

Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club



Newsletter March, 2011



The Pres Presents

Janet Sayles

Many thanks to Eric and the Sunnyvale Singles for the idea to do a Black Light Dance. We feel very honored to be the 2nd club in Northern California to hold this event. Many thanks too to all the Tam Twirlers who brought snacks.

We had 10 squares and appreciate all the clubs that attended, some driving long distances to be with us. Also Eric's beginner class attended and danced at the mainstream level, with plus dancing later in the evening. Dan and Allison livened things up by doing some phase 2 rounds under the black lights between tips.

Can you believe the entire room did the YMCA line dance with white gloves glowing! Also floating around in the dark were the applications to the Adobe Squares St. Patrick's Day Diner on Tuesday, March 8. You don't want to miss this event.

We wish to welcome our newest club member Molly Anderson. If you remember December's "Who's Your Corner?" write-up for Frank Aftowicz, Molly is his square dancing partner. Just be careful challenging them to a bridge game because they are tournament level players.

Board meeting Saturday, March 26, at the Kerby's home. Also coming up is Silver State and Golden State. Chow for now.

March Dance Schedule

Tuesdays

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Rod and Gun Club

- 6:15–6:45 Round dance class: 2-step review
- 6:45–7:30 Round dance class: level 2 waltz
- 7:30–7:45 Two couple Plus warm-up
- 7:45–9:30 Plus tips with numbered cards for square assignments except for first and last tips. Rounds between tips.

Class Act

Jeanice McGee

Mark your calendars, because on Tuesday, April 5th, we will be starting another beginner class. Angels will be needed so please remember to sign up. Our current class is almost to Plus, and will have joined us for the black light dance last week. They are a fun group of dancers, so introduce yourself when you see them if you haven't already – you'll be glad you did.

Inaugural Sequoia Stampede

Mary Carter

The First Annual Sequoia Stampede that took place in Tulare over President's Day Week-end was a challenging experience for dancers trying to get there safely. Whatever your route, you had rain and gusty winds, and if you chose Pacheco Pass you might have had a rock slide which closed one lane each way. If you travelled early you were LUCKY! The weather, however, probably did keep a lot of dancers home, even with callers Tony Oxendine and Jet Roberts and their special guest caller from Sweden, Tomas Hedberg.

Those of us who did make the trek were happy we did. The calling and music were really good, workshops were plentiful (the "So you think you know Plus and Mainstream?" session was

definitely a highlight.) If only there were more opportunities to dance with Tony, who is truly masterful! We signed up for next year, despite the travel time. It's a most special festival.

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. This guy doesn't mind traveling because he currently calls weekly for clubs in Alameda, Marysville, Oakdale, and Vacaville. Jeanne 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 8 to 8:30 and between tips, so go and request some of the rounds he's been teaching. Caller Mike Amell is from Concord and calls for two East Bay clubs. Hardwood floor. Fairfield Community Center, 1000 Kentucky St., Fairfield. Plus level.

First 2011 Jet Sets European Style Dance

Friday, March 18, 7:30 to 10:00 PM

Jet Roberts Calling

Jet started this format last year and is planning on 7 (count 'em, 7) dances this year. This is the first for 2011. Alternating Plus and A2 with no breaks and no rounds. Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut creek.

Clutch Busters Newer Dancer Hoedown

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

Gary Kendall Calling

For both September and January classes, this is a newer dancer hoedown that all our Tuesday students could go to. With Gary Kendall you have a caller who is very good with newer dancers. One look at his smile will help some of the jitters go away. Morello Park Elementary School, 1200 Morello Park Drive, Martinez.

Sunnyvale Singles Live Music Hoedown

Saturday, March 26, 8:00 to 10:40 PM

Eric Henerlau with the Ghost Riders

A great combination with Eric, an energetic club, and live music. George Gardner will do the cueing from 7 to 8 and between tips. John Muir School, 1260 Branham Lane, San Jose.

Early April Dances

Concord Stompers Live Music Hoedown

Saturday, April 2, 8:00 to 11:00 PM

Gary Kendall and the Ghost Riders

Here's Gary again and he too will be calling with the Ghost Riders for a live music hoedown. Gary calls for both the Clutch Busters and the Concord Stompers. Concord High School, 4200 Concord Blvd., Concord.

Circle 'n Squares Plus Dance

Saturday, April 9, 8:00 to 10:30 PM

Doug Davis with Bud & Marlene Gooch

Caller Doug Davis comes from Colbert, Washington; his motto is "FUN is a three letter word with U in the middle of it." Joining him are cuers Bud & Marlene Gooch, a young local couple who are lots of fun and only recently broke into the cueing circuit. Round dancing from 7:30 to 8 and between tips. Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa.

