

## Center and Back

Fall Dance Calendar .....	3
Redwood Bliss .....	2
Regency Dance Class .....	2
SBCDS Internet Update .....	4
Shakespeare .....	4



## Harvest Moon Opportunity

As we go to press, some spaces for men and women are still available for the 16th annual Harvest Moon Dance Festival, September 17–19. Legendary caller Bob Dalsemer and the remarkable Rhythm Rollers will keep us smiling just like that moon above, only more so.

Look for applications at the dance, or online at our website, or contact the SBCDS at [cannon@alumni.caltech.edu](mailto:cannon@alumni.caltech.edu) or 805 969-1511.

The \$95 application fee pays for, among other things, the staff and their travel expenses, with a percentage left over to help pay for SBCDS overhead expenses for the year—the regular dances just barely pay their own expenses. So by attending the Festival, you are not only going to have a great weekend, but you are also helping to keep the SBCDS, and the weekly dances, afloat.

## The 28th Annual Old-Time Fiddlers' Convention

Join a day-long celebration of traditional American folk music and dance at the 28th Annual Old-Time Fiddlers' Convention. The date is Sunday, October 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the grounds of historic Stow House, 304 N. Los Carneros Rd. in Goleta.

Among the events: Day-long competitions in various instrumental (fiddle, banjo, etc.) and old-time singing categories (we hope you'll compete!), jam sessions on the Stow House grounds, a second stage with continuous entertainment, and tours of Stow House.

Bring a picnic lunch or purchase food there (including vegetarian fare). Artist Dorie Hutchinson has designed a unique Convention t-shirt which will be on sale.

Special noontime guests: J.T. and the

## New! Holiday Dance Weekend Set for Ballroom

Fill in your calendar now for Saturday night, December 25, 7 p.m.–12 midnight. But don't put that pencil away quite yet, because on Sunday, December 26, the dancing continues from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. It's our **Holiday Dance Weekend**, entirely on the sprung floor.

Staff includes New Mexico's Bayou Seco & Friends and former SBER Erik

Hoffman, playing and calling, respectively, on both days. Exciting announcements about additional bands and callers will be made in the coming months.

Price is \$10 for Saturday night and \$25 for all day Sunday.

To be part of the team that will make the Weekend a success, contact Gunn at 805 683-5605.

# Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

# dance star

Volume 10 Number 2 Fall 1999

Zydeco Zippers—Unplugged! Dance to the Cajun/Zydeco sounds of this well-known band. They will play acoustic instruments at the Convention.

At the end of the day there will be a short finale contra dance with caller Gary Shapiro. Inquire about playing in the band.

Visit their web site for more details, a map and much more:  
<<http://www.signif.com/oldtime/fiddlers.htm>> or contact one of the co-coordinators to be placed on the mailing list: Linelle Glass, [lglass@sbjrhig.sbceo.k12.ca.us](mailto:lglass@sbjrhig.sbceo.k12.ca.us), 805 682-1593, or Hilda E. Wenner, [wenner@lifesci.ucsb.edu](mailto:wenner@lifesci.ucsb.edu), 805 966-1191.



## English Dances & Classes

Our last English Country Dance of the summer is the day after Labor Day, September 7, at Oak Park. The series then yields to the Adult Education class, **Dances of the English Regency**. Most of the dances done in that class are also in the English Country Dance repertoire. See page 2 for details.

The English Country Dances resume on Tuesday, October 26, at the Westside Community Center, 423 W. Victoria.

Speaking of things English, Adult Ed is sponsoring another class, **Dances in Shakespeare**, on Thursdays. See page 4 for details.



## Local Highlights

First, remember: every dance is a highlight if you show up.

*Sept. 19:* The **Post-Harvest Moon Ballroom Dance** features the **Harvest Moon band and caller** and is likely our most popular (3-hour) dance of the year. It is open to all.

Four forces make up this dance: festival staff, festival participants, the sprung floor and the untapped energy of the non-festival-goers.

