



Preliminary Survey Results

by Kelli Butler and David Beard

A big thank you to everybody who responded to the dance survey mailed with the last Dance Star. The survey responses were generally positive. Overall, most respondents seem happy with the Santa Barbara dances.

We had a total of 127 surveys turned in! The responses came from a wide cross section of the Santa Barbara contra dance community, including some L.A. & San

see **SURVEY**, next page

13TH ANNUAL SANTA BARBARA

HARVEST MOON DANCE FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 1996

You are invited to the 13th annual Harvest Moon Dance Festival. Applications are included with mailed copies of this issue, and if you picked up this copy, a stack of applications should be near where you picked it up. Or contact the SBCDS and we'll send you one.

You are also invited to join the 1996 Harvest Moon Volunteer Team. Various volunteer positions are available, and at least one of them should be a match in terms of time required, interests and abilities.

Note that some volunteer positions guarantee acceptance into the Festival in the likely event we receive applications from more people than we have space for.

If you're interested or curious, please sign the signup sheet at one of our dances, or contact Gary Shapiro, (805) 682-5523 or gshapiro@rain.org.

Please get in touch with us soon so we can let you know about a volunteer pot-luck/meeting we will be scheduling soon for (hopefully) sometime in June.

Star Gazer

Summer and Fall on the Dance Floor

Unprecedented! Six dances in June, and a dance every weekend through September 1.

Kitchen Junket begins our schedule on June 2 and then disappears until fall. On June 7, calendar maker **Cara Moore** returns to our calendar after a three year absence for a team-calling engagement, music by the **Hot Flashes**. If you haven't been to a Goleta dance lately (or ever), we're having fun without you (even though we miss you). Check it out!

Two days later, June 9, it's a *free!* dance in honor of an upcoming wedding (see notice on page 3).

On June 16, Rounder recording artists **Ralph Blizard and the New Southern Ramblers** descend from the hills and the Live Oak Music Festival to play for a dance guaranteed to be breathtaking. **Ralph Blizard**, master fiddler from Tennessee, is one of the country's best old-time fiddlers. **Phil Jamison**, a nationally known caller, musician and clogger, plays guitar and bass with the Ramblers, and has over 20 years of calling experience. Rounding out the group are **John Lilly** on guitar, mandolin and bass, and **John Herrman**

on banjo and bass.

From, well, the 805 area code (Oxnard, Frazier Park and Taft) we welcome for the first time the **Strawberry Patch String Band**, playing our second Oak Park dance of the year on June 22 along with caller **Carl Magagnosc**.

After that, we just have more great dances, one after the other, starting with **Susan Michaels** and the band **New Young Buzzards** on June 30, and continuing with a variety of callers and bands (and dancers!).

In Goleta on August 9, **Spin Cycle**, an L.A. band, also makes its local debut.

FAVORITE FESTIVALS

Check our literature table at a Carrillo Ballroom or Oak Park dance for info about these and other events:

June 14-16: KCBX wows us once again with a phenomenal line up at the **Live Oak Music Festival** at Camp Live Oak near Lake Cachuma. Come up for a day or three or camp all weekend. Enjoy such talent as the **Anacapa String Quartet**, **Road House Rockers**, **Fairfield**

see **STAR GAZER**, page 3



Post Office Box 21904 • Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1904

Forward & Address Correction

You will not receive our mailings after date on label unless you sign in at a dance or notify us.

Survey from front page

Luis Obispo dancers. 59 of the respondents identified themselves as very experienced contra dancers, 58 as moderately experienced, and 10 as beginners.

In designing the survey, we saw it as a great way to get feedback from the people who attend Santa Barbara's contra dances. We wanted to keep a neutral tone, creating a forum to raise issues and identify areas for possible improvements. The survey is in no sense a vote, not directly proposing any changes or actions. Nor can it be considered a scientific survey. But hopefully, the survey will serve to open new doors, stimulating creative ideas and discussion.

Also, we want to acknowledge the SBCDS Board for their cooperation with the creation of this survey. Over the last few months, the Board has given over significant portions of their meeting time to discuss our project. We thank them for their assistance and general support of the survey, as well as for sponsoring the printing and mailing of the survey in the last Dance Star.

