

Tam Twirlers of Marin

Newsletter

February 2010



The Pres Presents

Janet Sayles

WOW!! What an incredible party last Wednesday. Our first annual black light dance.

Eric was fantastic, a superb showman who kept our 7+ squares moving with his singing "Don't be Afraid of the Dark" under the special effects of black lights, while everyone wore white gloves and white socks!

Our students and guests could not believe how much fun Plus dancing really could be with a twist.

Janet

What's Up Next?

Tam Twirlers

Board Meeting Minutes Available

After minutes from the previous meeting have been approved, they are available to any member who would like to see them. For minutes from the October 3rd meeting, please email Bill

Minutes from the January meeting will be available as soon as the Board approves them at its next meeting.

Upcoming Dances

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. Although the Ghost Riders play at many different events, they are particularly known for working with callers to enhance the spontaneity of square dances with live music.

This Adobe Squares dance attracts a large number of square 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 Petaluma Blvd. South, Petaluma. For more details see Art and Elaine Reichert.

Sebastopol Spinners Rock'n'Roll Hoedown

Saturday, Feb 13, 7:30 PM – 10:00

Mainstream/Plus/A2 with a C1 Star Tip

Whew! Here's a busy hoedown put on by a club that rarely puts on hoedowns. Sebastopol Spinners present "A Rock'n'Roll Hoedown." Saturday, February 13th, 7:30 – 10:30. Club caller Steve Minkin will do the honors. To keep with the theme all singing calls will be from the 50s, 60s, & 70s and dancers are asked to dress accordingly. Wischemann Hall, 465 Morris Street, Sebastopol. See June McClanahan for more information.

Clutch Busters Sweetheart Hoedown (Plus)

Saturday, Feb 13, 7:30 PM to 10:30

If you would rather go east than north on the 13th, this is your baby. Clutch Busters is sponsoring their Valentine's Day Sweetheart Hoedown from 7:30 PM to 10:30. Caller will be Don Benson (Aromas, California) with Phil and Sue Harris cueing. Veterans Memorial Hall, 2290 Willow Pass Road, Concord.

Upcoming Festivals

Redding Square Dance Jamboree Plus and Advanced, March 26 – 27 Redding Elks Club & Senior Center

Here is the festival Ralph & Carol Parker have been talking about. Two great callers (our own Eric and Mike Sikorsky) in adjoining dance halls with hardwood floors. Sharon & Casey Parker will cue for round dancing. Only \$30 per couple for the full package if you order by March 15. Separate day rates available on site. Square dancing starts Friday evening at 8 pm and ends Saturday evening at 11 pm. Host motel is the Rodeway Inn (call 1-800-700-3019 and ask for "Square dance special rate"). Before returning on Sunday be sure to check out Redding's now famous Sundial Bridge over the Sacramento River. Flyers have been sent to those on the newsletter email list.

Golden State Roundup All Levels (Mainstream thru Challenge) San Ramon Marriott, May 7 – 9

Two weeks earlier than usual this is our own Northern California Square Dancers' Association 57th annual function. And what a list of callers. Most familiar one is Bob Baier, who now hails from Stafford, Texas. A rare female caller, Sandie Bryant, from Chicago; Vic Ceder, the Californian from Los Olivos; and International representative, Steve Edlund, from British Columbia. Round dance cuers are Ron and Mary Noble from Yuma Arizona.

This is an unusual festival because everything is in one place – the San Ramon Marriott. No driving to and wandering around animal pens at a fairground to find the dance hall. Accommodations and dance floor are great, but acoustics were a problem last year – let's hope things are improved this year.

Room reservations are only \$92 per night before April 22 when you mention group code SQUSQUA at www.marriott.com or call 800-228-9290. Reserve early if you are going because this festival gets more popular every year. Single day rates available too. Parking is free for those staying at the Marriott; 50% day

discount rates available otherwise. Flyers are on our table.

