

Dance Star

Volume 1 Number 1

May - July 1989

Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

FORM CONTRA LINES

Hands four from the top, head couples cross over, and welcome to the first edition of the *Dance Star*, the new quarterly newsletter devoted to the **Santa Barbara Country Dance Society** (SBCDS). It has been designed to keep you informed of upcoming dances and related activities such as dance camps, concerts, potlucks, etc., and to help increase the sense of community in our dance society. SBCDS is expanding like never before with over 800 smiling faces and dancing feet we hope that *Dance Star* will help strengthen this growing circle of friends and bring us all together.

It's shaping up to be a wonderful summer; not only have we arranged for the weather to be beautiful and all your dances to be joyous, but we have some fun activities planned to make this a memorable season. For starters this is the first year that Santa Barbara is having its own County Fair and Expo and we have an opportunity to bring contra dancing to the fair. So if you plan to attend the fair, be sure to be there Saturday, April 29, at 3:30 pm, in the main pavilion of Earl Warren Showgrounds so you can join in the dance and fun!

On April 30, come to a previously unannounced Contra-Consciousness Raising workshop and challenging dance party. The workshop will be from 1:30 - 10:00 pm, with a dinner break from 5:00 to 7:00. Erik Hoffman will lead along with Michael Mendelson, and Carl Magagnosc of the Tecolote Tune Twisters. Come stretch your limits!

Then in May, the fancy foot work classes of Linelle Glass' Appalachian Clogging Workshop completes two more nights of foot stomping pleasure.

June fourth signals the return of one of the country's most entertaining and enjoyable callers, the inimitable Fred Park accompanied by the show stopping-music of Mark Mueller and Leon Bumanglag. This will be a very special evening with contras

THE ART OF BEING INACTIVE

As the contra dance movement is growing, there are trends that are occurring in the style of dances that are being done. One of these trends is a tendency towards dances in which everyone moves all the time. In these dances, often the only difference between being "active" and "inactive" is the direction of migration up and down the line. Still, most of the historical and many of the modern dances do have distinct differences between the roles of the number one couples and the number two couples.

Historically many of the dances were choreographed with plenty of time for standing around. This was probably due both to the styles of clothes of the period and the community spirit of the dances. During



these dances people could chat, and catch up on the news of the day. In contra lines and squares, people of different classes were equalized. On the dance floor people could converse across social castes.

Now that we have an aerobic society, standing around often seems to cause a grumble from the dancers. Instead of grumbling, what can be done? Many things, some practical, some fun. On the practical side, while the active couples parade down the center or down the outside, and the inactives wait, you can make sure your lines are straight and you are not too far away from the next couple. This is a very important role. It helps insure the smooth flowing of the dance. Also, you can be prepared for the next move. If it's an allemande or cast-off you can get your sights on who should be coming your way, with the proper appendage put forth. This may often save an active

couple who forgot where they should be.

On the fun level, you can always keep moving. If active couples are going down the center, you can stroll up the outside. If actives are going down the outside you can step in the center, reach out and touch your partner. People have been known to play patty-cake. Of course you can always clog in place. Move your feet!

Then there are eyes. It's great fun to make eyes with your partners while looking across the line. One of the greatest joys of dancing is giving weight. When weight is given with the eyes it can close the greatest distance.

It is often wonderful to just spend time getting to know dancers visually. Watching the actives dance is a great pastime, and you can gain useful insights into dance styles or just learn who you might want to ask for the next dance.

Then there is "cheating". The most common form of cheating is to catch an illicit swing with your partner (or someone else!). I find myself bound to not reveal trade secrets of cheating other than to mention the two cardinal rules of cheating:

Rule one: **Be on time**, ready to carry out the next move of the dance!

Rule two: Do not cheat in a way that interrupts the flow of the dance! (I was once calling a dance with no partner swing. It did have "long lines go forward and back" two times in a row. One couple decided to go forward once and swing, creating an ugly discontinuity in the lines. Not nice!!)

