

# North Bay Country Dance Society

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W•I•N•T•E•R • 2•0•1•4

# HANDS FOUR



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BAY COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

line art by Becky Hill

## The Rules of Chaos

Chaos is a game of switching partners and gender roles during a dance—but it is deceptively named. An ideal chaos dance sacrifices none of the flow and connection of a regular contra, adding only an element of surprise to the mix. Chaos functions best on a set of rules that minimize negative impact on other dancers.

1. Wait two times through before you start playing. This gives everyone a chance to learn the dance, and lets the caller know the dance is working.
2. Only switch with people who are playing. Never confuse beginning dancers.
3. Play with your shadows, not your neighbors. The couples ahead of and behind you are going in the same direction as you, so you'll have plenty of opportunities to switch. Switching with your neighbors means that you are going in the opposite direction and you won't see each other again for a long time.
4. Don't abandon your partner or your neighbor. When your neighbor expects to swing someone, there should be someone there to swing.
5. When there is a problem, hold your ground until it's solved. As the experienced dancers and ones who probably messed it up, it's your job to solve it.
6. Don't break connection or the set. For example, a circle is a bad time to switch with someone in another hands four. Determine who is playing ahead of time. Position yourselves as all ones or all twos, every other couple in the line. Try to inform everyone playing of the boundaries, so that everyone knows who is playing and who isn't. If done right, Chaos dancing results in giggles, double takes, and smiles—not anger and frustration. Experiment and have fun!

~ Written by Laura Gorrin

## Dance Away the Winter Blues

A number of special dances are planned for this winter quarter to help you dance away the sluggishness of winter. Check the calendar for details, particularly for the San Rafael dances, as the dates, times and locations are subject to change.

In January we will have a preview of the band headlining Contra Carnival—**The Stringrays!** Dance to fabulous fiddling by Rodney Miller, dynamic guitar playing by Max Newman and groovy bass playing by Stuart Kenney. Local favorite, Erik Hoffman, will call some special dances to this blissful music. Don't miss the chance to dance to this all-star Contra band!

**Sassafras Stomp**, comes to both the Petaluma and San Rafael dances in February. This dynamic band weaves together diverse fiddle traditions with a strong rhythmic sensibility, building a rich sound marked by sweet harmony vocals and driving foot percussion. Jean Gorrindo, will skillfully teach and call some marvelous dances.

A favorite Contra dance band on the West Coast, **Contra Sutra**, headlines the San Rafael dance in March. This groovy folk dance band mixes a blend of familiar favorites and new tunes, with some pop moments. Tasty tune-to-dance matching is their hallmark. Ohio caller, Kathy Anderson, will expertly lead us in dancing ecstasy.

Keep your eye on the Sebastopol Contra dance. Most dates have a workshop or event planned before the dance. Improve your waltzing skills, learn the Hambo, or join us for a sing along. The calendar has more details.

## 2014 Membership

Now is the time to join or renew your membership to NBCDS for 2014! The cost is \$20 for a regular membership; \$36 for supporting members; and \$45 for a family membership. With your membership you get a \$2 discount at most dances, a directory of members, and a cool NBCDS name button. You can also feel good about supporting our non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, study, teach, preserve and enjoy English & American folk and ritual dance, music and song. You can pick up a membership form at any of our dances or print one from our website <http://www.nbcds.org/membership.html>

## Volunteers Make It Happen!

Lenore Cantrell is our new NBCDS Volunteer Coordinator. She is looking to fill some key positions, and increase our volunteer pool. No matter what your skills or interests, we should be able to put them to good use. You can talk to her at a dance or email her at [Lenore@nbcds.org](mailto:Lenore@nbcds.org)

### 2014 NBCDS Board Members

Susan Amato, President.....	484-2907
<a href="mailto:susan@nbcds.org">susan@nbcds.org</a>	
Lenore Cantrell, Vice President.....	933-9740
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Craig Meltzner, Treasurer.....	544-7036
<a href="mailto:craig@nbcds.org">craig@nbcds.org</a>	