The two tables on this page show survey responses as percentages. Non responses are not tabulated, so the number of responses on which the percentages are based for a particular question may be less

	Too Much of This	Just the Right Amt	Need More of This
Number of Easier Dances	29%	60%	11%
Number of Challenging Dances	6%	44%	50%
Number of Contras	8%	63%	29%
Number of Mixers	15%	69%	46%
Number of Squares	40%	44%	17%
Number of Novelty Dances	26%	39%	35%
Number of Waltzes	4%	80%	17%
Energy Level (in general)	3%	67%	30%
Out of Town Callers	0%	38%	62%
Out of Town Bands	1%	50%	50%
Length of a Single Dance	22%	76%	2%
Length of break	31%	69%	0%
Volume of Music	6%	89%	6%
Announcements	32%	66%	2%
First Time Dancers	6%	66%	28%
Time in Teaching/Walk Throughs	36%	53%	11%

than 127.

Each entry in the tables shows the percentage of that response among actual responses to that particular question.

(Each entry in the tables above shows the percentage of all people answering that question who marked the particular response.)

As said earlier, we designed the survey to help raise possible issues for discussion. With all the hand written comments on the surveys, together with looking at re-

spondents from the different experience levels as separate groups, the survey presents a huge amount of information.

In this issue, we are only showing the two tables giving total responses from all experience levels combined. At this early stage in reviewing the survey results, we only want to point out some of the most immediately apparent patterns in the responses. More information and analysis will be presented in the fall issue.

To start, the Carrillo Ballroom got an

"What Makes a Great Dance for You?"

"How Are We Doing At the Santa Barbara Dance?"

Makes My Evening	Adds to the Evening	Doesn't Matter		Doing Great	Seems Good	O.K.	Not So Good	Very Dissatisfied
70%	28%	2%	The Callers	23%	37%	21%	11%	8%
63%	32%	5%	The Bands	36%	43%	19%	2%	0%
68%	31%	1%	The Energy Level	21%	47%	20%	6%	5%
17%	75%	8%	The Sound System	33%	40%	26%	1%	0%
34%	63%	4%	Clear/Strong Rhythm	22%	39%	33%	6%	0%
8%	30%	62%	The Pre-Dance Class	17%	40%	40%	3%	0%
3%	46%	51%	The Refreshments	16%	37%	36%	9%	1%
10%	56%	34%	Lighting at the Dance	15%	48%	24%	10%	3%
39%	54%	7%	The Dance Hall	84%	12%	4%	0%	0%
36%	57%	7%	The Dance Tempos	19%	50%	21%	8%	1%
23%	50%	28%	Lots of New Faces	9%	38%	38%	14%	0%

overwhelming clear approval from all groups. The dance hall received the most unanimous approval of any item on the survey. At the same time, people indicated that, while the Carrillo Ballroom was a plus to their evening, it was not one of their highest priorities.

Overall, people indicated that the callers, the bands, and the general energy level of the dance were the highest priority ingredients in a great evening of contra dancing. While most respondents were basically positive

about these areas, the callers and the general energy level drew a number of negative responses and a generally less clear overall approval than other areas.

In general, there are some differences in the responses from people who identified themselves as beginners, moderately experienced, or very experienced. The respondents from the very experienced group often had more pointed or critical comments than the other groups, placing major focus on callers, variety, and a challenging energetic evening. Beginners had many fewer negative comments, focusing more on the importance of a friendly, open social environment, and the need for clear effective teaching.

Among respondents who said they had experience contra dancing outside of Santa Barbara, many said our dances provide a friendlier environment than most. However, some indicated a preference for the out-of-town dances. One common thread across the experience levels was a desire for more variety and more out-of-town callers and bands. Also, all the groups showed a sense that the Santa Barbara dance succeeds in presenting a very friendly, open social environment.

Again, thank you to everyone who has helped make this survey happen. Putting on this survey has given us a fascinating glimpse of the wide range of personalities that come together at the dance. Hopefully, out of this forum, which has brought out an amazingly diverse range of dancer opinions and comments, something positive will happen. See you at the dance!

