

Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club



Newsletter January 2011



The Pres Presents

Janet Sayles

New Beginner Class starts Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 7:00 PM. Come and angel, bring a snack, meet the new dancers.

Wednesday, January 5, 2011 round dancing with Dan & Allison Drumheller from 6:30 to 7:30 PM followed by Eric till 9:15 PM.

Board Meeting Saturday, January 8, 2011 at Nick & Mary Carters, 10:00 AM.

NCSDA Top 10 Callers-Anniversary Dance is Sunday, January 9, 2011 at the Benica Clock Tower. Save your Black Angus coupons for dinner, more details on Wednesday, January 5, 2011.

Winter Festival in King City, January 14-16, 2011 many of our club members are attending and Eric will be calling.

Happy 2011 New Year to everyone!

January Dance Schedule

Tuesdays

January 4, 11, 18, 25

Los Robles Mobile Home Park Rec Center

- 7:00 – 8:30 Beginning square dance class
- 8:30 – 10:00 Continuing square dance class

All members welcome for all sessions

Wednesdays

January 5, 12, 19, 26

Rod and Gun Club

- 6:30 – 7:30 Round dance class
- 7:30 – 8:00 Review Plus workshop
- 8:00 – 9:30 Plus tips with numbered cards for square assignments

Marin Community Food Bank Support

Mary Carter reports that she collected \$815 from members and guests for the Marin Food Bank. Muchas gracias to all who gave and to Mary for helping make the holidays a little bit better for those in need.

Class Act

Jeanice McGee

Wow, do we have a great group of dancers in our class. They are picking up calls quickly, and remembering them. Wheel and Deal and Ferris Wheel are two recently learned calls, and our class does them both beautifully. As always, we can use more angels, so feel free to drop in any Tuesday from 7-8:30 p.m. Also, remember the new class begins January 4, 2011.

Circle Away

Bill and Meg

Dan and Allison Drumheller's round dance class has completed the Phase 2 two-step moves and will start Phase 2 waltz steps on January 5th. These will no doubt be smoother than one of the last two-step moves ("cucaracha") which, as its name implies, is similar to stepping on a cockroach. And for those of you who have always wondered, there is no Phase 1 in round dancing. Everything starts at Phase 2, sort of like Starbucks having no "small" coffee.

New Class Starts January 4

As noted above, our new beginner class will start Tuesday, January 4th at 7 pm. The current class will move to 8:30 to 10:00 and keep building on what they have learned. Please encourage those you know to come on the 4th and see what square dancing is all about.

January Dances

Lots of good choices this month.

Circles 'N Squares – Plus Hoedown Saturday, January 8, 8:00 – 10:30 PM

Jet Roberts Calling, Monroe Hall

First calling at the tender age of 8, Jet has joined with Eric to call several of our recent Tam Twirler hoedowns and will do so again in 2012. But no need to wait that long because here he is right now! Incidentally, his first name really is Jet – his Air Force dad named his kids after airplanes. Rounds between tips and at 7 with Bob and Maureen Ensten (yes, that's former Tam Twirler Bob Ensten.) Circles & Squares, Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave., Santa Rosa.

OR

Krazy Dazys RUNNING BEAR Hoedown Saturday, January 8, 8-10:30 PM

Eric Henerlau and Jim Osborne Calling

Only once a year for this special hoedown, and some dancers come a long way for it. Plus level with a Running Bear Badge Dance. See page 3 for the specific calls. To get a badge your square must get through the whole sequence without breaking down, so practice together beforehand. Eric is the caller along with Krazy Dazy's Jim Osborne who will call the Running Bear segment. If anyone is interested, Eric might call a practice Running Bear tip on Wednesday night (it's a lot of fun even if you don't plan to try for the badge.) John Muir Middle School, 1260 Branham Lane, San Jose. Pre-rounds 7:30– 8:00.

