

Star Gazer

Winter Dance Highlights

To begin, we mention a dance coming up right away, if in fact it hasn't happened already.

OJAI DANCES ARE BACK

Several Ojai dances have been scheduled, but the first one is at a different location.

On Saturday, November 25, at 8 p.m., **Susan Michaels** calls with the **New Young Buzzards**. The special location: Ojai Women's Club, 441 E. Ojai Ave.

All subsequent Ojai dances take place at the usual location, the Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St. The next two are January 6 with the **Chameleons** and caller **Drew Tronvig**, and February 24 with the **Growling Old Geezers** and caller **Chuck Galt**. For info call Ginny at 646-0832.

DECEMBER 25 DANCE

The annual **Christmas Dance** continues its fine tradition of giving us an opportunity to entertain ourselves with no batteries required, although some assembly (of ourselves) is, generally into long lines, squares and the occasional circle. New Mexico's **Bayou Seco** (**Ken Keppeler & Jeanie McLerie**) and **Friends**, and caller **Erik Hoffman** reprise their successful roles from previous Christmas dances. We'll start at the usual 7 p.m. on Christmas Day, but Erik and the band have offered to keep us dancing all the way to 11 p.m. We accept.

DANCE IN THE NEW YEAR

Our first ever **Dawn Dance** begins on New Year's Eve, at 8 p.m. and ends at dawn on New Year's Day, all on everyone's favorite dance floor, the Carrillo Ballroom. Bands include the **Hot Flashes**, and **Kristina Gibbs & the New Resolutions**. Local callers will be joined by Santa Monica's finest, **Drew Tronvig**. This last dance of the year becomes the first dance of the year. May it not be your last.

The Dawn Dance is certain to be loads of fun and excitement, but it will be even

On with the dance! let joy be unconfined;
No sleep till morn, when Youth and Pleasure meet
To chase the glowing Hours with flying feet.

Lord Byron

New Year's Eve Dawn Dance

Contras, squares, waltzes
8 p.m. New Year's Eve till dawn, New Year's Day
Potluck meal at midnight
Carrillo Ballroom, 100 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara

Music

Hot Flashes
Kristina Gibbs
& the New Resolutions
and more

Callers

Drew Tronvig
Carl Magagnosc
Jonathan Southard
Gary Shapiro

\$15.00

more so if a few of us step forward to help propel the event toward its full potential. Specific help is needed for decorations, publicity, potluck and refreshments, door-keeping and CPR (Contra Party-goer Resuscitation). Call Carl at 964-0442.

OTHER NEW YEAR'S HAPPENINGS

California Traditional Music Society's **New Year's Camp** features four days and

three nights of music, international and contra dancing, partying, hiking and crafts at Camp Hess Kramer near the L.A./Ventura County line. Staff includes **Susan Michaels, Kathy Anderson, Dot Kent** and the **Volobogtrotters**. (818) 342-7664 or ctms@lafn.org.

If you're stuck in L.A. for New Year's, head over to the War Memorial Hall, 435 see **STAR GAZER**, back page

Contra Dancing in Santa Barbara Still a Bargain

With a headline like that, you know something's up. In this case, the price of admission to SBCDS dances, effective December 1995, is \$6, visiting artists higher.

"Why?" you may reasonably ask.

Basically, expenses are up and income is not, and our dances are not even breaking even. One significant increase in expenses is that in June of 1994 we began paying performers more.

If the admission price is a financial burden, many volunteer duties are acknowledged with dance passes. Also, you can bring two people who are new to contra dance to a dance and you get in free.

For what it's worth, the \$5 price has been in effect since May 1990. For a sideways

look at the situation, see the chart on page 4, which compares going to the movies with going to a contra dance.

How can we keep dance prices down? One way is to increase attendance. The editor (writing as an individual) has some thoughts on this; see page 2.

Also effective December 1995: Dances are half-price after the break.

Your feedback on these or other issues, written or verbal, in person, by phone or by e-mail, for publication or not, is always welcome. If you'd like to attend an SBCDS Board meeting, usually held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., just leave a message on the Dance Hotline (969-1511).

Ribbons and Bells, Hankies and Sticks

by Gwen Dandridge
and the Monarch Grove Morris team

It's a showy tradition, Morris dancing is, with dancers bedecked with ribbons and bells waving hankies or clashing sticks in complex patterns. Those of you who have watched us dance at the contra dance break may not understand the total significance of this ancient English custom.

Morris is a form of celebratory dance that has been done for hundreds of years.

dances are usually done with six dancers moving in standard figures, such as foot up and back-to-back with additional steps with odd names like squash beetles, up-rights, and hooklegs.

