



Bay Area Country Dancer

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www.bacds.org

A New BACDS Directory is coming!

By Mary Luckhardt, BACDS Membership Secretary

We are getting ready to publish a new directory of BACDS members next spring. It has been almost 8 years since the last directory, and there have been more than a few changes in that time. A printed directory is a very handy resource, and you'll find yourself reaching for it more often than you might think. It's a great way to find Board members and event organizers, or get the mailing address for BACDS. The main listings will be in order by first name, but there will also be an index by last name, and by zip code, which is great for organizing carpools. We will mail a copy to every BACDS household (unless you specifically ask us not to), but we will NOT publish any of this information online. Your privacy is important to us, and we have no plans to make any contact information about members available electronically. The directory will go to current members only, so be sure your membership dues are paid up!

What you need to do:

Be sure your contact information is up to date. If you have moved or changed your phone number or email address since you last sent a membership form, be sure to send updated information to membership@bacds.org.

Be sure we know what contact information you want OMITTED from the directory. We ask this question on the membership form, but you may not have noticed it. If you do not want your street address, email address, phone number, or even your name published, we will be happy to leave it out, but the default is to publish all we know. If you are not sure what information we have, or what your omission status is, you can ask, or send updated information to membership@bacds.org or directly to mary@luckhardt.com.

The BACDS mission is to promote country dancing, but another important goal is to foster a sense of *community* among the dancers and musicians of the Bay Area. We are friends and neighbors dancing and having fun together, and a directory of members is a physical link to that community

What Have The Romans Ever Done For Us?

By Kevin Goess, BACDS President

The dance you're at right now as you read this, or maybe the dance you're thinking about going to next, is very possibly run with the support of the BACDS. If you're like me you're there to dance and enjoy yourself, and the nebulous relationship with the BACDS organization is far distant and hypothetical and hand-wavy. I'd like to make that more concrete in your mind, if just for a moment; the point of which activity will be revealed at the end of this article.

We support about eight **regular dance series**, English and contra, as far south as San Jose and as far north as Berkeley, from the western reaches of San Francisco to the eastern highlands of Hayward.

We support a handful of **single-night events**, regular happenings like Playford Ball, the No Snow Ball, or one-offs like Alan Winston's amazing birthday dance party the other month, or last year's 1718 ball.

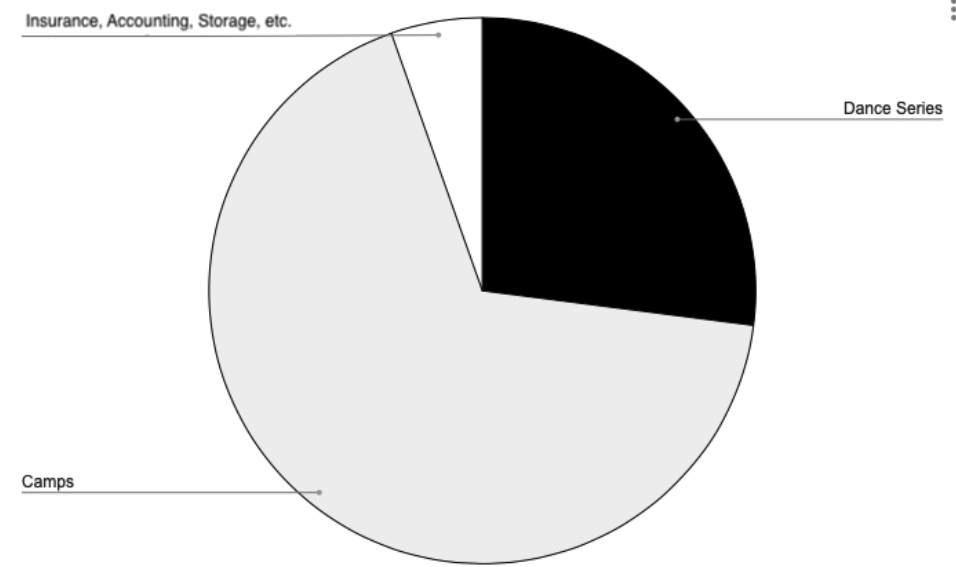
And there's the **camps and weekends**: like Family Week, Hey Days (think English Week), Fall Weekend, Balance the Bay, and the recently-departed-but-someday-may-return American Week.

We help out, at least in a minimal way, with **display teams** like Goat Hill Morris, Berkeley Morris, and the Jubilee American Dance Theater.

You may know all that already, and that list isn't meant to be complete as much as evocative.

