

# Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club



## Newsletter

December, 2011



### Dance Schedule

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

Los Robles Mobile Home Park Rec Center

December 27 TENTATIVE

December 6, 13, 20

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

December 28 DARK

December 7, 14, 21

6:15–7:30 Phase 3 Round dance class

7:30–7:45 Two couple Plus warm-up

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

### News From the Board

#### **Members Pass Dues Increase**

Here are the new dues and fees described by President Gen Sheppard in her column immediately below. They start January 1:

|                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Member Dues</b>                   | <b>\$25 per month</b>   |
| <b>Round Dance Class</b>             | <b>\$5 per class</b>    |
| <b>Guests (Squares Only)</b>         | <b>\$8 per session</b>  |
| <b>Guests (Rounds &amp; Squares)</b> | <b>\$12 per session</b> |

#### Prez Sez

##### **Gen Sheppard**

I hope that all of you had a lovely Thanksgiving. It's hard to believe that it's the holiday season already starting with our annual

Christmas dinner/dance this coming Friday, Dec. 2 at Deer Park Villa in Fairfax. The evening will begin at 6:30PM with a no-host bar and delicious appetizers until 7:15. The scrumptious prime rib/seafood buffet begins at 7:30. Entertainment will be throughout the entire evening, so put on your dancing shoes and come early.

The Tam Twirlers Board of Directors decision that it was imperative for the financial stability of our club with dance facility fees rising to increase our dues from \$20 to \$25 and guest fees from \$6 to \$8 (with a discount to \$7 if you are there to round dance as well with no increase in the amount paid directly to Dan for the round dancing) was unanimously approved by the members on November 16.

These increases go into effect on January 1, 2012. Brad Christie, co-treasurer, did a nice financial report before the vote was taken. Thanks, Brad.

Wishing everyone and their families a happy, healthy and joyous holiday season.

See you on the dance floor

*Gen*

#### **Marin Food Bank Needs Support**

##### **Mary Carter Coordinating Donations**

According to the Marin IJ, our weak economy means a bigger need than ever need for food support to poor local families. Mary Carter is once again accepting contributions on behalf of the Tam Twirlers so please shower her with whatever you can afford.

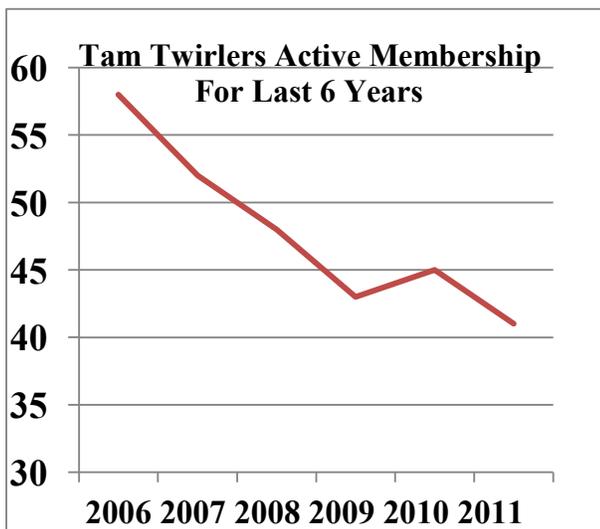
If paying by check, make it out to the Marin Food Bank; all contributions are tax deductible. In the last few years we have donated as much as \$800, which goes a long, long way.

## Phase 3 Round Dance Class **Break Coming for Dan's Knee Surgery** **Meg Wallhagen**

Dan's 40 plus years of dancing have finally caught up with him, and so he'll be having knee surgery early next year. Fortunately it won't involve a total knee replacement so he's estimating a break of 4 to 6 weeks. If support helps, he'll be getting a lot of it from our loyal and growing group of round dancers.

## **Latest Roster Confirms** **Continuing Membership Loss**

Mary Carter's latest Tam Twirlers roster lists only 41 active members (those not on leave.) As the chart below indicates all too well, we have experienced a sharp drop in membership since 2006. In the view of your editors, we should all be thinking hard about how to turn this down-trend around or else we aren't going to have a club within a few more years.



## Harvest Hoedown's OK Corral **Bonnie Abramson**

[Editors' Note: Bonnie is General Chairman for Harvest Hoedown where a new concept was just tried. Here is her view of how it went.]

