

## The Newsletter of the Central Illinois English Country Dancers Spring 2009



Dancers enjoying themselves at the Halloween dance on October 31, 2008. Photo by Mary Cattell.

Attendance at our dances continued to increase last year. This past fall the monthly dances averaged 50 dancers and the Halloween dance and the Christmas Ball had an attendance of over 70. We are happy to see so many new dancers and are very pleased that they seem to be coming regular members of our dance community.

Due to some bad weather were unable to hold our annual dance in the gardens at Allerton Park this year. It was threatening to rain, so we moved the dance to Tom and Kathy Anderson's barn. Despite the change of location we still had a good crowd and everyone seemed to enjoy dancing in the barn.

This spring we will have several special events in addition to our regular schedule of monthly dances. On Sunday, March 15, we will have a guest band, Rusty Pickup, from the Peoria area, play for our dance at the Phillips Center. They have been playing for contra dances for many years and are adding English country dances to their repertoire

The following weekend will be the annual dance weekend. This year's event will feature Scandinavian dancing, as well as the contra, English and other traditional dances. There will be a variety of fun workshops which we hope everyone will find educational and enjoyable.

In April we will have another evening of couple dances at the Illini Union. Then on Saturday, May 9, we will be holding a Festival of the English May at Tom and Kathy Anderson's barn. This will include a Maypole dance along with English country dancing. We are planning to have a potluck dinner, Morris dancing, a Mummer's play and a bonfire. The details are still being worked out. We hope everyone will save the date and plan on joining us. All in all we should have a great series of dance events this spring and we hope that everyone will come out and join us.

## **Spring 2009 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 extra admission charge for special events.

**Sunday, January 25:** Dance from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Phillips Center.

**Saturday, February 14:** Valentine's Day Dance from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Phillips Center.

**Sunday, March 15:** Dance from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Phillips Center with special guest band Rusty Pickup.

**Friday-Sunday, March 20-22:** Weekend of Traditional Dance and Music at the Illini Student Union.

**Saturday, April 18:** Dance from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Phillips Center.

**Saturday, April 25:** Couple dancing from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Illini Student Union. Couple dance workshop starting at 7:00 p.m. See separate flier for details.

**Friday, May 8:** Dance from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Phillips Center.

**Saturday, May 9:** Festival of the English May at the Anderson's Barn. See separate flier for details.

**Saturday, May 30:** 14th Annual **Playford Ball** from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Illini Student Union.

## **For further information:**

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

The Central Illinois English Country Dancers are affiliated with the Urbana Park District and are members of the Country Dance and Song Society