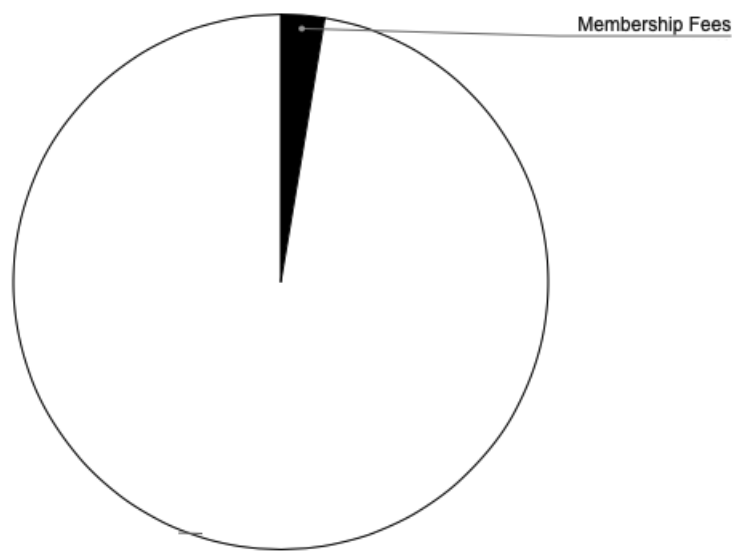
The scale that we work at covering all those things is that **we move over \$400,000 a year** through our bank account. We pay rent for the hall you're dancing in, even if the door from that night's dance doesn't cover it. We cover the bill for the week-long camps, which is due long before the first camper's check arrives, and we take up the slack if the camp has a bad year, **and a "bad year" can mean \$15,000 of losses**. We pay the insurance that lets you provide the piece of paper when the hall you want to have your event in says, "We need your certificate of insurance." We keep the website up, we maintain storage to keep the camp and event stuff in for the rest of the year, we generate 1099s for the musicians you love so much, and we file a twenty-page non-profit tax return at the end of the year for all that. You can imagine. Sometimes we even tune the pianos.

In a very general and hand-wavy way, the proportions of our financial concerns look something like this:



All of our **series** put together pretty much balance out--you win some, you lose some. We try really hard to make the budgets for the **camps** come out even. The little bits left over go to cover the **institutional overhead**.

Our over **300 paying members** got to be that way by paying membership fees (that tautology was brought to you by the department of "Did anybody actually read this far?") They bring in about \$8,000 a year, enough to make up this much of the pie, by proportion:



We're able to use those membership fees as part of the pool of money by which we cover a bad year for a camp, or a bad night at a dance, or to store camp bedding for the rest of the year, or to send 1099s to your favorite musicians and callers.

The first point of which is: **your BACDS membership fees are really helpful!** We appreciate them and they really help us lubricate the cogs and sprockets of this giant machine.

And, hey, look at that, a feature of membership is you can be listed in our Member Directory. Did you know we're updating the Member Directory? See Mary's article on page 1 of this issue for how to make sure your address is up-to-date.

The second point of which is: **your donations are very much appreciated!** The BACDS is a 501c3 non-profit, our tax id is 94-2576366. There's a big green "donate" button on the front page of the website. The end of the year is coming up, maybe you could think about sending us a check?

As a final and unrelated note, did I mention how much fun it is to be on the Board? We have fun meetings not more than once a month, sometimes less, it's good people, and a good cause.

More on how to support BACDS.

By Craig Johnson

For those of you who are inclined to give to 501(c)3 organizations before December 31 rolls into the new year, I'd like to suggest that you make a donation to BACDS Family Week.

I've been to BACDS Family Week for almost every week as a staff musician since it was founded in 1992. The last 18 years, I've also brought my kids. So, I've gotten a good many chances to see how camp encourages appreciation of traditional music and dance and how it builds its own community. As adult dancers, we all know the power of this. It's wonderful to watch kids become inspired and build traditional dance and music into their lives.

Two of many examples: Owen Ragland, the camp's Jude Biggs (musicianship) scholar in 2014, today performs regularly as lead fiddler with his successful traditional band the Brothers Strong in Sonora. In 2018, my longsword team Ring of Cold Steel had three members on their roster who had learned to dance with swords at the under-12 classes at Family Camp.

In 2018, Family Week was full for the first time in a decade. In 2019 we were five under capacity. Yet for the last few years, Family Week posted a loss of thousands of dollars.

There are several reasons, most beyond our control. In 2015, we had to move from Foothill Horizons above Sonora and relocated to Monte Toyon, east of Santa Cruz. Our new home has significantly higher rates, though the camp supports our camp by giving us the best deal they can.