AND/OR

NCSDA Anniversary Top Callers Dance Sunday, January 9, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Benecia Arsenal Clock Tower

Nine callers this year – Plus level with two September class tips (here's how to discourage new dancers – they'll have to sit out most of the tips.) Single rounds. Only \$5 for NCSDA club members (that's us!). No-host dinner follows off site at the Benecia Grill (separate reservations required). Flyers on our table.

Martinez Swingers Double Hoedown Event Saturday, Jan 22, 3–5:30 & 8:00–10:30 PM

Michael Kellogg Calling, John Flora Cueing

Michael Kellogg hails from Northridge, California. Afternoon dance features alternating A1 & A2 tips; the evening portion is a Plus Black

& White Ball. \$10 per session or \$15 for both. Rounds with John Flora 7:30 to 8 and between tips. Martinez Adult Education Center, 600 F Street, Martinez. Take the Alhambra exit.

Swinging 21er's 24th Anniversary Dance Sunday, Jan 23, 2:30–5:00 PM

Lawrence Johnstone and George Gardner

Good chance to dance to Ukiah's Lawrence Johnstone, who typically goes through the whole Plus canon at a hoedown. And this one won't keep you out late at night. Cues are George Gardner; rounds between tips and from 2 to 2:30. Fremont Elks Lodge, 38991 Farwell Dr., Fremont. From I-880 take the Mowry Exit and go east to a left turn onto Farwell.

Early February Dance

Adobe Squares Anniversary Dance Saturday, Feb 5, 8:00 to 11:00 PM

Dan Nordbye Calling with the Ghost Riders

Double treat here with Arizona's Dan Nordbye and live music from the Ghost Riders. Based in the Bay Area, the Ghost Riders play at many different events. Rounds between tips and 7:30– 8 with John Flora & Dolores Ferraro. Veteran's Hall, 1094 Petaluma Blvd. South, Petaluma.

January Festival – Last Call

2010 Winter Festival – Plus Thru Challenge Baiers/Story/Oxendine/Reitmajer/Henerlau King City, January 14 – 16

Flyers may still be on our table or go to www.winterfestsqd.com.

Upcoming February Festival

1st Annual Sequoia Stampede

Jet Roberts/Tony Oxendine/Tomas Hedberg Tulare, February 18 – 20, Plus & Advanced

This event is sponsored by Grand Square International, a North Carolina association that puts on dances mainly in the South. Tomas Hedberg hails from Orebro, Sweden. Cues are Sharon & Casey Parker plus MaryAnn Callahan. Tulare is over 250 miles away but the County Fairgrounds include two dance halls with hardwood floors. Saturday night Plus dancers get rounds between tips while Advanced dancers get alternating A1/A2 tips with no breaks. Flyers are on our table – note the "Go West" headline as though no dancers already live in California. Ah, the view from North Carolina.

Taminations in the Far North

Seattle's Leslie Young, who coordinates activities for northwest Washington square dance clubs, has added a link to Taminations on her web site and is touting it for local dancers. "Most callers are going to already know about this one but I betcha most dancers won't. I found out there is a web site you can go to that will not only explain the moves you are learning but will show them with little cartoon type characters. I found it helpful" Way to go, Brad!

California Square Dance Council Offers Youth Scholarships

Who's that guy at Harvest Hoedown and other dances with the stuffed frog on his shoulder? He's Steve Riley and he's seeking donations for the California Youth Square Dancer Scholarship Program which provides college scholarships to teens who have promoted and supported square dancing. See the June newsletter for essays from this year's winners; next year's winners will be announced in May. For more information go to www.squaredance.org and click on youth. What a great idea to support young dancers!

Dance Tip – Touch Hands

(Adapted from Bill van Melle, Stanford Quads)

Touch hands when next to another dancer. Touching hands helps set the formation and keeps dancers oriented and working as a team. It's vital if you're to complete the next call and one person in your square is lost. Failure to take hands is a common source of disorientation. For example, after "Flip the Diamond," if the new centers don't take hands, they'll be likely to be confused if the next call is "Fan the Top."

