

CDS Boston News

The Newsletter of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre

Fall 2007

English Country Dance

As I'm writing this, the Wednesday summer series is underway and has been fantastic so far. We've had fabulous callers, musicians, dancers, ice cream, in a great hall. Lots of familiar and new faces, young and old, all looking very happy, and in huge numbers! We've had to push everything not glued to the floor out of the way to clear up every inch of the dance floor - and it's a large hall!

We'd love to see all this energy and enthusiasm continue into the fall, and are busy lining up a great list of callers and musicians once again for the Wednesday evening series. Back by popular request will be the dance of the month - we know many of you missed it, so it's back! If you get this newsletter before August 22 and have a dance you think is worthy of being a dance of the month, write to edc@cds-boston.org. The plan is to do it as the second dance after the break, so if you're one of those who leave at the break, you might want to hang around just a little longer, or if you arrive late, you might want to try to get there just a little earlier - it'll be worth your while!

We're also changing the English Dance Basics. Instead of offering it just once a month, we're offering it every single week so that you can bring your friends whenever it's convenient for them. Confirm that it's happening on the specific week you want by writing to info-english@cds-boston.org. And we'll also have people available during the breaks to answer questions.

Fall Favorites is in September again this year - Saturday, September 29, to be precise, and is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary! Bare Necessities will be playing, with Helene Cornelius and Barbara Finney leading the dances that you've voted on - so make sure to vote to get in your favourites! For those of you who fill up their

calendars way in advance, we'll probably move back to the end of October for 2008.

Christine Robb
Co-chair, English Dance Committee

The First Friday Series for Experienced English Country Dancers

Be Part of the Glorious Tradition!

Join us for another exciting season of the finest English Country dancing in Boston! The **First Friday** series offers a more challenging evening of the English Country Dance tradition's beloved classics and exciting newer dances. Dances will be taught, but attendees should be familiar with all basic figures and expect to learn dances quickly; some dances may be done after talk-through only.

Dances will be held from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, Carlton and Monmouth Streets, Brookline, MA. (Note: Dance location may be moved if the Red Sox play at home on October 5, May 2, or June 6; please check website for updates.) Admission is \$9, \$7 for CDS members. For directions or more information visit <http://www.cds-boston.org> or call Deb Karl at (617)721-0600.

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A Personal Touch

How did you start dancing? I ask that question of many people, in my role as a dance producer, in hope of learning better how to introduce more people to our dances. It turns out that nearly everyone I quiz did not first arrive through their own initiative, to participate in something they had never done before. Rather, most describe some one, or several people in their life that made the occasion of going to a dance inviting, interesting or fun, and wanted to find out more, and see what the experience might be like. And to do it again. That person often was a friend, sometimes a family member, sometimes part a group of friends, or a teacher or co-worker, and sometimes it was someone that they did not know, who asked them to come to a dance or festival for the first time.

I think each of us underestimates the persuasive influence we might have, in inviting people we know, and even people we do not know--to the pleasures of dancing regularly to live music.

Anyone organizing any group of people knows that no matter how many there are involved, over time, people depart, for a variety of innocent reasons. Perhaps their work life has changed, they have moved, their family life has changed, or their ride to the event no longer participates. My favorite metaphor for this is filling a bathtub with the drain open. To sustain our dances and our association, it will always be desirable, and necessary, for us to invite and welcome people to our activities, who may never have danced before. Often... and welcome them to come back.

I invite you to invite several people this year to join you at a dance.

~Mark Jones
President, CDS Boston Centre

Need to look up a dance or venue? Try one of these resources:

www.cds-boston.org
www.contradancelinks.com
www.facone.org/fdrb/home/
www.TheDanceGypsy.com

Since 1915

the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre has been working to preserve and promote the knowledge and practice of the traditional and contemporary dancing and dance music of England and New England. The Boston Centre sponsors and produces classes, parties, workshops, and residential and special events featuring the best performers and practitioners of English and New England country dancing. Events are open to all, and most feature teaching; no experience or partner is required.

