

LYRIDS FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL MAY 9–11, 2025

Chrisanne Pennimpede, New Westminster, B.C., Canada



2024 Lyrids Folk Dance Festival. Photo by Bruce Sharpe.

Save the date for Lyrids 11th Folk Dance Festival, May 9–11, 2025! We're excited about having Željko Jergan teaching Croatian dances and Joe Kaloyanides Graziosi teaching dances from Greece. The Saturday evening party band will be Zakuska (Jana Rickel and friends) from Seattle, Washington.

The festival takes place in Pitt Meadows, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, an hour's drive east of Vancouver Airport. The Pitt Meadows Hall boasts a wonderful hardwood dance floor, ample free parking, and a convenient Best Western Plus Inn & Suites nearby (a block of rooms has been reserved).

In addition to frequent and plentiful snacks, meals are catered and will provide for a variety of dietary requirements. There will be lots of other activities planned, such as singing, drumming, crafts, and culture talks.

Registration opens in January 2025 and we look forward to seeing many of you at the festival.

For more details and to see our past festivals, check out lyridsfolkdancefestival.org.

Lyrids Folk Dance Festival is a project of Burnaby International Folk Dancers.



2024 Lyrids Folk Dance Festival. Photo by Sally Martin.

MAKING CAROUSELS

William H. Dentzel, Port Townsend, Washington

I am a fifth-generation carousel maker, possibly the last of our family. My great-great-grandfather, Michel Dentzel, was a wagonmaker and then carousel maker and operator in what is now southern Germany. He sent his sons on a ship to America in the mid 1800s; Gustav had a carousel partially completed on board. It was a success in Philadelphia and Gustav's company thrived. My dad carried on the tradition from his father, Gustav's son Edward. My dad studied and practiced law, yet he steadily carved and made carousel pieces on his evenings or weekend afternoons, then full time in retirement. I helped occasionally, but not until I had lived in Mexico during the early 1980s and made a village carousel there did I truly get the bug. I loved the magic of working with locals to create a wonderful community project. Back in the States, I continued pursuing that endeavor, although I also needed to do house and boat carpentry to pay the bills while raising a family.

I have built ten hand-powered carousels, and also restored and made many more animals. I have built other animated furniture and worked in our high school vocational education shop building carousels. There are many skill-set specialties associated with carousel making: wood milling, assembly, and carving, for sure. Another essential and large component is the mechanism, which must be reliable and safe. Painting and decoration work is a wonderfully visible component, which is a big field unto itself; the process generally comes very late in carousel fabrication and is probably the easiest one to share, as it is so much fun.

Along the journey of my lifetime, I have become part of the long carousel journey and I love to share that story. Carousels go further back in our civilization's history than one might imagine. I will connect many dots the carousel has landed on since it was first envisioned and used in Asia and the Middle East well over 1000 years ago. It journeyed all the way around the world to California and eventually to my little village in southern Mexico.



It is possible I will have a crankie box story to help with this presentation. I hope so. As I write this, my crankie box setup is being used in Mexico. (A crankie box is an old-style wooden Appalachian "television.")

