

Tam Twirlers of Marin

Newsletter

April 2010



The Pres Presents

April showers bring May flowers, but for one night on Wednesday, April 7th we are trying a new dance system with Eric and numbers, come dance and have fun.

Don't forget that Easter is almost here and hope you enjoy your candy, chocolate eggs and bunnies!

One final note-mark your calendar that we will be DARK on Wednesday, May 5 as the Rod & Gun Club is having a Cinco de Mayo event.

That's it from your President, Janet

Newsletter and Future Class Calls Now on Our Website

Recent Tam Twirler newsletters are now on our website (www.tamtwirlers.org). Just click on the "About" button. For calls Eric has taught and will be teaching in the next few weeks, click on "Calls."

Possible Tuesday Night Class

Past President Jerry Kerby reports that he has found enough members and students who would be willing to assist at a Tuesday night beginning dance class so the Board will discuss the proposal at its April 17 meeting.

Local Upcoming Dances

Circle 'n Squares Plus Hoedown

Saturday, April 10, 8:00 – 10:30 PM

Newly relocated from Reno to Colbert, Washington, Doug Davis will do the calling. Relatively new local round dance cuing pair Bud and Marlene Gooch will cue pre-rounds

from 7 to 8 as well as rounds between tips. Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave., Santa Rosa.

Saucy Squares/Redwood Rainbows

Saturday, April 17, 7:30 – 10:30 PM

Sea of Blossoms Spring Hoedown featuring Mainstream and Plus with at least one A2 tip. Expect a lot of energy with these two clubs; Paul Waters is the caller. Wischemann Hall, 465 Morris Street, Sebastopol.

Adobe Squares Plus Hoedown

Saturday, May 1, Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa

More details in our May newsletter or see Art & Elaine Reichert now.

Upcoming Festivals

Golden State Roundup, All Levels

San Ramon Marriott, May 7 – 9

This is our Northern California Square Dancers' Association's 57th roundup. Callers are Bob Baier (Stafford, Texas); Chicago's Sandie Bryant; Vic Ceder (Los Olivos); and Steve Edlund (British Columbia). Round dance cuers are Ron and Mary Noble. 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, May 28 - 30

See last month's newsletter for details.

Class Act

Jeanice McGee

It was good to have a night of review after our week off wasn't it? After all, we have been

flipping, fanning, and following for the last couple of weeks. Are we good or what? If you would like to review the plus calls using a DVD I have one copy that can be checked out for a week at a time. See me if you are interested. 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 4.

- Some folks like to raise Cain. Well this lady prefers to re-cane, as in furniture. She started 30 years ago when her mother was about to throw out her grandmother's damaged wicker chairs. Having no experience in how to do the actual repairs, our corner found a how-to book, did the work, and then realized there was a market out there for her services. Since then she has gotten work through nearly every furniture refinisher in the area. Holidays are especially good times because that's when families get out their old chairs to accommodate guests and it's just not good form to have them fall through the seat.
- Originally from St. Louis, she came to California with her mom at age 9 and has been here ever since. Along the way she raised 4 children and now has 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, with some living nearby and others scattered around the country.
- She used to do a lot of cooking. It started with cooking for girl scouts in camps and then eventually working at Marin Academy and other institutions as a food coordinator (which means she was in charge of the kitchen and the dining room).
- Like a lot of Marinites she likes to get out and hike, but she has gone beyond just walking on various local trails to actually leading hikes on Mt. Tam for the Mt. Tam Interpretive Association, a volunteer arm of California State Parks. Each hike requires a theme, such as wildflowers, park history, seasons on the mountain, or mushrooms, so she needs to be mentally sharp on these hikes as well. One with great views but little

walking is when astronomers bring their telescopes to the top of Mt. Tam and let everyone see the heavens in all their glory.

- She began square dancing in 1987 when a friend suggested trying the Tam Twirlers, and she's seen a lot of changes over the years. For one thing, beginning classes had 40 – 60 dancers, and she remembers Jerry Kerby dividing the class into smaller groups and hosting potluck dinners so students would get to know one another. She said our club used to have more social activities, such as going to a picnic and then playing games like volleyball and horse shoes. Brad Sayles was responsible for setting up the games and storing equipment between activities. When the picnic interest lagged, the Cruising Club became the favored locale.
- So who is this active lady?

