

Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club Of Marin Newsletter December 2010



The Pres Presents

Janet Sayles

Once again we start the holidays with our annual Christmas Dinner Dance on Friday, December 3, 2010 at Deer Park Villa. This year the Buzzin' & Boots are joining us, and hosting the entertainment featuring Dave Hobaugh & Ray Walker; it will be a fabulous evening. Yes, its not to late to attend – just contact Gen Sheppard by December 1st. Cost is \$47.00 per person..

Wednesday, December 22nd is the Tam Twirlers Holiday Party Night with a special visit from Santa. Come celebrate with Eric and have a holiday cheer to welcome in the New Year. Maybe Dan & Allison will do a Christmas round or two!

Eric has decided to dance the beginners the whole month of December. So let's show a little spirit by being angels this holiday season. The new class begins January 4th, 2011.

Just a reminder – we are dark on Wednesday, December 29th and will return on January 5th. Happy Holidays and I'll see you in the New Year!

33rd Annual Christmas Party

It's Friday, December 3, at our usual location (Deer Park Villa in Fairfax.) The no-host bar opens at 6:30. Dinner follows at 7:30 with entertainment until 11. This event features good food and a chance to enjoy each other's company and think about what a great year we've had and what lies ahead. See Janet's comun above for special features this year. If you haven't signed up yet but still want to go call or email Gen Shepherd

by this Wednesday,
December 1.

December Dance Schedule

Tuesdays

December 7, 14, 21, 28

Los Robles Mobile Home Park Rec Center

- 7:00 – 8:30 Beginning square dance class
All members welcome too

Wednesdays

December 1, 8, 15, 22

Rod and Gun Club

- 6:30 – 7:30 Round dance class
- 7:30 – 8:00 Review Plus workshop
- 8:00 – 9:30 Plus tips with computer cards

December 29

Dark – Happy Holidays!

Marin Community Food Bank Support

Once again Mary Carter is collecting through December 1st for the Marin Community Food Bank to help Marin residents during the holidays. "I'll take checks (payable to same)," she says, "or cash, but checks are better for IRS purposes."

Class Act

Jeanice McGee

All our continuing students have had dance experience, and so they are moving along at a rapid pace. They are excited about starting a new class on January 4th and are looking forward to being angels. Come see how well our class is doing. They dance every Tuesday in December. Please join us.

Round Dance Class

Dan and Allison Drumheller's class continues to go well with 18 to 20 dancers each night. The

class is nearly done with the Phase 2 Two-Step moves; learning Phase 2 waltz steps begins in January. Here are the dances they have learned.

Cab Driver	Dance with the One
Except on Monday	Fiddle Stepper Polka
Frenchy Brown	Little White Moon
Nice and Smooth	St. Louis Blues

Brad Adds Difficulty Levels To Taminations Calls

Brad Christie has added difficulty levels to the Mainstream and Plus calls on our club's website. There are three levels:

- Common (newer dancers)
- More Difficult (more experienced dancers)
- Most Difficult (expert dancers)

The first level consists of the basic patterns that we were all taught and usually dance to. The "More Difficult" variations are called less frequently but can be a fun challenge (as Eric has done on some evenings.) These along with the "Most Difficult" make up the DBD (Dancing by Definition) variations. The secret is to remember the parts of each call and do them even when starting from a different formation.

For a good example go to Taminations and look at Load the Boat. The "Common" formation is the facing lines we all learned. The first "More Difficult" variation has the ends facing out instead of in. Here the centers do what they usually do. But for those facing out to end up in the correct spot, they need to remember that ends are to move around the formation, passing three dancers, and then turn in (assuming the other three ends do their parts correctly).

Brad added these difficulty levels largely because new dancers were looking at the formations for each call in Taminations and assuming they had to learn them all right away. But we can all learn from them as well.

December Dances

Adobe Squares Plus Hoedown

Saturday, December 4, 7:30-10:30 PM

Monroe Hall, Caller Rick Hampton

Pre-rounds at 7:30, Plus dancing 8 to 10:30.
Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Ave., Santa

Rosa. See the November newsletter for caller Rick Hampton's dance philosophy.

Ranchero Squares Plus Hoedown

Saturday, December 11, 7-10:00 PM

Dublin, Caller Bob Baier

Good opportunity for a full evening with Texan Bob Baier. Dance level is Plus, but this is an Advanced club so expect an Advanced star tip as well. Pre-rounds at 7 with George Gardner, Plus 7:30-10:00. St. Philip Lutheran Church, 8850 Davona Dr. Take Alcosta Blvd. exit off 680 and go one block East. Church is on the corner.

New Year's Eve Dance in Dublin

Friday, December 31, 8:30-Midnight

Caller Mike Sikorsky, Cuer George Gardner

Because Wischemann Hall's dance floor is being refinished over the holidays, there will be no New Year's Eve dance there making this one in Dublin your next closest alternative. The sponsoring club is Pleasanton Singles N' Pairs. Mike Sikorsky is the caller with Plus dancing from 9 to midnight when there will be a sparkling cider toast. Special goodies as well. Cost is \$20 at the door – for an advanced sale discount see their ad in Squares 'Round the Bay. Pre-rounds at 8:30. St. Philip Lutheran Church (see directions immediately above.)

