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

Newsletter for June 2005

Howdy!



As we close another season of dancing at Windham, we can look back at this year with a sense of pride and satisfaction. The 40th Anniversary Dance was successful beyond our wildest dreams (more about that below) and we get to end the year with ice cream - square dancing and ice cream - what can be better! Only perhaps, that we get to start another year on September 16. Until then, have a great summer!

The World Comes to Windham for our 40th Anniversary

It seems that every square dancer in New England showed up to dance at our 40th anniversary celebration. Over 120 dancers were in attendance with 12-13 squares on the floor for nearly every tip -- callers Bruce McCue and Jack O'Leary (AKA *Silver Sounds*) kept everyone hopping throughout the evening earning raves from all the dancers. We had so many round dancers on the floor cuer Birgit Maguire (who also received her fair share of raves) had to start each set of rounds by having the dancers stretch out their arms to keep the appropriate distance.

Nearly every club in CASDC was represented at the dance; six clubs earned travel Certificates: Central Valley Squares, Glastonbury, Hayloft Steppers, Ledyard, Manchester, and South Windsor. Clubs from Rhode Island, Vermont, and Massachusetts were also represented, and we even had a couple from the Flying Dandelions (never heard of this club? -- see "We're World Famous!" below).

In addition to the great dancing, we earned kudos for the refreshments and decorations. For that we are all in debt to event chairperson Gloria Lee. Gloria set up and supervised the refreshments, decorations and door prizes and kept everything running like clockwork. Gloria and Bob Lee were the hosts for the dance and also created the decorations. Zoe and Jerry Leibowitz provided invaluable support as assistant hosts for the evening.

A special thanks to Barbara Mosca for donating all of the sandwiches for the refreshment table. Barbara volunteers at the Windham Community Memorial Hospital (WCMH) gift shop; several people from WCMH helped her put the sandwiches together as a way of thanking her for all she has done for the Hospital -- our thanks to them as well.

Another special thanks to our treasurer Al Macke who somehow managed to keep track of the money, the guests, clubs in attendance, and the tickets for the door prizes, split the pot, and a special raffle offered by the callers. Al assures us that we made money on the event --and if Al says we made money, you can take that to the bank (sorry, too good a pun to pass up).

The Sweeney gym filled to the rafters with square dancers was a wonderful sight to behold. It seemed that nothing could go wrong - there was not a frown to be seen anywhere. From the opening rounds, up to the end as we locked arms and sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth" there was a strong sense of fellowship and good feeling all around. In our travels since May 20th, everyone there that night has told us how wonderful the dance was and what a great time they had. So, not only was the dance a financial success, but we earned ourselves a great deal of good will from square dancers all over New England and beyond. We pulled together and put on one hell of a dance. Let's all take a bow for this one - we deserve it.

Former Members and Old Friends Join Us at the Anniversary Dance

We were pleased to see many former members and old friends join us at the 40th Anniversary Dance. Some of those in attendance included Warren Bliss, Dot & Larry Boisvert, Elaine Harman, Linda & Jim Mellen, Al Joly, Barbara Clayton, Bev & Lou Young, Jeanne & Donald Young, Marianne & Jim Fassett, now dancing in Vermont; and Carol (Clapp) Forrest, currently with Swingles in Springfield, MA. See the group photo on page 6.

We're World Famous!

Among our guests at the anniversary dance we were happy to welcome Dani and Peter Bischof of the Flying Dandelions Square Dance Club. The Flying Dandelions dance in Irschenberg, Germany, a suburb of Munich (the club's full name is *Flying Dandelions*

SDC Mangfalltel e.V. Oberbayernthey - they can be found on the Internet at <http://www.flying-dandelions.gmxhome.de/>). Dani and Peter were in Connecticut to attend their son Robert's graduation from Yale; they decided check the web for dances in the area. A search on "Connecticut and Square Dancing" led them to the Windham Whirlers website and the announcement for our 40th Anniversary dance.

Dani and Peter e-mailed us to ask if they could come to the dance. Needless to say, we said "sure!" and they joined us on May 20th. Dani and Peter keep a log of their travels (they recently danced in Arizona) and we proudly added the Windham Whirlers to their list of clubs visited; now we have friends in Irschenberg, Germany. So, if you're ever in Irschenberg, stop by and join the Flying Dandelions for a tip!

By the way, we're also on the log of the "Rogue" -- the miniature ship making its way across the country towards Oregon for the National Square Dance Convention at the end of June. The Windham Whirlers Square Dance Club is now known in Oregon and Germany - perhaps that's not the entire world, but for a club in a small town in Connecticut, that ain't bad!

Annual Club Picnic

Our Annual Club Picnic will be held at the Starkeys on Saturday, July 23 from 1-5 p.m. Bring chairs, something to put on the grill for yourself and a dish to share with others. Call 228-3296 for directions and more information.