We hire an enormous staff, with a teacher and musician for ten age-specific classes every morning, plus two or three adult classes each hour for parents to enjoy while their children are in class.

We've been severely constrained by having to pay painfully low honoraria to staff who cannot come from too far away (we have almost no travel budget).

The upshot? Since 2015, we've been underwritten by BACDS instead of turning money over to BACDS' General Fund. At times BACDS' yearly contribution has been truly hefty.

We strive to keep camp affordable, yet many families who want to come cannot because our price tag is high. For a family of three, two parents and a kid over five, it is over \$2,000 for the week. And due to facility increases, we have to raise our rates for 2020. We don't have funds to give scholarships freely.

If you're concerned about the graying of our dance series, or simply want to spread the joy of dance, and you are fortunate enough to be in a position to make year-end bequests to the non-profits you love, please give thought to donating to BACDS and designate your gift to be earmarked for Family Week. There's a big green "Donate!" button at the top of the splash page of bacds.org which leads to directions on how to donate by written check. If you'd like to know more about camp, have a look at www.bacds.org/familyweek, where you can take a look at last year's staff and brochure. There's also a link to a great short video made by Bob Reid, our staff singer in 2012, which explains camp culture well.

Thanks for reading this through, and here's to many more years of Family Camp!

BACDS Family Week 2020

By Rhonda Cayford

SAVE THE DATE – June 28-July 4 are the dates for BACDS Family Week 2020. Camp is held at Monte Toyon in Aptos, CA

NEW THIS YEAR – French Canadian dance with Donald Dubuc from Quebec – it's like contradance, but it's French! There will also be English Country Dance led by David Newitt and Contradance called by Kelsey Hartman, accompanied by our outstanding musical staff. We offer a multi-track program for children and adults that includes singing, games and crafts, along with a variety of music and dance classes.

Family Week welcomes families of all ages and sizes. We've had two parent families, single parents with children, single adults, grandparents with grandchildren, families with children and their children's friends ... you name it, we welcome you.

Family Week is a great opportunity to enjoy music and dance while relaxing in the redwoods, and it's also an opportunity to be connected in community. What starts as a gathering of "family units" grows through the week into one large family. Many long-term friendships have begun at Family Week.

Bring yourself, bring your family, and join us for Family Week 2020. Please see our website <https://www.bacds.org/familyweek/>. Registration opens Feb 1. If you have any questions about family week please email us at familyweek@bacds.org or call camp registrar Katie Riemer at 510-684-1454

Whether a week-long camp is in your plans or not, you can still support Family Week with donations (through bacds.org - see our letter in this newsletter) and by attending our annual fundraiser, the TECHNO CONTRA, happening this year on Feb 28 at St. Paul's in SF. Our DJ, Gordon Allen, grew up with Family Week, literally. His parents are the co-founders of family week and contradance has been a part of his life since forever. His musical talents include both acoustic instruments and electronics. What a perfect combination to DJ a techno contra!

Contra College 2020 – Becoming a dancer for you and us

by David Buesch

Unquestionably, contra dancing is a lot of fun for each person on the floor, so it is both an individual and community experience. As we become more comfortable with dancing, and how we move and communicate with others, the joy of the dancing increases. Learning to dance with others with comfort and confidence comes more easily for some than others, but we all can do it given the time, supportive space, and guidance. *Contra College 2020*, offered by the Bay Area Country Dance Society (BACDS), is a unique experience for dancers to work on their dance skills.

Contra College is a teaching and learning environment for new, intermediate, and experienced dancers that is taught by two experienced callers with support of four wonderful musicians. Teaching sessions focus on elements of a dance, with time for deliberate walk-throughs and questions. You will learn the best (and ergonomic) way to enjoy the figures (and your partner), and finish each dance with a discussion of what went well (or not) and why. Teaching sessions are about 80 minutes each, so there is plenty of time to use a variety of dances with different choreography to practice, integrate, explore, and learn what is it about that dance and those you dance with that make it an enjoyable experience.

Contra College will be Saturday and Sunday, March 14-15, 2020 at the Royal Hodge Masonic Center (651 Roble Avenue), Menlo Park. On Saturday, it is from 9:00 am (sign in at 8:30 am) to 7:00 pm, and includes the Saturday evening (8-11 pm) Palo Alto Contra dance at the First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto. Also on Saturday, the Callers' Workshop (10:45-1:30 pm) is for new to experienced callers, and attendees will be guest callers during the Sunday afternoon contra dance. On Sunday, it is 10:30 am to 3:00 pm with a Graduation dance at the Royal Hodge Masonic Center from 4:00-7:00 pm (which will be open to the public).

