

North Bay Country Dance Society  
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 (707) 527-9794



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# HANDS FOUR



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BAY COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY line art by Becky Hill

## HERE COMES THE MAD ROBIN!

Is it cold and wet right now? Never fear – take heart - spring and summer will come! And so will the MAD ROBIN! And what, you say, is the “MAD ROBIN”? It is a nine year old English Country Ball held right here in Petaluma, California. The dances are always a thrill. Every year the costumes are an eye-ful. The hall will be beautifully decorated. And – definitely – the music will bring joy to your heart and soul.

We asked a wandering friendly fortune teller to stare deeply into a crystal ball, recite an incantation, and say what will transpire on Saturday, June 12 this year, 2010. The crystal ball quivered and shone like a bright searchlight. The fortune teller smiled, stared off into space and sang out a sterling musical prognosis. For sure—no doubt—a merry throng of good natured friendly folks, dressed in their old-fashioned colorful finery will dance to heavenly tunes beneath colored banners and twinkling lights. There will be joy and delight as the music flows, and as the dancers smile and sway.

Do join us for this years ball; this is a ball for as many as will. There will be an afternoon workshop on the day of the ball, there will be an open house gathering on Sunday morning in Sebastopol, and there will be a wonderful dance at Wischemann Hall in Sebastopol on Sunday afternoon. The caller this year – Robert Moir – will be coming all the way from England.

Watch for a flyer or check out the website (<http://madrobin.org>), then reserve your place in the set. This year's ball is the one “not to be missed.”...And you read it here. .

## SIGN UP NOW FOR FAULTLINE FROLIC

You can't come if you aren't registered, so pick up a flyer at a dance or go to [www.nbcds.org](http://www.nbcds.org) to print out an application and send it in pronto. Dancing, singing, eating and celebrating community are all key to Faultline Frolic, the urban contra camp NBCDS holds at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa 'round the summer solstice. The fifth annual Frolic starts Friday night, June 18, and runs through Sunday the 20th. The weekend features Notorious, considered by certain opinionated dance gypsies to be the reigning hottest contra band. Eden MacAdam-Somer on fiddle brings classical technique and international versatility to the melody lead; Larry Unger on guitar and banjo writes unforgettable tunes and is the undisputed master of contra rhythm and blues; Sam Bartlett on mandolin is everybody's favorite virtuoso stuntman; and Pokey is the percussionist most in demand with bands from Wild Asparagus to The Sevens. Cis Hinkle, masterful Atlanta caller, teaches quick and clear with flawless timing and an unflinching sense of fun. Saturday's dinner and Sunday's breakfast are catered by Michael Martin and cheerful volunteers. Want to pitch in with kitchen tasks? To help email [andy@nbcds.org](mailto:andy@nbcds.org). When you register, be sure to note whether you can offer housing to gypsies. And don't wait to sign up; our weekend's reputation is growing, and the hall is charming—but small! Call (707) 996-0065 or email [reta@nbcds.org](mailto:reta@nbcds.org) for more information.

And don't miss out on the post Faultline After-shock. Notorious will rock Lootens Hall in San Rafael on Sunday, June 20, with Susan Petrick calling. No pre-registration required.

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR CHUCK WARD

We congratulate Chuck Ward, 2009 recipient of Country Dance and Song Society's (CDSS) Lifetime Contribution Award. Chuck has been a major contributor as a musician, teacher, and dance organizer to the growth of English country dance in the Bay Area since 1970. In the North Bay, Chuck, together with Lydee Scudder and Mark Carroll, co-founded the Sebastopol English Country Dance in 1996. Chuck has played regularly at the Sebastopol ECD and the North Bay's Mad Robin Ball. The CDSS ceremony honoring Chuck Ward will take place the afternoon of March 28, 2010, at Albany Veterans Memorial Building in Albany. To read more about Chuck, visit [www.cdss.org](http://www.cdss.org).