Use enough hand pressure so the other dancer knows you're there. On the other hand (pun intended), avoid too firm a handhold; the dancer holding on with a death grip impedes both himself and those he grips. In "Square Thru" holding on too long makes for a disaster.

Change your handhold to reflect the current call. Suppose you are in facing lines, and the caller says "Centers..." Even before you hear what the centers are supposed to do, if you drop hands between the center and adjacent end, you'll focus your attention on the center four and won't try to do the call in the outside four.

Running Bear

This is an old square dance that is challenging in several ways. Like all pre-1980's dances, it features a set choreography using Mainstream calls. Individually they aren't hard, but because they occur in an unusual sequence and at a fast speed, it takes skill and practice to get through the whole dance without breaking down. Two of the calls also involve movements we rarely do. Successful squares are those who practice the dance together. Here is the call sequence put together by Brad Christie. Dancers go through it four times with heads typically starting twice and sides starting twice so all get to do all parts.

1. Four ladies chain
2. Four ladies chain
3. Rollaway
4. Heads star thru
5. Dive thru
6. (Centers) Pass thru
7. Dosado
8. Circle Four Half
9. Dive thru
10. Centers square thru while others separate and star thru
11. Dosado
12. Circle four half
13. Dive thru
14. (Centers) Box the gnat and Pull thru
Then swing your corner, promenade.

Tips: Be sure to finish each call before doing the next. Do not form a circle after the rollaway call – here it is simply a half sashay. "Circle Four Half" means that facing couples form a circle, turn half way around, and then drop hands and stop. For "Separate . . .," if you are one of the "others," turn your back on your partner, go one-quarter of the way around the square and star thru with the dancer approaching you. Originally, this call was "Divide," but it is no longer used. Finally, note that the ladies rotate around the square just like a singing call.

See page 2 for the Krazy Dazy's January Running Bear dance. Good luck if you go.

But stay tuned – Why go all the way to San Jose when Eric could call a Running Bear dance one night right here at Tam Twirlers! It would be fun for us and likely bring a lot of guests.

January Birthdays

Vita Drucker Ursula Moffett Elaine Reichert

Setter/Cleaner Uppers

Please check the monthly newsletter for your times. The calendar is also posted at Rod and Gun on the sign-in table by the front door. Please remember that it is your responsibility to switch with someone if you are unable to make your assigned date. When you do switch days, be sure to let Vita Drucker know so she can revise the calendar and remind the appropriate people of their times. If you go on leave or a prolonged vacation, let her know in advance so she can schedule accordingly. Your participation and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Set-up: Arrive by 6:30 to get the ice and water from the bartender. Put out the hand sanitizer, cups and snack mix. Arrange dance flyers on the long table where Brad sets up his computer. If it is party night (last Wednesday of the month), set up a table for the food and set out napkins. In the colder months, fill the coffee pot with water and put out the tea bags, hot chocolate mix, etc. When you notice that supplies are running low, please let Vita know so she can pick up more. Arrange chairs around the perimeter of the dance floor. Set up a table by the door for sign-in sheets, etc. When it gets dark, turn on the outside lights.

Clean-up: Help cuers and callers load their equipment. Police the hall for empty cups and other trash. Empty the water cooler. Neatly place the cooler, all supplies, and table items back in the bins in our cupboard. Chairs and tables can remain in place. Rod & Gun Club's janitor will take out the garbage, turn off the lights, and lock up. But please remember to close ALL doors when you leave. Lift up on the front side door to close it if it sticks.

Schedule

	6:30 Setup	9:30 Cleanup
Jan 5	Kerby	Jones/Christie
Jan 12	Moffett	Van Herick
Jan 19	Street	Pharis
Jan 26	Bowcock/McClanahan	Parker
Feb 2	Carter	Betts
Feb 9	Farwell	Rapport
Feb 16	Sheppard	Strawbridge/Wallhagen
Feb 23	Nelson	Hard

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