This year, *Contra College* has an exceptional staff of teachers and musicians:

JoLaine Jones-Pokorney is a contra dancer and caller, and an English dancer and musician, hailing from Gainesville, FL. JoLaine will teach contra basics and advanced concepts. She focuses on the most clear and concise teaching to minimize confusion and maximize fun!

Alan Winston is an English and contra dancer, caller, and choreographer. Alan will teach sessions including the Waltz on Sunday afternoon, the Callers' Workshop on Saturday, and will be the lead caller for the Grad Dance on Sunday afternoon. His clear, cheerful, and witty instruction helps focus dancers on the figures and the flow of the dance.

Jim Oakden will teach a session on how to hear and dance to contra music. Jim focuses on how integral the music is (and musicians are) for giving that great live sound, how the music and phrasing of the music can help dancers (and callers) keep track of where they are in the dance, and how it can inspire movements and nuances within the dance.

Music for the teaching sessions on Saturday will be by Jim Oakden and Kevin Carr, and on Sunday by Jess Newman and Will Wheeler (a.k.a Back Pocket).

For the *Contra College* Graduation Dance (Sunday, 4-7 pm), music will be provided by **Back Pocket with Scott Jespersen**. **Alan Winston** will be the lead caller with guest calling by graduates of the Callers' Workshop.

Scholarships are available. If needed, we will try to arrange lodging with local dancers.

For more information: visit <http://bacds.org/cc>.

Teen Contra is EXPANDING !

By Claire Takemori

I was asked by a couple families to try a Teen Contra in the East Bay. So, on Saturday, March 7th, we are having an East Bay Teen Contra in Oakland.

The dance is at 3840 MacArthur Blvd. in Oakland (Kids 'N Dance 'N Theater). There is a teen music jam & games from 6:30-8:00pm, followed by a Teen Contra from 8:00-10:00pm, followed by potluck snacks till 10:30pm, and everyone is welcome to clean up. This event is for teens from 13-19 years old; older siblings are also welcome.

You can help bring music & dance to the next generation, by sharing this event with families of teens. Tell musicians, church teen groups, schools.

Details and Registration at BACDS.ORG/teen

The San Jose Teen Contra is continuing in 2020 on Saturdays through May: January 4, February 15, (March in Oakland), April 18, May 16. Please share with teens and ask about carpools from Palo Alto, Hayward, San Juan Bautista.

When you make your annual donations, see if your employer offers donation matching! BACDS is a 501c3 non-profit. You can also ear-mark your donation for Teen Contra Dance, to help pay musicians, rent, and scholarships.

Hey Days English Dance And Music Week!

By Brooke Friendly

It's not too soon to start planning your summer! Here are some of the reasons you will want to put **July 5-12, 2020**—Hey Days English Dance and Music Week—on your calendar.

Our Talented Dance Staff Will Have You Dancing and Singing

Andrew Shaw (UK), a favorite in the US and the UK, is widely regarded for his detailed knowledge, high standards, wit, and clear instruction with an emphasis on style. He has published five dance collections reflecting his interest in the dances of the late 17th and early 18th centuries. **Kalia Kliban** (CA) has helped dancers of all levels experience the joy of dance with her welcoming and relaxed teaching style. **Megan Wilson** (MI) specializes in positional calling and has focused on the dances of women choreographers from the UK.

Teaching longsword and rapier, we are thrilled to have **Jeremy Carter-Gordon** (MA). Jeremy has been dancing, leading and competing with rapier sword groups for over ten years and has developed a unique and effective style of instruction that allows newcomers to learn dances quickly while having a blast while offering experienced dancers a huge repertoire of unusual figures. He spent a year studying, recording, and dancing with European hilt and point (longsword) dance groups, visiting over 30 teams in 10 countries.

Jeff Warner (NH) is among the nation's foremost performer/interpreters of traditional music. His songs from the lumber camps, fishing villages and mountaintops of America connect 21st century audiences with the everyday lives—and artistry—of 19th century Americans. His songs, rich in local history and a sense of place, bring us the latest news from the distant past. We are delighted to have him back at camp.

