

Don't forget contra dance Friday, and sad news Bob Deitner.

Contra dance this Friday, May 17th with the **Celtic Stringband** from El Paso, Mesilla Community Center, details on web at www.snmmds.org

[Bob Deitner, friend and mandolin player extraordinaire](#)



Our beloved mandolin player, Bob Deitner, passed away last Monday after a long battle with cancer. Gentle, soft-spoken, so easy-going, he was invited to play with many bands over the years, most recently in The Deming Fusiliers and the Salty Dogs, and he even traveled to Sweden to share bluegrass at one time. Local musicians played for him while he was unconscious for days and Joni said one time tears rolled down his eyes. So he heard. He loved his music.

Bob loved to play. And he was always there when we needed him. His spirit will be with us at every dance, especially when we hear Moonlight on the Water or his own composed April's Waltz. We miss him.

There was a small gathering of close friends and family out under the stars who shared stories and music in his memory, as Bob would have wanted.

One of my favorite memories is when we contra danced in the summer on NMSU tennis court and Bob was the sole musician, playing his mandolin. Another time he was on stage at the El Paso Chamizal, looking so sharp in a brand new pair of fancy cowboy boots and hat to match. Other side of the story from his brother Dennis is that a rancher was so impressed with Bob's playing, that they jumped in the truck and rushed out to buy him expensive hat and boots! Dude that good should look sharp too. And I got him to contra dance with me – one special dance!