Take the incentive to enjoy old and new dances. When you find yourself digging in for a long line of being inactive, have fun. Wink at your partner, make sure your lines are straight and tight, steal a swing, move your feet, and dance! It's up to you to have fun; remember, there are no boring dances, just bored dancers.

- Erik Hoffman

HANDS FOUR

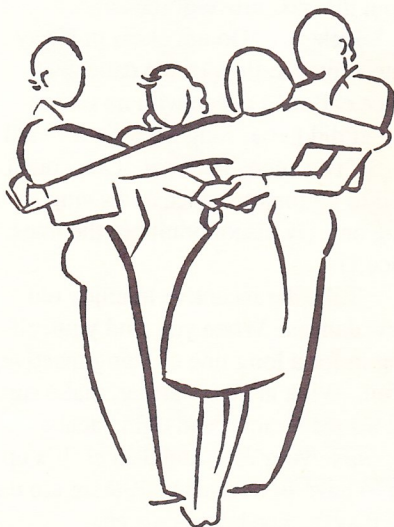
and squares the likes of which you've never seen, story telling and uplifting music. So bring a friend and be sure not to miss this one.

If you can't get enough of Fred Park in one evening do not fear, Fred and the gang will be in Ventura on Friday June 2, and San Luis Obispo on Saturday June 3. In San Luis, Fred will not only call the evening dance, but he will lead an afternoon workshop as well! Call Aaron, (805) 541-6794, or Bill, (805) 544-2741, for details.

On June 17, join us for fun and play at a pre-dance potluck and picnic in Oak Park. It will be a great opportunity to spend some time with local and out of town friends. So if you are one of the folks who has to rush off right at the end of the dance because of the long drive home then this is your chance to come into town a few hours early and spend the afternoon sharing food and having fun with all those people you've been wishing you could spend more time with. For more info call Shane at (805) 683-1308.

The Dance Star newsletter can be as big, useful, and entertaining as we make it; your input is the key. We want to hear from you! Send us your comments, announcements, quotes, poems, art work or anything you think might interest our dance community. We're entering into an exciting time filled with music, dance, and sharing. So let's put our hearts together, our best foot forward, and our hands in for a great *Dance Star*. Send anything to *Dance Star*, c/o SBCDS, PO Box 21904, Santa Barbara, CA, 93121.

- Shane Butler



PARENTS & CHILDREN

I love the sense of community I find at our contra dances. It is wonderful that there are dancers from eight to eighty and it's a joy to have younger ones playing about. The sense of family that comes from many generations present is a feeling I cherish. But at times the children are a problem.

It is the responsibility of the parents who bring their children to make sure their children play safely, and don't get in the way of the dancers. Most of the children are good about this.

Once in a while some young people get a little wild, play precariously on the balcony, run in the street, tear up plants outside, or wander aimlessly, or purposely, into the middle of a contra line. Often it is whoever is at hand who takes responsibility at this time, trying to inhibit these wild tendencies

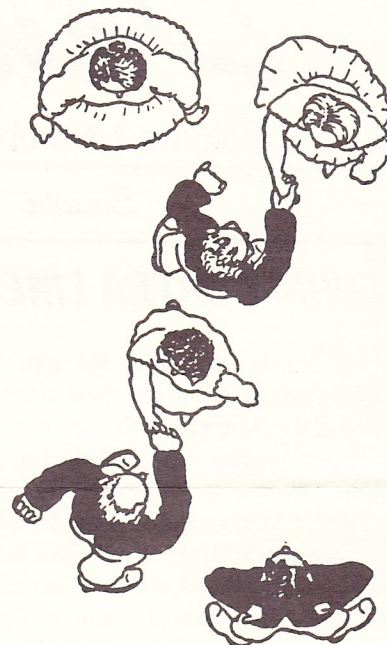


while locating the parents of the more boisterous children. So, I'd like to make a suggestion, a call to all parents:

Why not set up child care at the dances? Just a few parents could get together to make sure there was a person to care for children at the dances. We could arrange to rent the Baylor room next to the dance hall, and parents could bring their children with them for a night on the town.