Come Dance to and Learn from our Inspiring Musicians

Persons of Quality, Jon Berger (CA), Rebecca King (CA), and Jim Oakden (CA), have recorded several albums to accompany Andrew Shaw's books. Says Andrew, "Brilliantly inventive arrangements that will delight the listener and impel the dancer in equal measure. Quality assured!" **Jon** has played for morris, sword, English country, and contra dance since 1976 and is well known for his powerful music. **Rebecca** is a versatile dance pianist whose strong classical training and love of jazz shows in her rhythmic and lyric piano accompaniments. **Jim**, our program director, specializes in playing for dancers in a bunch of bands for ECD, contra, morris, Irish, Breton/French, Greek, and Bulgarian on an astounding number of instruments. He also records with the band Roguery.

Shira Kammen (CA), a multi-instrumentalist (primarily violin, vielle, and viola) and vocalist, has spent most of her life exploring the worlds of early and traditional music. A member of the band Roguery, she is a favorite at dance camps and events around the country.

Jonathan Jensen (MD) is an inspired dance pianist (often filling in on whistle, recorder, ocarina or mandolin) and a frequent performer at dance events around the country. He composes brilliant dance tunes and waltzes.

Audrey Knuth (CA) is guaranteed to get you up and moving with her rhythmically lively and spontaneous fiddle playing. With several bands, she has travelled across the US and Europe, playing for dances, concerts, and camps.

Charlie Hancock (CA), pianist and accordionist, is equally adept playing for English country, Scottish country, contras, and display dancing. Performed with brilliance, drive and clarity, his music is infused with jazz, swing, and Irish influences.

Erik Weberg (OR) plays flutes, harmonicas, and bombards (yes, plural). He is a regular musician at English country dances in Portland, and is a member of Joyride and The Fine Companions.

Daily Schedule—So Many Great Things to Choose From

English country dance, ritual dance, music, and singing classes aren't all we have for you. There will be many chances for additional fun outside the workshop schedule, including pool parties, late-night dancing, singing, and jamming, and a daily Gathering featuring staff and camper performances, stories, jokes, and more.

Special Music Mini-Course

This year offer a music intensive led by Shira and Jim. It will have a separate application process. More details will be available online soon.

Welcoming Community

Hey Days is known for its welcoming atmosphere:

"When I talk to others about this camp, inclusivity stands out."--2019 camper

Fabulous Location

Sonoma State University, in the Wine Country of Northern California, is ranked as one of the most beautiful campuses in the country, with spacious dance rooms with wood floors and many trees, gardens and outdoor water features. Campus housing is equitable and comfortable: four-bedroom suites with both single and double rooms (each with its own bathroom), shared living/dining room, and full kitchen. Our housing complex includes a community room and an outdoor swimming pool and hot tub.

Details and Registration Info

Check out the website now (www.bacds.org/heydays) for details on the program and available scholarships. **Registration will open December 15** with an online payment option. **The lottery deadline is February 1.** You will receive notification of acceptance by email on February 10.

For the most current information and online registration, go to **www.bacds.org/heydays**

We hope to dance, sing, and play with you at camp!

Thank you, all Volunteers! ♥ ♥ ♥

BACDS wishes to express thanks to all volunteers who help keep our many events running smoothly. We couldn’t exist without you!

Special Thanks to Kathryn Kalas, David Lambert, David Buesch, Les Addison, and Ben Livengood for stepping up to keep South Bay Contra going.

Special Thanks also to Eric Black, Vince Piantanida, and Bill Cope for lending and assisting with sound equipment for the Teen Contra.

If you know of any volunteers whom you believe deserve special recognition, let us know and we will note them in future editions of the newsletter

Upcoming Events

Tue, December 31, 2019	New Year’s Eve Contra in Palo Alto	<i>Susan Petrick with StringFire!</i>
Sat, March 7, 2020	Teen Contra in Oakland	<i>Claire Takemori with Teen Band</i>
Sat Mar 14 – Sun Mar 15	Contra College in Menlo Park	<i>Various</i>
Sun, Jun 28 - Sat, Jul 4	Family Week in Monte Toyon, Aptos	<i>Various</i>
Sun, Jul. 5 - Sun Jul. 12	Hey Days at Sonoma State Univ.	<i>Various</i>
Fri. Aug 7 – Sun. Aug 9	Balance the Bay! in San Francisco	<i>The Synchopaths with The Latter Day Lizards</i>

See bacds.org for more information. For events sponsored by our neighbors, see nbcds.org (NBCDS), sactocds.org (SCDS), sffmc.org (SFFMC), santacruzdance.org (TDSC), montereycontradance.org (MCDC), cccds.org (CCCDs), facebook.com/NorthOaklandSquareDance (NOSD), lcfid.org/sf (QCD)