Upcoming Festivals

(Lots of Tam Twirlers go to one or even both of these May festivals. All levels featured; dancing is under one roof. Flyers are on our table)

64th Annual Silver State Dance Festival

Friday-Sunday, May 6th-8th

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, Nevada

Billed as "The longest continuously running festival in the country," Silver State features callers Jerry Story (Texas), Michael Kellogg (Northridge, California), and our own Eric Henerlau. Cuers are Joe and Pat Hilton (Missouri) and Ron and Georgine Woolcock from Olympia, Washington. Heavy dance schedule including a Trails End Plus dance on Thursday evening and even a warm-up dance on Friday afternoon. Levels from Newer Dancer through C-1. All dancing is on wood floors.

**58th Golden State Round Up
Friday–Sunday, May 27th–29th**

San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon

Back to its Memorial Day weekend date, this festival is put on by our association, the NCSDA (Northern California Square Dancers Association). Callers include Ray Brendzy (Canada), Dan Nordbye (Arizona), Bronc Wise (New Mexico), and Joe Saltel (Texas). Cuers will be Kristine and Bruce Nelson (Arizona). Local callers usually fill in during transitions. Sunday night features the Ghost Riders.

Parking is free if staying at the Marriott; see the flyer for how to secure the \$95 nightly rate. Let's just hope the sound problems that have plagued this festival will be solved this year.

Other News

Learn to Square Dance in 15 Weeks

The Martinez Swingers club has been experimenting with a weekend format designed to teach square dancing including Plus in three 5-week segments, a much shorter period of time than the year-long-one-night-a-week format we and other clubs use.

Classes are on Saturday mornings from 10:30 to 12:30 at the Adult Education Center in Martinez. According to class coordinators, Carole Wright and Dick Mazyrack, students complete Mainstream after the first two segments and then learn enough Plus calls in the last 5-week segment to dance with local Plus clubs. The instructor is Bert Swerer.

The last class had 23 students, including a square of teenagers from Clutch Busters. The series starts again on Saturday, March 5. Cost is \$45 per person for the first 5 weeks, reduced to \$40 for those who pre-register. Students from other clubs can come for extra floor time on individual Saturdays at \$10 each if they first check with Dick to make sure they know what calls have been taught.

John and Lucy Davis from our continuing class attended 5 sessions and said they definitely recommend it. They liked Bert and felt he did a

great job of teaching. They did feel it was a bit intense ("quite a handful" actually) because there was so much to cover. But balancing the intensity was how helpful and encouraging the people in the club were. All in all, they liked covering so many calls in such a short time and found it to be both interesting and challenging

Their experience shows how valuable and stimulating these more focused and fast classes are for those who really want to learn square dancing. Involving students from more than one club also seems a definite plus.

Dance Tip

Ups and Downs of Hands

(Adapted from Bill van Melle, Stanford Quads)

You may never have thought about hand positioning when dancing; you just grab the other person's hand. However, for smooth dancing you really need to have some agreement about whether you should hold your palm up or down when you take that other hand. Many of us were originally taught that men put their palms up and women put theirs down, although this generalization breaks down when you have two women or two men together in a couple.

So what happens is that men put palms up, women put palms down, and same-sex couples fight about it. In contrast, Advanced and Challenge dancers have adopted a simple convention that both works and prevents any uncertainty: always put your right palm up and your left palm down. While this handhold may seem awkward at first, shortly it will become second nature, and it never fails: your palm-up right hand will match perfectly with the next dancer's palm-down left hand. The major exception seems to be **Circle to the Right/Left**, where people generally prefer to hold both hands in the same direction. There is also some dispute over **Single Circle to a Wave**, which is best done beau palms up, belle palms down.

The temporary hand hold in the middle of **Courtesy Turn** (the last part of **Ladies Chain**) also follows the traditional rule: man's left hand palm up, woman's left hand palm down.

March Birthdays

Richard Grissom Jennifer Henerlau Gen Sheppard
 Jack Street Bill Strawbridge

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 on 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. When it is party night (the last Wednesday of each 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 far enough back for two rows of squares. 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
Mar 2 Drucker & Marks	Sayles
Mar 9 Scott	Ward
Mar 16 Mousley	Jones & Christie
Mar 23 McGee & Ryan	Van Herick
Mar 30 Clinton	Pharis
Apr 6 Kerby	Parker
Apr 13 Moffett	Betts
Apr 20 Street	Rapport
Apr 27 Bowcock & McClanahan	Strawbridge & Wallhagen

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