This could be done in at least one of two ways. Parents could have a childcare fund. If all parents shared in the cost of Baylor Room rental and the hiring of a person to watch over the children who come, the cost could be kept low. Another possibility would be for parents to take turns being responsible for the young people, each taking turns sitting out a dance to watch children. Not too many dances would be missed.

I'm sure there are other ideas too. But something needs to be done. SBCDS needs a few parents to get together to think about this and carry out a plan. I will be glad to be the initial contact person, so if you are willing, call me, Erik, (805) 969-9777, and I'll put you in touch.



HELPING HANDS

Do you want to have more fun in the Country Dance Community? We all know that dancing with each other is one great way to have fun. Many of us have found another great way to have fun is by working together. If you are looking for a way to get to know other dancers better and a way to "recycle" some of the energy and pleasure you get from the dances here are some things you can do:

- Be part of the rotating group of volunteers who fill the three positions that make each dance possible; Dance Coordinator, Assistant Dance Coordinator, or Door Helper. You help with opening up and closing down, or doorkeeping. In exchange for about an hour and a half of work, you get in free to the dance.

- Be our Bulk Mail Coordinator. Organize our newsletter mailing parties and carry out the bulk mail details at the post office. We do this four times a year. For about four and a half hours of work and fun (our mailing parties have been lots of fun!) you receive 3 dance passes.

- We are also looking for someone with typing skills to help out a few hours a quarter putting the *Dance Starr* newsletter together, and if you have access to a Macintosh computer that would be an added plus.

For more information call Autumn Brook, 964-0266.

A FAREWELL LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I take my leave of Santa Barbara and my role here as president of SBCDS, I am especially happy for the opportunity to make note of several transitions and passages in our dance community, and to highlight some of the contributing factors and folks in the process. This very opportunity is made possible by one of these manifestations of change: the evolution of our simple calendar into the newsletter you hold in your hands. This passage to a new format both marks and complements another transition, in the form and structure of the SBCDS Coordinating Committee (Board) and Volunteer Corps. Both of these changes together are, in turn, reflections of our burgeoning community of dancers.

Attendance at dances has doubled in the past two years, most steadily in the past year. To what can we attribute this phenomenon? I suspect there are a number of factors, interplaying with each other. Is it because, as an experiment a year ago, we increased the frequency of our dances to three times a month from two, so dancers dancing more often increased their pleasure as well as their proficiency? Is it that we decided to use the sensational, unbeatable Carrillo Ballroom year round, rather than winters only, while still keeping our monthly outdoor starstruck summer dances at Oak Park? Could it be that in our publicity releases, we now call our events Old Time Barn Dances rather than Old Time Country Dances, so the general public can have a more accurate and accessible image of what we do as distinct from C & W, pettycoats, or cowboy boots? Or is it the decidedly more consistent quality of performances offered by our local callers and musicians? The additions of a beginners' class so new dancers feel more comfortable, welcome and willing to return? And - not to be missed - the hard work and cheerful attitudes by all the volunteers who are the support structure for the dances to occur at all. Then there is the famous friendliness of the Santa Barbara Contra-dance community. Those of us who have travelled to dances in other parts of the state or country are well aware of the distinct sweet flavour of welcome and inclusiveness here.

I'm sure our increased popularity and flourishing feeling of community is a synthesis of any and all of these factors, and perhaps most fundamentally, that this dance form is essentially easy and fun! I've begun to wonder if there is an undiscovered law of quantum contra dances that accounts for the apparent correlation of heightened collective enjoyment upon reaching critical mass in attendance. Well, perhaps further research data are needed for full development of a Unified Dance Theory, but whatever the factors in this equation, the sum total is very encouraging. I leave with a profound appreciation for the people who pull it all together, and encourage you too to take part in co-creating the unique and exciting experience of these events. Speaking from experience, it's an opportunity not to be missed!

- Emily Flouton

Note: Emily, who started volunteering five years ago, has served as SBCDS President for the past two and a half years. As she follows her dance star to Oakland and the Bay Area Country Dance Society, our loss is their gain. We wish her the best!

