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

## Newsletter for March 2006

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Howdy!



'tis St. Pat's Day and we're all a wee bit Irish tonight (and many will be a little green after most of the celebrations). St. Patrick was responsible for driving the snakes out of Ireland. He was also one hell of a square dancer\*. So while the misinformed insist on doing Irish Jigs and Riverdance, let's celebrate St. Patrick's Day in grand style by getting into a square!

\*OK, this is a wee bit of blarney - but this is St. Patrick's Day, what else would you expect?

### It's No Tale; We're Going to Canterbury

Our dance on April 21 will be held at the Canterbury Community Center in Canterbury, CT, located on Route 14. We can't dance at Sweeney on April 21; the school is closed for Spring Vacation. We decided to return to the Canterbury Community Center for another visit (we danced there in 2004). A flyer with directions and more information was attached to last month's newsletter. The flyer is available online at <http://fhrick.net/Canterbury-2006.pdf> or contact Fred Rick at [fhrick@yahoo.com](mailto:fhrick@yahoo.com) or by phone: (860) 454-4262.

### Windham on the Road

Six Windham Whirlers traveled to Manchester on Saturday, February 18 for their "Crazy Hats" dance. Although we did not have enough dancers to get a certificate, our own Dale Dyer took home first prize for best hat of the evening. Be sure to congratulate Dale when you see her tonight, we're sure she'll be easy to find ☺. (It's a safe bet she'll be the lady in the green hat.) Congrats, Dale!

## **Travel Night**

We do not have an official Travel Night for April, but we are encouraging everyone to attend the New England Square Dance Convention in Springfield, MA on April 28-29 at the Springfield Marriott and Sheraton Hotels. For more information see their web page at: <http://www.nesrdc.org/index.asp>.

Other dances of note in the next few weeks:

**Saturday, March 18:** Manchester "Irish Night" Caller: Matt Auger, Cuer: Liz Becker. Plus Level; Rounds at 7:30.

**Saturday, April 8:** Glastonbury "Spring Fling" Caller: Bill Mager, Cuer: Birgit Maguire. Plus Level; 7:30 Rounds

**Saturday, April 15:** Hayloft Steppers "Easter Hop" Caller: Matt Auger, Cuer: Scott Cohen. Mainstream, no early Rounds.

## **Carole Landry**

Carole Landry passed away on March 13 after a long illness. Carole had been cuing in the Massachusetts-Connecticut region for over 20 years. In addition to cuing, she has taught countless numbers of Round dancers and many other cuers as well. She was much-beloved by round dancers not only for her smooth cuing style and fun and challenging choreography, but also for her sense of humor and laid-back approach to dancing. All she ever wanted for her students and dancers was to get on the floor and have some fun and, as she was often fond of saying, "if you mess up, nobody's going to know except you and your partner." She often urged (and sometimes nagged) new dancers to continue lessons, never giving up on students. I know that I am one of many who can say that they are Round Dancing today because of Carole; many who wouldn't have continued without her encouragement and patience.

Carole fought valiantly against several serious illnesses including cancer. Carole kept rallying and coming back from the brink on several occasions. Although she was gravely ill, she still continued to cue, teach rounds and teach her high school class. Carole also programmed the Rounds for this year's New England Convention in Springfield. She even found time to cue our January dance. Even though it was clear that she was not well Carole soldiered on, not missing a beat; we are grateful we had her with us that one last time.

At the Cheshire dance on February 19 Bev Mackay announced that Carole was gravely ill and not expected to make it past the week - Carole stubbornly refused to give in and hung on until this week, almost a month later. (As many of you know, Bev Mackay

is our club cuer; but you may not know that it was Carole who recommended Bev to us when Bev was first starting to cue in Connecticut. Bev was one of Carole's students - she also introduced Bev to her husband Bob Mackay).

I was fortunate to visit Carole in her hospital room in Bay State Medical Center in February (she was later moved to a South Hadley nursing home where she passed away on Tuesday). Although she was clearly weak (at this point she was only receiving pain medication intravenously) she was still able to participate in conversation and even drank most of an orange frozen drink brought to her by her long-time friend Chris. In the room she was surrounded by family and her many friends. Visitors continued to pop in and out (her husband Joe had to commandeer chairs from all over the floor).

