

# The Newsletter of the Central Illinois English Country Dancers

## Fall 2008

Attendance at our dances has continued to be very good over the past year. We've had as many as 70 dancers at our monthly dances and almost 70 at the Playford Ball in May. The average attendance at our monthly dances during the past year has been 44. Of course we can always use more dancers. One of the best ways to recruit new participants is through word-of-mouth. Consider talking to your co-workers, friends and family. Let them know about our group and invite them to join us at a dance this year.

While our evenings of waltzing have been fun the attendance at the last few has dropped. So we have decided to try something a bit different. In conjunction with the Illini Folk Dancers we held an evening of couple dancing at the Illini Union this summer. We felt it went very well, so we will be holding a similar evening again at the Union on October 11. The featured dance of the evening will be the polka. There will be a workshop on the polka at 7 p.m. and then starting at 8 we will do a variety of dances. In addition to polkas we will also be doing some schottisches, waltzes and assorted other dances.

Another special event this fall will be a Civil War era Grand Ball on November 22. This will feature music and dance from the period of Abraham Lincoln. The event will be held at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center, 601 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana. There will be a workshop on period dance in the afternoon from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and then the ball will be in the evening from 7 to 11 p.m. The dances will be taught by Deborah Hyland from St. Louis and Paul Tyler from Chicago. The music will be provided by Bloomington Calvary Brass Band and the old-time band Chirps and Friends. Period costumes are encouraged, but not required. For more information or to make reservations call Vicki Retzolk at 217-265-0513.

Planning has begun for the dance weekend next spring. The dates for the weekend will be March 20-22, 2009. Mark it on your calendar and plan to attend next March.

We have a very busy fall with a lot of local dance events scheduled. In addition to our English country dances there are several other local dance groups who organize a variety of dances. I hope everyone will take advantage of the abundance of dance opportunities in our area.

### **Fall 2008 Schedule:**

Most dances will be held at the Phillips Recreation Center, 505 W. Stoughton in Urbana. We ask for a \$2.00 donation at these dances to pay for the use of the facility. There may be an admission charge for special events.

**Friday, September 12:** Dance from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Phillips Center. The first hour will feature an introduction to English Country Dance.

**Sunday, September 21:** Dance and picnic in the gardens at Allerton Park. Picnic from 1:00 to 3:00, meet at 1:00 at the visitors' center. Dancing from 3:00 to 5:00 in the gardens. Admission free. In case of rain, go to the Anderson's barn, 2206 Brownfield Rd., Urbana. Phone 398-6802.

**Saturday, October 11:** Evening of couple dancing from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. in room 314 of the Illini Student Union.. Polka workshop from 7:00 to 8:00. Admission free.

**Friday, October 31:** Hallowe'en dance from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Phillips Center.

**Saturday, November 15:** Dance from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Phillips Center.

**Saturday, November 22:** Lincoln Grand Ball and Barndance at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center. Free workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> century dance from 1:00 to 2:30. The ball is from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Admission is \$15 adults, \$5 children 11-17 and Free for children 10 and under. Call 217-265-0513 for reservations.

**Sunday, December 7:** Dance from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Phillips Center.

**Saturday, December 20:** 14th Annual Christmas Ball from 8:00 to 11:00 in room 314 of the Illini Student Union.

**For further information:**

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**The CIECD web page: <http://www.prairienet.org/ciecd/>**