

Princeton Country Dancers

Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 1

March 2006

PCD Election & Volunteer

Recognition Night—Wed, April 5

Note the change of date from the first printing (and mailing) of the pink schedule flyer. The election was moved forward to avoid a conflict with Passover.

There are seven seats on the PCD Executive Committee, and as of March 23, two incumbents and several new candidates are in the running. Would you like to join them? Contact Laurie, hardyfamAT-SIGNoptonline.net or 609-585-0968, Eileen, ephayes AT-SIGNcomcast.net, or Barbara, 973-476-6389.

Also on the agenda: a constitutional amendment to establish procedures for special elections when an Executive Committee member is unable to complete a one-year term.

Finally, numerous volunteers will be recognized for their service to PCD.

Newsletter Editor(s) needed

Would you like to help research/write/edit the PCD newsletter? The next, summer, issue will be prepared in May and may need to be my last. I'd be glad to have a successor (or successors) work with me on at least one issue. See page 2 for contact information. —Ed.

Second Saturday English Dances

PCD experiments with new series at the Suzanne Patterson Center, June–October

This summer and fall, PCD will host English country dances at the Suzanne Paterson Center on the second Saturday of each month (June 10, July 8, Aug 12, Sept 9, Oct 14). During this period, there will be no ECD on Wednesday nights except for the special mixed contra & English night on June 7 (see page 2).

This is an experiment; the Executive Committee will assess its success after these first five months and decide whether to continue the program. (There won't be second Saturday ECD in November or December because of Head for the Hills and Cotillion.) Contact Sue Dupré if you would like to join the committee running these dances or can volunteer help on the second Saturdays: 609-844-0459 or dupresAT-SIGNcomcast.net.

Fourth Saturday Contra Dances

Saturday March 25—admission free!

John & Barbara Simpson Vadnais's first anniversary dance

Donna Hunt calling; music by the Fish Family: Bill Christophersen & Tom Phillips with Kathy Talvitie

Saturday April 22—NEFFA weekend—no PCD dance...

...but you can catch Rum & Onions XXVI at NEFFA (New England Folk Festival, Natick, Mass., <<http://www.neffa.org>>)—7 pm in the main hall.

Saturday May 27 2006—Workshop, potluck, evening contra dance

Sue Dupré with Crossing the Millstone

4:30 pm Workshop for intermediate dancers

6 pm Potluck

8-11 pm Contra Dance

5th Saturday in April: Waltz

Meets Contra, 7:30-11:30 pm

Larry Koplik, the PCD Outreach Committee Chair, wants you to help introduce members of the Central Jersey Dance Society to contra dancing! PCD is co-sponsoring a dance at the Suzanne Patterson Center on Saturday, April 29 with the CJDS: <http://www.centraljerseydance.org/special_events.html>. This should be a great opportunity for PCD to expose a large group of dancers to contra dancing!

CJDS holds four dances a month, ranging from swing to salsa to tango. On April 29, they'll be doing their first all-waltz dance, with many styles: country western, Viennese, traditional, ballroom, etc. Peggy Leiby and Ret Turner will teach a workshop from 7:30 to 8:30. The dance runs from 8:30 to 11:30.

BUT at 9:30, during the break, there will be a contra demo, followed by one or two beginner contra dances. Sue Dupré will be the caller, with live music (for just the contras) by Michael Bell, Frank Ruck, Pete Soloway, and Larry Koplik.

Continued on page 2

April 29—Waltz meets Contra, cont.

There will also be a couple of beginner contras during another break at 10:40.

Admission for the whole evening, including the workshop, costs \$11, but CJDS is offering a reduced price of \$6 for up to sixteen contra dancers who agree to help out with the demo and the beginner dances. (If people want to show up just for the demo and beginner dances at 9:30 and then go home, there will be no charge.) SO, please let Larry know if you think you can come help out: lkoplikAT-SIGN patmedia.net or 908-359-4837.

Visiting Musicians & Callers For Spring 2006

Wednesday, April 12

Music by Spin Cycle from Harrisburg

Wednesday, April 19

Barb Kirchner calling with R&O XXVI—warmup dance for NEFFA!

Wednesday, May 10

Music by DanceWizz from Philadelphia

Saturday, May 31

Beth Molaro (from Asheville, N.C.) calling with Crowfoot (from Maine and Montreal): Adam Broome, Jaige Trudel, & Nicholas Williams

R&O Benefit Results

Dancing up a Storm on February 11

This February's major snowstorm couldn't stop the Rum & Onions benefit dance! Two dozen musicians and about twice that many dancers turned out for a great evening of dancing with a cavalcade of callers, ably organized by Sue Dupré. All the musicians, callers, band leaders, sound crew, and organizers donated their time and talents for the occasion. The benefit netted \$585 after expenses, and largely offset the 2005 Halloween dance's budget deficit. Thanks to all who made the event happen!

PCD website improved!

Check it out at

<<http://www.princetonol.com/groups/pcd/>>

Sneak Preview: Contra & English Mix Night

Wed, June 7—Colin Hume from England

Colin <<http://www.colinhume.com/colin.htm>> has written some of the 20th century's most popular English country dances, is also an adept caller of contras, and will bring his inimitable style to Princeton on the first Wednesday in June. Save the date!

Pick-Up Band Dates for Spring

Wed April 5 led by John Vadnais (Musician info: dancefiddleAT-SIGNpobox.com or 973-829-0457)

Wed May 24 led by John Macdonald (Musician info: john.macdonaldAT-SIGNverizon.net or 609-497-0337)

Community Dance for All Ages

Sunday, May 7, 3-5 pm

Ridge Kennedy calls to the music of the Mixed-Age Dance Band led by Louise McClure

May Day—Monday, May 1

You're invited to welcome May with Millstone River Morris and other PCD-affiliated performing groups. Dancing & singing (some performance, some participatory) begins at 5:40 AM on the Princeton Battlefield and continues in various locations later on. Look for a schedule at PCD dances and on the web page sometime in April.

New Dance Etiquette Flyer

...now available at dances; soon to be on the PCD web page. The etiquette flyer, adapted from Glenside's, describes how dancers at all levels can make PCD events as enjoyable as possible for all.

New Feedback Form Now Available at Dances

Compliments or suggestions for improvement about PCD events? Fill in a feedback form (found at the admissions table). Thanks to Ridge Kennedy for the inspiration.