



A DANCE NEWSLETTER??

Welcome to *The Dance Card*. This new addition to the newsletter will be published quarterly to keep you up-to-date on Contra & Square dancing in Tucson and throughout the State. It will be included in your newsletter, but will also be available at dances and other events, so that dance info is readily accessible to newcomers and out-of-town visitors.

We hope that many different types of dance-related articles are published in *The Dance Card*. Regular features will include a State-wide dance schedule, notices of dance camps throughout the country, and reviews of dance events. We will also include some articles on dance style,

the history of dance, and reviews of books and CD's. We would like to publish dances or tunes that our members write or just really like. The sky's the limit, and anyone can submit an article — even, and especially, you! We would also like your comments and suggestions to help make this a useful and fun publication. The next *Dance Card* will go out in the November newsletter so call me at 882-3068, or send submittals and comments to Claire Zucker, TFTM, P.O. Box 40654, Tucson, Arizona 85717. Enjoy the reading, and see you at the dances.

Claire Zucker

**CONTRA
CALLING:
A New Book**

If you are a caller, or if you would like to learn to call, there are several books on the market that can be very useful. One of the newest is *Contra Calling, A Basic Text*, by Tony Parkes (1992: Hands Four Books, Bedford, MA). Tony is a long-time New England caller, and author of many popular dances, including "Shadrack's Delight."

Rather than emphasizing a collection of dances, this book instead is about calling, dancing, and running dances. Along with the usual discussions of style (both dancing and calling), this book covers all the practical details, from using a sound system to advertising dances.

An invaluable section addresses 18 basic contra dance figures, devoting at least two pages to each. This section includes not only detailed descriptions of the moves and their variations, but also discusses teaching techniques and transitions in and out of the moves. In addition to this section, there is a full glossary with less common dance figures and other terms.

Finally, the book does include some dances, in both descriptive and call form. In consistently thorough form, these are basic dances that illustrate not only contras, but also circles, whole-sets, and squares.

Look for this book in your music and dance catalog, or order it directly (about \$22 + shipping) from Hands Four Book and Record Service, PO Box 641, Bedford, MA 01730.

Becky Nankivell

SUMMER SOLSTICE IN S. CALIFORNIA

The Calabasas Summer Solstice Festival was a real success this year. Ten Tucson dancers and musicians made the trip across the mighty desert for the weekend of June 25th through June 27th. The festival featured all types of dance and music workshops as well as lawn concerts all day long on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday night, music jams carried on until 3 am in one of the local hotels. Here is one Tucson dancer's rendition of the weekend...

"Some Tucson friends and I went to the Calabasas Music and Dance Festival, north of LA. It was fun to drive all together with my Tucson buddies.

Not only did I get to see grass, swans, and ancient Oaks, I got to try out some new kinds of dancing. There was lots of good contra dancing, but I also took workshops in clogging, highland fling, Irish set dancing, French-Canadian step dancing, and you-name-it. I didn't even touch the international dancing, which was offered all day long on one of the three dance floors.

Other people in the group found what they were looking for. Cameron went for the great story-telling and voice workshops, Eric for his banjo favorite, and Steve learned new techniques on the bodhran. I was going to skip the shape-note singing, but a California friend of Claire's waxed enthusiastic about it — so I spent an hour reaching the sublime in voices raised to heaven.

Needless to say, I'm going again next year. Already I miss the sound of music reverberating within and without me wherever I go."

Mary Whitman

"GIVING WEIGHT IS A
SHARED EXPERIENCE"

Erik Hoffman

"YOU DON'T NEED A THUMB TO GIVE WEIGHT
(IT'S NOT A MATTER OF GRIP)"

IT'S MORE THAN DANCING

If you love contra dancing, you may be thinking about getting more involved. In Tucson, this is not hard to do. The dance can always use your help!

- **Jump in:** help set up or take down the sound system, be an experienced body to help with the beginner's session, or help clean up after the dance (especially at First Congregational church, where we have refreshments).
- **Usually the band is open** to any musicians (but check with the producer in case a special set band is scheduled). If you want some practice, many band members jam on Tuesday nights at the Rusty Lantern on 4th Ave.
- **Dance production** (coordinating an evening of dance - including scheduling callers) is open to regular dancers. Producing a dance takes a few hours work before the dance and on the day of the dance. Contact me or look for the periodic meeting notices in the newsletter.
- We always welcome new callers. If you are ready to call, let me know and I'll put your name on the list the producers use, or you can phone an upcoming producer. Contact me if you are interested in learning to call, as well.
- The **TFTM dance committee** has open membership - just attend the occasional meetings to help plan and improve TFTM dances.

TFTM's dance is your dance! Questions? Call me at 327-1779, or another dancing Board member.

Becky Nankivell,
TFTM Dance Committee Chairperson

A Z Dance Schedule

FIRST SATURDAYS (TFTM) First Congregational Church, 2nd Avenue and University, 7:30-10:30 p.m., park in lot at 2nd Ave. and 2nd St. (Except Sept 4, see below)

STREET DANCE - SEPTEMBER 4. Head down to Scott Ave. between Congress and Pennington. Free with Live Music. Producer: Becky Nankivell 327-1779.

SECOND SATURDAYS (TCDS) Faith Lutheran Activity Center, 3925 E. 5th St. 7:30-11 pm.

THIRD SATURDAYS (TFTM) Armory Park Center, 5th Avenue between 12th and 13th Streets, 7:30-11p.m., Beginners introduction 7:30 to 8p.m.

PHOENIX-SECOND FRIDAYS- Grace United Methodist Church, 2024 E. University, Potluck 6:30, dance 8:00. 893-3328.

PRESCOTT-FIRST and THIRD FRIDAYS, Prescott Armory 778-5118.

FLAGSTAFF-SECOND SATURDAYS Marshall School, 840 N. Bonito. 774-7261.

DAWN DANCE IN THE CATALINA MOUNTAINS

The annual Dawn Dance will be held again at the Whispering Pines Girl Scout Camp high in the Santa Catalina Mountains. The event is scheduled for September 25th, and if its anything like it has been for the last few years, it should be a spectacularly good time. The music, the dance, and the cool mountain air is something to remember all year long. The dance will start in the early evening and continue all night long (for the hardy stay-awakers). For those who can't make it all night, camping and dorm-style cabins are available. The dance will feature a special caller (TBA) and various bands with set band leaders. Donna Howell of the Tucson Country Dance Society is putting it all together, and she welcomes volunteers. You can reach Donna at 749-4901.

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JOIN TUCSON FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Mail check to Tucson Friends of Traditional Music (TFTM), P.O. Box 40654, Tucson, AZ 85717-0654

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music preserves traditional music in Tucson by presenting a concert series, bi-monthly dances and other special events. Membership benefits include discounts on all events, plus newsletter subscription. For information on TFTM, call 743-3217.

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NOTE: Dues are going up next month. See article in August Newsletter page 4

What performers would you like to see? _____

Interested in volunteering? Newsletter Concerts Dances