- The Editors

The *Dance Star* is published quarterly by the Santa Barbara Country Dance Society. Please address all correspondence to SBCDS, PO Box 21904, Santa Barbara, CA 93121, (805) 969-1511. The editors are Shane Butler and Erik Hoffman, with help from lots of friends.

DANCE CAMP FEVER

It's that time of year again, time to schedule your summer dance camp activities. As this is our first issue of *Dance Star*, at press time the editors do not have all the summer dance camp information compiled, but here is a smattering.

There is, of course, Mendocino Country Dance Camp featuring both English and American dance. The dates are July 22-29. Then Lark in the Morning featuring music and dance from around the world follows, July 28 - Aug 6.

In Port Townsend, in early July, there is Fiddle Tunes. On the East Coast, the Country Dance & Song Society holds camps at Pinewoods all summer long. There are so many camps, one could attend all summer long! If you want to find out about other camps, leave a message at (805) 969-1511 and we will get back to you.

About KCBX

Our local public radio station, KCBX, has been very supportive of our local dances. They have extended support by consistently letting their listeners know of our dances. We now would like to return the favor by letting you know of their wonderful folk and world music programming. So here goes:

Tues. 8 - 10 pm: Jerry Conway's progressive country show, *Pickin' up the Tempo*.

Thurs. 8 - 10pm: Duane English does *Basically Bluegrass*.

Sat. 12 - 1 pm: Chris O'Connell with Music of the Worlds People.

Sat. 1 - 3pm: Join Chris Anderson, Jim Mueller, and Haila Hafley with *The Minstrel Song Show*.

Sat. 3- 3:30 pm: *Riders Radio Theater* brings their antics to the airwaves.

Sat 3:30 - 4 pm: Jim Mueller plays great old time music on *Ragged but Right*.

Sat. 4 - 5 pm: *Sandy Bradley's Potluck* with the Great Sandy Bradley and the Small Wonder String Band!

My favorites are *Ragged but Right* and *Sandy's Potluck*. Every time I hear Sandy and the Canote twins in my car I find myself pulling off to the side of the road and writing them a postcard. Some of you may recall what a great time we had when Sandy and the Twins were our featured staff at the 1987 Harvest Moon Dance Festival. At that time we petitioned KCBX to carry Sandy's show. You can let KCBX know of your appreciation by calling 1-800-223-4564, or in San Luis, (805) 544- 5229. Tax deductible donations can be sent to KCBX, 4100 Vachel Ln., San Luis Obispo, CA, 93401.

Anyway, KCBX can be found on your FM dial at 89.9 for Santa Barbara; 90.9 for Goleta and Santa Ynez Valley; and 90.1 for San Luis and the north county.

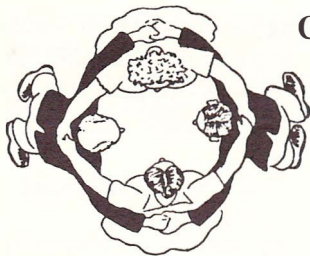
Also, listen to KCSB, 91.9 FM and KPFK, 90.7 for more alternative programming with good folk shows. More on them next newsletter.

- Erik Hoffman

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Lost or found something at a dance?
Interested in Old Time Music Jams?
Call Erik Hoffman, (805) 969-9777

The Santa Barbara Country Dance Society is a center of the Country Dance and Song Society of America (CDSS) which was founded in 1915 to preserve, promote, study, teach, and enjoy our English and American dance, music and song heritage. We encourage you to support CDSS by becoming a member. Members receive a bimonthly national newsletter, a yearly scholarly publication, and discounts from the CDSS Store of records, tapes, CD's, and books. Look for applications at our dances or write or call CDSS at:



Country Dance And Song Society of America
17 New South St.
Northampton, MA, 01060
(413) 584-9913




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The Santa Barbara Country Dance Society
Invites You To An

OLD TIME BARN DANCE

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Child Abuse Listening & Mediation, Inc.

