

Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

dance star

Volume 10 Number 1 Summer 1999

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Read Me First!



Sprung Floor Dance Festival
 Saturday, May 29, at Oak Park, 2-10 p.m.
 Sunday, May 30 at the Carrillo Ballroom,
 1 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Saturday starts with a free contra dance, 2-5 p.m., then a Potluck Dinner at 5 p.m. Our under-the-stars contra dance at the park (7-10 p.m., \$7) features our Sprung Floor headliners, beloved caller **Charlie Fenton** with highly accomplished guitarist and tunesmith **Larry Unger** and Scottish Fiddle Champion **Elke Baker**.

The Saturday free dance depends on volunteer musicians to play in the open band and volunteer callers. To play, please contact Andy Cameron, acameron@its.caltech.edu or 626 395-8421. To call, please contact Don Ward, dward@loop.com or 818 353-8052. Saturday after the dancing head to Rusty's Pizza on Carrillo (at Bath) and go upstairs for a musician's jam. Order pizza, etc. downstairs.

Sunday springs to life on the Sprung Floor at 1 p.m. Come early and get your full \$25 worth of fun (at least). Except for occasional breaks for band changes, etc., and a dinner break, there'll be dancing full time in the ballroom until 1 a.m. Also check out the workshops in the side rooms.



Local Highlights

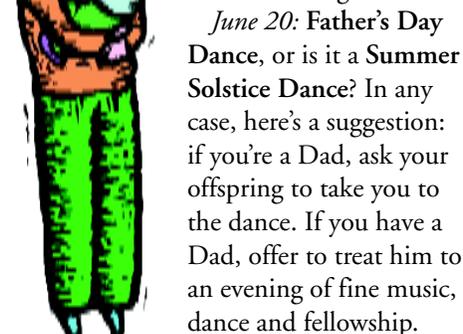
June 1: English Country Dance. Live music by **Linelle Glass** (fiddle), **John Sonquist** (piano) and **Robert Winokur** (recorder and tin whistle). Oak Park, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$5. Call 682-5523 or visit <http://www.rain.org/~gshapiro/sbfd/>.

June 8 and every Tuesday through Sept. 7: English Country Dances as above, some

with recorded music, some with live music. When recorded music is used, admission is only \$1-2.

June 18-20: KCBX Live Oak Music Festival. Great mostly acoustic music, optional camping.

June 18-20: KCBX Live Oak Music Festival. Great mostly acoustic music, optional camping. kcbx@slonet.org or 805 781-3030 or visit <http://www.kcbx.org>.



June 20: Father's Day Dance, or is it a **Summer Solstice Dance?** In any case, here's a suggestion: if you're a Dad, ask your offspring to take you to the dance. If you have a Dad, offer to treat him to an evening of fine music, dance and fellowship.

June 25-27: CTMS

Folk Music, Dance and Storytelling Festival. A Southern California treasure returns to Soka University in Calabasas after a painful two-year absence. Such a variety of activities, including a full-time contra dance floor, two other dance floors, music and instrument workshops, music to listen to, storytelling workshops, stories to listen to, a serene lake to sit by, crafts booths and an instrument consignment booth. ctms@lafn.org or 818 342-7664.

June 27: post-CTMS contra dance under the stars at Oak Park. A cool and lovely place to dance to the music of the **Bungalow Band**.

July 18: Virginia's Laura Light and the Bay Area's **John Light** (the "Acoustic Light Orchestra," quips Jeff Spero) return to play fiddle and accordion, respectively, while Atlanta's **Cis Hinkle** calls and **Jeff Spero** plays piano. Laura and Cis are being whisked down from the Sierra Swing Dance Week to stoke the fires of this hot evening of music and dance. (\$8)

Bay Area Weeklongs

These three camps are produced by the Bay Area Country Dance Society.

Of the three, only **Mendocino English Week** is sold out.

The other two take place at Camp Alta Sierra near King's Canyon. The camp fea-

tures a lake for canoeing and swimming.

July 11-18: Sierra Swing American Dance Week. Contras, swing, Lindy, clogging, singing... 510 704-8111 or clinton@impactsf.com.

