

Hi dancers and old-time music fans,

Come on out this **SECOND Friday, DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> for a Rockin' Holiday Contra Dance** and invite your friends. This time it is DRESSY, so find something nice and sparkly, or dude up – impress everyone.

Band is **THE MULETONES** and two callers on tap, **LONNIE LUDEMAN** and **LEWIS LAND** (yes, his car is fixed and he and Amie will be here, yea!)

**SWEETS, BAKED GOODIES, TREATS** – pull out the stops and bring something to share if you are able. We want to see a big spread.

Same night, come early to Mesilla for the Christmas Tree Lighting, 6-6:30 pm and late night shopping. Give the little stores a boost.

**NEXT DANCES IN 2012** will be on the normal THIRD Fridays, **JANUARY 20**, one of our biggest dances, and equally big, the Mardi Gras Contra dance with Bayou Seco and Friends **FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup>**, costumes and masks and not to be missed.

#### **DANCER NOTES:**

We had 5 callers make their debut in November and all were greeted with rounds of enthusiastic applause. Sofie O'Connell had her family dancing in circles at home and friends cheering; Amy's musical talent make her a natural without practice; Marisa Potter's smile and enthusiasm carried the dancers (and her husband solved the mystery of the TWO dancing Andrew Potters); Bob Archuleta has a wonderful, booming voice and teaching is easily heard, and Phil Dangel's choice of dance had the room sashaying fast down the hall and back.

We will have more caller classes in the new year and expect to see more of them, either at the monthly dance or in special, smaller dances to practice. Congrats to all!

Thanks to Kelsey and Marisa for giving me a break at registration. ***Do we have any mothers or non-dancers who would like to permanently help with registration???*** I could use a break, hint.

#### **DANCER TIPS**

Remember that **LOUD TALKING** in the dance hall is distracting and dancers cannot hear the calls in the back of the room. If you want to visit, consider hanging out around the refreshments until you are ready to dance. Thanks from the dancers.

**DANCE DETAILS**, same as usual:

What: Rockin Holiday Contra Dance, sponsored by Southern New Mexico Music and Dance Society

Where: Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla NM

When: this Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-10:30 pm;

lessons at 7:30 pm, plan to help newcomers

Cost: \$6 with \$1 discount for under 18

Information: [www.snmmds.org](http://www.snmmds.org) or 575-522-1691

**FUN Youtube CONTRA DANCE VIDEOS** and my comments:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9L0dz3qmsc> Montpelier, VT Contra Dance. Great dancers. Note: fast music, everyone keeps to the 8 count beat and dances on time.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnlJ-bzp6NA&feature=related> The Harvest Moon Festival, Santa Barbara, Ca, Sept 24-26, 2011. Band is Notorious and the caller is Sue Rosen. Notes: teaching takes only 1.5 minutes. After the dance has started for 3 minutes, the caller stops calling and the dancers must remember what to do. Listen to the beat of the feet at 5 minutes -- everyone is on the same beat. At a dance festival you dance with the very best dancers, and your dancing gets better. The main dance step here is wave of 4 and balance and swing.

*See you Friday on the dance floor.*

*Julie and Lonnie*



Lonnie, Sofie, Phil, Marisa, Bob, Amy