

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, the Playford to the Present (P2P) Ball in Pasadena, California, Stockade Assembly, Binghamton (NY) Ball, Whately (MA) Ball, the Spencerville Ball Weekend (in Spencerville, Ontario), the Strafford (VT) Ball, Champlain Valley Folk Festival, along with Jane Austen events and Ethan Allen Homestead events in northern Vermont. In 2023, she led a dance workshop for California's Historical Tea and Dance Society, the group that helped many dancers through the pandemic with its weekly zoom/virtual interview series, "5 Things ... Inside the Dancing Mind of". Val's "5 Things" interview is here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U5blvgK8CEf5LXyPZCT5NqfFvbV8lO0_/edit

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 (in June) and the twice monthly ECD series in the Burlington area.

Val is from Essex, Vermont (near Burlington).