July 3-10: Family Week. Great fun for singles, couples, kids and families of all shapes, sizes and definitions. 707 765-6559 or emjer@netdex.com.

More Remotes

Sept. 3-6: Alta Sierra Dance Camp, with staff TBA. tronvig@pobox.com or 310 459-7179. Flyers available eventually.

Sept. 17-19: Echo Summit Dance Camp near Lake Tahoe. Erik Hoffman and more TBA. bobrien@cco.ca.gov or 916 444-2712.

Get more info from flyers at our dances out there in the lobby.

Performer Spotlight

Two bands make their SBCDS debut in the next few weeks. We shine the first spotlights in this new series on them.

The Bungalow Band

The **Bungalow Band's** first Santa Barbara gig was actually at a conference in May. They return to

play for the Sprung Floor Dance Festival, and again for a Sunday night dance on June 27.

The Bungalow Band began playing publicly in 1997 on Andy Cameron's front porch, which is in the "Bungalow Heaven" neighborhood of Pasadena. The occasion was the annual Bungalow Heaven Home Tour. Since then they've played at subsequent tours and for local occasions like Sundays in the Park. They began playing contra dances as a group in 1998, although all had played dances individually before then.

The band consists of Carol Burrill on hammered dulcimer, Ned Boyer on recorder, John Johnston on fiddle, Mimi see **SPOTLIGHT**, next page

Spotlight from front page

Scheel on mandolin and lap dulcimer, and Andy Cameron on guitar. They play string band music mostly of the traditional American type, both northern and southern, both old and new.

Their combination of instruments is a bit different than the usual; Carol's hammered dulcimer and Ned's recorder contribute to that difference. Mimi brings a long history of playing this genre of music and John has played extensively in Pennsylvania, New York and Arizona before joining the band. One of John's "claims to fame" is that he was present at the debut of Jay Ungar's tune "Ashoken Farewell," which became famous as music for the PBS "Civil War" series.

Lime in the Harp

Lime in the Harp makes its SB debut on June 20, Father's Day. Appropriate for the occasion, two of the

band's members, John and Seth, are father and son, respectively.

Lime in the Harp came into being about eight years ago when the leaders of the ongoing open contra dance band in San Diego finally surrendered. Several smaller groups coalesced out of the open contra dance band, including Lime in the Harp.

The band was named after a question arising from the barman in an English pub where the original and, as yet, anonymous trio was holding a session for free beer. When John Odam ordered a Harp lager, he was asked: "Do you want lime in the Harp?" Hence the name. Like many bands, Lime in the Harp has undergone many changes of lineup in its time but the core band has been John Odam, plus Janet Ashford and Chris Davis. Other musicians that have served with distinction include Marc Hansen, one of the original trio, Peter Damashek, and Lista Duren. This year the band lost a founder and its longest continuous serving band member when fiddler Janet Ashford left San Diego to live in Mendocino. The current "Lime-up" features Chris Davis on fiddle, Seth Odam on guitar, and John Odam on the rare mandocello, a guitar-sized mandolin in cello tuning. Lime's musical approach is to take lively Irish session tunes and tailor them to contradance. Driven by Chris's

Veteran caller asks

What am I doing in the *Dance Star*?

Indeed, what am I doing here? It's because the editor sent me this email: "This might be a little late, but would you like any editorial responsibilities for this [summer] issue? If not, we'll talk about the fall issue."

Now I really didn't have any ideas as to why me, or what to write about, so he suggested several topics, including the current one, so here goes.

It seems like all my life I've been asked to do something I hadn't planned on, with interesting results.

Back in the late 40's, my wife Shirley



and I were just starting to square dance and we were asked if we could teach a church group how to do it. After all, we knew how to dance. How difficult can it be to call? You just get some music and tell people what to do next. Right? Just ask some of our own first time callers. That's how I got started calling.

I was in the Marine Corps in the 50's and volunteered for a unit called "Special Services." It was special alright! We packaged and managed troop entertainment. From movies to movie star tours. Talk

fiery fiddle style that he learned as a student in Dublin, the band features the throaty roar of the mandocello, complemented by the melodic picking of Seth's guitar. Unique sound. Compelling rhythm. Driving fiddle. Makes you want to get up and dance!

about hard times in the USMC.