More Questionnaire Results

Here are the comments and suggestions. Numbers in parentheses indicate number making the same comment. Thanks to Art Reichert for putting the questionnaire together and to all for such thoughtful responses.

Christmas Party

Music

- Keep ballroom dancing format
- Don't need music – keep it a social evening
- Have comedy instead of music
- Wouldn't want square dancing
- Like both live music and square dancing too
- Make event more conducive to relaxed chat

Other Than Music

- Too expensive (2)
- Consider having party at Embassy Suites (2)
- Didn't feel welcome at the Christmas party (2)
- Prefer a more central location
- Open to all guests, family, friends, other dancers joining us
- Event is boring
- Have it on Wednesday night

Current date is too early for a Christmas party
Have it in February with a Valentine's Day theme – December is too crowded
Have dinner then go to a movie, concert, or play
Vary what is done each year
Have Ralph as MC with 60's & 70's music (2)
Have Buzzin' Boots as guests, not a joint dinner

Summer Party

What I Like about the Cruising Club

Like having party at a different location (3)
Like food, party atmosphere (3)
Like Cruising Club's quirky dance floor, location, building, "in-Marin" atmosphere
Like view, kitchen
Cruising Club is a tradition would like to keep
Size of cruising club is just right
Like square dancing on the boat
Cruising Club is a special place

What I Don't Like about the Cruising Club

Floor tilts, crowded (4)
Cruising club is past its sell-by date; it's funky, dirty, and not terribly inviting
Good for dinner and socializing, but too small for dancing
Couples need to make solo dancers feel welcome
Parking lot too dark
Would kitchen facilities at Rod and Gun be as good as at Cruising Club?

General Summer Party Suggestions

Have it on a weekend or other night than Wednesday (3)
Have it at the Cheese Factory
Have it outdoors with games
Have the auction every other year
Have it at McNear Beach, McInnis Park, China Camp State Park, Muir Woods

Buzzin' Boots has a picnic at China Camp and a white elephant auction, which is fun

Comments Other than Parties

Student Issues

Have several "Welcome to Square Dancing" nights during the summer to build interest
More members should become angels, integrate with students (2)
Integrate students sooner into the club
Eric should speed up the class – also post calls to be taught several weeks ahead
Include a red light/green light dance early for students so they can see how much fun it is
Encourage students and members to go together to newer member dances
Have beginning class on another night, start Plus dancing at 7 or 7:30
Motivate and celebrate student progress with benchmark events as the class progresses
Have a buddy system where students are linked with specific members for support
Have Brad do an early training session on Taminations so students could see all it can do

General Club Comments

Board is too big to be effective (3)
Need a friendlier atmosphere at all levels
Have 4 party nights a year with themes:
January – black light;
April – wear something from your travels and have folks guess where it's from;
July – Hawaiian party
Oct – Halloween
Start Plus at 8; A1 tip at 9:15
When class ends start Plus at 7, A1 9 to 9:30
More should stay until 9:30 to fill squares
Send a card signed by all to those who have been away but are not sick or travelling
Survey members yearly to find out what they like, don't like, and suggestions they have

April Birthdays

Jackie Carr June McClanahan Brad Sayles

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.

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

Apr 7 Carter
Apr 14 Metzger
Apr 21 Bowcock/
McClanahan

Apr 28 Sheppard

May 5 Street
May 12 Nelson/Steinberg
May 19 Clinton

May 26 Farwell

9:30 Cleanup

Jones/Christie
McComas/Rappaport
Reichert
Sayles (Party Nite)
Ward
Van Herick
Angstenberger/
Christie
**Strawbridge/
Wallhagen(Party Nite)**

Tam Twirlers Website

www.tamtwirlers.org

Newsletter Editors

Bill Strawbridge and Meg Wallhagen

★★★ **And Your Corner Is** ★★★

☺Susan Nelson☺

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