♦♦♦♦

Thanks also to Kelli and David, who have invested an incredible amount of time and effort to the survey project, with more to come.



Carpinteria Addendum

Tony Friend and Katy Miegs started the Carpinteria dance series in October 1990. They located and arranged for the site, coordinated the dances and handled the door for the first year. No small feat.

Due to an editing error, this information was omitted from Bruce Morden's article in the previous issue. Apologies and thanks, Tony and Katy!

Star Gazer from front page

Four (a quintet), Dirty Dozen, Naked to the World, David Grisman Quintet and others. (805) 781-3030, <<http://www.slonet.org/~ipkcbx/liveoak>>.

June 21-23: 16th annual Folk Music, Dance & Storytelling Festival in Calabasas, brought to us by the California Traditional Music Society. Friday and Saturday night contra dances and dance workshops on three floors all day. Contra dance calling talent includes Tom Hinds, Kathy Anderson, Susan Michaels and Leda Shapiro. Dance music talent includes Frank Ferrel, Joe Cormier, Peter Barnes, the Acoustic Horseflies, For Old Times' Sake, Turtle Creek and the Immortal Lemmings. Plus music classes and concerts, storytelling workshops and concerts, with up to 31 different activities to choose from at any one time. (818) 342-7664, ctms@lafn.org.

COMMENDABLE CAMPS

June 29-July 6: Bay Area Country Dance Society (BACDS) Sierra Swing American Week at the Alta Sierra camp. Contra, square and swing dancing. (415) 864-6911, clintonSF@aol.com. Spaces may still be available for men.

July 6-13: BACDS Family Week also at the Alta Sierra camp. (707) 765-7559.

July 13-20: BACDS English Week at the Mendocino Woodlands camp. (415) 856-3038, perner@hpl.hp.com.

August 30-September 2: Dance Crazy presents Labor Day Weekend Dance Camp at Alta Sierra. (310) 459-7179, 72130.3470@compuserve.com

September 20-22: Sacramento CDS offers Echo Summit Dance Weekend near Lake Tahoe. Callers Erik Hoffman and Suzanne Girardot, music by For Old Times' Sake and the Moving Cloud Orchestra. (916) 921-2976.

September 27-29: Harvest Moon Dance Festival. Suzanne Girardot calls, music by Hank Bradley, Cathie Whitesides & Peter Langston. (805) 563-0932, cannon@alumni.caltech.edu.

October 18-20: BACDS Monte Toyon Fall Dance Weekend. English, Contra, Clogging, Molly and Morris dancing. (415) 856-2259, winston@slac.stanford.edu.



Dave Kary and Joann Eisberg are giving a special contra dance to celebrate their upcoming wedding!

Sunday, June 9, Carrillo Ballroom
Caller: James Hutson
Music: The Chameleons

6:00-7:00 Snacks (potluck)
6:30-7:00 Introductory workshop
7:00-10:00 Dance

Please bring a potluck snack to share before the dance; no gifts, please.

This dance is free.



A Rewarding Experience

Bring New Dancers! As a reward for bringing new dancers, if you bring in two new dancers, on the same or different nights, we'll give you a dance pass. Simple! Then, here's a suggestion: encourage them to fill out a suggestion card telling us about their first contra dance experience.

A 'Not So Bright!' Idea

We've received at least one suggestion to dim the lights at the Ballroom. Unfortunately, the energy-efficient lights cannot be dimmed; they can only be turned off. However, half of them can be turned off, and this has been tried. But people vary in their light sensitivities, and at the 50% level, some dancers become disoriented.

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dance star

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<http://www.rain.org/~gshapiro/sbcds/>

Mr. Newsletter: Gary Shapiro

The SBCDS encourages articles, letters, illustrations, comments and suggestions. Use phone, e-mail, mail, personal delivery at a dance or the suggestion box.

Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors.