Upcoming Festival

2010 Winter Festival – Plus Thru Challenge

Baiers/Story/Oxendine/Reitmayer/Henerlau

King City, January 14 – 16

This popular festival attracts many Tam Twirlers. Usual callers (Bob Baiers, Jerry Story, Tony Oxendine) will be joined by John Reitmayer & Eric Henerlau. Cuers are Sharon & Casey Parker, Radka & Steve Sandeman. Plus, Advanced, & Challenge levels. Check our table for flyers or go to www.winterfestsqd.com. Hint: it is wise to make King City motel reservations a year ahead. You can always cancel if things change.

Dance Tip

Doing the Same Call More Than Once

Squares sometimes break down when dancers are asked to do a call more than once, like "Spin chain the gears two times." The problem comes when some dancers complete one part before the

other dancers and so start the next sequence too soon. The solution is simple:

- For each segment wait until all have completed that segment and are in position before starting the next one. There is no need to rush because speed is rarely important on duplicative calls – callers wait until squares are done or have gotten hopelessly confused.

This solution illustrates an important aspect of square dancing. Good squares work together and hence each dancer pays attention to what the others are doing.

Who's Your Corner?

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

- Born and raised in New Jersey, he majored in math at New York's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (whose motto is "Why Not Change the World?"). In New York he worked for IBM in Kingston and Poughkeepsie before coming west to work at IBM's plant in San Jose. Although starting as a computer programmer, he was a systems analyst for most of his career. In California he married a nurse and they soon became the parents of four children, three of whom were adopted including two Korean boys. He describes their San Jose neighborhood as a great place because it resembled a "mini-UN – lots of families from different countries." But they also had early ties to Marin – his wife grew up and worked here, and she owned a condo in Novato., which they rented out until he and she settled into it in 2004. The 4 children (now grown) remained in their San Jose house. His wife passed away early in 2009.

- IBM in San Jose had definite benefits because after working for 27 years he was able to follow his plan for getting more time for other things in life by taking advantage of a buyout program that allowed him to keep his retirement benefits but leave the company and return part time as a consultant. Who said you couldn't have your cake and eat it too?

- Along the way he has been a member of the National Guard, first using his math

background for artillery fire direction and control but also becoming a medic. Fortunately for him although prepared he was never called up for active duty.

- He likes to read and travel, describing a recent trip to Quebec as a great way to get an international flavor without having to go as far. While in Canada he was able to confirm that callers in otherwise French speaking Quebec do indeed call in English, just as Eric has said. Coincidentally, one of his favorite mystery writers is Canadian Louise Penny, whose 6 mysteries involve a Montreal Chief Inspector.

- Our corner also likes to read science books (especially physics), and there is a connection here with his interest in mysteries because both deal with understanding the unknown. For physical activity (besides square and round dancing) he likes to walk and hike.

- With his increased free time he has been able to expand his interest as a serious Bridge player through the American Contract Bridge League. Attending duplicate bridge tournaments he has a chance to compete with other players who must play the same hands. Thus chance is removed as an element so the winners are those who did the best with the hands they were dealt (sounds like a good philosophy for life!).

- He's been persistent about square dancing, first starting years ago with Sunnyvale Singles, then with his wife until their four kids arrived. Last year he took classes both with us and again with Sunnyvale Singles to make up for being away 6 weeks in the summer.

- Now he has a new partner he met playing Bridge and is learning round dancing with her as well as accompanying her to Adobe Squares where she is learning Plus. Both are also interested in programs that combine travelling with learning like Road Scholar. So who is he? For extra points, who is his new partner?

Quote

An optimist feels this is the best of all worlds,
while a pessimist fears he might be right.

(Adapted from novelist James Cabell)

December Birthdays

Sybil Hard
Ron Pharis

Ursula McComas

Ralph Parker

Setter/Cleaner Uppers

Please check the monthly newsletter for your times. The calendar is also posted by the front door. If you switch days with someone, please let Vita know so she can revise the calendar and remind the appropriate people of their times. If you go on leave or a prolonged vacation, let her know in advance so she can schedule accordingly. Your participation and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Set-up: Arrive by 6:30 to get the ice and water from the bartender. Put out the hand sanitizer, cups and snack mix. Arrange dance flyers on the long table where Brad sets up his computer. If it is party night (last Wednesday of the month), set up a 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, please let Vita know so she can pick up more. Arrange chairs around the perimeter of the dance floor. Set up table by the door for sign-in sheets, etc. 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. Neatly place all supplies and table items back in the bins in our cupboard along with the water cooler. Chairs and tables can remain in place. Rod & Gun Club's janitor will take out the garbage, turn off the lights, and lock up. But please remember to close ALL doors.

Schedule

6:30 Setup	9:30 Cleanup
Dec 1 Nelson	Betts
Dec 8 Mousley	Hard
Dec 15 McGee/Ryan	Sayles
Dec 22 Clinton	Ward
Dec 29 DARK for Holiday Break	
Jan 5 Kerby	Jones/Christie
Jan 12 Moffett	Van Herick
Jan 19 Street	Pharis
Jan 26 Bowcock/McClanahan	Parker

★★ And Your Corner Is ★★

☺Frank Aftowicz. Partner is Molly Anderson☺

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