

# *Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club Of Marin Newsletter June 2010*



## **The Pres Presents Eleven New Tam Twirlers!**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> will be a very special day as we have a great potluck together and then celebrate the joining of a new, enthusiastic group of dancers from our class. Here they are, coming at you, going strong. Our graduates are [drum roll]:

**Frank Aftowicz**

**Norma Axton**

**Vita Drucker**

**Sybil and Bill Hard**

**James Mark**

**Ursula and Bill Moffett**

**Marsha Scott**

**Marianne and Mike York**

AND, **Diana and Ian Mousley** persevered through the class to enhance their Plus skills although they were already members, while **Rosalie Gowanlock** felt she missed too many classes to graduate but will return in the next class. Yellow Rocks and welcome to you all.

Your President, Janet

## **Sympathies to Brad and Janet**

Our sympathies go out to Brad and Janet and the rest of their families for the loss of his father. Our thoughts are with you.

## **New Board Election June 2**

Election is by a show of hands unless two or more members are competing for any position – then a secret ballot will be used. Nominations can still be made from the floor as long as the person being nominated is willing to serve if elected.

## **Tam Twirlers Very Own 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Hoedown – June 19**

Mark your calendar for our 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary hoedown featuring Eric Henerlau and John Marshall. Last year's European style format was such a success (continuous dancing with no breaks between tips) that we are repeating it.

Same great dance hall as last year, too:

San Rafael Community Center  
618 B Street, San Rafael

This hall has everything square dancers like, such as a good floor, good acoustics, well-kept rest rooms, and loads of free parking. Dancing is from 7:30 to 10:30 with alternating Plus and Advanced tips. \$12 donation (\$6 for anyone under 18). As is true for all Tam Twirler hoedowns, traditional square dance attire is option (but do come in something!).

## **Setter Uppers Please Note These Two Changes**

### **Parking Lot Lights**

They don't need to be turned on when you arrive, but they should be turned on when it starts getting dark because the parking lot still needs light as the evening progresses.

### **Getting Ice**

The old guideline for getting ice from the bar said to do so before 7, but the bartender would like to leave a bit earlier than that, so please get the ice as soon as you arrive.

## **17 Tam Twirlers at Golden State**

We had a good contingent attend the Golden State Roundup May 7 – 9. And, yes, the beanies made quite a show during the Grand March.

The Sayles attended the after party with Brad winning a t-shirt and a few other goodies in the very late (we're talking 1:30 AM here) raffle. Good featured callers.

A nice addition this year was a full program for newer and Mainstream dancers using all of the featured callers as well as local callers like Lawrence Johnstone and Gary Kendal, who are particularly good with newer dancers.

Big downer, though, was the usual problem with acoustics. The overly loud and tinny music was compounded by reverberations that made the callers even harder to hear. Some dancers felt things improved over the weekend but something needs to be done soundwise for this festival to keep it enjoyable or even danceable.

## **Upcoming Dances**

### **Two Competing for the Same Night**

Too bad these two dances are on the same night because both look to be good choices:

#### **Circles 'n Squares**

**Plus Hoedown, Saturday, July 10, 8–10:30**

**Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa**

Caller Romney Tannehill hails from Southern California and has a whole organization (Romney's Stars) behind him. He's one busy guy, averaging 30 dances a month. Jeanne Van Blarcum is about to retire but she will still cue the round dancing. Monroe Hall has a great wood floor and atmosphere: 1400 West College Ave., Santa Rosa.

**OR**

#### **Goldrush Youth Benefit**

**Plus Hoedown, Saturday, July 10, 8–10:30**

**Pacheco Community Center**

This is the benefit for the Youth Exhibition Dance Team that Carol Parker talked about. Three callers (Charlie Robertson, Eric Henerlau, and Scott Byars). European style format (no breaks), Erin Byars cueing. Sequence is Plus/Plus/Round so lots of square dancing. 5800 Pacheco Blvd., Pacheco. To get there, go East on Route 4 from 80 and take the Pacheco Exit. Then left on Muir, right on Pacheco 0.7 miles to the community center located on your right.

## **Saucy Squares/Redwood Rainbows**

**Saturday, July 17, 7:30 – 10:30 PM**

Another high energy Plus dance from these two clubs, this time with our own caller, Eric Henerlau. Wischemann Hall, Sebastopol.

## **Upcoming Festivals**

### **Los Banos Mid-Cal Classic – Plus & A2**

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Sept 3–5**

Six Tam Twirlers attended this Labor Day weekend festival last year, and it's a good one. Super callers in Jet Roberts and Bob Baier. But dance levels are high, so be sure you are a strong Plus or A2 dancer if you go. The air conditioned hall features a hardwood floor and the preferred hotel (Vagabond Inn) is within walking distance. Check table for flyers or go to [http://www.jetroberts.com/pdfs/2010/090310\\_MCC.pdf](http://www.jetroberts.com/pdfs/2010/090310_MCC.pdf) Last year set an attendance record.