In addition to her Round Dance cuing, Carole taught computer technology at Hampshire Regional High School in Westhampton for 27 years; coached the South Hadley High School cheerleaders for 17 years and was involved in many other community activities. She loved teaching and all of her students loved her.

Our sympathies and prayers are with her husband Joe, her children Kimberly, Andrea, Natalie, and Christopher and her four grandchildren Danielle, Corey, Gabrielle and Sarah and the entire extended Landry family. Carole was always fun to dance to and even more fun to be around - she will be missed.

The wake and funeral were scheduled before tonight's dance. A scholarship fund has been established in her honor if you wish to make a contribution. Donations may be made in her memory to the **Carole Landry Scholarship Fund at Hampshire Regional High School, 19 Stage Rd., Westhampton, MA 01027.**

### **Contra Dances**

The March Shindig at the **Powder Mill Barn** will be on Sunday, March 26, 7-10 p.m. Admission \$8.00. Ralph Sweet calling contras and squares with live music provided by *The Turkey Mountain Window Smashers* from VT and MA featuring Jill Newton fiddling, Craig Hollingsworth on the accordion, and Jim Fownes at the piano. Jill played here about 25 years ago as part of the band "Applejack"! For more information call 860-749-4494 or e-mail [Ralphsweet@aol.com](mailto:Ralphsweet@aol.com) or visit the Powder Mill Barn website at [www.powdermillbarn.com](http://www.powdermillbarn.com).

The next dance of the 2005-2006 **Quiet Corner Contra Dance (QCCD)** season is coming up Saturday April 1 at 8pm (teach at 7:30pm) with Dan Pearl calling and White Squall playing at the Chaplin Grange in Chaplin, CT. QCCD hopes that you can make this next dance of the 2005-2006 season; they are also asking people to bring a little

something to share during the break. For more information contact QCCD Coordinator Rich Donovan by e-mail at [donovr@yahoo.com](mailto:donovr@yahoo.com) or call 860 455 1385.

### **Plus Workshops Continue into the Summer**

Bob Smith is currently conducting Plus classes/workshops at the North End Senior Center in East Hartford every Wednesday evening from 7:30-9:30 thru May 24. Bill Mager will take over the class and continue throughout the summer beginning on June 7. The classes are sponsored by South Windsor, but dancers for all clubs are welcome. For more information, see Fred Rick or check the website for directions at <http://fhrick.net/SWSDC/Lessons.html>.

### **Round Lessons Continue**

Steve Garrett is continuing to teach Rounds lessons at the North End Senior Center on Thursday evenings 7-9 p.m. He is currently teaching Two-Step and Rumba and will shortly begin teaching intermediate -level dances (Phases III and IV) for those dancers who are not interested in beginner's lessons. A Round Dance Party has been tentatively planned for the first or second Thursday in May. For more information, see Fred Rick or check the website for directions at <http://fhrick.net/SWSDC/Lessons.html>.

### **Fred Rick Taking a "Break" from Dancing**

On March 3 I broke my ankle after a fall and I'll be off my feet for the next 6-12 weeks. With luck, I may be out of the cast in time for our May dance. I miss dancing and my fellow dancers even more. I will try to come to the next two dances, to say hello and to show off my shiny new cast. I want to thank everyone for the get well cards and well I've gotten from my friends in Windham and other clubs - they're really appreciated and they do help.

C u in a square, Fred

### **In April, it's No Tale; We're Going to Canterbury**

Our next dance is scheduled for Friday, April 21 at the Canterbury Community Center in Canterbury, CT 8-10:15, Rounds begin at 7:30 (see first page of newsletter for more info.) Caller: John Hendron; cuer: Bev Mackay. Hosts: Alma Derway & Dale Dyer. Sandwiches: Alma Derway & Alice Kolega. Veggies: Bernie Brisson.

### **In May We'll Dance Our Way Back Home**

Our May dance will be on Friday, May 19 at the Sweeney School 8-10:15, Rounds begin at 7:30. Our theme: St. Pat's Day. Caller: Jim Denegris; cuer: Liz Becker. Hosts: Bernie & Ernie Brisson. This is our Ice Cream Night, no refreshment assignments.