



WHAT ARE COMMUNITY SOCIAL DANCES?

These dances are open to the public, have live music, and a dance caller. The dance steps and formations have been passed down and adapted since colonial times.

DANCES FEATURED IN THE 2015 DANCE TRAIL:

Contra

Dance sequences that involve many couples forming a line down the dance floor. Each couple changes neighbors many times throughout the night. The popularity of contra dance across the US can be traced to musicians, callers, and communities in NH.

English Country

These dances originated in 17th century English courts and were brought to New England by colonists. Today, many people are writing new dances in that style.

Square

Dance sequences that involve 4 couples, typically in a square formation.

Many consider New Hampshire to be the contra dance capital of the world. For centuries, community members and visitors have gathered together to swing, stomp, and dance in what is truly a New Hampshire tradition. Social dances across the United States trace their roots to the old town halls and dance floors of New Hampshire.

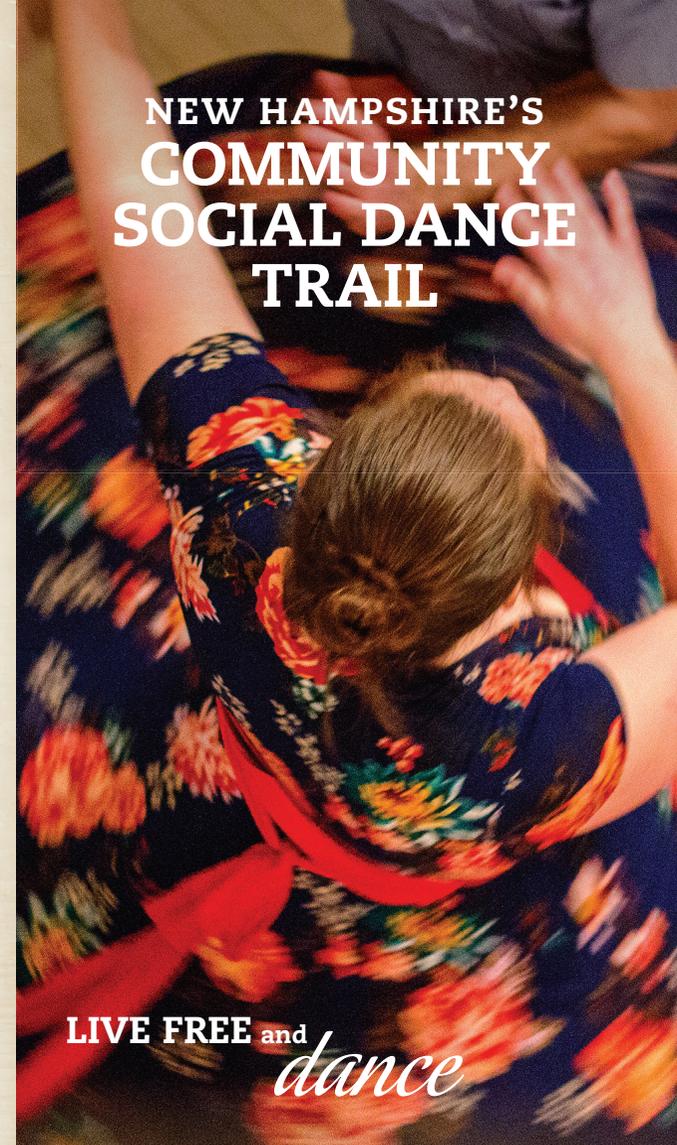
The 2015 Community Social Dance Trail features eighteen dances which take place every month in communities across the state. All dances have live music which is influenced by our state's French-Canadian, English, Irish, and Scottish heritage. You will often hear a fiddle, piano, and a variety of other instruments. A dance caller guides you through each dance by announcing a series of steps. Some dances have beginner workshops or lessons, and anyone can join in at anytime. No partner? No problem! At contra dances, you switch partners often throughout the night. Experienced dancers will be eager to help you with the figures. Grab some friends and head to a local dance!

