

# Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club



## Newsletter

November, 2011



### Dance Schedule

#### **Tuesday Square Dance Classes**

**Los Robles Mobile Home Park Rec Center**

**November 22 TENTATIVE**

**November 1, 8, 15, 29**

6:45–8:15 Green (Beginning) class

8:15–8:55 Yellow (Mainstream) class

8:55–9:30 Blue (Plus) class

All members welcome for all sessions

#### **Wednesday Plus & Rounds**

**Rod and Gun Club**

**November 23 DARK**

**November 2, 9, 16, 30**

6:15–7:30 Phase 3 Round dance class

7:30–7:45 Two couple Plus warm-up

7:45–9:30 Squares. Plus tips. Numbered cards used for square assignments except for first and last tips. Last tip is usually hot hash or DBD or both. Rounds between tips.

### News From the Board

#### **Say It Ain't So! Dues Going Up**

It is sad but unavoidable, says the Board. The cost of everything increases over time. The last time we raised the dues was 2005. Since then, all of the club's costs have increased. Over the past couple of years the club has steadily been losing money. We have postponed an increase in dues as long as possible, but now we must if the club is to remain solvent through next year.

The proposal from the Board is to increase member dues to \$25/month and guest fees to \$8 (\$7 for those in the round dance class). The increase would start at the beginning of 2012.

There will be a general meeting to discuss the proposed increase and then vote on it during our regular dance night Nov. 16. Please be sure to come, so your voice can be heard.

### Prez Sez **Gen Sheppard**

I am pleased to announce that the annual Tam Twirlers Christmas dinner/dance will be held Friday, December 2, 2011, with the Buzz 'n Boots at Deer Park Villa in Fairfax.

Festivities will begin at 6:30PM with a no-host bar and yummy appetizers. Dinner once again will be the fabulous seafood/prime rib buffet followed by dessert and coffee.

This year we have hired the very talented Charley Baker to provide the entertainment from 6:30-10:30. We will have a much larger dance floor so that we can all enjoy the music and dancing.

Tickets are \$53 per person. Flyers will be available Wednesday, Nov. 9; reservations only—no ticket sales at the door. Please mark your calendar and join us for a fun evening.

See you on the dance floor

*Gen*

### Student Class Act **Jeanice McGee**

Welcome to our new beginning dancers. We have one person (Cynthia) who has a Tam Twirler badge with a white name bar. She started the beginner class when we were dancing at Redwood High, had to drop out, and now has returned.

There is much merriment and laughter during class time, as our dancers learn new calls. To those of you who brought food to the first class, thank you. And thank you to our angels too.

### **Phase 3 Round Dance Class** **Escaping Prison the Cha Cha Way** **Meg Wallhagen**

With 28 dancers now, our class keeps growing, which is a good indication of how much fun we are all having. And we have also reached the point with Cha Cha where we know enough to actually begin tackling complete dances. Our first one will be Fulsome Prison, and we are ready to break out in good form.

One of the important aspects of round dancing is knowing which is your “free” foot and which isn’t because figures always start on the free foot. The free foot is the one you didn’t take weight on at the end of the previous figure. In Cha Cha, for instance, the foot bearing weight is the one at the end of “one, two, cha, cha, cha” so the next figure will start on the other (“free”) foot. Not only is it awkward to start on the weight-bearing foot but you might end up going in the wrong direction on a call like New Yorker which can go in either the forward or reverse direction depending upon which foot is free.

### **“We Few, We Happy Few We Band of [Cleaner-Uppers]”**

Apologies to Shakespeare aside, can anyone help our growing imbalance in the number of cleaner-uppers compared to the number of setter-uppers? Only half as many members are currently willing to clean up as are willing to set up, so the 9 o’clock folks may not stay happy for much longer. Jeanice would love to talk with any setter-uppers who are willing to change and swell the ranks of the happy few.

### **November Dances**

**Singles and Pairs Plus Hoedown**  
**Saturday, November 5, 8 – 10:30**

**Mike Wright with Bob and Maureen Ensten**  
Here’s another chance to try out the new floor

at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. Bob and Maureen Ensten will cue rounds from 7 to 8 and then between tips. Plus squares with Mike Wright from 8 to 10:30. Mike is a local caller folks will have danced to if they attended the Top Ten Caller dances held each year in January or other East Bay dances. He calls for Newark’s Farmers and Farmerettes. Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa.

### **Sunnyvale Squares Cactus Jack Hoedown** **Saturday, November 19, 8:00 – 10:30**

**Jet Roberts with Sharon Parker**

Sunnyvale Squares is the new name for Sunnyvale Singles, Eric’s other Plus club. The new version allows paired folks to also be members (in the past only singles could be members although pairs could always come as guests). A special feature of this hoedown is a silent auction with lots of goodies promised. The ubiquitous Jet Roberts is the caller for Plus squares from 8 to 10:30 with Sharon Parker cueing for Rounds from 7:30 to 8 and between tips. One APD hot hash tip too. John Muir Middle School, 1260 Branham Lane, San Jose.

### **Upcoming Festival** **Winter Festival**

**King City, January 20-22**

**Story/Baier/Oxendine/Roberts/Wise**

Time again for the “Big’un” with its 5 callers and 4 cuers. The three organizers (Jerry Story, Bob Baier, and Tony Oxendine) will be joined this year by Jet Roberts and Bronc Wise. Featured cuers Sharon and Casey Parker will be joined by Bob and Eileen Silvia. Dancing starts Friday evening at 8 PM and goes through Sunday morning.