There is a bit of insanity in dancing that does everybody a great deal of good.  
 ~ Edwin Denby

### 2009 NBCDS Board of Directors

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# North Bay Dance Calendar: Spring 2010

NBCDS DanceLine: (707) 527-9794 • email: [info@nbcds.org](mailto:info@nbcds.org) • [www.nbcds.org](http://www.nbcds.org)

Regular dance admission: \$10 adults, \$8 members, \$5 Adults under 25 and FT students with ID, \$2 ages 6–17, under 6 free  
Come a half hour early to every dance for a newcomers lesson.

English Country Dances (ECD) meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays, 2–4:30 pm, at Wischemann Hall, 460 Morris St., Sebastopol  
Admission is \$8/NBCDS members, \$10 non-members, and \$3 for children.

Call 707-829-0168 for more information or contact [kalia@nbcds.org](mailto:kalia@nbcds.org) or [kwoeltjen@yahoo.com](mailto:kwoeltjen@yahoo.com).



Key to Hall Locations and Contacts for Contra dances:

PET 1st Sun Petaluma Woman's Club, 518 B Street, Petaluma; 6:30 – 9:30 pm; 707-823-4982, [tom@nbcds.org](mailto:tom@nbcds.org)  
SRF 2nd Sat Marin Masonic Lodge, Lootens Place @ Fourth, San Rafael; 8:00 – 11:00 pm; 415-302-9503, [andy@nbcds.org](mailto:andy@nbcds.org)  
SRO 3rd Fri, 5th Sat Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa; 8:00 – 11:00 pm; 707-545-1274, [contrabeet43@gmail.com](mailto:contrabeet43@gmail.com)  
SEB 4th Sat Wischemann Hall, 460 Morris Street, Sebastopol; 8:00 – 11:00 pm; 707-569-0565, [mnfyman@sonic.net](mailto:mnfyman@sonic.net)  
UKI\* 2nd Sat Ukiah Methodist Church, 270 North Pine, 7:00 – 10:30 pm; Ulla Brunberg-Rand, 707-467-0311; \$8 adults, \$6 teens  
\* dances are not sponsored by NBCDS

Apple Tree Morris dancers meet weekly and welcome new members - no experience necessary. Call or email Cliff Stevens, 823-6925, [cliff@kichu.com](mailto:cliff@kichu.com)

## April

Sun 4	English	SEB	Kalia Kliban	<b>Midnight Smorgasbord:</b> Jon Berger (violin), Noel Cragg (piano), Erin Vang (horn)
Sun 4	Contra	PET	Lynn Ackerson	<b>Montage (NY):</b> Jane Knoeck (piano, accordion), Rachel Bell (accordion, flute), Tom Santarsiero (guitar, mandolin, banjo)
Sat 10	Contra	UKI*	Bob O'Brien	<b>The Skelton Crew:</b> Andi Skelton (fiddle), Eleanor Cook (fiddle), Rod Skelton (guitar)
Sun 11	Contra	SRF	Deb Comly (AZ) and Susan Petrick and Joyce Miller	<b>Latter Day Lizards:</b> Dave Langford (MA) (fiddle, guitar), Peter Barnes (MA) (piano, guitar, flute), Bill Tomczak (CO) (clarinet, saxophone, dumbek), Stuart Kenney (MA) (bass, banjo) <b>Note special day, time and price for this dance: Sunday 7:30 — 10:30, \$10/12/7</b>
Fri 16	Contra	SRO	Lynn Ackerson	Chris Knepper (fiddle, gadulka), Noel Cragg (keyboard)
Sun 18	English	SEB	Mary Luckhardt	Stan Kramer (violin), Susan Kramer (flute), Chuck Ward (piano)
Sat 24	Contra	SEB	TBD	Chris Knepper (fiddle, gadulka), Noel Cragg (keyboard)