Windham Whirlers on the Road: Travel Nights/Events for June/July:

Friday, July 8, South Windsor Annual Hot Dog Roast 7-10 PM, at the South Windsor Community Center (the hall is air conditioned). Caller: Bob Smith, Cuer: Bev MacKay (formerly Bev Boudreau, actually, it's a more elegant Camille Beverly MacKay). MS/Plus level. For more information and directions go to the South Windsor web page at <http://fhrick.net/SWSDC/SWSDC.htm> or speak to Jerry or Zoe Leibowitz.

Western Hoedown in July

The Windham Whirlers and South Windsor Square Dance Club are co-sponsoring a special dance on July 29 featuring California caller Rick Hampton and Texas cuer Jo Yakimowski. Our "Western Hoedown" will be held at the Powder Mill Barn in Hazardville from 8-10:45 p.m. (7:30 Rounds). We will need help with gate keeping and refreshments for the event, so if you can bring something please let Fred Rick know, he will coordinate this with South Windsor. For more information and directions, see the web page at <http://fhrick.net/SWSDC/SW-WW-WesternHoDown.html> or call Fred at (860) 429-6871.

CASDC News (by Frank Lussier)

Central Valley's, 35th Anniversary Dance will be held on Saturday, June 18, and not on May 21 as previously listed.

Buttons & Bows is back sponsoring Plus Level Casual Summer Plus Dances starting at 7:30 PM in the Bethany Town Hall on Peck Road with Steve Xeller calling. Nice to have them back.

South Windsor will sponsor Mainstream dancing and Plus workshops every Tuesday night at 7:30 PM starting June 21 through August 30, at the East Hartford North End Senior Center, 30 Remington Road, East Hartford, with Jim DeNegris calling; \$5/person; casual dress. Location: just off CT-Rte 5 on the South Windsor/E. Hartford line. Hot/cold drinks provided.

South Windsor dances on Friday July 8 & 22. These dates were listed incorrectly under Wednesday on the earlier July 'printed version'. Sorry for the error.

Windsor Old Towners are sponsoring casual summer A1 dances at 8 PM on Saturday, July 9 & 23, and August 13 & 27, at the A/C East Hartford South End Senior Center with John Hendron calling.

B 'n' B Rounds will not have any lessons on June 7 and June 14. We will resume lessons on September 13, 2005.

Unfortunately I failed to indicate which halls are air conditioned on the June, July/August dance listings. The AC halls are also listed below:

Central Valley: Farmington Community Center

Circle B: Odd Fellows Hall, Ridgefield

Mad Hatters Workshops: Rollingwood Community Center

Shoreliners: Guildford Community Center

Surfside 8: Westerly Senior Center

Suzie Q's (RD Parties): Guildford Community Center

Grand Squares A2 Lessons: Brookfield Community Center

Windsor Old Towners: East Hartford Senior Center

Contra Dance at the Powder Mill Barn

The next Contra dance at the Powder Mill Barn will be on Sunday June 19, 7-10 p.m. featuring two musicians from Maine -- Jaige Trudel on fiddle and Adam Broome on guitar. Ralph Sweet will call contras and a few squares. Admission is \$8.00, light refreshments included. The next series of contra dances begins in October, plan is to offer contra dances, AKA "Shindigs at the Barn" on the fourth Sunday of each month October-June. If you have any suggestions as to bands, guest callers, etc,

please feel free to contact Ralph Sweet. Directions and more information are available online at <http://fhrick.net/SWSDC/PowderMillBarn.html> or contact Fred Rick at 429-6871.

Rounds Lessons in September

Carole Landry will offer Round Dance lessons at the North End Senior Center in East Hartford (just over the South Windsor line) beginning with a free Fun Nite lesson on Thursday, September 22. There will be two one hour sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday evenings - Waltz Phase III from 7-8 and Rumba and Jive Phase III 8-9. Lessons will be \$5 per person for each following week - the \$5 fee includes both sessions.

Next Stop, Broadway?

Alma Derway has been involved with the Windham Theatre Guild for several years. She recently appeared in the WTG production of *The Cemetery Club* and received raves from all who attended, including our own Chuck & Noreen Morgan. According to Noreen: "Alma did a wonderful job as Mildred in the Windham Theater Guild's production of the Cemetery Club. We went last night [June 3] to the dinner theater, and it was delightful."

Wandering Minstrels in Our Midst

Chuck & Noreen Morgan as "Now Fiddle 'n Guitar" were among the musicians who entertained folks taking part in the 7th Annual Victorian Home Tours held June 4 & 5 in Willimantic. Horse drawn wagons carried folks to the 19 homes featured this year along with a Victorian Tea Room. The musicians provided period music and entertainment for the visitors to this annual event enjoyed by many throughout the Windham area.

See You In September!

Our first dance of the 2005/06 season will be on Friday, September 16 at the Sweeney School. The dance begins at 8 p.m. (7:30 Rounds) and ends at 10:15. Caller: Bill Mager; cuer: Bev MacKay. MS/Plus level dance. Host and refreshment assignments TBA.

Hey, We Look Damned Good for 40!

Peter Bischof was kind enough to send us some of the photos he took at our 40th Anniversary dance, including this group photo of current and past club members. We hope to have more photos available in the next newsletter and on our club website. (Caller Bruce McCue is on stage.)

