

Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club Of Marin Newsletter July 2010



The Pres Presents The Old and the New

As we celebrated the Tam Twirler's 32nd anniversary on Saturday, June 19, 2010 we will begin our next fiscal year on July 1, 2010. 21 people attended the first ever Tam Twirler round dance class last week with Dan and Alison Drumheller; please see below for more information, and, yes, you can still join in!

Our time has come to end our long relationship with the Sausalito Cruising Club. For over the past 30 years we have seen graduations, pot lucks, silent auctions, dancing and have had many good memories. Thank you so much Mr. & Mrs. Kerby and Mr. & Mrs. Jones for taking care of us there. In its place I am pleased to report that Bob & Soni Farwell have invited us to a summer BBQ at their home on Saturday, August 21, 2010 at 2:00 PM.

Happy 4th of July to everyone! Eric & Jennifer always have a fabulous chicken BBQ after the parade; I look forward to seeing you all there.

Janet

Class Acts

Last Word from Jeanice McGee

They say, all good things must come to an end, and that's true for class coordinators too. It's hard to believe I've been the coordinator for five years. Where does the time go? It's been a pleasure helping, guiding, and encouraging the students.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the angels who came early and helped the class along. It's been fun.

Last Word from a New Member

A big "Thaaaank You!" from the class of 2010 to our extraordinary angels (you know who you are, and we know, too). Without your patience, encouragement and willingness to dance and smile through miles of right-and-left grands, we wouldn't have our diplomas! Thank you so very much.

New Board Elected

Results for the recent Board election are shown on Page 4. The new Board officially takes over starting July 1. Brad Christie replaces Rick Clinton to share Treasurer with Marge Bowcock. Jeanice McGee moves from Class Coordinator to Membership replacing Marge Bowcock and June McClannahan. Jerry Kerby is the new Class Coordinator. Bill and Meg are no longer on the Board, but will continue editing the newsletter. If interested in the secretary position, please see Jerry Kerby.

Round Dancing Starts

Dan and Allison Drumheller started a round dancing class June 23rd with 21 Tam Twirlers and dancers from other clubs. Initial plans are to run the class at least until Labor Day on Wednesdays at the Rod and Gun Club from 6:30 to 7:30. If there is enough demand the class may continue after Labor Day. Cost is \$5 per person per class. Even if you missed the first class feel free to come on the 30th as Dan will review the previous week before moving on. Round dancing often occurs between square dancing tips. Non-members taking the class are invited to stay for square dancing and only pay an extra \$5 rather than \$6. Dan and Allison live in Fairfield, cue for the Sacramento Singles, and regularly teach phase 2 – 6 round dancing.

Summer Schedule

6:30 – 7:30 Round dance class

7:30 – 8:00 Plus with review

8:00 – 9:30 Full Plus

Next Fall's Beginner Class

After a long discussion and with some dissenting votes, the Board approved having our new September class start on Tuesday rather than Wednesday evenings except for one Wednesday evening each month when the Rod and Gun Club is already booked. Advantages include a 1½ hour class and possibly multi-cycle classes with new classes starting every 6 months. It's not too early to start talking with friends and neighbors to ensure a good class.

Fourth of July Activities

Each year Eric invites square dancers to come to dance in front of the Corte Madera Rec Center as part of the Corte Madera/Larkspur Fourth of July Parade starting at 11:30 AM. Afterwards all gather at his house for a barbeque. He provides the chicken and beer – guests are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

July a Busy Month for Hoedowns

Circles 'n Squares Plus Hoedown

Saturday, July 10, 8–10:30

Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa

Caller Romney Tannehill hails from Southern California. Jeanne Van Blarcum will cue the round dancing. Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave., Santa Rosa.

OR

Goldrush Youth Exhibition Team Benefit

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

Pacheco Community Center

Erin Byars says her Goldrush Team represents "Square, round and line dancing taken into the 22nd century. Upbeat, energetic and exciting, Goldrush was designed to show non-dancers what our activity could and will be." [So does that make those of us dancing now downbeat, lethargic, and dull?] Charlie Robertson, Eric Henerlau, and Scott Byars calling with Erin Byars cueing. Sequence is Plus/Plus/Round. 5800 Pacheco Blvd., Pacheco.

Newer Dancer Hoedown

Martinez Swingers

Friday, July 16, 8 – 10:30

FORMER STUDENTS AND ANGELS, THIS IS YOUR DANCE! Level is May graduation, so this is the perfect hoedown for new graduates. Bert Swerer calling. Martinez Adult Education School, Alhambra & F Street, Martinez. Flyers on our table.

Saucy Squares/Redwood Rainbows

Saturday, July 17, 7:30 – 10:30 PM

Another high energy Plus dance from these two clubs. Eric Henerlau calling. Wischemann Hall, Sebastopol.