Photos courtesy: Carol Ansel, Doug Plummer, the Monadnock Ledger and Amanda Bastoni

- 1 East Concord
- 2 Concord (English Country)
- 3 Deerfield
- 4 Dover
- 5 Exeter
- 6 Gilmanston
- 7 Keene
- 8 Kingston
- 9 Londonderry
- 10 Manchester
- 11 Milford
- 12 Nelson
- 13 Hanover-Norwich
- 14 Hanover-Norwich (English Country)
- 15 Ossipee
- 16 Peterborough
- 17 Tamworth
- 18 Wentworth



NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITY SOCIAL DANCE TRAIL



New Hampshire
State Council on the Arts



2015 COMMUNITY SOCIAL DANCE CALENDAR



1 EAST CONCORD

Location: East Concord Community Center, 18 Eastman St.
Dates: Third Saturday of every month except July & August
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra & barn dances with live music
Admission: \$7 | ages 15-25 \$5 | under age 15 free

2 CONCORD, ENGLISH COUNTRY

Location: Presidential Oaks, 4th floor, 200 Pleasant St.
Dates: Second Sunday of every month except July & August
Time: 5:30pm
Featuring: English Country dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | NHECDS members \$7

3 DEERFIELD

Location: Town Hall, 6 Church St.
Dates: First Saturday of every month
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | ages 8-12 \$3

4 DOVER

Location: Dover City Hall, 288 Central Ave.
Dates: First Thursday of every month
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with the Lamprey River Band, guest musicians & callers
Admission: \$7 | students \$5

5 EXETER

Location: UU Church, 12 Elm St.
Dates: Second Saturday of every month
Time: 7:30pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$6 | students \$3 | under age 10 free

6 GILMANTON

Location: Old Town Hall, Rt 140
Dates: Second Saturday of every month
Time: varies
Featuring: contras & squares dances with live music
Admission: \$7

7 KEENE

Location: Heberton Hall, in the Keene Public Library Annex, 60 Winter St.
Dates: First Friday of every month, Oct through May
Time: 6:30pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: Free

8 KINGSTON

Location: Kingston Town Hall, 163 Main St.
Dates: Fourth Saturday of every month
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8

9 LONDONDERRY

Location: Old Mayflower Grange Hall, current Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Rd.
Dates: Second Friday of every month
Time: 8pm, beginner lesson at 7:30pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | under age 12 \$3

10 MANCHESTER

Location: Mill-Around-Dance Studio in the historic Waumbec Mill, 250 Commercial St.
Dates: Third Friday of every month
Time: 8pm, beginner lesson at 7:30pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | students \$5 | under age 12 free

11 MILFORD

Location: Milford Town Hall, 3rd floor Auditorium, 1 Union Sq.
Dates: Fourth Friday of every month
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$7 | 1/2 price ages 6-12 with adult | under age 6 free

12 NELSON

Location: Nelson Town Hall, Nelson Common Rd.
Dates: Every Monday night
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$3

13 HANOVER-NORWICH

Location: Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Norwich
Dates: Second & Fourth Saturday of every month except July and August; New Year's Eve dance
Time: 8pm, with newcomers' workshop at 7:45pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with the band Northern Spy on second Saturdays. Fourth Saturdays presented by Muskeg Music with the band Cuckoo's Nest and different callers
Admission: \$8 | students \$5 | seniors by donation under age 16 free

14 HANOVER-NORWICH, ENGLISH COUNTRY

Location: Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. Norwich
Dates: Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 29, April 19, Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 15, Dec 6
Time: Jan through April, dance starts at 3pm; Sept through Dec, dance starts at 1pm
Featuring: English country dances
Admission: \$10 | youth \$5 | \$2 discount for members of Muskeg Music or Country Dance and Song Society

15 OSS�PEE

Location: Ossipee Town Hall Gym, 55 Main St.
Dates: Feb 28, April 25, May 23
Time: 7pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$7 | students & seniors \$5 | under age 12 \$3

16 PETERBOROUGH

Location: Peterborough Town House, 1 Grove St.
Dates: First Saturday of every month
Time: 7:30pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$10 | students & seniors \$7

17 TAMWORTH

Location: Second floor of the Tamworth Town House, 27 Cleveland Hill Rd.
Dates: most Saturday evenings from Independence Day through Labor Day, New Year's Eve & other special dates
Time: 7:30pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$7 | under age 15 \$3 | family max \$15

18 WENTWORTH

Location: Wentworth Town Hall, 10 Eastside Rd.
Dates: First Fridays of every month except July
Time: 8pm
Featuring: primarily singing-style eastern squares, with a few other formations
Admission: \$7 | couples \$12 | children free

LIVE FREE and
dance



All dance schedules are subject to change. For contact information and to learn about community social dancing visit:

www.nh.gov/folklife