

Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club



Newsletter February, 2011



The Pres Presents

Janet Sayles

Black Light Party Night will be Wednesday, February 23rd. For those of you who have not tried this yet, come and see how much fun dancing in the dark can be. I guarantee a good time. Wear black and white clothing with white socks. We will supply the white gloves. Everyone is to bring food for our guests.

Golden State is coming up in May!

Happy Valentine's and President's Day to all!

Board Announces Changes For Setup and Cleanup

Setup

Those setting up do not have to arrive until 7 pm and will not have to get ice water from the bar because Marge Bowcock has graciously offered to do so when she arrives earlier for round dancing. This is great for setter-uppers because unless they were in the round dance class they had to sit around after setting up until square dancing began at 7:30. We all owe Marge a big hug for taking this task on. Round dancers will also put out the two long tables. Finally, when supplies are running low let Jeanice rather than Vita know so more items can be purchased.

Cleanup

When cleaning up be sure to put table items in their respective bins in our cupboard rather than just tossing them anywhere in the cupboard. If in doubt, ask Brad Sayles.

When You Swap Dates Please Let Vita Know

When trading dates be sure to let Vita know so she can change the calendar and won't call the wrong folks the night before. Unfortunately not letting her know happens much too often.

February Dance Schedule

Tuesdays

February 1, 8, 15, 22

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

February 2, 9, 16, 23*

Rod and Gun Club

- 6:15 – 6:30 Round dance class: 2-step review
- 6:30 – 7:30 Round dance class: level 2 waltz
- 7:30 – 8:00 Review Plus workshop
- 8:00 – 9:30 Plus tips with numbered cards for square assignments. Rounds between tips.
- **Note:** *February 23rd is Black Light Party Night starting at 7:30. See Janet's column on this page. Round dance class as usual.

Class Act

Jeanice McGee

The two-class schedule is now in place with 6 beginners dancing from 7 to 8:30 and 10 continuing students from 8:30 to 10. Our newest dancers, Karl, Annette, Kathy, Ellen, Vickie and Mark have now danced for a month. I hope they all continue to dance with us. They are moving along at a good pace. Thanks to the angles who came last night we had three squares. Yoo Hoo! We hope to see you there.

Circle Away

The round dance class resumed in January as 20 dancers signed up for lessons switching from Phase 2 two-step to Phase 2 waltz steps. A new feature is having two-step review at 6:15 so folks won't get rusty on what they learned before. Last month's column said there is no

Level 1 in round dancing, comparing that to Starbucks' not having small coffees. According to Dan Drumheller, although Level 1 has no steps or dances, it does describe the basic dance positions like butterfly, open, semi, and closed.

Winter Fest: Weekend of Riches

Mary Carter

We were well represented at Winter Fest in King City: Brad & Katy, Rick & Tina, Bill & Sybil, Ralph & Carol, June & Marge and Nick & Mary all had a fantastic time. This festival offers five callers, with our own Eric among them this year. He and Jennifer were also the best dressed scarecrows ever, thanks to Jennifer's exceptional design and sewing skills. (The Saturday Night "Theme" this year was Old McDonald . . .) This particular festival was extra special: a high level of dancing; super Saturday workshops; five callers who were definitely "on" (we danced more than usual because we didn't want to miss a tip!) If you're interested in attending next year (callers Bob Baier, Tony Oxendine, Jerry Story, Bronc Wise, and Jet Roberts), it's not too soon to book a motel room because they go quickly. Flyers are already on our table at Rod and Gun.

February Dances

Adobe Squares Anniversary Dance

Saturday, Feb 5, 8:00 to 11:00 PM

Dan Nordbye Calling with the Ghost Riders

Triple treat here with Arizona's Dan Nordbye and live music from the Ghost Riders, who play at many different events (one of them also square dances). It's also the closest out-of-Marin dance of the year. Rounds between tips and 7:30-8 with John Flora & Dolores Ferraro. Veteran's Hall, 1094 Petaluma Blvd. South, Petaluma.

Swingin' in the Rain New Dancer's Hoedown

Friday, February 25, 8:00 to 10:30 PM

Bert Swerer Calling

This Martinez Swingers' dance should be good for our continuing class. An added treat is a special dangle tip for those who bring and put on their rain gear (this is where the "Swingin' in the Rain" comes in, just don't stab anyone with your umbrella.) You don't even need to get wet. Adult Education Center, 600 F Street, Martinez.

Blue Star Moms Benefit Hoedown

Saturday, February 26, 6:00 to 10:30 PM

Three Callers and the Ghost Riders!

Support our troops, get a tax deduction, and dance to live music by the Ghost Riders. September class, Plus, & Advanced levels. What a deal! See the flyers on our table. All proceeds go to the Contra Costa Blue Star Moms.

February Festival

1st Annual Sequoia Stampede

Jet Roberts/Tony Oxendine/Tomas Hedberg

Tulare, February 18 – 20, Plus & Advanced

This inaugural event is sponsored by Grand Square International. Tomas Hedberg is from Orebro, Sweden. Cuers are the Parkers and MaryAnn Callahan. A long drive but the two dance halls have hardwood floors (drool on, King City dancers). Flyers are on our table.