Back in the 60's I was asked to do a radio promo for a local political organization I was in, no doubt because I had a loud mouth. I guess I did OK because I was soon doing a weekend gig on the local station. Over the course of the next two decades I found myself on over 30 Easy Listening music stations across the country.

All of which brings me to the 90's when Shirley and I ventured up to Santa Barbara from L.A. to check out the sprung floor and a contra dance listed in a California Dance Co-op publication.

I've now retired and comfortable with no more surprises. That is, until Gary interrupted it all.

What's the point, you may ask? It's this. When someone asks for your help or input, give it a try. You will never know what interesting journey may be ahead until you venture out.

The SBCDS has asked for people to help carry the responsibilities of this wonderful dance. How many have eagerly volunteered to give a hand? Seems like the same few keep on holding our dance together. I know all about the fear of not "doing it right." In most cases you won't

see **JOURNEY**, page 4

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 Dance Star & web site: Gary Shapiro
 plus dozens more volunteers

Summer
1999



Santa Barbara Contra Dance Calendar

with Ojai, SLO, and English Country Dance listings

Calendar produced by Santa Barbara Country Dance Society • P.O. Box 21904 • Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1904 • 805 969-1511

Come enjoy a dance to the irresistible rhythms of a live old-time string band. We'll dance flowing contras of New England, a thriving North American tradition, plus other delights. All dances are taught and prompted: no experience or partner necessary. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

SANTA BARBARA DANCES

Sponsor: SB Country Dance Society

Dance from 7–10 p.m. every Sunday, mostly at the fabulous Carrillo Ballroom. This summer, dance last Sundays under the stars at Oak Park. Carrillo dances are cosponsored by the SB Parks and Recreation Department.

SBCDS 24-hour Dance Hotline: 805 969-1511.

SAN LUIS OBISPO DANCES

Sponsor: Central Coast Country Dance Society

Dance in SLO on the third Saturday of each month from 8–11 p.m. Break-time snacks are potluck. In-

ternational folk dancing precedes at 5:30. SLO 24-hour Danceline: 805 541-0201.

OJAI DANCES

Ojai dances return in September.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES

Every Tuesday through September 7, from 7:30 to 9:30 at Oak Park. \$1-2, \$5 if live music. 805 682-5523.

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

All three groups hold workshops 30 minutes before each dance evening. Also, the simpler dances are generally earlier in the evening.

ADMISSION

\$6 for SB and SLO contra dances, unless otherwise noted; *subject to change*.

KEY TO DANCE LOCATIONS

Santa Barbara Carrillo Recreation Center Carrillo Ballroom **CB** 100 E. Carrillo St.

Oak Park **OP** Junipero at Calle Real, SB

San Luis Obispo Veteran's Hall **SLO** 801 Grand Ave. East of 101, Cal Poly exit

DATE LOC CALLER • BAND • Etc.

June 1... Tue OP Various leaders • Linelle Glass, John Sonquist & Robert Winokur • English Country Dance (\$5) These ECDs continue every Tuesday through September 7. Live music on which Tuesdays (beyond this date), TBA.

June 6 Sun CB Gary Shapiro • Chameleons

June 13 Sun CB Jeff Spero • Hot Flashes

June 19 Sat SLO Gary Shapiro • Lime in the Harp

June 20 Sun CB Don Ward • Lime in the Harp • A dance for the Summer Solstice, for Father's Day, for those just down from the Live Oak Festival, and for you.

June 27 Sun OP Gary Shapiro • Bungalow Band • Bring your CTMS Festival "high" to the Ballroom or come pick it up from those who do.

July 4 Sun CB Susan Michaels • Spin Cycle • Fireworks at the Carrillo Ballroom this year.

July 11 Sun CB Warren Blier • Turtle Creek

July 17 Sat SLO TBA • TBA

July 18 Sun CB Cis Hinkle • Laura Light, John Light & Jeff Spero • Cis and Laura come direct from Sierra Swing, and, with John and Jeff at their side, promise to squeeze the excitement of that whole dance week into a single dance evening. (\$8)

July 25 Sun OP Erik Hoffman • Kristina & Her Right-Hand Stars

Aug 1 Sun CB Jonathan Southard • Growling Old Geezers

Aug 8 Sun CB Reine Wonite • Michael's Mixed Nuts • ¡Viva la Fiesta! ¡Viva la Contradanza!

