

Tam Twirlers of Marin

Newsletter

January 2010



The Pres Presents

Janet Sayles

The year is off to a bang and here is a tidbit for you. 20 Tam Twirlers including 5 of our newer dancers, attended the NCSDA Anniversary top 7 caller dance on Sunday, January 3, 2010 in Benicia. Eric as always was the best.

Our next big event is Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

March 26 & 27, 2010 is the 42nd Annual Jamboree in Redding, CA. I understand it is a great 2 day event and Eric and Mike Sikorsky will be calling. Ralph and Carol Parker are heading up to Redding too, and would like others to attend, so please contact them for more information. We'll try to get more information and flyers for the next newsletter.

Hope 2009 was a great year for everyone and 2010 is even better.

Janet

What's Up Next?

Tam Twirlers

Board Meeting January 9, 10 AM

The Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting Saturday, January 9th at 10 AM. June McClanahan will host the meeting.

Upcoming Dances

Tough choice between this two – it's too bad they are on the same evening.

Circles 'N Squares – Plus Hoedown

Saturday, January 9, 8 – 10:30 PM

Circles and Squares presents Jet Roberts at

Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave., Santa Rosa. First calling at the tender age of 8, Jet has joined with Eric to call at the last two Tam Twirler hoedowns. Incidentally, his first name really is Jet – his dad was in the Air Force and named his kids after airplanes (good thing dad wasn't in the Navy – call you imagine Carrier Roberts, Submarine Roberts, or Tugboat Roberts?). Jet hails from Antelope, California – he and wife Sylvia are the proud parents of daughter Stella, who arrived in February. They now have three daughters. Pre-rounds at 7.

Krazy Dazys Plus AND

Running Bear Badge Dance

Saturday, January 9, 8-10:30 PM

Only once a year for this special hoedown, and some dancers come a long way for it. Plus level that includes a Running Bear Badge Dance. See the next page for information on what Running Bear is as well as the specific calls that make it up. To get the badge your entire square must get through the whole sequence without breaking down. You will need to practice this one well if you want to try it. Our own Eric Henerlau is the caller for the evening along with Krazy Dazy's Jim Osborne who will call the Running Bear segment. One Advanced star tip too. John Muir Middle School, 1260 Branham Lane, San Jose.

Adobe Squares Anniversary Dance

Saturday, Feb 6, 8:00 PM to 11:00

Live Music with the Ghost Riders

Double treat here with Johnny Preston calling to live music from the Ghost Riders. An international caller who frequently travels to Europe and elsewhere, Johnny hails from Temecula, California. He also helps raise funds

for Habitat for Humanity and promotes square dancing through his organization, Hoedowns for Humanity. Based in the Bay Area, The Ghost Riders play at many events including Hoedowns. This annual dance attracts a lot of dancers from miles around, including mystery bus trips. Double rounds between tips with John Flora and Dolores Ferrero. Prerounds 7:30 to 8. Veteran's Hall, 1094 Petalumn Blvd. South, Petaluma.

Upcoming Festivals

2010 Winter Festival – Plus Thru Challenge King City, January 15 – 17

Last call for this popular festival which is going all out this year in recognition of its 30th anniversary. The usual three callers (Bob Baiers, Jerry Story, Tony Oxendine) will be joined by Bronc Wise and Jet Roberts. You won't get these 5 impresarios together very often. Cuers include the Parkers plus Radka and Steve Sanderman. Plus, Advanced, and Challenge levels in three halls. Go to www.winterfestsqd.com or check our table for flyers. Talk with Nick and Mary, Marge, or June for where to get the best pizza.

Side trips include the John Steinbeck Center in Salinas or drive 14 miles east from Soledad and hike in Pinnacles National Monument (see Brad Christie for details) where you may spot a California Condor.

Running Bear

This is an old square dance that is unusual in several ways. First, like dances before the 1980's, it features a set choreography using only Mainstream calls. Individually they aren't hard, but because they occur in an unusual sequence and at a very fast speed, it takes skill and practice to get through the whole dance without breaking down, which is what dancers must do to earn the Running Bear Badge. It's really all or nothing (or in academic terms, pass/fail). Eric called it on our club night December 15th; none of our squares could get through it without breaking down although one almost did. Squares that succeed are usually

those who practiced it together. Here is the sequence of calls put together by Brad Christie on our web site (www.tamtwirlers.org). Typically heads start twice and sides start twice.

