

Tam Twirlers of Marin

Newsletter

March 2010



The Pres Presents

Happy St. Patrick's Day to All!

Hope to see many of our club members at the corned beef and cabbage dinner/dance with the Adobe Squares at the Women's Club in Petaluma March 9th.

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead Sunday, March 14th, "It's Day Light Savings Time"!

Our March 31st Party Night will feature Caller Steve Minkin in place of Eric, who is out of town. We are planning a groovy dance night.

Chow For Now,

Your President, Janet

Richard Henerlau Named IJ's Volunteer of the Week

On February 13th the Marin IJ named Eric's son, Richard, its Volunteer of the Week for his work at the Redwood High School library. "Richard has been a faithful, twice-weekly library volunteer for almost three years," said librarian Tom Kaun. Way to go, Richard!

What's Up Next? Tam Twirlers

New Wednesday Dancing Schedule

6:45 to 8 Class

8 Announcements

8:05 Everybody dance tip

8:15 to 9:30 Plus

No Dancing March 17th

Because of a St. Patrick's Day event at the Rod and Gun Club, we will not be dancing on

Wednesday, March 17. See you on the 24th.

Guest Caller March 31st

Steve Minkin will take over for Eric on Wednesday, March 31st. Because it is also a party night the Board has decided to make it a Western theme; anyone who has a Western outfit around is free to dress accordingly but be sure to come in any case. Steve calls for three Plus clubs and two Advanced clubs. Like our mystery corner (see page 3) he also comes from Brooklyn. He's an unusually literate caller; in fact, he loves Shakespeare so much he frequently gathers a group in his home to read through an entire play in an evening.

Board Discusses Possible Tuesday Class

At its February 20th meeting the Board discussed initial results from the questionnaire as well as Eric's ideas for a new beginner class that would meet on Tuesday evenings at Rod and Gun instead of Wednesdays. A plus is that a new class could start every six months. Jerry Kerby will contact members and students to assess interest in helping with such a class.

Graduation Time Approaching

Our current class is moving rapidly through the Plus calls, so graduation cannot be far away. Stay tuned for the actual date.

Upcoming Dances

!!TWO CLASS LEVEL DANCES!!

Sunnyvale Singles Spring Fling Hoedown

Saturday, March 6, 8:00 – 10:15 PM

Yes, students, this is a hoedown where you have a real ball because this is one energetic club and the whole dance will be at your level. Jim Osborne will do the calling. If in doubt, see

Eric – this is his club. Only downside is that it's a bit of a trek getting there: John Muir Middle School, 1260 Branham Lane, San Jose.

AND

**Clutch Busters Green Light/Red Light
Friday, Mar 26, 7:30 to 10:30 PM**

Another great one for class members and angels. Alternating Mainstream and Plus tips. This is the one your editors went to when they were learning and it was a blast. Same mellow caller, Gary Kendall, as then too. Downside is that students would only be able to dance half the tips, but then there isn't any round dancing so lots of tips. Mt. Diablo Women's Club, 1700 Farm Bureau Road, Concord. Verify the date, though – it's already been changed twice.

**Circles 'N Squares – Plus Hoedown
Saturday, March 13, 8 – 10:30 PM**

Circles and Squares presents none other than our own Eric at Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave., Santa Rosa. Rounds by Jean VanBlarcum with pre-rounds starting at 7.

Upcoming Festivals

**Redding Square Dance Jamboree
Plus and Advanced, March 26 – 27
Redding Elks Club & Senior Center**

Two great callers (our own Eric and Mike Sikorsky) in adjoining dance halls with hardwood floors. Cuers Sharon & Casey Parker. Only \$30 per couple if you order by March 15. Square dancing starts 8 pm Friday and ends Saturday at 11 pm. Host motel is the Rodeway Inn (call 1-800-700-3019 and ask for the "square dance special rate).

**Golden State Roundup, All Levels
San Ramon Marriott, May 7 – 9**

This is our Northern California Square Dancers' Association's 57th roundup. Featured callers are Bob Baier (Stafford, Texas); a rare female caller, Chicago's Sandie Bryant; Vic Ceder (Los Olivos); and Steve Edlund (British Columbia). Round dance cuers are Ron and Mary Noble. A plus is that everything is in one place. No wandering around a fairground to find the dance hall or dancing on concrete.

Room reservations are \$92 per night before April 22; mention group code SQUSSQUA at www.marriott.com or call 1-800-228-9290. Check the desk for free parking if staying; 50% off otherwise. Flyers are on our table.