Summer 1996

Santa Barbara Contra Dance Calendar



Santa Barbara Country Dance Society • P.O. Box 21904 • Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1904 • (805) 969-1511

Location Key

CB Carrillo Ballroom, 100 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara. Cosponsor: S.B. Parks & Rec. Dept.
 GOL Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 820 N. Fairview, Goleta
 OP Oak Park Dance Platform, on Junipero at Calle Real, S. B.

Come dance on the best floor in the West at the Carrillo Ballroom, under the stars at Oak Park and at our brand-new Goleta location. Join the fun! Dance to the irresistible rhythms of live old-time string bands. We'll do the flowing contras of New England, colorful square dances, plus a few old-time couple dances such as waltz.

We hold an **Introductory Workshop** before each dance. Join us then to learn the basics. No prior experience or partner is necessary. All dances are taught and prompted. Generally, the dances are simpler earlier in the evening. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing, and have a good time!

Times & Admission (unless otherwise noted)

Admission: \$6
 Dance time:
 7:00-10:00 p.m.
 Goleta: 7:30-10:30 p.m.
 Introductory Workshop:
 6:30 p.m.
 Goleta: 7:00 p.m.

FOR THE LATEST DANCE INFORMATION, CALL (805) 969-1511, THE SBCDS 24-HOUR DANCE HOTLINE

DATE	LOC	CALLER • BAND • Etc.
June 2 Sun	CB	Drew Tronvig • Kitchen Junket The first of <i>six</i> dances this month. (Count 'em!)
June 7 Fri	GOL	Gary Shapiro & Cara Moore • Hot Flashes • Two callers for the price of one!
June 9 Sun	CB	James Hutson • Chameleons (Free!) Dave Kary and Joann Eisberg are giving a special contra dance to celebrate their upcoming wedding. Please bring a potluck snack at 6 p.m. to share before the dance. (No gifts, please.)
June 16 Sun	CB	Phil Jamison • Ralph Blizard & the New Southern Ramblers (\$7) The band, featuring master fiddler Ralph Blizard, comes to us from afar via the Live Oak Music Festival. Phil Jamison has been calling for over 20 years and is also a member of the band.
June 22 Sat	OP	Carl Magagnosc • Strawberry Patch String Band The SBCDS debut of this band from all over the 805 area code.
June 30 Sun	CB	Susan Michaels • New Young Buzzards • Not your ordinary vultures.
July 7 Sun	CB	Jeff Spero • TBA • Top Band in the Area? An L.A. caller's first Santa Barbara appearance (as a caller—he dances here lots).
July 12 Fri	GOL	Gary Shapiro • Growling Old Geezers
July 21 Sun	CB	James Hutson • Growling Old Geezers • A band so nice we get them twice.
July 27 Sat	OP	Gary Shapiro • Immortal Lemmings • This group's no lemon.
Aug 4 Sun	CB	Susan Michaels • Chameleons • Not your ordinary lizards.
Aug 9 Fri	GOL	Cara Moore & Gary Shapiro • Spin Cycle • Dry off afterwards.
Aug 18 Sun	CB	Gary Shapiro • Hot Flashes • Extra ice in the water tonight.
Aug 24 Sat	OP	James Hutson & Jeff Spero • Kristina & the Resolutions Not only will Jeff & James call, but they'll sign their book, too.

June 1996

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July 1996

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August 1996

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Some Other Events in Our Vicinity

Ojai — Sat., Jun. 15: Cris Miller with Over the Edge. Sat., Aug. 10: TBA. Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St. 7:30-10:30, intro 7:00, \$6. For info call Ginny at (805) 646-0832.
 San Luis Obispo — Second and fourth Saturdays, 8-11 p.m., intro 7:30. Veteran's Hall, 801 Grand Ave. near Monterey St., \$6. Often, Int'l Folk Dancing at 5:30. SLO Dance Hotline: (805) 541-0201.

KCBX Live Oak Music Festival—June 14-16. Live music, optional camping, among the oaks near Lake Cachuma. (805) 781-3030.
 Summer Solstice Folk Music, Dance & Storytelling Festival—June 21-23 at Soka University in Calabasas. (818) 342-7664.
 Los Angeles area — Contra dances every weekend. L.A. Dance Hotline: (818) 951-2003.