## **Class Act**

### **Jeanice McGee**

It's been a long road, but you hung in there, and you did it! Congratulations to our new graduates! Frank, Marsha, Bill, Sybil, James, Vita, Mike, Marianne, Norma, Bill, and Ursula you should be so proud of yourselves. I know I am.

Diana and Ian it's wonderful to have you back dancing with us.

As graduates, you will pay club dues: \$20 per person due on the first Wednesday (we dance) of the month. It goes into the dues can on the front table. Or you can pay farther ahead.

Congratulations again!

## **2010 Youth Square Dancer Scholarship Winners**

The California Square Dance Council, Inc., recently announced two \$500 winners for their 2010 Youth Square Dancer Scholarships. Funds for the scholarships come from contributions to the CA Youth Advisory Committee – please email Bonnie Abramson ([bjabramson@aol.com](mailto:bjabramson@aol.com)) if you would like to contribute as there are multiple ways to do so.

The first winner was Samantha Murphy, an 18 year old student from Vanden High School in Fairfield and a member of the Vaca Valley Ramblers. Second winner was 19 year old Morgan Penner, a Freshman at the University of California, Merced, and a member of the Boots & Slippers in Merced.

Contestants had to write an essay entitled “How Square Dancing Has Impacted My Life.” The winning essays are interesting for what square dancing means to teens and even contain some general points for us to use for our next class. So see what you think. Samantha’s essay is also interesting for how she defines “old”.

Here are the winning essays, edited for space.

### **Samantha Murphy**

I started square dancing in January of 2009, and today it has become a large part of my life. I have met some fun and exciting people through square dancing, and it has taught me that just because something isn’t “cool” doesn’t mean it is not fun. Before starting square dancing, I thought that it was some crazy thing that old people like my parents did; now I see otherwise. Square dancing is the highlight of my week. I am always anxious to go and hang out with my crazy friends and have a fun filled night of square dancing.

As a newer square dancer, I run into some issues with unusual calls, but others in the square dance community are very helpful in showing me how to do the tough calls. I enjoy the square dance atmosphere and the respect everyone has for each other. I have participated in numerous hoedowns and dances as well as a demonstration day at my high school in order to get more teens interested in square dancing. As the oldest teen dancer in my club, the other kids look up to me as a leader. I have to set an example for them. I enjoy square dancing so much now that I don’t want to stop learning.

### **Morgan Penner**

Over a year ago I mentioned to my mother that square dancing would be fun to learn. She agreed with me and mentioned that the only

dancing my dad is capable of doing is square dancing (due to his severe lack of rhythm).

A month later she told me she heard an advertisement for Boots & Slippers on the radio, and if I really wanted to learn then I needed to call. Little did I know that I was actually going to call Nancy McElwain - one of the nicest, most generous ladies at the Boots & Slippers. Nancy, as well as a large majority of square dancers in the Central Valley, has a lively personality that I truly enjoy. However, I tend to overbook myself, so when I began to learn I would sometimes be late to class due to a college class running late. Now I have to babysit every Monday. Fortunately, my family as well as the square dance family are very supportive of me and are always willing to catch me up if I miss anything.

Square dancing has brought me closer to my family simply because it is a great excuse for me to spend time with them. If I have a Saturday or Sunday off from work I can go with my parents to one of the many dances that square dancing has to offer. Those that are passionate about square dancing are a lot of fun to be around and have impacted my family’s life as well. They have taught us that you can’t worry about life, because then you won’t hear the calls. However, they are not just teachers; they are friends that make us laugh and keep us coming every Monday night.

## **Tidbits**

### **Shortest Short Story**

Ernest Hemmingway once accepted a challenge to write a 6-word story. Here it is.

For Sale  
Baby Shoes  
Never Worn

He once said he thought it was the best story he had ever written.

## **June Birthdays**

Jamie Betts  
Rick Clinton

Tom Metzger  
Irv Steinberg

## 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 and get ice promptly from the bar because it closes shortly after 6:30. Fill the cooler, put out cups, snacks, and the marking pen. 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. 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.

**CLEAN-UP DUTIES:** Empty the cooler, clean up cups and trash. Place flyers and other items in the plastic bin and then put it and all other supplies back in our supply closet; leave out tables and chairs. If the fans are out, return them and our extension cord to the storage closet room. When leaving, close all doors.

### 6:30 Setup

Jun 2 Mousley  
Jun 9 Kerby  
Jun 16 McGee/Ryan  
Jun 23 Metzger  
Jun 30 Sheppard  
Jul 7 Farwell  
Jul 14 Carter  
Jul 21 Bowcock/  
McClanahan  
Jul 28 Street

### 9:30 Cleanup

Betts  
Parker  
Strawbridge/Wallhagen  
McComas/Rappaport  
Reichert (**Party Nite**)  
Ward  
Jones/Christie  
Angstenberger/  
Mystery member  
Sayles (**Party Nite**)

### Tam Twirlers Website

[www.tamtwirlers.org](http://www.tamtwirlers.org)

### Newsletter Editors

Bill Strawbridge and Meg Wallhagen

## Board Members

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