger community about how much fun we have at our events? Do you have ideas about how we can recruit new dancers, encourage former dancers to return, and keep current dancers coming again and again? If so, we're looking for you to join our Community Outreach Task Force! We'll be working on publicity, networking with other groups, hosting dances at colleges and community centers, and coming up with other great ideas. If you're interested, please contact Kathy Story at president@portlandcountrydance.org.

New PCDC COVID policies in effect

Below are the COVID policy changes in effect as of September 5, 2023.

Vaccinations

As of September 5, 2023, PCDC is lifting vaccine requirements. While we will no longer be requiring proof of vaccination, vaccines continue to be effective for protecting against more serious illness and we continue to encourage everyone to be vaccinated.

Masks

This summer, the PCDC board authorized committees to experiment with mask-optional events and recently extended that authorization indefinitely. As a result, contra dances will continue to be mask-optional going forward. English Country dances will continue to alternate between mask-optional dances on 2nd and 4th Fridays and mask-required dances on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Fridays.

Be sure to check dance schedules to confirm mask requirements for dances you plan to attend. When masks are required at a PCDC event, attendees must wear a well-fitted mask. The board and committees thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this time of change.

Joyride, First and Third Saturday contra dances return from summer hiatus

The First Saturday, Third Saturday, and Joyride (first Wednesday) contra dances are now back from summer hiatus. For details, see the *Contra dances* list under *Upcoming dances*, at the bottom of this newsletter.

PCDC Board initiatives: Your input welcome!

By Kathy Story, PCDC Board President

The 2023-24 PCDC Board is working on several initiatives to keep our dance community thriving. Board projects you'll be hearing more about during the year:

- Musician and band development workshops for both ECD and contra dance musicians
- Sound engineer recruitment and training for Fulton Hall contra dances
- Streamlining of membership renewal process
- Other payment options at dances
- Community outreach to new dancers and dance musicians

If you're interested in joining any of these initiatives or have ideas for other items you'd like the Board to address, please contact Kathy Story, PCDC Board President, at president@portlandcountrydance.org.

The results are in: 2023 Role Terms Survey

By Kelly Tabor, Contra Committee Chair

Earlier this year, the Contra Committee issued a new survey on role terms. As with the 2019 survey, the new survey was open for a full month and was announced both at dances and online. All responses were optional and more than 150 dancers responded to at least one survey question. Each and every comment was read.

Here are some of the results:

- Most dancers rated themselves as being comfortable using gender-neutral role terms.
- 39 regular (past or present) dancers rated themselves as comfortable (4 or 5) with gender-neutral terms and uncomfortable (1 or 2) with gendered terms.
- 10 regular dancers rated themselves as comfortable with gendered terms but uncomfortable with gender-neutral terms.
- 27 out of 118 regular dancers reported their role term preferences having changed away from gendered terms since 2019. None reported a change in preference toward gendered terms.
- Many dancers were excited about an uptick in younger dancers and expressed positivity about a welcoming environment.

As for areas to work on, there were multiple comments about anxiety and similar feelings in regards to behavioral expectations and political correctness. The contra committee is working on ways to alleviate this stress, and will pass along new developments in future newsletters or at dances.

Finally, while many dancers felt like they gained something with the role terms switch, there are some that still feel a loss. This is something we want to work on with your help. We'd like to invite you to leave comments and ideas in the comment box at dances. If you'd be willing to help out with implementing ideas, make sure to leave your name!

Register now for the Portland English Country Ball!

It's not too late to register for this year's Portland English Country Ball!

Date: November 3rd to 4th

Caller: Erik Weberg

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

Location: Oaks Park Dance Pavilion, 7805 SE Oaks Park Way, Portland, OR, 97202

Registration: <https://portlandecdball.info>

COVID safety: <https://portlandecdball.info/welcome>

Second Thursday tune sessions to include community jams



Second Thursday tune-teaching sessions, taught by George Penk and Betsy Branch, are now free of charge, thanks to PCDC! This year, George and Betsy are excited to present a new idea for the sessions: every third session will be a community jam in which musicians can play the tunes learned in previous tune-teaching sessions, along with a few other great tunes. Also, look for open band contra dances, led by Betsy and George, that feature tunes taught in the sessions. The first one of these open band dances will be on December 30, at the New Year's Eve Eve dance in Norse Hall.