When these four forces meet, it's like **rocket fuel meeting ignition**. So get a partner, get into one of the four or five forming sets (lines), and prepare to **blast off**. (\$10)

*Oct. 31:* **Annual Halloween Masquerade Ball**. We've arranged for Halloween fall on a Sunday. Creative choreographer and caller **Tom Hinds**, on tour with the **Acoustic Light Orchestra** (Laura Light, John Light, Jeff Spero), helps us celebrate in style. All are invited to wear a costume. (\$7)

*Nov. 21:* **Annual Thanksgiving Potluck**. Please arrive by 5:30 so we can enjoy your contribution and still help out with the Intro to Contra Dance at 6:30. Turkey provided, but bring plenty to share, tableware and \$1.

see **GAZER**, back page

## Blissed Out in the Redwoods

Thirty minutes of uninterrupted waltzing! Gourmet dining with breaks for dancing! Midnight flash-lit strolls among the towering trees! Accordion serenades (six instruments). Chocolate tasting! High Tea! These are only a few of the activities I enjoyed during English Dance Week at Mendocino Woodlands July 10–17.

For the uninitiated, English Country Dance (ECD) is a form of set dancing which predates the more familiar contra. Generally speaking, tunes are specific to individual dances made up of basic moves in simple or intricate patterns, usually in straight sets of three, four, or more couples, in tempos ranging from the sedate to the rowdy. To me the music is sublime—mostly composed during the 17th and 18th centuries. Graceful and flowing with turning instead of spinning figures, this dance form requires eye contact which can be both subtle and flirtatious. This is happy dancing, very satisfying, and not at all hazardous to your health.



English Week happens in Mendocino Woodlands Campground No. 1 located a few miles and a dirt road east of Mendocino in the redwoods. 30s-era redwood cabins are scattered over the hills and meadow with centrally located showers and toilets no more than a quarter mile from any bunk. A large camp house contains “Jeff’s Gourmet Kitchen” plus dining and meeting rooms. Down slope is a big airy dance hall.

The English Week camp staff was outstanding. Philippe Callens, a personable and lively dancing master from Antwerp, Belgium, taught daily classes in Contemporary ECD, ECD for Experienced Dancers, and ECD to Classical music (try Mozart and Beethoven!). Carl Dreher from Texas held workshops in beginning ECD and Rapper Sword. Andra Horton, from Vermont, taught clogging and Molly dancing and offered a session for Morris forepersons. Liz Dreisbach from Seattle, a wild woman on woodwinds, led a band workshop

and a slow jam. Bruce Hamilton from Palo Alto showed us how to overcome bad habits and inertia to become better dancers. Another Texan, Phyllis Richmond, demonstrated the Alexander Technique as applicable to singers, dancers and musicians. Doug Olsen, from the East Bay, led us in rousing song whenever the spirit moved as well as during a daily workshop.

Staff musicians, mostly from the Bay Area, were wonderfully talented, creative, and just plain fun to be around. Several campers also played for the evening dances and impromptu happenings. No one will forget petite, dark eyed Karen, who brought her tuba all the way from Brooklyn.

Though campers came mostly from West Coast states, others traveled from Texas, Wisconsin, New York, Missouri, Tennessee, Colorado and Arizona. Ages of dancers ranged from the twenties to the seventies plus delightful Sachi, age six months, who came attached to her mom Jules, a vigorous Morris dancer.

It was a great week! High points for me were all of Philippe’s classes, the bliss of 15-minute and 20-minute waltz medleys, eating, and just soaking in all that wonderful MUSIC!

*Jo Wamser*

•  
Check our schedule for English Country Dances in Santa Barbara.

*“There were 20 dances, and I danced them all...I fancy I could just as well dance for a week together as for half an hour”*

— Jane Austen

### That Little Gender Imbalance Problem

One of the few gripes that I hear coming up again and again from dancers is the dilemma presented by more men than women, or vice versa, on the dance floor. Even at dance camps, where gender balance is a more controlled factor, there will be constant flux in the dancer mix.

However, I have seen a few creative solutions handling it as an opportunity rather than a problem. Caller and dancer awareness of this might help to resolve the issue.