Some people dance Morris to take part in this living tradition, others simply because it's fun. Those of us who love it expound on the joys of dancing Morris: the snap of the hankies, the jingle of bells, the clashing of sticks. It is also the team effort



It is referenced not only in Shakespearean plays but also in many other writings of the time. It has often been associated with fertility and pagan rites, though the true story of its origins is lost in the Middle Ages. The dance originated in the Cotswold section of England, just above and to the east of London.

Traditionally done by farmers in May to celebrate the beginning of summer, each town had its own distinct variation of Morris. These distinctions were named after the town where they originated, such as Sherbourne, Bampton, and Oddington. The main differences are in how hankies are used, what beat is emphasized, or by variations in the steps. The non-Morris watcher may mostly see the difference between hanky and stick dances, but there are many variations both between traditions and within each tradition. The

to develop tight coordination, to keep the action together and, forever, to keep the lines straight. All this is true, but Morris is more than that to me. It is also the community of close-knit friends joined in a common interest that makes it so important. It still has excitement and challenge after ten years of dancing Morris. I still love it, through sprained ankles, bad knees, and hot, sweaty performance days.

Monarch Grove Morris is a new team (two years old) and we have danced out at the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens, the S.B. Zoo, the Wharf, the Farmers Market, and the latest California Ale (a gathering of Morris teams from up and down the West Coast). We invite you to join us at practice at 7:30 Thursday nights at 1549 Sycamore Canyon. All levels of dance experience are welcome. Also join us on January 21 before the contra dance, from 6

Thoughts on Increasing Attendance

I would like participation at our dances to increase for two reasons. First, I get so much from contra dancing that I would like others to be able to have the experience too. Second, I hope it would lead to more dances. More dances would mean more opportunities to dance, more opportunities for bands and callers (existing, new and out-of-town), and hopefully more volunteer energy.

One way to increase attendance is to increase the return rate of new dancers. I suggest that we seek out new people at our dances, of both sexes, and introduce ourselves; help them feel welcome; help them feel that they are a part of what is happening. Seek them out regardless of age or our own perception of attractiveness. And of course, dance with them. They are the future of contra dancing in our community. The introductory workshops, while helpful for many, can never take the place of the real, "whole" learning that takes place in the context of real dancing to real music with patient, compassionate, experienced dancers.

Gary Shapiro

Carpinteria Open Band

Once each quarter, an open band will play for a Carpinteria dance. One experienced contra dance band musician will lead the band. Both experienced band musicians and those who would like to try it out are invited to make arrangements with the open band leader for that quarter.

This winter, the open band night will be Saturday, February 10, led by fiddler Linelle Glass. Interested musicians need to call her by January 12.

to 7 p.m., in Room 3 for a free, open Morris workshop. Again, beginners are welcome.

Please call for information at 683-8007 (Gene Lerner) or 965-8756 (Gwen or Josh).



Winter 1995-96

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 East Carrillo St., Santa Barbara. Co-sponsored by Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Dept.

CARP Main School, corner of 8th and Palm, Carpinteria.

Come dance on the finest floor in the West at the Carrillo Ballroom and at the more intimate Carpinteria setting. 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. Come at 6:30 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.

Introductory Workshop:
6:30 p.m.

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

DATE	LOC	CALLER • BAND
Dec 3	Sun CB	Carl Magagnosc • Hot Flashes
Dec 9	Sat CARP	Gary Shapiro • David Roine & the Catwalkers Reaching new heights.
Dec 17	Sun CB	Carl Magagnosc • Growling Old Geezers
Dec 25	Mon CB	Erik Hoffman • Bayou Seco (Ken Keppeler & Jeanie McLerie) & Friends An annual <i>event</i> on Christmas Day. Come dance away those butter cookies and experience a <i>real</i> treat. Dance until 11 p.m., no extra charge.
Dec 31	Sun CB	Several callers • Hot Flashes, Kristina Gibbs & the New Resolutions et al (\$15) New Year's Eve Dawn Dance, the first dawn contra dance in the history of Santa Barbara. Be a part of history in the making and dance to live music while you're at it. We start at 8 p.m. and...
Jan 1	Mon CB	...Dawn Dance continues until dawn. Will you?
Jan 7	Sun CB	Jonathan Southard • Immortal Lemmings
Jan 13	Sat CARP	Jonathan Southard • Chameleons
Jan 21	Sun CB	Gary Shapiro • Swing Easy Before the dance, from 6-7, a special open-to-all Beginning Morris Dance Workshop, courtesy Monarch Grove Morris. Room 3. Free.
Feb 4	Sun CB	Jonathan Southard • Kitchen Junket That band from Highway 101.
Feb 10	Sat CARP	Gary Shapiro • Open band Musicians who'd like to join the open band and play old-time and New England dance tunes please contact Linelle Glass by Jan. 12 at (805) 682-1593.
Feb 18	Sun CB	Carl Magagnosc • Immortal Lemmings



