

## Val Medve, English Country Dance Caller



Val Medve is known for her selection of English country dances both vintage and new. Her calling style is clear, easy to follow and laced with good humor.

Val's interest in dance began with Polish folk dancing when she was a young girl in southwestern Connecticut. In the early 1980s, she caught the contra dance bug. She soon added many other traditional dance genres, performing with Gwiazda Polish Folk Dance Ensemble, Reel Nutmeg (an ECD troupe), Sleepy Hollow Morris (a Northwest Morris team), and The Green Mountain Volunteers (a troupe that represented the U.S. at international dance festivals in Canada and abroad).

She calls regularly in northern Vermont for the Burlington Country Dancers in Colchester, the Wake Robin retirement community in Shelburne, and the Richmond summer classes.

Val has taught/called ECD at special events including NEFFA (New England Folk Festival), the Flurry Festival, Adirondack Dance Weekend, Pinewoods Labor Day Weekend, Stockade Assembly, Binghamton (NY) Ball, Whately (MA) Ball, the Spencerville Ball Weekend (in Spencerville, Ontario), the Strafford (VT) Ball, Champlain Valley Folk Festival, and Jane Austen events in northern Vermont. If not for the 2020 pandemic, Val would have called for the October Playford to the Present Ball in California (postponed to 2022), as well as for the October Sunday event sponsored by California's Historical Tea and Dance Society.

She's also called dances in Albany, NY; Troy, NY; Rochester, NY; Amherst, MA; Newton, MA (for CDS Boston Centre); White Plains, NY (for Country Dancers of Westchester); Port Ewen, NY; Ridgewood, NJ; Norwich, VT; Kingston, RI; Newton, MA (Boston Centre's summer series); Philadelphia, PA; Ann Arbor, MI; Baltimore, MD; Washington, DC; and the Big Island of Hawaii.

In the summer of 2013, with the help of coffee (which she had forsaken for almost a decade), Val booked and powered through a 2-week ECD tour with her husband Tom and the Seppelers, where she and Dan Seppeler called to music by pianist Barb Seppeler (sometimes accompanied by fine local musicians).

Val is a member of a hard-working and devoted committee that runs the Burlington Country Dancers's annual "Across the Lake" English Country Dance Weekend (usually the second weekend in June).

Val is from Essex, Vermont (near Burlington).