CDS Board Members

Officers:

President - Mark Jones
Vice President - Nikki Herbst
Treasurer - Ralph Jones
Clerk - Kim Barrett
Past President - Judy Erickson

CDS Board Members:

Susan Carr, Hal Wagner, Jacqueline Barnard, Julian Cole, Otavia Propper, Lanier Smythe, Mark Ward, Laura Wing, Diane Gonzales, Liz Reisberg

Non-Board Positions:

Nominating Committee: Kim Barrett,
four vacancies
Pinewoods Camp, Inc., Board Representative
Mark Ward

CDS Boston Center Newsletter submission deadlines:

October 24, 2007

January 23, 2008

April 23, 2008

July 23, 2008

To update the CDS Boston Web pages

General CDS Boston site, English Dance Committee pages, Special Events, Camps :
Christine Robb
webmaster@cds-boston.org

New England Dance Committee:
Cortni Frecha <cortni@arrowmaker.org>
or Mark Jones markjones@busybusy.org

CDS Boston ECD Collection recordings:
Dan Pearl daniel_pearl@yahoo.com

Boston Centre Program

Info: www.cds-boston.org or (781)662-6710

Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road, Arlington Heights
Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord • Church of Our Saviour, Carlton and Monmouth Streets, Brookline

English Country Dance

Wednesdays

The entire evening will be a mix of elegantly simple to challenging dances, and traditional to contemporary dances. Most dances will be walked through, with teaching as needed. One or two may only be prompted, not walked through (and will be announced in advance)

English Dance Basics will be offered before the dance at 7:15; if interested, confirm that it's available the week you're coming by writing to <info-english at cds-boston dot org >. Opportunities to ask questions will also be offered during the breaks

The dance of the month is back by popular request!

Dinner: On the third Wednesday of every month, dancers meet for dinner at a nearby local restaurant before the dance, often at Sala Thai, 1379 Massachusetts Avenue. If you plan to come, RSVP to <wed-dinner at cds-boston dot org> by the Monday two days before, so the restaurant can be given an estimated headcount.

Admission: Newcomers and students \$4.00
Members \$7.00
Non-members \$9.00
12 dance Dance Card \$75.00

The Dance Card is valid at all Wednesday dances for one year from the date of purchase and can be shared with friends and family.

Volunteering: Volunteers are always needed, particularly with refreshments and putting things away at the end of the dance. To help out, please talk to the door manager.

First Fridays for Experienced Dancers

Church of Our Saviour.* 8:15-11 PM. For dancers thoroughly familiar with basic English Country Dance figures. All dances taught. \$9; \$7 CDS members

First Friday Experienced Dances will be held on the following dates.

Please view the First Friday flyer or <http://www.cds-boston.org> for the schedule of dance leaders and musicians:

October 5, 2007	March 7, 2008
November 2, 2007	April 4, 2008
December 7, 2007	May 2, 2008
January 4, 2008	June 6, 2008
February 1, 2008	

Gala Holiday Party

Saturday, 5 January, 2008 from 7:30 until 11:00
at the Concord Scout House

New England Dance

2nd Saturday Contra Dances
at the Concord Scout House, 74 Walden Street,
Concord MA 01742

- \$7 for CDS Boston Members,
- \$9 for non-members and
- \$5 for young people 21 and under.

Check for flyers and calendars for unscheduled dates
Web page: www.cds-boston.org/american
Email: nedc@cds-boston.org

Committee Phone: 857-499-8907 OR
CDS-BC Office announcements: 781-662-6710

Note: No dance in September.
No Dance December 7th (Second Saturday)

October 13, 2007 (2nd Saturday), 8 - 11 PM
Caller TBA, with Gift of the Marcii:
Andrew Marcus - Accordion, Doumbek
Aaron Marcus - Piano, Concertina, Clogging, Vocals
Peggy Marcus - Bodhran, Mountain Dulcimer

November 10, 2007 (2nd Saturday), 8 - 11 PM
Caller and musicians to be announced

December 1, 2007 8 - 11 PM (1st Saturday)
Sue Rosen calling, with
Phantom Power: Lissa Schneckengerger, fiddle
Bruce Rosen, piano

December 29, 2007 (5th Saturday), 8 - 11PM
Caller and musicians to be announced

January 12, 2008 (2nd Saturday), 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm-
Caller and musicians to be announced

Scout House Benefit Contra Dance

November 30, 2008, (5th Friday), 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Benefit dance to support the operations and maintenance of the Concord Scout House. Co-sponsored by CDS Boston Centre. Admission \$17, \$12 for young people 21 and under.