Aug 14 Sat SLO Graham Hempel • Lime in the Harp

Aug 15 Sun CB James Hutson • Jump Fingers

Aug 22 Sun CB Chuck Galt • Sliding Scale

Aug 29 Sun OP Caller's Jubilee • Open Band • Contact Carvel Bass, band coordinator (213 452-3392/work, 323 257-0900/home, cbass@spl.usace.army.mil), and/or Gary Shapiro, caller coordinator (805 682-5523, garyes@iname.com) today and arrange to be part of the fun on stage.

June 1999

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July 1999

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August 1999

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Dance in L.A. area — Contra dances every weekend. English Country Dance 1st and 3rd Thursday. Hotline: 818 951-2003.

More great things to do, especially nearby events in June, listed on the front page of this issue.

The 16th annual Harvest Moon Dance Festival waxes full on September 17-19, hopefully with your participation.

Our great lineup features caller **Bob Dalsemer** and music by the **Rhythm Rollers: Laurie Andres, Cathie Whitesides and Paul Kotapish.**

If you didn't receive an application flyer with this newsletter, look for a pile of 'em near where you picked this up. Still no luck? Just contact the SBCDS at 805 969-1511 or cannon@alumni.caltech.edu, or download the flyer at the SBCDS web site. Applications are selected by lottery from those post-



marked by July 17. Significant volunteers whose applications are post-marked by that date are given a priority. Speaking of which...

...Saturday, July 17, is also the date for the **Harvest Moon Volunteer Party.** It starts with a **potluck** at 1 p.m. and a **volunteer meeting** at 2 p.m. After the meeting, **swimming** is an option, all at the home of Mignon Bradley, 1107 Camino Manadero, on the corner of Patterson, above Cathedral Oaks. Call 805 967-2894 if you get lost. For more information about helping with Harvest Moon, contact Peter Glatz at pmgquilt@silcom.com or 805 682-4572.



Journey from page 2

be alone, others will be there to point the way and assist you so you won't be overcome by the task. Most times it's just give a hand till the day happens when, "surprise!" It's now your job till someone else volunteers to help you out.

If I'm going to help out with the fall issue then I need your help. Here's a couple of questions to answer:

I would like to explore why people come all the way from places like L.A. and Camarillo, on a regular basis to our dance. So my question is, "How far would you or do you travel to a one night dance (distance/time)? Why?"

There, I did what Gary asked. Now it's your turn to contribute to the next *Dance Star* with answers to my questions, or with any other dance-related material.

Don Ward
9989 Maude Ave.
Sunland CA 91040
818 353-8052
dward@loop.com

Thanks for helping

I would like to commemorate the beginning of my second year as scheduler with a few words to you, my fellow contra dancers.

I very much enjoy communicating with everyone and coming up with the most interesting schedule possible. To put this summer schedule together, I started communicating about it in March, sending out a formal request for available dates to callers and bands the first part of April. Even though I gave April 23 as the deadline for responding, it has taken until today, May 7, to put the schedule together.

From time to time, I need your assistance, particularly with providing housing and transportation for out-of-town bands. At this moment, for example, we're not certain how Laura Light will get from Sierra Swing up north to our July 18 dance. If you are going to Sierra Swing or know someone from the SB or L.A. area who is going and who could give her a ride, please contact her at lauralight1@juno.com or me at tgthrmlb@sbceo.k12.ca.us or 805 967-2894.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Weissman, a relatively new member of our Santa Barbara contra dance community, who has agreed to help with coordinating housing and transportation for out-of-town bands. If you are

able to provide housing or transportation on occasion please contact him at mweissman@mindspring.com or 805 963-7535.

While I'm thanking folks, I would like everyone to know that Fred Ennerson donated a computer for our mailing list.

I want to thank a couple more folks who have recently volunteered: Rob Gardner, who has helped with QuickBooks and bookkeeping, and Nancy Bishop who has volunteered to assist with the mailing list.

Mignon Bradley



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