## May

Sun 2	English	SEB	Gary Thomas	Rebecca King (piano), Marilyn Simpson (violin), David Barnett (woodwinds)
Sun 2	Contra	PET	Chuck Galt	<b>Three O'clock Shadow:</b> Erik Hoffman (fiddle), Peter Langston (mandolin), Chris Grampp (guitar), Adam Cavan (double bass)
Sat 8	Contra	SRF	Warren Blier	<b>Ratnip:</b> Caroline McCaskey (fiddle), Howard Booster (fiddle), Alan Snyder (piano), Cole Ingraham (flute, guitar, djembe)
Sat 8	Contra	UKI*	Celia Ramsey	Debra Tayleur (piano) and Friends
Sun 16	English	SEB	David Newitt	<b>Humuhumunukunua'ia and Strathspey Society Band</b>
Fri 21	Contra	SRO	Andy Wilson	<b>Opportunists:</b> Alan Snyder (fiddle, guitar), Erik Hoffman (guitar, fiddle, percussion), Topher Gayle (bass, mandolin, banjo)
Sat 22	Contra	SEB	Tina Fields	<b>Pat Ryan's Celtic Junket:</b> Morgan Meadow (fiddle), Josh Needleman (guitar), Pat Ryan (bass)
Sat 29	Contra	SRO	Chuck Galt	Ray Bierl (fiddle, guitar), Markie Sanders (bass), Ed Meff (guitar, fiddle) <b>CHALLENGING CONTRA DANCE — NOT FOR BEGINNERS</b>

## June

Sun 6	English	SEB	Susan Michaels (L.A.)	Chuck Ward (piano), Beverly Jacobs (flute)
Sun 6	Contra	PET	Susan Michaels (L.A.)	<b>Fiddlerats:</b> Caroline McCaskey (fiddle), Eric Anderson (piano), Cole Ingraham (flute, guitar, percussion)
Sat 12	Contra	SRF	Lynn Ackerson	<b>Mad Dogs:</b> Julian Smedley (fiddle), Peter Langston (mandolin), Chris Grampp (guitar), Adam Cavan (double bass)
Sat 12	Contra	UKI*	Tom Lemann	<b>West Road:</b> Laura Smith (fiddle), Darin Smith (guitar, cello, fiddle) and friends
Sat 12	English		Robert Moir	Jon Berger (violin, accordion), Beth Zekley (piano, concertina, woodwinds), Shira Kammen (violin, viola), Rebecca King (piano) <b>MAD ROBIN BALL - for more details go to <a href="http://madrobin.org">http://madrobin.org</a></b>
Sun 13	English	SEB	Robert Moir	<b>Mad Robin Ball Band</b> <b>Special Post Mad Robin Ball dance</b>
Fri 18	Contra	SRO	<b>Cancelled for Faultline Frolic dance weekend. For details and to register go to <a href="http://www.nbcds.org">www.nbcds.org</a></b>	
Sun 20	Contra	SRF	Susan Petrick	<b>Notorious:</b> Eden MacAdam-Somer (MA) (fiddle), Larry Unger (MA) (guitar, banjo), Sam Bartlett (IN) (mandolin), Mark Hellenberg (OH) (percussion) <b>Special post Faultline dance, no pre-registration required, 7:30 – 10:30, \$10/12/7</b>
Sun 20	English	SEB	Bruce Hamilton	Jon Berger (violin), Laurie Reaume (piano), Sue Draheim (violin)
Sat 26	Contra	SEB	Robin Steen	<b>Contranauts:</b> Janette Duncan (fiddle), MacGillvary Allen (fiddle), Jerry Allen (guitar), Roxanne Oliva (accordion)

Contra dancing and English country dancing are easy, fun, friendly and inclusive. All dances are taught and prompted, and feature great live music. No experience is necessary; come alone or bring a friend. Wear comfortable clothes and low, smooth-soled, comfortable shoes. Scent-free dancing appreciated! New dancers are encouraged to come early for an orientation, and for simpler dances early in the evening. To see what contra dancing is all about before you attend a dance you can go online to [http://www.contradance.org/html/what\\_is.php](http://www.contradance.org/html/what_is.php) for video lessons.