In dancing with a same gender partner, it’s important to remember that while moves such as allemandes, do-si-dos, and stars are gender symmetrical, swings and chains are asymmetrical with respect to gents’ and ladies’ positions. Each dance will have its own balance of symmetry and see **IMBALANCE**, back page

### Dances of the English Regency

(the period of Jane Austen’s England)

Taught by Kathy Lear

Six Tuesdays Beginning September 14  
Thornton Auditorium  
Selmer O. Wake Center  
300 N. Turnpike, SB  
7:30–9:30 p.m.  
\$30.00 for six classes

Bring comfortable dancing shoes. No partner or costumes required.

For more information, please call Adult Ed’s Wake Center office at 964-6853.



Fall  
1999



# Santa Barbara Contra & EC Dance Schedule

with Ojai and SLO 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 at the fabulous Carrillo Ballroom, cosponsored by SB Parks and Recreation Department.  
SBCDS 24-hour Dance Hotline: 805 969-1511.

day of each month from 8–11 p.m. International Folk Dancing precedes at 5:30.  
SLO 24-hour Danceline: 805 541-0201.

## ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES

Tuesdays. Sept. 7, Oak Park, 7:00–9:00. Starting October 26, Westside Community Center, 7:30–9:30. \$1-2, \$5 if live music. 805 682-5523.

## KEY TO DANCE LOCATIONS

Carrillo Ballroom **CB** 100 E. Carrillo St., SB  
Oak Park **OP** Junipero at Calle Real, SB  
Westside Center **wcc** 423 W. Victoria, SB  
Ojai Art Center **OA** 113 S. Montgomery, Ojai  
San Luis Obispo Veteran's Hall **SLO** 801 Grand Ave., SLO East of 101, Cal Poly exit

## OJAI DANCES

**Sponsor: Ojai Art Center**  
Dance 7:30–10:30 p.m. For more information call Ginnie at 805 646-0832, or Karin at 805 933-0660.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO DANCES

**Sponsor: Central Coast Country Dance Society**  
Dance in SLO on the third Satur-

## INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

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

## ADMISSION

SB & SLO contra dances, \$6; Ojai, \$7; unless otherwise noted; subject to change.

## CONTRA DANCES

DATE	LOC	CALLER • BAND • Etc.
Sept 5 Sun	CB	Martha Wild • Hot Flashes • Three wild women on stage. And two flashy guys.
Sept 12 Sun	CB	Gary Shapiro • Chameleons
Sept 18 Sat	SLO	Martha Wild • Growling Old Geezers
Sept 19 Sun	CB	Bob Dalsemer • Rhythm Rollers • Freshly fed and showered, Harvest Moon staff and festival-goers descend on the Ballroom as it anticipates the deluge of delight that faithfully follows the festival. All are invited. (\$10)
Sept 25 Sat	OA	Drew Tronvig • Kitchen Junket
Sept 26 Sun	CB	Jonathan Southard • Growling Old Geezers
Oct 3 Sun	CB	Jeff Spero • Sliding Scale
Oct 10 Sun	CB	Gary Shapiro • Kristina & Her Right-Hand Stars
Oct 16 Sat	OA	Brenda Cole • Michael Mendelson, Jeff Spero & Suzanne Duffy
Oct 16 Sat	SLO	Harry Brauser • Ragged But Right
Oct 17 Sun	CB	Jonathan Southard • Kitchen Junket
Oct 24 Sun	CB	James Hutson • Michael's Mixed Nuts
Oct 31 Sun	CB	Tom Hinds • ALO (Acoustic Light Orchestra: Laura Light, John Light & Jeff Spero) • Wear a rare costume for this rare actually-on-Halloween Annual Halloween Masquerade Ball. (\$7)
Nov 7 Sun	CB	Susan Michaels • Chameleons
Nov 14 Sun	CB	Gary Shapiro • Rockabye (Steve Lewis, Sarah Peterson & Barbara Richer)
Nov 20 Sat	OA	Jeff Spero • Jump Fingers
Nov 20 Sat	SLO	Gary Shapiro • Growling Old Geezers
Nov 21 Sun	CB	Warren Blier • Jump Fingers • The Annual Thanksgiving Potluck at 5:30 sharp precedes the dance. Bring a hefty dish to share, tableware and \$1. Turkey provided.
Nov 28 Sun	CB	Chuck Galt • Growling Old Geezers • Dessert potluck during the break.