Steve Zakon-Anderson, calling, with Nightingale:
Jeremiah MacLane - accordion, piano
Becky Tracy - fiddle
Keith Murphy - mandolin, guitar, foot percussion

Boston Contra Dance E-mail lists:

concord-dance-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
boston-contra-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
tndc_notify-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
bostonareacontracommunity-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
com

Other Regular Boston Area Dances

Mondays

Yankee Ingenuity Scout House Contra Series. Concord Scout House. 7:30-10:30 PM. Various callers and guest musicians; Yankee Ingenuity is Peter Barnes, Mary Lea, Cal Howard, and Jack O'Connor. \$8, students \$5. Info: (781) 272-0396 or (978) 369-1232

Scottish Country Dancing. Springstep, Medford. 7:45-10:15 PM. Live music. \$7, \$4 student. Info: Laura Billmers, (781) 862-1950 or billmers@rcn.com or see www.rscdsboston.org

Tuesdays

Contra Dance for All @ MIT. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. All welcome, no experience, partner needed. 8-10:30 PM. Band sit-ins welcome. \$6, MIT & Wellesley students free. Prospective callers & musicians, contact acowan3@earthlink.net or (617) 354-0864.

Info: (617) 354-0864,
MIT Folk Dance Club (617) 253-FOLK,
or mit.edu/fdc/www/contra.html

9/11: Fall Beginner Welcome; PE Credit Available for MIT & Wellesley Students; Tony Parkes & Nightwatch - Lobdell, 2nd Fl. Student Center

9/18: Equinox Festival; Tom Roby with Victor Troll, Friends & Sit-Ins

9/25: Harvest Moon; Chris Weiler & Apple Crisp, Friends & Sit-Ins - Lobby Bldg. 13

10/2: Autumn Leaves - Student Center 491

10/9: Columbus Day - Student Center 491

10/16: Klezmer Style Contra; Jacob Bloom & ContraKlez with John Chambers, Friends & Sit-Ins - Lobby Bldg 13

10/23: Lobby 13

10/30: Halloween Party - Student Center 491

2nd & 4th Tuesdays. Boston Gender Free English Country Dance. (Experienced on 5th Tuesday) First Church of Jamaica Plain UU, Centre & Eliot Sts. 7:30-10 PM. Come at 6:30 PM with a brown bag dinner & socialize! Various leaders. \$7. Info: (617) 522-2216 (Janet) or (617) 512-5554 (John), or www.lcfd.org/bgfe/

Thursdays

New England Contrás & Squares. Concord Scout House. 7:30-10:30 PM. \$8, \$5 students. NEFFA Contra. Info: NEFFA, (781) 662-6710; Cal, (781) 272-0396; Dan, (508) 229-2854; or www.neffa.org/Thurs.html

Fridays

2nd Fridays. Contrás, Squares, & Couple Dances. Unitarian Church, 27 School St, Carlisle MA 8-10:30 PM, potluck at 6:30. www.contradancelinks.com/carlisle.htm Sue Rosen, Walter Lenk with O'Connor's Mob. \$5. Info: (617) 547-7781 or (978) 369-3353

3rd Fridays through June. Roaring Jelly: Contrás and Squares. 1st Parish Church, 7 Harrington Road, Lexington MA. Beginners 7:45, dance 8-11 PM. Susan Elberger with Debby Knight. \$6. Info: (781) 944-3544, RoaringJelly@hotmail.com or www.trillian.mit.edu/~jc/RJ.html

Saturdays

1st Sat. Usually Swing Dances, sometimes Contra or English events. Check for flyers. Concord Scout House. 74 Walden St., Concord, MA

1st Saturday Contrádances. Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church, 70 W. Emerson St., Melrose. 7-10 PM. Info: Cammydance@earthlink.net or www.home.earthlink.net/~manystings/

1st Sat. Contra Dance Berlin, MA 8-10:30 PM Admission: \$5 per person or \$12 max per family NEW Location: Berlin Town Hall, 2nd floor, 12 Woodward Ave., Berlin, MA

1st Sat. Medway Contra Dance, 7:30-10:30pm. Christ Episcopal Church, School Street in Medway, MA. \$7 adults, \$3 teens, 12 and under free.

2nd Sat. New England Contrás & Squares. 8-11 PM. Concord Scout House. \$9; \$7(CDS-BC members), \$5 (21 and under) Info: (857)499-8907

3rd Sat. Beth Parkes with Swinging on a Gate. Contra Dance, 8-11 PM. Concord Scout House. \$8; \$6, 21 and under. Info: (978) 667-7459.