More and more of our single/solo dancers are staying away from weekend festivals and even some of our Saturday night hoedowns because

they fear not finding a dance partner. So the Harvest Hoedown Committee decided to try something new to attract more non-partnered dancers. We called the concept the "OK" Corral and started with this promotion:

Are you a single or solo dancer who usually stays home from weekend festivals because you fear you won't find a partner? Are you a dancer who likes to dance every tip but find your regular partner doesn't have quite as much energy? Do you like the challenge of dancing the position opposite your gender (girl dancing "boy" or boy dancing "girl")?

Then do we have the place for you! We are introducing the "OK" Corral where it is "OK" to form a square or join a square without a partner – the idea is that another single/solo/non-partnered-for-that-tip dancer will fill in the open spot next to you. It will be "OK" for two men or two women to couple up as long as they know the respective roles they are dancing. There will be a special area set up in both the Plus Hall (The Barn) and the Advanced Hall to encourage more of our "solo" dancers to come out and get the opportunity to dance.

We will still have our designated "solo" areas where you can meet with other "solos", and we will still have "solo" ribbons available to help you find other "solos" on the dance floor, but even if you haven't had the opportunity to make their acquaintance you can do so on the dance floor when you join them for a tip or two.

So how did it go? Well, we are considering it a success. To further promote the concept, we put up bright yellow and orange banners designating the "OK" Corral area in the Plus and Advanced halls. We also did some signage and put an explanation of the concept in our program distributed to dancers during the weekend.

As Advance Registration and General Chairman for Harvest Hoedown, I started seeing an increase in single dancer registrations once the "OK" Corral was announced, and I got many more calls about it before the weekend ("we hear you are supporting the single dancers this year ... is that true? Oh good, then I'll come"), and heard quite a bit of buzz and interest about it over the weekend.

During the event, several people noted that there really weren't any people dancing specifically in the "Corral" area. Unfortunately, our banner got put very far to one side in the Plus

hall so often that the area was outside of where most squares were dancing. One young man was seen standing under the banner and holding up his hand until a partner "found" him, and we saw many singles implementing the process throughout the dance hall, although again not in the designated "Corral area".

What we found was that we had more singles in attendance, the dancers seemed to welcome them anywhere in the hall, and those singles were not sitting out on the sideline but were up dancing!

Several folks asked me about the concept and were so excited about it that they wanted to take it back to their home areas to try (including our featured round dance cuers!) All in all we know it will take time to build, but the concept was embraced, the dancers were open to it, and many applauded us for trying something new.

## December Dances

**Adobe Squares Plus Hoedown**  
**Saturday, December 3, 8 – 10:30**

**Dan Preedy with Jean Van Blarcum**

First time for this caller in our area! Dan Preedy hails from Mead, Washington. He'll be calling Plus from 8 to 10:30 with one advanced tip midway. Jean Van Blarcum will cue round dancing from 7 to 8 and between tips. Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa.

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

**Jet Roberts with Sharon Parker**

Sunnyvale Squares is the new name for Eric's other Plus club which now allows paired folks to be members. The ubiquitous Jet Roberts will call Plus from 8 to 10:30 with Sharon Parker cueing Rounds from 7:30 to 8 and between tips. One APD hot hash tip. 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. Plus and Advanced dancing with C-1 sessions in three halls. 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).

## Far-Out Festivals

Here are other major upcoming festivals for the next year that are popular among Tam Twirlers. More details will follow as each draws near.

**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 26-28**

**Tony Oxendine, Mike Seastrom, Bronc Wise**

**Ron & Mary Noble**

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

## December Birthdays

Sybil Hard      Ralph Parker      Ron Pharis

## Setup and Cleanup Schedule

### 7:00 Setup

Dec 7 Clinton  
Dec 14 Kerby  
Dec 21\* Grissom  
Dec 28 **DARK**  
Jan 4 Aftowicz/Anderson  
Jan 11 Bowcock/McClanahan  
Jan 18 Clinton  
Jan 25\* Drucker/Marks

### 9:30 Cleanup

Van Herick  
Sayles  
Prudhomme  
**DARK**  
Carter  
Christie/Jones  
Cornish/McGee  
Hard

**\*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 if you are unable to make your assigned date it is your responsibility to switch with someone 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.

## Board Members

### President

Gen Sheppard

### Vice President

Frank Aftowicz

### Treasurer

Marge Bowcock

Brad Christie

### Secretary

Janet Sayles

### Publicity

Mary Carter

Brad Christie

### Membership

June McClanahan

### NCSDA Delegate

Bob Sheppard

### 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