Here's a look at what's coming:

- **September 14:** Tune-teaching session taught by George or Betsy
- **October 12:** Tune-teaching session taught by George or Betsy
- **November 9:** Community jam (play-by-ear session) featuring the tunes learned in September and October (plus some other good play-by-ear tunes)
- **December 30:** Open band contra dance featuring tunes from tune-teaching sessions

All are welcome at the community jams, even if you've never been to a class. Experienced dance musicians are encouraged to participate in the jam sessions as well. Betsy and George want to develop a body of tunes that participants can play by ear and in doing so, help develop dance musicians in the area. The community jams should be a satisfying experience for all!

All tune-teaching sessions and community jams are underwritten by PCDC and free to participants. For information on signup and locations, see www.portlandcountrydance.org/music-sessions.

To see tunes that have been taught by George, Betsy, and Dan Compton over the years, see: <https://sites.google.com/view/pcdcsessions>

Save the dates!

There are three exciting special contra dances coming up this year you won't want to miss. Keep an eye out for more information as the dates draw closer.

October 3: Countercurrent is holding an album release contra dance at Fulton Hall.

November 14: George Marshall is on tour with the Faux Paws at Polish Hall.

December 30: New Year's Eve (Eve) returns to Norse Hall. We're working with Waltz Eclectic and Blues to bring back three floors of dancing as we welcome the (almost) New Year.

CDSS Executive Committee to meet in Portland

By David Macemon, PCDC Board Secretary

CDSS Mission Statement: We connect and support people in building and sustaining vibrant communities through participatory dance, music, and song traditions.

Above is the mission statement for our umbrella organization, the Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS). One of the ways CDSS carries out this mission is by holding its executive committee meetings in local communities. This year, the CDSS executive committee meetings will be held in Portland, for the first time since the late 1990s.

The meetings are scheduled for October 20–22. In addition to two days of meetings, executive committee members will call and play for the Friday, October 20, English dance and call the Saturday October 21, contra dance. On October 22, there will be a brunch and community meeting at 10:00–1:00. This is a great opportunity to talk about our community, learn what CDSS does, and discuss how we can support each other. The brunch will be held at A Renaissance School of Arts and Science, 234 S. Bancroft Street in Portland.

CDSS (<https://cdss.org>) was established 108 years ago to encourage and teach traditional English and American dance in the U.S. Many PCDC callers, dancers, and musicians can trace their love of dance either directly to CDSS or to the influence CDSS has had in training callers and musicians and supporting local community activities. Did you fall in love with dancing at a PCDC dance? If so, you've experienced the support of CDSS. PCDC has been a CDSS affiliate since 2002.

Past and current PCDC members have served on the CDSS board and on CDSS organizational committees. A (likely incomplete) list of these PCDC members include: Cynthia Stenger (past board member), David Macemon (past board member), Howell Lankford (past board member), Mary Devlin (past president of CDSS board), Nan Evans (past board member), Norman Farrell (current board member), and Sue Songer (Nominations Committee member). Additional PCDC members have attended or taught CDSS events, including CDSS dance weeks at Pinewoods Camp, in Plymouth, MA.

Upcoming dances and events

The following dance information is current as of September 1 and as accurate as possible. For full details and locations, see <https://portlandcountrydance.org/dance-schedule>.

Contra dances

- **Sun Sep 3, 2023, 6:30 pm:** Contra Remix: Gender-free Queer-friendly DJ'd contra dancing
- **Wed Sep 6, 2023, 7:30 pm:** Joyride First Wednesday contra dance with caller Shell Stowell
- **Sat Sep 9, 2023, 7:00 pm teaching, 7:30 dance:** PCDC 2nd Saturday Contra: The Hat Band w/Kelly Tabor
- **Sat Sep 16, 2023, 7:00 teaching, 7:30 dance:** Third Saturday Contra: Heather Pinney, George Penk, and Jess Schafer with William Watson
- **Sat Sep 23, 2023, 7:00 pm teaching, 7:30 dance:** PCDC 4th Saturday Contra: The Electrodes (Seattle) w/Shell Stowell
- **Sat Sep 30, 2023, 7:00 pm teaching, 7:30 dance:** PCDC 5th Saturday Open Band w/Carl Thor & Lori Prime and Open Mike w/Gordy
- **Tues Oct 3, 2023, 7:30 pm:** Countercurrent album release contra dance
- **Wed Oct 4, 2023, 7:30 pm:** Joyride First Wednesday contra dance with caller Jesse Partridge
- **Sat Oct 7, 2023, 7:00 pm teaching, 7:30 dance:** 7:00 pm First Saturday Contra Dance with The Stage Crew and Noah Grunzweig
- **Sat Oct 14, 2023, 7:00 pm teaching, 7:30 dance:** PCDC 2nd Saturday Contra: Riff Raff (Olympia) w/Rich Goss
- **Sat Oct 21, 2023, 7:00 pm teaching, 7:30 dance:** 3rd Saturday Contra: Countercurrent Plus (Olympia) with Eric Curl (Seattle)
- **Sat Oct 28, 2023, 7:00 pm teaching, 7:30 dance:** PCDC 4th Saturday Contra: TBD w/Laurel Thomas
- **Wed Nov 1, 2023, 7:30 pm:** Joyride First Wednesday contra dance with caller William Watson
- **Sat Nov 4, 2023, 7:00 pm teaching, 7:30 dance:** First Saturday contra dance with Contraband and caller William Watson