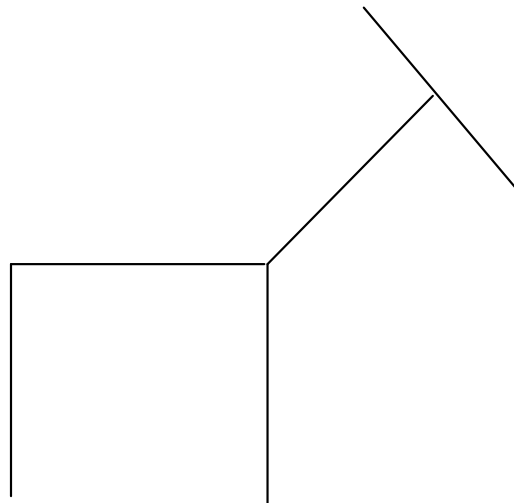
63rd Annual Silver State (Reno) Mainstream thru Challenge Grand Sierra Resort, May 28 – 30

Two weeks later than usual because of hall conflicts and switching dates with Golden State, this festival bills itself as "The longest continuous running festival in the country." One need say no more than that it is in Reno and that everything is in one place. Callers this year are Bronc Wise, Darryl Lipscomb, and Jet Roberts. Two pairs of cuers: Kristine & Bruce Nelson; Radka & Steve Sandeman.

For more info and to order ribbons go to www.squaredancenevada.com/festhome.htm where you can save time by registering online. Call 1-800-648-5080 for Grand Sierra Resort rooms: mention "fest-10" to get the \$75 rate.

Toothpick Horse Puzzle

Here's a fun puzzle from a New York Times story about popular puzzle writer, Martin Gardner. Challenge is to move one and only one toothpick but still have exactly the same shape (but it could change orientation). Enjoy.



Class Act Jeanice McGee

Teacup Chain, Diamond Circulate, and Acey Deucey are some of the new Plus Level calls that we have learned in the past

two weeks. Most calls have the men and the ladies doing about the same amount of movements. Teacup chain is the exception to the rule. In teacup chain, the ladies work much harder than the men. But, don't you worry ladies, there is a call - Beer Mug Chain - and the men do all the work. Keep up your good work. There are more Plus calls to come.

Who's Your Corner?

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

- She grew up in Berkeley, but when still a teenager spent time coming over to Marin because it was a place where “grownups never grew up.” Later as a stock broker she moved here for good.
- Her dad obtained a PhD in biochemistry from UC Berkeley and started working with Robert Oppenheimer and Edward Teller of atomic bomb fame. However, her dad soon decided he wanted nothing to do with weapons and so shifted to a new field and became a pioneer in enology (wine chemistry). His work is one reason Sonoma and Napa wines became such favorites.
- In a way her career followed the change her dad made. After she majored in economics and became a stock broker, a chance encounter with a kid on the street who was struggling with meaning in life made her take a second look at herself and realize her work was so removed from others that she was missing emotion and feeling. So she switched to working with folks seeking to obtain mortgages where she could work more closely with the day-to-day activities of her clients. She hasn't forgotten her economics, though, and feels that it explains a lot of what is going on in the world today.
- Some years ago you would have seen her on the slopes at Heavenly Valley and elsewhere as a member of the National Ski Patrol – had you gotten hurt, she would have been there to help. Her favorite part of the day when

skiing was at the end when everyone else had left and the Ski Patrol members would make one last run down the slope making sure that no one had somehow gotten left. They were all going back and forth across the slopes amidst all that beautiful scenery.

- A widow, she has a vivacious daughter who now works on radiation projects at UC Berkeley's Lawrence Livermore Labs. Our corner's dancing interests go back a long way – she used to ask her dad to take her with him for folk dancing. Small world, he even square danced at Monroe Hall! So she decided one day to try square dancing for herself.

WHO IS SHE?

View from the Stage Eric Henerlau

Wow! What an exciting and different experience dancing under black lights! People were all dressed for the occasion in black and white, donning the white gloves graciously provided by the club. From the stage I felt like I was watching a mime convention!

We were blessed by a large number of visitors that night, curious and interested in “dancing in the dark”. Hopefully we can repeat this event next year with even more people!

How do you share this kind of fun with your friends? How do you explain the social enjoyment of square dancing with those who don't YET dance? Focus on the feelings: the excitement, the anticipation, the thrill of moving in a coordinated group effort where everything “clicks” and the square does the calls. There may not be words for it, but the sensation is there, and if you share the emotion your friends will want to check it out.

Keep sharing your excitement about square dancing!

Eric

February Birthdays

Bob Sheppard

Bob Van Herick

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

Feb 3	Bowcock/ McClanahan	Sayles
Feb 10	Street	Ward
Feb 17	Nelson/Steinberg	Van Herick
Feb 24	Clinton	Angstenberger/Christie
Mar 3	Farwell	Strawbridge/Wallhagen
Mar 10	Mousley	Betts
Mar 17	Carter	Jones/Goheen
Mar 24	Kerby	Parker
Mar 31	McGee/Ryan	Pharis

Tam Twirlers Website

www.tamtwirlers.org

★★★ And Your Corner Is ★★★

☺Ursula McComas☺

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