## September 1999

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October 1999

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31						

## November 1999

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES

Tuesdays: Sept. 7 at Oak Park (OP); Oct 26, Nov 2, 9, 16 at Westside Community Center (wcc).

## Imbalance from page 2

asymmetry as a result.

Sometimes, same gender partners will switch roles at each end of the dance (not changing sides in an improper dance and/or changing sides in a proper dance). A switch may even be feasible at a midpoint, or each time through depending on the dance. Other approaches include a three partner "couple" with two same gender and one opposite gender partner, with the same gender partners alternating dancing and waiting out either at each end or each time through the dance.

There may be other more creative solutions that I myself have not observed. Being an amateur caller myself, I won't pretend to be an expert, but will share the advice that I've heard from some of the best callers there are to "Enjoy what we create, whatever that may be."

*Joe Aleks*

## Gazer from front page

*Nov 28: Fourth Annual Sunday After Thanksgiving Dessert Potluck* during the break. Don't you have a pie or two in the fridge?

### California Events

*Oct. 8-10: Fifth Camp Sturtevant Hike and Dance Weekend* in the mountains north of L.A. Hiking, contra and swing dancing, workshops and a mule train. Cleveland caller **Becky Hill** joins musicians **Michael Mendelson**, **Suzie Richmond**, and more TBA. \$120. Info: 310 373-3105, bpon@earthlink.net, <<http://www.hallikainen.com/lacontra/sturtevf.pdf>>.

*Oct 15-17: BACDS Fall Weekend at Camp Monte Toyon* near Santa Cruz. English, contras, squares, singing, and ritual dance. Contra calling by **Lisa Greenleaf** and **Roger Diggle**, music by the **Contrabandits**, **Craig Johnson** and **Roger Diggle**. English dances led by **Jacqueline Schwab**, music by "3/4 of Bare Necessities": **Earl Gaddis**, **Mary Lea**, and **Jacqueline Schwab**. \$135-165. Your check must arrive by Sept. 8 for any chance of getting in. Info: 650 365-2913, meier@ssrl.slac.stanford.edu, <<http://www-ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/~winston/fw/>>.

*Nov. 6: Second Annual "Fall Has Sprung" Contra Dance.* Saturday noon to

## Pray Attend! Dances in Shakespeare



Learn the Dances which brought the plays of William Shakespeare alive to his audiences. The groundlings and nobles at the Globe expected dances during and after a performance. Galliard, La Volta, Coranto, and others will be taught by **Kathy Lear**, longtime teacher of historic dance. Commentary on dance in

the plays by folklorist **Fran Wasielewski**. Bring comfortable shoes. No costumes or partners required.

For more information, please call the Adult Education Wake Center office at 805 964-6853.

Six Thursdays Beginning September 9  
Thornton Auditorium  
Selmer O. Wake Center  
300 N. Turnpike, SB  
7:30-9:30 p.m.  
\$30.00 for six classes

## Internet Dancing Update

The SBCDS web site is in the process of moving to a new URL (address):

<http://www.sbcds.org/>

The old URL (see masthead →) will work until the new site is ready, and then will point to the new site for a few weeks.

midnight on a sprung floor in Grass Valley (NE of Sacramento). Callers **Erik Hoffman**, **Eric Curl** and **Andy Wilson**. Music by **Hillbillies from Mars**, **Post Industrial String Band** and **Hot Cider**. \$15. Info: 916 663-1930, lwipple@jps.net, <<http://www.geocities.com/colosseum/hoop/7536>>.



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and dozens of others whose names would fit if we used 4 point type



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