Featuring a live String Band:
"Kitchen Junket"

Caller **Carl Magagnosc** will teach and prompt
New England contradances, old-time square dances,
plus some good old couple dances such as waltzes and polkas.

- The finest dance floor in the West
- All dances taught
- Easy to learn, fun and friendly
- No experience needed
- Singles or couples welcome
- Comfortable clothes suggested

The evening will begin at **6:30 pm** with a Beginners' Class,
followed by the dance from 7 to 10.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1989

\$5.00 at the door

Carrillo Ballroom, 100 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara

Info: (805) 969-1511 or 965-2376

Old Time Barn Dance Calendar

May - July 1989

Come dance on the finest dance floor in the West at the Carrillo Ballroom or under the stars at Oak Park. Join the fun! Dance to the irresistible rhythms of a live old-time string band. We'll do the flowing contra dances of New England, the colorful square dances of the Old West, plus a few old-time couple dances such as waltzes & polkas.

BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP: We hold a beginners' class before each dance! Come at 6:30 to learn the basic moves. No prior experience is necessary as all dances are taught and prompted. Wear comfortable clothes. Generally dances become more challenging as the evening progresses.

LOCATION: CB: Carrillo Ballroom, 100 East Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara.
OP: Oak Park dance platform, Junipero at Calle Real.

TIMES and ADMISSION: Beginners' class, 6:30; Dance, 7-10 pm. All dances \$4.00 unless otherwise noted.

PHONE: For the latest dance information call: (805) 969-1511.



Sat. Apr 29	EW	Come join us at the Santa Barbara County Fair & Expo for a short dance and demonstration, 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Earl Warren Showgrounds.
	OP	Then come to Oak Park for an evening dance under the stars, with Erik Hoffman and the Growling Old Geezers.
Sun. Apr 30	CB	Raise your contra-consciousness at an afternoon workshop and an evening of challenging contras with Erik Hoffman and the Tecolote Tune Twisters.. The workshop starts at 1:30 and ends at 10pm with a 2 hour break for dinner. In room 3, \$7.
Sun. May 7	CB	Linelle Glass' Appalachian Clogging Class continues with lesson 2. Room 3, 5:30 - 6:30, \$3. Then dance follows with Erik Hoffman and the Tecolote Tune Twisters.
Sun. May 14	CB	English Dancing with Nancy Bourgeois and friends. Open Band, guest callers welcome. 1 - 4 pm. Room 3. \$2.
Sun. May 21	CB	Linelle Glass' Appalachian Clogging Class continues with the third and final lesson of this series. Room 3, 5:30 - 6:30, \$3. Then again, a dance follows with Carl Magagnosc and tunes by Dan & Sandy's Old Time Music.
Sat. May 27	OP	Erik Hoffman and the TBA band.
Sun. June 4	CB	The Inimitable Fred Park Returns! With national resource, Mark Mueller and Leon Bumanglag playing tunes. \$5.
Sun. June 11	CB	English Dancing with Nancy Bourgeois and friends. Open Band, guest callers welcome. 1 - 4 pm. Room 3. \$2.
Sat. June 17	OP	Enjoy a Pre Dance Potluck & Picnic in the park! Bring frisbees and food to share, 4 pm. Then dance to the calling of Carl Magagnosc with Kitchen Junket.
Sun. June 25	CB	Carl Magagnosc with tunes by Dan & Sandy's Old Time Music.
Sun. July 9	CB	English Dancing with Nancy Bourgeois and friends. Open Band, guest callers welcome. 1 - 4 pm. Room 3. \$2. Then Contra Dance that evening with Erik Hoffman and the Fabulous Rang Tang's.
Sat. July 22	OP	Drew Tronvig and the Tecolote Tune Twisters.
Sun. July 30	CB	Carl Magagnosc and the Growling Old Geezers.

OTHER DANCES: Ojai Art Center: May 28, June 16
SLO: 2880 So. Broad St.: May 13, June 3, June 10, July 8
Ventura: EP Foster School, 20 Pleasant Place, May 12, June 2, June 9
For Information call Erik Hoffman (805) 969-9777