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<http://www.fhrick.net/windhamwhirlers.html>

## Newsletter for December 2006

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**Howdy!**



Tonight's dance coincides with the first night of Chanukah (or Hanukah), the Jewish festival of lights. Chanukah commemorates the victory of the Macabees who drove Syrian and Greek invaders out of Israel approximately 2,300 years ago. After reclaiming the temple at Jerusalem and cleansing it of all Greek idols and pagan symbols, the Maccabees decided to rededicate the temple by lighting the sacred lamps.

There was only enough pure oil for the lamps to burn for one night but they remained lit for eight nights. So we celebrate every year around this time (25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev - which varies from year to year on our calendar from late November to late December) with lighting menorahs, spinning the dreidel, dining on delicacies such as latkes (potato pancakes), macaroons and other sweets and of course, dancing. And since there is a square dance set to *Hava Nagila*, there's no reason not to join in - so do a mitzvah (good deed) and get in a square!

### **Class Continues in Different Form**

Our beginner students have mostly dropped out and we now have a class of returning dancers who want to brush up on higher level Mainstream and Plus calls. The classes will resume on Thursday, January 4. We still need male angels or women who can do the man's part. So if you're free on Thursday evenings between 7:30 and 9 p.m. please stop by the North Windham School and angel or just say hello to our students.

### **Travel Nights/Banner Raids**

We don't have an official travel night for December/January, but here are a few dances of interest coming up next month (dances start at 8 (7:30 Rounds) unless otherwise noted):

Sunday, December 17: **Cheshire Cats:** dance begins at 7, no early Rounds.

caller: Suptei Rogers; cuer: Steve Garrett

Friday, December 22: South Windsor dance at the Powder Mill barn in

Hazardville/Enfield: Holly & Ivy dance: caller: Bill Mager; cuer: Jo Yakimowski

Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve): **Central Valley** 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. caller: Jim

DeNigris; cuer: Randy Roaraback

Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve): **Hayloft Steppers:** 9 p.m.-1 a.m. callers:

"Double Trouble" (Matt Auger & Mike Pettibone); cuer: Leo Boudreau

Saturday, January 6: **Central Valley:** caller: John Hendron; cuer: Bev Mackay

Saturday, January 13: **Glastonbury:** caller: Bill Mager; cuer: Steve Garrett

### **Thread City String Band on TV**

*A note from Chuck Morgan:*

Remember the great videos that Paul Trowbridge from our club used to take of square dancing for local access TV? A friend of his, Desmond van Born, videotaped the contra dance December 2 at which Willimantic's own Thread City String Band provided music for the entertaining calling of Daniel Pearl from Massachusetts. There are some terrific shots of the dancers of all ages (and including several members of the Windham Whirlers) having a very good time. A 30-minute version of the tape will be shown on Channel 14 on Thursday, December 28 at 6:30 PM; Friday, December 29 at 6 PM; Thursday, January 4 at 6:30 PM, and Friday, January 5 at 6 PM.

### **Quiet Corner Contra Dance Season**

The next dance of the 2006-2007 Quiet Corner Contra Dance (QCCD) season is coming up Saturday, January 6 with December 2 at 8pm (teach at 7:30pm) with Chris Weiler calling and the Franco Americans providing live music at the Chaplin Grange in Chaplin, CT. QCCD is asking people to bring a little something to share during the break. Note: the location may change.

### **CASDC News**

By Frank Lussier

While the CASDC Website is temporarily out of service via the usual web address it may be accessed via the following Web Address: <http://casdc.fhrick.net>

**Central Valley** is sponsoring a New Year's Eve Dance at 8:30 PM in New Horizons Village in Farmington with Jim DeNigris calling and Randy Roraback Cueing. Info: Goldie St. Pierre 860-677-0443 & Pat Macey 860-628-7603.

**Glastonbury** will continue their Plus Workshops after the Christmas Holidays at 7 PM on Wednesdays beginning January 10 with Bill Mager calling.

Unfortunately the **Mad Hatters** had to cancel their Friday, December 22, dance.

Bill Mager will call **South Windsor's** December 22 dance and not Steve Xeller as previously listed.

Although the December Dance Listing shows no regular dance for Dec 22, **Surfside 8** will sponsor a Special MS Dance at 8 PM on Friday, December 22, with Steve Garrett calling.

### **Christmas Shindig at the Powder Mill Barn**

The next in the series of 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Contra Dances at the Powder Mill Barn is on **Monday**, December 25 - Christmas Day -- 7 - 10 p.m. with guest musicians Jaige Trudel and Adam Broome from Maine; they have agreed to allow sit-ins to play along for the two dances before intermission. Ralph Sweet is calling. Admission is \$8.00. Light refreshments will be provided but dancers are encouraged to bring some goodies to share! Directions: from I-91, take Exit 47E, continue about 2.5 miles to center of Hazardville, take a RIGHT onto South Maple St at the light (Valero Mart on Left). Go down hill, look for Red Barn on Right, just before narrow bridge. Questions? Phone 860-749-4494, e-mail [Ralphsweet@aol.com](mailto:Ralphsweet@aol.com) or check the website at [www.powdermillbarn.com](http://www.powdermillbarn.com).

### **Hoedowns at the Powder Mill Barn**

Ralph Sweet is calling and hosting a series of "Hoedowns at the Barn" on the 2nd Sunday of each month beginning in September. The series will take place featuring mostly square dancing to live music with the Barn Band. This will be a fun-level but fast-moving dance that uses the same basics as contra dancing; Ralph is expecting some new people will be joining each night so he might be "doing a mite more teaching than usual" during the early part of the evening. There will also be a couple of contra dances and waltzes-- this is a good chance to introduce some new beginners to both square and contra dancing. For contact information: phone 860-749-4494, e-mail [Ralphsweet@aol.com](mailto:Ralphsweet@aol.com) or check the website at [www.powdermillbarn.com](http://www.powdermillbarn.com).

**The January Dance is as Easy as Pizza Pie**

Our next dance is scheduled for Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Sweeney School. Caller: Everett Mackin; Cues: Steve Garrett. Hosts: Zoe & Jerry Leibowitz. This is our Pizza Night dance; the club will provide pizza, soda and veggies. Chuck & Noreen will order pizzas from Tony's.

**In February We'll Party Like it's 4799!**

Our February dance is scheduled for Friday, February 16 at the Sweeney School; the theme is Chinese New Year (4705). Caller: Bill Mager Cues: Kathy Bryant. Hosts: Noreen & Chuck Morgan. The Morgans will provide Chinese New Year goodies for the dance.



**Happy Holidays!**