4th Sat. Walter Lenk with Debby Knight and Jack O'Connor. New England Contrás and Squares, 8-11 PM. Concord Scout House. \$8; \$6, 21 and under. (617) 547-7781 or (978) 369-1232

2nd & 4th Sat. Gender Role-Free New England Contra & Square Dances. 1st Church of Jamaica Plain (Unitarian-Universalist), Corner of Centre & Eliot Sts. 7:30-11 PM unless noted. \$5 before 8 PM, \$6 after. Info: Janet, (617) 522-2216; Peter, (617) 971-0828; or Chris (617) 469-4732; or www.lcfd.org/jp/

Sundays

Scottish Country Dance. Church of Our Saviour, Carleton & Monmouth Sts., Brookline. 6:30-8:30 PM. \$4. Info: (617) 325-6657



David McCauley Stryker, Jr.

David McCauley Stryker Jr. may have carried no official or professional title, but for many in Greater Boston and beyond, he was unquestionably King of the May -- at least, of the annual May Day celebration that has been held in Cambridge, Mass., on the banks of the Charles River every May 1st for the past three decades. Amidst dancers, singers and onlookers gathered around the traditional Maypole, Stryker -- unfailingly attired in white tails and a top hat festooned with flowers -- would serve as de facto master of ceremonies for the event, exhorting all present to welcome the change in seasons. When he wasn't playing accordion to accompany the dances performed during the celebration, he was dancing himself, or leading various folk songs associated with the May.

Dave Stryker died a little more than a month after this year's May Day, on June 6, having battled cancer for the last year and a half.

Born in Amherst, Massachusetts, Stryker and his family also lived in California and Connecticut. He took an early interest in the theater, working as a stagehand and artistic contributor for a number of high school productions. He also had an interest in farming, doing post-high school study at the Sterling School (now Sterling College) in Craftsbury, Vermont, where he first encountered folk music and contra dancing, art forms that he embraced enthusiastically. In 1980, he earned his Associates Degree from the University of Massachusetts, studying Fruit and Vegetable Crops on the Amherst campus. It was there that he found his true love, which would last the rest of his life -- Morris Dancing.

Morris Dancing is a traditional English seasonal custom, with roots in medieval courtly dance and street theater. Nearly extinguished by the industrial revolution, the dance was revived in Britain in the early 20th century, and has become remarkably popular in North America in the past 35 years. Stryker joined the Juggler Meadow Morris Men, a stylistically seminal dance team in Western Massachusetts, where he readily absorbed the choreographic influences of older, more experienced dancers. A tall, lean, well-built man, Stryker developed a dance style that was profoundly athletic, precise, and passionate -- an impressive amalgam of upright dignity, innate grace, and raw masculine strength.

Stryker's singular dancing and personality were well known throughout the US, Canada and UK. A long-time member of the Binghamton (New York) Morris Men, Stryker also performed with teams in Connecticut and Vermont. In Boston, he served as teacher, dancer, musician and "fool" for the Newtowne Morris Men, as well as musician for Ha'Penny Morris. He served as an instructor at the Country Dance and Song Society's Pinewoods Camp near Buzzard's Bay. For several years he mentored and taught for Banbury Cross, a suburban Boston children's dance team. Dave made several trips to England to perform and research Morris dance. His last visit was in the summer of 2006, with the American Travelling Morrice, a rarefied collection of talented dancers drawn from across the US and Canada. Though weakened by the side effects of chemotherapy, Dave performed a grueling schedule with vitality, dignity and courage.

While Morris dancing was his primary passion, and the button-accordion his main instrument, Stryker also enjoyed playing American folk music on fiddle, banjo, upright bass and guitar -- performing everything from English drinking songs to Zydeco to rock 'n roll classics with friends at pubs and parties. He was an extremely gifted chef as well, specializing in a wide array of ethnic and gourmet cuisines.

continued

He deeply appreciated good food and good wine, and he was always delighted to share them with good company – sometimes preparing excellent meals for 50 or 60 people. Dave's cooking talents were highly acclaimed and appreciated by all the communities in which he played a role.

Dave worked as a painting contractor. His early work in Western Massachusetts as a steeplejack taught him the intricacies and concerns of historic preservation and restoration. Many historic homes and public buildings in New England came under his brush. Dave also participated in the fabrication and installation of several museum exhibitions in upstate New York. Fearless in the face of tough jobs, his work was impeccable – clean, seamless, quick and diligent, done with extreme care, high standards and a tremendous attention to detail.