December 1995

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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31						

January 1996

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February 1996

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Some Other Events in Our Vicinity

Ojai — Sat., Nov. 25: Susan Michaels with the New Young Buzzards at a *special location*: Ojai Women's Club, 441 E. Ojai Ave. On Jan. 6 and Feb. 24, dancing returns to the Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St. All three dances 7:30-10:30, intro 7:00, \$6. Ginny at (805) 646-0832 (or the SBCDS hotline).

San Luis Obispo — Second Saturdays, 8-11 p.m., intro 7:30. Beginning in Jan., also fourth Saturdays. Veteran's Hall, 801 Grand Ave. near Monterey St., \$5. Often, Int'l Folk Dancing at 5:30. (805) 541-0201 (hotline).

Los Angeles area — Contra dances every weekend. (818) 951-2003.

Star Gazer from front page

S. Fair Oaks in South Pasadena for another New Year's Eve Contra Dawn Dance. Callers Cris Miller, Chuck Galt and Lou Dow; music by Old Lang Syne, the Designated Drivers and others. (818) 504-9518.

MORE CAMPS, ETC.

Here's a sample of dance camps and festivals in the coming months. For more info, call the number shown or look for flyers at one of our dances.

January 13-14: **Santa Cruz Dawn Dance** on President's Day Weekend. Look for flyers; no advance registration required.

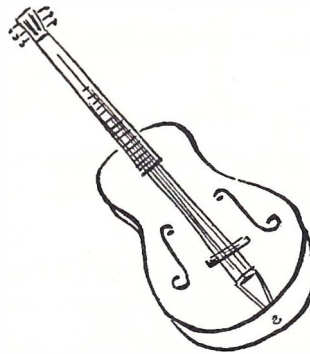
March 1-3: **Fiddling Frog** in 1996 leaps from its former urban setting to Camp Colby in the Angeles National Forest. The **Rodney Miller Band**, **For Old Times' Sake** and **Spontaneous Combustion** burn up the band stand while **Linda Leslie** of New England calls (dances, not the fire department). (818) 785-3839 or ac515@lafn.org.

March 15-17: **BACDS Monte Toyon Spring Dance Weekend** near Santa Cruz. Callers **Larry Edelman** and **Steve Zakon-Anderson**. Music by **Nightingale**, and **Paul Kotapish**, **Daniel Steinberg** (both of Hillbillies from Mars) & **Ruthie Dornfeld**. (415) 856-3038 or perner@hpl.hp.com.

May 10-12: **Dance Awakening** contra dance camp at Harbin Hot Springs. (805) 649-5189.

May 25-26: **Santa Barbara Sprung Floor Dance Festival** on Memorial Day weekend.

Go to the Movies or to a Contra Dance?	
Movies	Contra dance
\$7 for less than 2 hours	\$6 for 3 hours
a variety of movies	variety of bands, callers, dances, tunes
recorded pictures & sound	live music
\$2.10 for popcorn (small)	free refreshments
don't meet new people	meet new people
just sit there	get some exercise or just sit there
use your eyes and ears	a whole mind-body experience
never a potluck before movie	occasional potlucks before dance
bargain matinees	volunteer and receive a dance pass
bargain twilight shows	bring 2 new dancers, get a dance pass
go to a movie before a dance	before a dance, go to a movie
applause rare	applause after every dance
trailers for coming attractions	announcements of upcoming dances
no balcony (or it's closed)	way cool balcony (only at Ballroom)
no more drive-ins	outdoor dances in summer
MoviePhone (963-9503)	SBCDS Dance Hotline (969-1511)



Santa Barbara Country Dance Society
dance star
 Vol.6 No.3 Winter 1995-96

A quarterly publication of:
 Santa Barbara Country Dance Society
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 Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1904
 (805) 969-1511
 E-mail: cannon@alumni.caltech.edu
<http://www.rain.org/~gshapiro/sbcds/>
 Editing & layout: Gary Shapiro
 The SBCDS encourages articles, letters, artwork, comments and suggestions. Send or phone them to the SBCDS, or bring them to a dance. Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors.

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 A child sings before it speaks, dances almost before it walks.
 Music is in our hearts from the beginning.
 Pamela Brown



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