

# Two Contra Dances

by Melanie Axel-Lute

## Salute to Dave Colestock

Becket

- A1 Circle left three quarters, step to a wave  
Balance right and left, Rory O'More spin to right
- A2 Neighbor allemande left once and one quarter to long waves at side, right hand to new neighbor  
Balance right and left, Rory O'More spin to right, past new neighbor
- B1 This neighbor balance and swing
- B2 Ladies allemande right once and one half  
Partner swing  
Start again with same neighbors

**Author's Notes:** Dave was a caller and organizer from Harrisburg, PA who died in May 2017. His enthusiasm for contra dance and his goofy sense of humor will be missed. I would classify this dance as intermediate—not difficult but not for a beginner-level crowd. For music, I would use something bouncy, jigs or French Canadian reels, though Dave really loved what he called “hoedown” music, which would probably work as well. Teaching Tips: Emphasize that the Rory O'More spins go only one way. Especially note that after the first one, dancers need to grab left hands for the allemande.

## Ziggity Zaggity

Duple improper

- A1 Circle left, all the way  
With partner zig left and zag right, end back-to-back with neighbor (slide to left and back the other way to change places with, and be back-to-back with, the couple you passed)  
At end of phrase, push off partner to face neighbor
- A2 Neighbor balance and swing
- B1 Ladies allemande right once and one half  
Partner swing
- B2 Long lines forward and back  
With partner, circle right around group of four one quarter (to original place), then zig right and zag left to face new neighbors



**Author's Notes:** This dance got a shout of “This dance is a lot of fun!” at its debut in Clifton Park, NY on October 28th. An intermediate dance, it works best with smooth reels. Teaching Tips: The last move of the dance is not hard, but a bit hard to describe. A demo would clear up confusion. Partners need to move together one place to their right, back to their original spots, and keep moving into the zigzag. Some dancers get confused about which way the zigzags go, though in both cases there's momentum from the previous moves that should help. Men lead the first, left/right zigzag; ladies lead the second, right/left one.

*A caller of both contra and English country dances, Melanie Axel-Lute began dancing in New Jersey over twenty years ago. Now retired to New York's capital region, she keeps busy with calling, dancing (especially with her granddaughters), playing the recorder, and serving on the Board of the DanceFlurry Organization.*