Dave Stryker was a man who was truly larger than life. He danced, played, cooked, worked and lived with enormous energy, enthusiasm and passion, always on a heroic scale. His courage, humor and love in his final days are an amazement and an inspiration to those who were with him. He touched the lives of thousands of people, directly and indirectly. His presence will be sorely missed.

Dave is survived by his twin brother Stew, of Windsor, Vermont. He was predeceased by his parents David M. and Jeanine (Platt) Stryker.

Memorial service on August 11th, 2007.

Memorial donations may be made to:

- Development Office, Fenway Community Health Plan, 7 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115
- AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc. Development Office, 294 Washington Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108
- A Dave Stryker Send-a-Young-Dancer-to-England Fund is being formed. Until a formal fund is established, please send donations to: DS-SaYDtEF, c/o Stew Stryker, 502 Moonrise Hill, Windsor, VT 05089

Outside the Boston Area

English Country Dance

Cape Cod, MA 3rd Friday, except Dec.

Lively and Elegant English Country Dance on Cape Cod. East Sandwich Grange, 85 Old County Road, East Sandwich MA. Priscilla Adams & Linda Nelson with Jan Elliott & friends. \$8, \$6 students & seniors. Info: (508) 540-1151

South Amherst MA Mondays & Saturdays

Mondays - Robin Hayden with live music. \$6. Info: Robin at (413) 256-8260 or

www.amherstecd.org

1st Saturday. Amherst Assembly. 7:45-10:45 PM. Graham Christian with various musicians. Special refreshments. \$7. Info: bray1699@yahoo.com

3rd Saturday. Pleasures of the Town English Country Dance. 7:30-10:30 PM. Music, Joyce Crouch, piano, & Doug Creighton, flute & melodeon, with guest musicians. \$7. Info: (413) 253-3828, madrobin@rcn.com, or amherstecd.org

Sept 15 Brad Foster w/guests Naomi Morse on violin, Jessica Murrow on oboe & English horn)

Oct 20 Joanna Reiner from Philly, PA w/guest Lydia Ievins on violin
-- Our 15th Anniversary Celebration!!!

Nov 17 Tom Amesse from Staten Island

Rhode Island - Saturdays

Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingston Rd., West Kingston RI.

7:30-10:30 PM. Live music, guest callers. \$10 Courthouse members; \$12 non-members, subscription price for all six dances \$48. Info: (401) 539-3009 or www.CourthouseArts.org

Sept. 15 Orly Krasner
Sept. 29 Michael Cicone
Oct. 13 Linda Nelson
Oct. 27 Tom Roby
Nov. 10 Sue Rosen
Nov. 24 Helene Cornelius

New Hampshire - 2nd Sunday, Sept.-June

Presidential Oaks (Odd Fellows Home), Minot St. off Pleasant, Concord NH. 5:30-8 PM. Marianne Taylor calling. \$7, \$6 members. Info: Dave Bateman (603) 433-2735, Marianne Taylor (603) 463-7771, taylorgorman@juno.com; or www.nhecads.org

Connecticut - Fridays

English Country Dance. New Haven CT. Neighborhood Music School Recital Hall, 100 Auburn St. 8-10:30 PM. \$8. Info: (203) 776-6929

Be sure to call first

FOR DETAILS AND DIRECTIONS

Contras

Rehoboth, MA 2nd, 4th and 5th Fridays

<http://www.contradancelinks.com/rehoboth.html>

Sept 14 Tony Parkes and Rumblestrip (Nat Hewitt, Liza Constable & Glen Loper)

Sept 28 Lisa Greenleaf and Beeswax Sheepskin (Ethan Hazzard-Watkins, Anna Patton, Chuck Corman and Roger Kahle)

Salem, MA 1st Saturdays, October - June

Tabernacle Congregational Church, 50 Washington St, Salem. 8:00pm. \$8; \$6 seniors & students; \$20 family maximum. Wear clean, soft-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. Info (978) 745-9391 or lew134@lycos.com.