San Mateo Roadrunners Plus Hoedown

With Callers' Hall of Fame Jerry Helt

8 – 11 Saturday, July 24

Don't miss this chance to dance to a genuine legend who hails from Cincinnati. Over 80, he's known for treats like a progressive squares tip where the men end up back home at the end of the patter call but not the ladies. Not to worry, he brings the ladies back on the next singing call. Plus level. For directions see the flyer on our table.

Upcoming Early August Dances

Jet Sets Plus and A2 Dance

Jet Roberts Calling European Style

Friday, August 6, 7:30 – 10:00

Jet is putting this one on himself with an encore planned for Saturday, November 20. No breaks, no rounds, just continuous square dancing with alternating Plus and A2 tips so no problem if you only want to dance one level – he'll energize you either way. Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek.

Circles 'n Squares Plus Howdown

Saturday, August 14, 8–10:30

Monroe Hall, Santa Rosa

Texan Joe Saltel spends a week every August to call a series of dances in Northern California. This is the closest one and has always gotten great reviews from Tam Twirlers who go. Jeanne Van Blarcum will cue the round dancing. 1400 West College Ave., Santa Rosa.

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. Air conditioned hall, hardwood floor, and the preferred hotel (Vagabond Inn) is within easy walking distance. For flyers go to http://www.jetroberts.com/pdfs/2010/090310_MCC.pdf Last year set an attendance record.

Ideas for the Next Class

Vita Drucker, who just graduated from the last class, has put together six ideas she feels would improve our next class. Here they are with a seventh shamelessly added by your editors. The Board is considering adopting them and is open to any other ideas folks have to keep and motivate students. So if you have a good idea of your own, please talk with a Board member.

1. Milestones

What happens at the end of the first 10 weeks? Students get to sign up for another 10. At this point we often lose half the class. How about recognizing when students have completed something important and are ready to move on to the next phase by creating milestones? After 10 weeks, the first could be as simple as having members form a circle around the students and give a great big, "THANK YOU". Then all dance together. Milestones will help students feel proud as they continue learning and are looking forward to having them eventually join the club. Let's also think about other milestones, such as what we could do at the end of other 10-week segments until graduation.

2. Buddies

While learning, students often have questions about calls or club matters and sometimes feel they just aren't getting it, so let's take a page from college fraternity and sorority pledging – link each student pair or solo student with someone in the club like a Big Brother or Sister. Buddies wouldn't need to wait to be

asked about something but could dance with their student(s) at times, contact them if they haven't heard from them, and as they progress take them to a newer dancer hoedown.

3. Taminations Training

Taminations is an impressive tool. We mention it during class and Brad will show anyone who asks how to use it, but why not give students some formal instruction? Let's take some time early in the first 10 weeks and have Brad show them how it works. Hey, you can slow things down, show dancer paths, keep a call going over and over, etc. How cool! It's a fabulous learning tool and Brad is willing, so let's give them all hands-on training.

4. Newer Dancer Hoedowns

Take students to newer dancer hoedowns when they are ready and willing. We could expand what we did in the last class and coordinate better with other clubs, especially with a September class. When we do it is important to let students know well in advance to coordinate angels and drivers. Buddies (see #2 above) could help here. We might even want to put on a newer dancer hoedown ourselves.

5. Put Calls Taught and Those Coming Up Next on Our Website

Eric did this at the beginning and end of the last class. It worked, so let's do it all the time. Students can review what they just learned as well as see what is coming next. It's particularly important for those unable to come on a particular night or who like to look ahead.

6. Everybody Dance Tip

Let's check with those from the last class to see how they liked it; it seemed to work well because it got more members dancing with students. If so, let's do it when students come on Wednesdays.

7. Get Class Done in a Year

Having a yearly schedule allows better class planning, motivates students more, and helps Eric stay focused. When things drag we lose students and we can't tell interested persons when the next class will start – let's do it!

July Birthdays

Jeanice McGee
Ian Mousley

Diana Mousley
Mary Pharis

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; 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, 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 one near the bar.

Clean-up Duties: Empty the cooler, clean up cups and trash. Place flyers and other items in the plastic bin and put it and 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. As you leave, close (but do not lock) all doors.

Schedule for the Next Two Months

	6:30 Setup	9:30 Cleanup
<u>Jul 7</u>	Farwell	Ward
<u>Jul 14</u>	Carter	Jones/Christie
<u>Jul 21</u>	Bowcock/ McClanahan	Hard
<u>Jul 28</u>	Street	Sayles (Party Nite)

August setup and cleanup assignments will be announced shortly and emailed to all members

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www.tamtwirlers.org

Newsletter Editors

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★★ And Your Corner Is ★★

☺Feature returns next month☺