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: To avoid confusion 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. For Separate, turn your back on your partner, go one-quarter of the way around the square and star thru with the dancer approaching you. In the original dance, separate was called "Divide," but this call is no longer used. Brad Christie has even animated the dance on our web site – just click on the animation link at the bottom of the first page.

Club and Other News

Marin Community Food Bank Support

Mary Carter once again collected money from the Tam Twirlers for the Marin Community Food Bank. In spite of the recession, she received \$850. A big THANK YOU to all those who responded.

Class Act Jeanice McGee

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. We will take some time to review so everyone can get back into the swing of it. You can make a list of calls that you

would like Eric to review. Don't worry, it will all come back to you. Since we are starting to teach plus calls please try to get to class on time (6:45) and remember to bring your badges. Happy New Year.

Who's Your Corner?

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

- "I'll take your ticket." At the Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium, that is, where she works during performances. In the past she has also worked at See's Candy (but never tried to eat as many chocolates as Lucy did in that famous I Love Lucy episode) and most recently as a Teacher's Aide at Old Mill School in Mill Valley.
- A home town gal, she was born in San Francisco, then moved with her family to San Anselmo at age 6 where she stayed until she graduated from Drake High School. When her children were college age she decided to get a college degree as well and so went with them to the College of Marin. She enjoyed it but says her kids wouldn't tell the other students that she was their mother. Actually they should have been proud as long as she didn't get better grades.
- The travel bug bit her early at the tender age of 18 when she accompanied her husband to England where the Air Force had stationed him. More recently she has traveled to China, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Cambodia. Next up in the spring is Cuba, where she will go via Cancun, Mexico, with a medical education group. She has one son close by in Santa Rosa, another son in Michigan, and a daughter in Texas, so she travels to see them and her 5.
- She loves the outdoors and goes on walks three mornings a week with the Larkspur Walkers. For sports she is a bocce ball enthusiast, playing on the carefully manicured courts on B Street in San Rafael. The object of the game is deceptively simple (roll your or your team's ball closest to a

smaller ball at the end of the court) but tactics are complex because a big part of the action involves hitting your opponent's closest ball away in favor of your own – not so easy when you are 60 feet or so away. For volunteer work she helps cook meals at the Mill Street Homeless Shelter in San Rafael as well as the weekly winter meal program that rotates among specific churches.

- For square dancing she just received a much-prized dangle for dancing to 25 different callers in one year. She's currently expanding her square dancing repertoire by taking A1 lessons at Buzzin' Boots in Novato. In spite of all that square dancing she still has time for ballroom dancing too. So who is she?

View from the Stage Eric Henerlau

Welcome to 2010! I hope New Year's Eve, however you chose to celebrate it, was fun and safe.

I saw many Tam Twirler faces at the NCSDA anniversary dance yesterday, including several newer dancers. We had the largest crowd in many years – 18 squares! The seven callers did a great job and John Flora cued the classic rounds.

As the New Year starts, we have an opportunity to reflect on the past and look to the future. In the square dance world it is a time to look at the health of the activity and what each of us can do to grow it. Each time you go to a dance and are having a good time, be thinking about how you can bring your friends to enjoy the same thing. Be creative – what do WE need to do to open our doors to more people? Don't be afraid to think outside the box!

The New Year is full of promise. Let's make the best of it!

-- Eric

January Birthdays

Elaine Reichert

Setter/Cleaner Uppers

If you can't come on your assigned date, please arrange a substitute and let our hospitality chair, Gen Sheppard 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 other trash. Place flyers and other items in the plastic bin and then put it and all other supplies back in our supply closet; tables and chairs can be left out. If the fans are out, return them and our extension cord to the storage closet room. When leaving, close but do not lock all doors.

6:30 Setup

9:30 Cleanup

Jan 6	Kerby	Parker
Jan 13	McGee/Ryan	Pharis
Jan 20	Metzger	McComas/Rappaport
Jan 27	Shephard	Reichert
Feb 3	Bowcock/ McClanahan	Sayles
Feb 10	Street	Ward
Feb 17	Nelson/Steinberg	Van Herick
Feb 24	Clinton	Angstenberger/Christie

Tam Twirlers Website

www.tamtwirlers.org

★★★ And Your Corner Is ★★★

☺Marilyn Ryan☺

Board Members

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