Worcester, MA 2nd Saturdays

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

September 9 Rhubarb Pie & Steve Howland

October 14 White Squall & Tim VanEgmond

Nov. 11 Einstein's Little Humunculus & Christine Hale

Melrose, MA 3rd Saturdays

A community dance at the Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church, 70 West Emerson St., Melrose, MA. <http://home.earthlink.net/~manystrings/dance1.html>

Greenfield, MA nearly every Friday and Saturday

401 Chapman St. see www.guidingstargrange.org

3rd Friday. 8 PM-midnight. \$6. Guiding Star Grange. Info: (802) 254-2874 or bromczak@sover.net

South Amherst, MA 4th Saturday.

Contra Dance. Callers Susan Conger, Susie Secco, guests. 8:30 PM. \$6. Info: Susan, (413) 367-9269 or sconger@shaysnet.com

Cape Cod, MA Saturdays

For general information about the following dances, contact shabam@ais.net

1st Saturday. Contra Dance. Woods Hole Community Hall, Main St., Woods Hole. (508) 548-6229 or 548-6661

2nd Saturday. Contra Dance. Freedom Hall, 976 Main St., Cotuit. Info: (508) 563-6750

3rd Saturday. Contra Dance. East Sandwich Grange, Old County Rd., Sandwich. Info: (508) 563-6934

5th Saturday. Contra Dance. North Falmouth Congregational Church, 155 Main Rd., N. Falmouth.

Manchester, NH 3rd Fridays

Mill City Contra Dance - *Air Conditioned!*

Chris Weiler calls. Beginners Workshop 7:30pm Dance 8-11pm \$7; under 12 free. 250 Commercial St. Manchester, NH. <http://www.nhdances.org/millcity/>

Aug 17 - Amy Cann, Vince O'Donnell & Carol Compton

Sept 21 - The Killer Bees: Erica Weiss, Mark Wholley

Oct 18 - Julie Vallimont and Friends

For Those Who Travel

Connecticut

20th NOMAD (Folk) Festival

November 2-4, 2007

Wilbur Cross High School

181 Mitchell Drive, New Haven CT

Web: <http://www.nomadfest.org>

Maine

Mainewoods Dance Camp

Indian Acres, Fryeburg, ME

Labor Day: Aug 31 - Sep 3.

www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org

T: 617-426-1048 George Fogg

New York

Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Camps

Hosted by Jay Ungar & Molly Mason

near Woodstock, NY

<http://www.ashokan.org/ashokan/camp.shtml>

New Years Winter Camp, Dec 29, 2007 - Jan 1, 2008

Tennessee

Music City Masquerade

Nashville, TN

October 26-28, 2007

Featuring music by Rodney Miller's Airdance

and Russ Barenberg

Calling by Nils Fredland of New Hampshire

and Fred Park

Singing workshop by Suzannah Park

Contras, squares, music, singing, Irish set workshops

Dance on a great hardwood floor surrounded by our

wonderful decorations. Experience great southern

hospitality and find out why Nashville is one of the

friendliest dance groups around.

Visit our website: www.dancenashville.org

or call 615-385-9142

Greek Isles

Two Exciting New Trips! Dance and sail

the Greek isles on a 3 masted schooner!

English dancing, September 12 - 21, 2007

Contra dancing, September 19-29,

Live music by Peter Barnes & Mary Lea

Calling by Scott Higgs

Classical Sites of Ancient Greece - Cultural tour of-

fered before & after the sailing trips For complete

details & itinerary, visit: www.reeljig.com/mcfarland/

or email: Ken_mcfarland@earthlink.net

Letters: Scholarships at Pinewoods

Dear Country Dance Society, Boston Centre
and Pinewoods Camp Inc.

I want to thank all of you who allowed me to attend Pinewoods Camp's 4th of July Weekend Session. I have heard about Pinewoods from many friends over the years. Everyone comes home every summer telling me how much they enjoyed camp and how much they learned. I was thrilled to be able to have a similar experience.

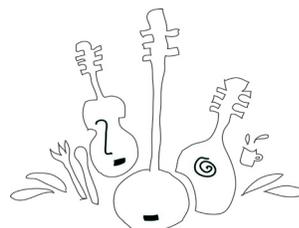
Just going to Pinewoods, meeting campers and crew, learning Pinewoods traditions, and falling into a Pinewoods way of life was incredible. The community was so warm and welcoming, I was so glad I could have my own niche in it.