With so much calling and cueing talent on display it’s no wonder that this festival draws so many club members. Plus and Advanced dancing with C-1 sessions as well in three halls. Usual “The *Original* Country Western After Party – Semi Live” late Saturday hosted by Gary Carnes. Complete weekend package cost is \$80 per couple. No single day rates and no solos.

Check our Rod and Gun table for flyers or go to [www.winterfestsqd.com](http://www.winterfestsqd.com) for one you can fill out online.

If you haven't reserved a room at one of the King City motels you may need to check out ones in Soledad to the north. This is one festival where motels fill up so early that it's wise to book a year ahead. You can always cancel if you change your mind.

### Farther-Out Festivals

Here are other major upcoming festivals for the next year in brief form. All include Plus and Advanced dancing and are popular among Tam Twirlers. More details will follow as each draws near. Jet Roberts is certainly busy these days.

**Sequoia Stampede**  
**Tulare, February 17-19**  
**Oxendine, Roberts, Robertson**  
**Sharon & Casey Parker, Mary Ann Callahan**  
[www.grandsquareinc.com](http://www.grandsquareinc.com)

**Swing Into Spring Jamboree**  
**Redding, April 13-14**  
**Jet Roberts, Hunter Keller**  
**Sharon & Casey Parker**  
[www.northstatedancersassociation.com](http://www.northstatedancersassociation.com)

**Silver State**  
**Reno, May 11-13**  
**Bob Baier, Gary Shoemake, Joe Saltel**  
**Susie & Gert-Jan Rotscheid**  
[www.squaredancenevada.com](http://www.squaredancenevada.com)

**Golden State Roundup**  
**San Ramon, May 25-27**  
**Marshall, Lipscomb, Robertson, Kellogg**  
**TJ & Bruce Chadd**  
[www.ncsda.com](http://www.ncsda.com)

**Mid Cal Classic**  
**Los Baños, Aug 31-Sep 2**  
**Bob Baier, Jet Roberts**  
[www.jetroberts.com/pdfs/2012/083112\\_MC.pdf](http://www.jetroberts.com/pdfs/2012/083112_MC.pdf)

**Harvest Hoedown**  
**Yuba City, Oct 19-21**  
**Tony Oxendine, Mike Seastrom, Bronc Wise**  
**Ron & Mary Noble**  
[www.asdsc.org](http://www.asdsc.org)

### Guess the Calls

#### By Popular Demand – More Coming Soon

We have exhausted the Plus calls, but the Mainstream calls await. Here is your chance to join our Guess the Calls Team. Just email your editors clues to any of the Mainstream calls and we'll feature them in future newsletters.

We received some great clues for our three segments on the Plus calls earlier this year from Vita Drucker, Jeanice McGee, Carolyn Maloney, and Anonymous so you will be joining quite a band of creative puzzle makers.

### Trivia Question

For nearly 200 years the precise length of a meter was preserved by means of increasingly exotic metal rods kept under exact conditions. However, even these rods can vary slightly in length over time regardless of conditions, so in 1983 a new definition based upon an "absolute" standard was adopted.

- What is the current official definition of the length of a meter?

Answer is on page 4. (For the ultimate nerdite behavior memorize the answer and spring it on your soon to be ex-friends at a party.)



### November Birthdays

Leslie Betts	Tina Clinton
Eric Henerlau	Susan Nelson
Carol Parker	Paul Prudhomme
Janet Ward	

## Setup and Cleanup Schedule

7:00 Setup		9:30 Cleanup	
Nov 2	Sheppard	Strawbridge/Wallhagen	
Nov 9	Hard	Jones/Christie	
Nov 16	Carter	McGee	
Nov 23	<b>DARK</b>	<b>DARK</b>	
Nov 30*	Aftowicz/Anderson	Hard	
Dec 7	Clinton	Van Herick	
Dec 14	Kerby	Sayles	
Dec 21*	Grissom	Prudhomme	
Dec 28	<b>DARK</b>	<b>DARK</b>	

\***Party Night.** Those setting and cleaning up for the month should bring something to share.

## Setter/Cleaner Upper Duties

When moving chairs or tables please make sure to lift rather than drag them so that no scuff marks are made on the floor.

Please remember it is your responsibility to switch with someone if you are unable to make your assigned date and then let Jeanice McGee know so she can revise the calendar and remind the appropriate people the day before. If you plan to go on leave or a long vacation, please let her know well in advance so she can schedule accordingly.

**Set-up:** Arrive by 7:00 – tables, chairs, and ice water should already be set up by the round dancers. Put out the hand sanitizer, cups, snack mix, and flyers on the far table. Put out more chairs if needed. Put sign-in sheets on the table by the door. On party night, set up an extra food table along with napkins, and assorted drink items. When it gets dark, turn on the outside lights. When supplies are running low, let Jeanice know.

**Clean-up:** Help cuers and callers load their equipment. Police the hall for cups and other trash. Empty the water cooler. Place the cooler, supplies, and table items back in our cupboard. Tables and chairs remain in place. The Janitor takes care of the garbage, lights, and locking up. Just be sure doors are closed when you leave.

## Answer to Trivia Question

The length of a meter is now defined as “the path traveled by light in a vacuum during  $1/299,792,458^{\text{th}}$  of a second.” (Physicists note that even this definition will lose precision for long distances based on general relativity theory.) Seems nothing is absolute.

## Board Members

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### Class Coordinator/Hospitality

Jeanice McGee

### Fun and Games/Sheriff

Brad Sayles

### Caller

Eric Henerlau

### Cuers

Dan and Allison Drumheller

### Tam Twirlers Website

Webmaster: Brad Christie

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

### Newsletter Editors

Bill Strawbridge/Meg Wallhagen