English dances

- **Fri Sep 8, 7:15 pm teaching, 7:30 dance (MASKS OPTIONAL):** PCDC Friday Night English Dance: Ric Goldman calling with Bill Tomczak, Betsy Branch, Laura Kuhlman, Jenny Peterson
- **Sun Sep 10, 2023, 3:00 pm (MASKS REQUIRED):** PCDC 2nd Sunday English Dance for experienced dancers: Fine Companions and friends
- **Fri Sep 15, 2023, 7:15 pm teaching, 7:30 dance (MASKS REQUIRED):** PCDC Friday Night English Dance: David Macemon calling with Erica Liebert, Ron Dann, Lisa Scott
- **Fri Sep 22, 2023, 7:15 pm teaching, 7:30 dance (MASKS OPTIONAL):** PCDC Friday Night English Dance: Erik Weberg calling with Eric Liebert, Lori Shaffer, Meg Tapley, Sue Songer

- **Sun Sep 24, 2023, 3:00 pm** (MASKS OPTIONAL): Portland Ball Workshop. Erik Weberg calling with Bill Tomczak and Lisa Scott
- **Fri Sep 29, 2023, 7:15 pm teaching, 7:30 dance** (MASKS REQUIRED): PCDC Friday Night English Dance: Cynthia Stenger calling with Leslie Hirsch, Laura Kuhlman, Rich Scher
- **Fri Oct 6, 2023, 7:15 pm teaching, 7:30 dance** (MASKS REQUIRED): PCDC Friday Night English Dance: David Macemon Calling with Lisa Scott, Leslie Hirsch, Laura Kuhlman, Ron Dann
- **Sun Oct 8, 2023, 3:00 pm** (MASKS REQUIRED): PCDC 2nd Sunday English Dance for experienced dancers: Fine Companions and friends
- **Fri Oct 13, 2023, 7:15 pm teaching, 7:30 dance** (MASKS OPTIONAL): PCDC Friday Night English Dance: Erik Weberg Calling with Erica Liebert, Meg Tapley, Landon Kuhn, Lisa Scott
- **Sun Oct 15, 2023, 3:00 pm** (MASKS REQUIRED): Portland English Ball Workshop: Erik Weberg calling with Betsy Branch, Bill Tomczak Erik Weberg and Lisa Scott
- **Fri Oct 20, 2023, 7:15 pm teaching, 7:30 dance** (MASKS REQUIRED, DIFFERENT LOCATION): PCDC Friday Night English Dance: Members of the CDSS Exec committee Calling with Norman Farrell, Michael Bean, Robbin Marcus, Erica Liebert
- **Fri Oct 27, 2023, 7:15 pm teaching, 7:30 dance** (MASKS OPTIONAL): PCDC Friday Night English Dance: Cynthia Stenger Calling with Erica Liebert, Meg Tapley, Landon Kuhn, Carl Thor
- **Sun Oct 29, 2023, 3:00 pm** (MASK OPTIONAL): Portland Ball Workshop. Erik Weberg calling with Betsy Branch, Bill Tomczak Erik Weberg and Lisa Scott
- **Fri Nov 3, 2023 – Sat Nov 4, 2023**: PCDC Portland English Country Ball Weekend 2023

Contra tunes teaching and jam sessions

- **Thu Sep 14, 2023, 7:00 pm**: Contra tunes teaching session
- **Thu Oct 12, 2023, 7:00 pm**: Contra tunes teaching session
- **Thu Nov 9, 2023, 7:00 pm**: Contra tunes community jam