I also really enjoyed the opportunity to take classes and participate in forms of dance I'm rarely exposed to. For that reason the highlight of my weekend was Kari's English Clogging class. I Rapper Dance, and I've always had good control over my feet, but with Kari I got to learn traditional steps and a pattern that had been written by an amazing clogger before I was born, which was an incredible and new experience. I

learned a more traditional form of percussive dance than I had hitherto come across. I learned new ways in which my feet could make noise, and how to control those and other noises better than I could before.

I'm really grateful that I got to have this experience and I really hope I'll be able to return to July Fourth Weekend in future years. Thank you so much,

- Alice Kaufman



Editor's note: The historical materials in the previous issue of CDS Boston Centre News were graciously contributed by George Fogg. --CF.

Dear Country Dance Society, Boston Centre and Pinewoods Camp Inc.

I cannot thank you enough for allowing me to attend 4th of July weekend at Pinewoods Camp! I've considered myself a "folkie" for about a year, now. Although primarily a musician, I started contra dancing last summer. Since then I've also picked up Morris and Rapper. It was amazing to find a place where all these things and MORE were right at my fingertips. Mix that with the best company you could want, lots of parties, singing, good food, and you have the way to live. Everything I needed or wanted was at my fingertips. I was housed, fed, taught and entertained! My only regret was that I could not stay forever.

Something about Pinewoods separated it from similar events I've been to. Part of it was the unforgettable environment. I will always remember sitting on the dock with friends and reveling in the beauty of nature and the wonderful things happening all around me. Pinewoods centered me. It made me feel content with my life and who I am. I made friends, I got to know old ones better, and I feel that I took away from camp memories that will stay with me and help me in the future. I felt welcomed by the enthusiasm of long-time campers to get me involved; to mentor me and get me dancing and playing as much as possible! I woke every day, and jumped right into learning. With the help of Pinewoods teachers, I expanded greatly on my skills in rapper and morris, learning a creative approach to rapper (slip jig) and an original morris tradition. I was introduced to English country dancing for the first time at Pinewoods. I was able to really get a feel for it, dancing to the best calling around.

There was a whole contingency of folks my age. Some have been coming for as long as they can remember, others only the last few years, or like myself, for the first time. But every one of us was given special attention. We were being shown the ropes, so to speak, so that this community and this camp, this haven, will continue through the next generation. I felt a part of that contingency, and I mean to stay with it. I mean to come back every year possible for the rest of my life. Next year, though, I'll be washing dishes! Thank you again for an unforgettable experience!

- Eric McDonald

I had a wonderful time at First Weekend this year with the scholarship CDS-Boston and PCI awarded me. It gave me more opportunity than I've ever had to play fiddle for classes and the evening dances. I played for two-thirds of each evening dance, as well as a rapper class and a kids' morris class. Aside from allowing me to attend a weekend I couldn't otherwise afford, this scholarship also gave me the great honor of making and building upon connections and friendships with prominent musicians. I joined those musicians on the stage at C# with some apprehension about my lack of experience, but by the end of the weekend felt comfortable in my rapport with them on and off our instruments. I look forward to playing music at Pinewoods and in other settings in the future, and am so grateful you helped me make this first step.

- Natty Smith

New England Dance

Second Saturdays at the Scout House continue to be fun community dances welcoming beginners and experienced dancers alike. The callers aim for a mix of dances both accessible to beginners and zesty enough to delight the most experienced.

In October the Second Saturday Scout House contra dance welcomes The Gift of the Marcii for their debut on the Scout House stage. They are a high-energy contra dance band, using an unusual combination of instruments and many original tunes to create their unique sound. Andrew Marcus plays accordion and doumbek, Aaron Marcus adds piano, concertina, clogging and vocals. And Peggy Marcus rounds the sound with bodhran and mountain dulcimer. A family band originally from Newton MA, the Marcii are now spread to Syracuse, NY and Takoma Park, MD.

On November 30, in addition to the second Saturday dance, we will co-sponsor a benefit dance with the Scout House. Steve Zakon-Anderson and Nightingale join up for crowd pleasing dances set to a driving dance-groove. The Scout House has once again undergone repairs to its timber frame this summer and needs your support- bring your friends to help fund our community hall!

Cortni Frecha
New England Dance Committee

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All meetings are open, and members are welcome. Please ask a committee member or officer for date, time, and place—or call the office.

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If you are planning an event or some other matter requiring consideration by the CDS Boston Centre Board, please send a brief summary to:

president@cds-boston.org
or by mail to the address above
left corner

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