

Queen City Contras
Burlington VT Dance Series
2nd Fridays
8:00 to 11:00 PM
www.queencitycontras.org

Location & Directions:

Be sure you know where we are dancing, as the hall location sometimes varies. Check our website for an update on the home page or the schedule page if we haven't appropriately communicated the location with you!

Edmunds Middle School, located at 299 Main Street in Burlington. Most dances held here.

From I-89:

Take Exit 14W and follow Route 2W (also Main Street) into downtown Burlington. From the highway to the school is 1.4 miles. Once Route 2 heads down a big hill on Main Street towards Lake Champlain, you want to look for South Willard Street. The school is just past South Willard on your left. Pass the school, which is set back from the road, and turn left onto South Union Street. Take your first left onto Maple Street and go up a hill. You are looking for a poorly marked entrance to the school's parking lot. For a view of the area, see Google map [here](#).

Off street parking is available on the "back side" of the school via the Maple Street entrance. Once you've found the entrance, there is plenty of off-street parking. From the parking lot, you'll see a doorway at the corner of the cafeteria that leads right into the dance hall.

If you are looking at the Edmunds school from main street, you want to go to the middle building that is somewhat set back from the street.

Occasionally we dance at the Shelburne Town Hall when the school is not available.

The Town Hall is located at 5376 Shelburne Rd in the center of Shelburne. From I-89, take Exit 13 and follow I-189 for a mile to Route 7 South (Turn left onto Route 7 to go South). Shelburne is 5 miles south. Once you enter town, you'll come to a traffic light on your right, with a gas station and Harbor Road on your right. The town hall is just ahead on the right – large municipal parking lot with a school, fire station, police station, and library all accessed off the lot. The town hall is the classic and beautiful building to the right of the driveway. Plenty of off street parking is available, but be sure not to block the fire station entrance or exit. Spill over parking is available on Church Street, just past the Town Hall on the left.

Mission & Values:

Mission: Queen City Contras is a Burlington, Vermont-based nonprofit that provides fun, high-quality contra dancing with live music and calling to sustain a long standing New England tradition.

QCC is a member of the Country Dance and Song Society, and supports its goals to promote folk music and dance.

Values:

- ❑ Contra dancing is a fun, social, and healthy activity that is open to individuals and families of all ages.
- ❑ The QCC dance is welcoming to beginners and is attractive to more experienced dancers.
- ❑ Contra dancing builds and maintains community among dancers and performers.

Payment:

We clarify payment in advance at the time of booking. Performers can expect:

- ❑ \$100 guarantee per performer for the caller and a band up to four members.
- ❑ QCC retains 5% of the door and \$70 for the hall.
- ❑ Overage is split equally among the performers.
- ❑ Additionally, we pay \$50 for sound.

Set Up and Sound:

We encourage the band to bring its own sound equipment and a microphone with stand for the caller. If this is not possible, please alert the booker well in advance so that we can make sound system arrangements.

Set up can happen any time after 6:30 PM. Ideally the sound check is completed before 7:45 when a beginner's lesson begins.

A dance organizer will communicate with the caller if the sound is not good once the dance gets going. We do this to keep communication straight forward and to minimize a lot of folks providing their opinions! Assuming that someone in the band is managing sound, the caller will then share that info with the sound manager. If one of our folks is managing sound, the message will be given directly to them.

Contra Dance Schedule:

- The caller leads a beginners lesson starting at 7:45 PM; if this isn't possible, let us know.
- We start on time and take a 15 minute break that starts between 9:30 and 9:40.
- Waltzes are played at the end of each set.
- We enjoy a Hambo, Polka or Schottische at the start of the second set, but if that doesn't happen, that's okay too.
- Announcements are made after dancers have lined up for the first dance after the break.

Caller Hints:

Once the contra dance starts, the caller is in charge of the evening. To help you with your programming, we offer these insights.

Our dance is welcoming to new dancers and you can expect rank beginners, those who have danced a few times plus a good number of experienced dancers at the dance. Most of our

dancers are adults, but a few children sometimes participate. The dance has grown in recent years and our average attendance is roughly 80-100; sometimes more, sometimes less. The hall can handle upwards of 140 dancers.

We have found that new dancers are easily welcomed into the dance with a program that builds in difficulty along with some teaching or demonstrations on the floor. We prefer reasonably interesting dances with logical flow over complex choreography that might cause significant confusion for our new dancers. Our dance community is accustomed to one or two walk-throughs depending on the difficulty of the dance. (No need to rush through the teaching.)

Dancers will expect a program that is mostly modern contras, but we appreciate inclusion of other dance formations during the night. "Other" could mean circles, squares, a mixer, a chestnut or triplet. If you'd like additional information, contact Nancy Turner at nancyturner@madriver.com or 802-496-2523.

Hospitality:

Members of our dance community are happy to host our performers. Let the booker know at least a week in advance if you will need a place to stay. We understand that your plans may change. If you've booked hospitality and no longer plan to use it, please let us know as soon as possible so we can alert our hosts. Let us know of any animal allergies and we'll do our best to accommodate.

Dance Organizers' Contact Info:

If you have an emergency on the day of the dance, here are contact numbers for members of the organizing committee. Brian usually opens the hall and is a good person to initially reach.

Dave Cain & Nancy Turner,	Home: 802-496-2523
Brian Appleberry	Cell: 802-343-7165
Kathy Gruber	Cell: (802) 371-9492
Peter Johnson	Home: (802) 864-7660
Don Peabody & Lianna Tennal	Home: (802) 877-3698