# North Bay Country Dance Calendar: Winter 2014

## Key to Hall Locations and Contacts:

PET 1st Sun Petaluma Woman's Club, 518 B Street, Petaluma; 6:30 – 9:30 pm; 707-544-7036, craig@nbcds.org  
SRF 2nd Sat Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin, 240 Channing Way, San Rafael; 8:00 – 11:00 pm; skamato@hotmail.com  
Or alternate site: Strawberry Reception Hall, 118 E Strawberry Dr, Mill Valley  
Or alternate site: Marin Masonic Lodge, Lootens Place @ Fourth, San Rafael  
SRFE 2nd & 4th Sun Pickleweed Community Center—**Dance cancelled until further notice.**  
SRO 3rd Fri, 5th Sat Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa; 8:00 – 11:00 pm; 707-545-1274, contrabeet43@gmail.com  
SEB Contra 4th Sat Wischemann Hall, 460 Morris Street, Sebastopol; 8:00 – 11:00 pm; andy@nbcds.org  
SEB ECD 1st & 3rd Sun Wischemann Hall, 460 Morris Street, Sebastopol; 2:00 - 4:30 pm; 707-829-0168 or kalia@nbcds.org  
or kwoeltjen@yahoo.com

Regular NBCDS dance admission: \$12 adults, \$10 members; \$7 adults under 26, FT students with ID and financial hardship; \$2 ages 6–17; under 6 free. Come a half hour early to every dance for a newcomers lesson.

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

## January

Sun 5 ECD SEB Kalia Kliban Jon Berger (violin), Janette Duncan (violin), Debra Tayleur (piano)  
Sun 5 Contra PET Lynn Ackerson Erin Shrader (fiddle), Richard Mandel (guitar)  
Thu 16 Contra SRF Erik Hoffman **Stringrays:** Rodney Miller (NH) (fiddle), Stuart Kenney (MA) (bass & banjo), Max Newman (MA) (guitar)  
**Special Dance—7:30-10:30; Unitarian Universalist Congregation; \$12/\$7**  
Fri 17 Contra SRO Lea Smith Lee Anne Welch (fiddle), Rebecca King (keyboard)  
Sun 19 ECD SEB Alan Winston Jon Berger (violin), Michael Siemon (concertina), Laurie Reaume (piano)  
Sat 25 Contra SEB Kelsey Hartman **Whimsical:** Janette Duncan (fiddle), Debra Tayleur (piano), Roxanne Oliva (accordion and flute), Beth Christian (cello)  
**Intermediate Waltz Workshop** (taught by Andy Westbom), 6:30-7:20

## February

Sun 2 ECD SEB Kalia Kliban The Humuhumus  
Sun 2 Contra PET Jean Gorrindo **Sassafras Stomp (MT/ME):** Johanna Davis (fiddle), Adam Nordell (guitar), Putnam Smith (banjo & mandolin)  
Fri 7 Contra SRF Jean Gorrindo (SLO) **Sassafras Stomp (MT/ME):** Johanna Davis (fiddle), Adam Nordell (guitar), Putnam Smith (banjo & mandolin)  
**Special Dance—8:00-11:00; Strawberry Reception Hall; \$12/\$7**  
Sun 16 ECD SEB Gary Thomas Anne Goess (violin), Erik Ievins (cello), Judy Linsenberg (recorders)  
Fri 21 Contra SRO Kalia Kliban **The Caffeinators:** Jon Berger (fiddle), Noel Cragg (keyboard), Tony Blake (percussion)  
Sat 22 Contra SEB Celia Ramsay **The Upside Sound (formerly The Julian Trio + 1):** Julian McClanahan (fiddle), Brad McClanahan (guitar), Darin Smith (cello), Michael Charnes (cittern)  
**Group Singing:** 6:30-7:20

## March

Sun 2 ECD SEB Kalia Kliban Jon Berger (violin), Michelle Levy (violin), Shira Kammen (keyboard and probably some violin)  
Sun 2 Contra PET Lea Smith **The Raggedy Andys:** Chris Knepper (fiddle), Anne Goess (fiddle), Charlie Hancock (piano)  
Thu 13 Contra SRF Kathy Anderson (OH) **Contra Sutra (Seattle):** Ryan McKasson (fiddle), Marni Rachmiel (flute & sax), Dave Bartley (guitar & mandolin), Russell S. (percussion)  
**Special Dance—7:30-10:30; Strawberry Reception Hall, \$12/\$7**  
Sun 16 ECD SEB David Newitt Jon Berger (violin), Susan Jensen (flute), Bill Jensen (piano)  
Fri 21 Contra SRO Woody Lane (OR) Erik Hoffman & friends  
Sat 22 Contra SEB Robin Steen **The Roadoilers:** Mike Drayton (fiddle), John Pedersen (banjo, fiddle), Perry Fly (Guitar, Concertina)  
**Hambo Workshop** (taught by Vince Taylor & Emma Charlebois), 6:30-7:20  
Sat 29 Contra SRO Erik Hoffman Gus Garelick (fiddle) and Don Coffin (guitar)  
**Challenging Contras—for experienced dancers only!**

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!