**63rd Annual Silver State (Reno)
Mainstream thru Challenge**

Grand Sierra Resort, May 28 – 30

This festival bills itself as "The longest continuous running festival in the country." Callers this year are Bronc Wise, Darryl Lipscomb, and Jet Roberts. Cuers are Kristine & Bruce Nelson; Radka & Steve Sandeman. For ribbons, lodging, and other info go to www.squaredancenevada.com/festhome.htm.

Summer Camp

Spend a Week Dancing in McCloud

Dance Country in McCloud offers 5-day packages Sunday thru Thursday in July and August. Dancing is in a beautiful old dance hall with a hardwood floor. Typical schedule is a daytime workshop and an evening dance. Extras include round dancing, picnics, after parties, and pie nights. McCloud is 10 miles east of Mt. Shasta City on Route 89. If you haven't gone before, don't be shy about asking the Carters, Clintons, Kerbys, Marge, June, Meg, or Bill. Callers include Gary Shoemaker, Mike Sikorsky, and Daryl Lipscomb. For details see www.mcclouddancecountry.com.

Lodging tip: if staying at the McCloud Mercantile, check their website first for availability but then call and ask for the dancer special; you'll save a bundle. The McCloud Hotel is also popular.

Other than square dancing and a sometime soda fountain there isn't much to do in McCloud itself – even the dinner train is gone. But nearby are hikes to falls on the McCloud River, fishing, golf, Castle Crags' State Park, and a drive up Mt. Shasta. Farther north is the Oregon Shakespeare Festival – you can even drive there for a matinee play and get back for the evening dance. If new to McCloud, don't be fooled by its 3,000 foot elevation – summer

days are really hot. Square dance attire is requested for evenings only.

Class Act

Jeanice McGee

We are learning some big calls: Relay the Deucey, Grand Swing Thru, and Track Two. They do take some practice, but they are not really hard to learn. I love calls that have everyone moving at the same time. They are fun to do and look so impressive to anyone who happens to be watching. Eric will be teaching new plus calls every Wednesday night, so remember to be there on time.

Also, we will not be dancing on Wednesday, March 17th.

Keep up the good work!

Who's Your Corner?

See if you can figure out who this month's mystery corner is. Answer is on page 5.

- How many of our dancers can say they have triplets? And, yes, we are taking about boys and girls here, not puppies. Even more amazing, this corner is not a she, but a he. OK, so they are really his grandkids and their mom is his daughter-in-law, but it's still a big event. Two boys and a girl 8 months old now. Lots of fun and the boys challenge our corner to keep his memory sharp trying to tell them apart. Not so easy when they live in Tarzana, California.
- He's a bona fide New Yorker, growing up in Brooklyn, graduating from Queens College and then working in Brooklyn for 20 years. He ran his own company, a scrap metal shop, where he bought scrap metal in bulk, sorted it into different types, and then resold it. He says that copper and bronze were particularly good metals to look for because they commanded premium prices.
- Wise with money, he put enough aside as his business grew to invest in real estate, which enabled him to pack up and move west. California was a draw because by then 3 of

his 4 children were here. He soon narrowed his sights to Corte Madera because this was where one of his daughters lived and he especially liked the weather.

- Once settled into his new digs square dancing was a natural because he had been dancing with a club in Long Island – when he wanted to find a club the Tam Twirler website designed by Brad Christie showed the way.
- He keeps physically active by hiking with a group called the Wednesday Walkers. Originally they were sponsored by the College of Marin but then became their own club going anywhere in Marin. (Extra points: guess what day of the week they hike.)
- To keep mentally active he attends two classes at College of Marin, one on film and one on Russian music, for which he has a special fondness. (He's one guy who could name a few pieces that Ralph Parker would not know!)
- Earlier he enjoyed photography as a hobby and he still likes to travel. One particularly strong memory is seeing the fiords in Norway, although it also reminded him why he left New York for warmer climes in Marin. So who is he?

Questionnaire Results

We had a great response to Art Reichert's questionnaire with 41 students and members responding. Here are the results for the yes/no questions. The Neutral/No opinion response includes those who indicated either alternative was acceptable. Percentages may not add up to exactly 100% because of rounding.

There were also a number of written comments that students and members made. These will be sent soon when they are all compiled.