Early March Dances

Circle 'n Squares Plus Dance

Saturday, March 5, 8:00 to 10:30 PM

Bill Silver with Jeannie Van Blarcum

Bill hails from Sacramento and recently called for the Singles and Pairs Thanksgiving dance. Jeannie Van Blarcum will cue rounds from 7:30 to 8 and between tips. Hardwood floor. Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa.

OR

Twin City Steppers Anniversary Hoedown

Saturday, March 5, 8:30 to 11:00 PM

Mike Amell with !Dan Drumheller!

Yes, round dance class members, that's our own Dan Drumheller cueing for rounds from 8 to 8:30 and between tips. Caller Mike Amell is from Concord and calls for two East Bay clubs. Hardwood floor. Fairfield Community Center, 1000 Kentucky St., Fairfield.

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 likely be confused if the next call is "Fan the Top."

But 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. In facing lines if the caller says "Centers..." those in the center should drop hands with the ends even before hearing what they are supposed to do. That way they will focus their attention on what they are to do and not confuse the ends.

Fix or Can That Call

Editors' Note: This is our contribution. But for others we want to hear from you, so if you have a call you don't like, would like to see changed for the better, or that isn't in Mainstream or Plus but should be, let us know and we will work with you to get it in the newsletter.

Star Thru

One reason shoulder problems are all too common among square dancers lies with this popular call that involves raising arms to form an arch and then turning a quarter. Both because some dancers are overly aggressive and because Star Thru is used so much a wrenched shoulder can result. Advanced dancers abandoned the raised arm part a long time ago, substituting a simple tap with the man's right hand and lady's left hand at waist level, thereby avoiding any shoulder strain. We suggest adding this change for Mainstream and Plus dancers as well.

Who's Your Corner?

See if you can figure out who this month's mystery corner is. Answer is on page 4.

- If you have a classic car, street rod, antique, or other item of value, our corner is the man to see because he has worked for years as a professional appraiser. And he's good enough to have appeared in court as an expert witness and to serve a stint as President of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Society of Appraisers. He also specializes in appraising fire, mold, or water damage. He developed his appraisal skills on his own by apprenticing, taking courses on

subjects like appraising oriental rugs, furniture, or English ceramics, and studying hard on weekends. If you think his work appraising one of his specialties like classic cars is easy, just know that there have been 900 different automobile manufacturers in the United States since 1900.

- His work before becoming an appraiser was as a city planner, including stints in nearby Richmond and Oakland. There he focused on projects requiring State and federal assistance in helping those who had to move because of redevelopment activity relocate their businesses. Along the way he learned a lot about transportation dos and don'ts – just ask him what Sacramento could have taught BART designers about track width and planning ahead for design and materials. On the other hand, don't, because it will upset you every time you buy a BART ticket.

- Born and raised in Cleveland, he felt the need for more structure and a better learning environment as high school approached and so convinced his parents to enroll him in a military prep school in Georgia where he also developed a fondness for southern cooking. "My greens, grits, cornbread, and barbeque will match with anybody," he says. Later he extended his cooking skills well beyond Southern with ethnic dishes like French, German, Spanish, or Italian.

- He returned to Ohio after prep school for a stint at Cleveland's Case Institute of Technology and then on to Columbus for a degree in city planning at Ohio State before heading west.

- In the past when not appraising or cooking, he headed south for off-road mini-truck races in Baja. The jarring and bumping over rough terrain were so bad that one of his co-drivers couldn't move his upper body for a week without pain afterwards because he refused our corner's suggestion to wear a bra when in the truck (the co-driver was quite overweight).

- Our corner is married with a step son. His wife literally knew what she was getting into when on their second date he showed up with his car trailer in tow and suggested she learn how to drive pulling a trailer. So who is he?

February Birthdays

Bill Hard

Bob Van Herick

Bob Sheppard

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.

Please remember that it is your responsibility to switch with someone if you are unable to make your assigned date. When you do switch, be sure to let Vita Drucker know so she can revise the calendar and remind the appropriate people the day before. If you go on leave or a long vacation, let her know in advance so she can schedule accordingly.

Set-up: Arrive by 7:00 – tables should already be set up along with the ice water. 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 an extra 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, let Jeanice know so she can pick up more. Arrange chairs around the perimeter of the dance floor. Put sign-in sheets on the table by the door. 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. Place the cooler, supplies, and table items back in their respective bins in our cupboard. Chairs and tables remain in place. The janitor will take care of the garbage, lights, and locking up. But be sure to close ALL doors when you leave. Lift up on side door to close it if it sticks.

Schedule

	6:30 Setup	9:30 Cleanup
Feb 2	Carter	Strawbridge/Wallhagen
Feb 9	Betts	Rapport
Feb 16	Sheppard	Farwell
Feb 23	Nelson	Hard
Mar 2	Drucker/Marks	Sayles
Mar 9	Scott	Ward
Mar 16	Mousley	Jones/Christie
Mar 23	McGee/Ryan	Van Herick
Mar 30	Clinton	Pharis

★★ **And Your Corner Is** ★★

Roger Rapport

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