December Party

1. Attended Christmas party last year

Yes	23	(56%)
No	18	(44%)
Neutral/No opinion	0	

[Questionnaire Continued]

2. Important to keep party on current date (first Friday in December)

Yes 12 (29%)
No 27 (66%)
Neutral/No opinion 2 (5%)

3. \$50 cost is a problem

Yes 18 (44%)
No 23 (56%)
Neutral/No opinion 0

4. Would prefer buffet format

Yes 35 (85%)
No 2 (5%)
Neutral/No opinion 4 (10%)

5. Keep party at Deer Park Villa

Yes 24 (58%)
No 6 (15%)
Neutral/No opinion 11 (27%)

6. Keep renting the dance floor

Yes 28 (68%)
No 8 (20%)
Neutral/No opinion 5 (12%)

7. Willing to have Buzzin' Boots attend

Yes 35 (85%)
No 3 (7%)
Neutral/No opinion 3 (7%)

8. Keep band used this last year

Yes 11 (27%)
No 17 (42%)
Neutral/No opinion 13 (32%)

9. Open to trying a different musical group

Yes 30 (73%)
No 4 (10%)
Neutral/No opinion 7 (17%)

10. Willing to try Buzzin' Boots musicians

Yes 27 (66%)
No 10 (24%)
Neutral/No opinion 4 (10%)

Summer Party

11. Attended party last August

Yes 36 (88%)
No 5 (12%)
Neutral/No opinion 0

12. Prefer Cruising Club or Rod and Gun?

Cruising Club 20 (49%)
Rod and Gun 18 (44%)
Neutral/No opinion 3 (7%)

13. Look into other possible locations?

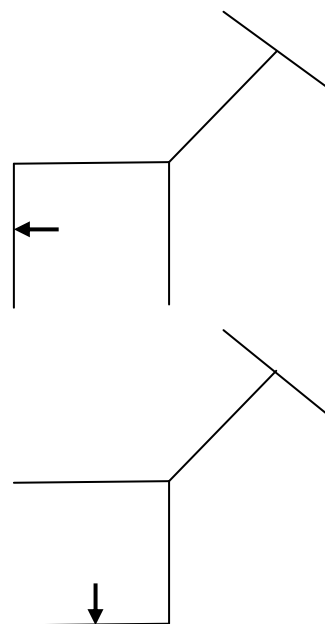
Yes 6 (15%)
No 23 (56%)
Neutral/No opinion 12 (29%)

Thanks again to all. The more we learn from each other the better we can make our club.

Puzzle Answer

Last Month's Toothpick Horse Puzzle

Challenge was to move only one toothpick yet keep the same shape except for a possible orientation change. Solution is to move the leg with the arrow to the new position below.



March Birthdays

Gen Sheppard Jack Street
Jennifer Henerlau Bill Strawbridge

Setter/Cleaner Uppers

If you can't come on your assigned date, please arrange a substitute and let our hospitality chair, Gen Sheppard (488-1827), know. Those assigned for a given month are asked to bring a treat for party night on the last Wednesday of the month.

SET-UP DUTIES: Arrive by 6:30 pm. Heat and light switches are in the back room if needed. If it is still light you can wait to turn on the parking lot lights, but no later than 8. Prop open the side door. Get ice from the bar before it closes at 7; Fill the cooler, put out cups, snacks, and marking pen. If tables are set up, stack enough to leave room to dance. Set up chairs around the hall and the caller table on the stage. Set up the hospitality table with the guest sign-in book, member sign-in sheets, flyers, and solo rotation sheet. If it is hot, set out the fans stored in the supply closet room – one in the doorway of the side room and the other near the bar. An extension cord is in our supply closet.

CLEAN-UP DUTIES: Empty the cooler, clean up cups and trash. Place flyers and other items in the plastic bin and then put it and all other supplies back in our supply closet; leave out tables and chairs. If the fans are out, return them and our extension cord to the storage closet room. When leaving, close all doors.

6:30 Setup	9:30 Cleanup
Mar 3 Farwell	Betts
Mar 10 Mousley	Strawbridge/Wallhagen
Mar 17 DARK	
Mar 24 Kerby	Parker
Mar 31 McGee/Ryan	Pharis (Party Night)
Apr 7 Carter	Jones/Christie
Apr 14 Metzger	McComas/Rappaport
Apr 21 Bowcock/ McClanahan	Reichert
Apr 28 Sheppard	Sayles (Party Night)

Tam Twirlers Website

www.tamtwirlers.org

★★★ And Your Corner Is ★★★

☺Irv Steinberg☺

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