

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:

Member Dues	\$25 per month
Round Dance Class	\$5 per class
Guests (Squares Only)	\$8 per session
Guests (Rounds & Squares)	\$12 per session

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.

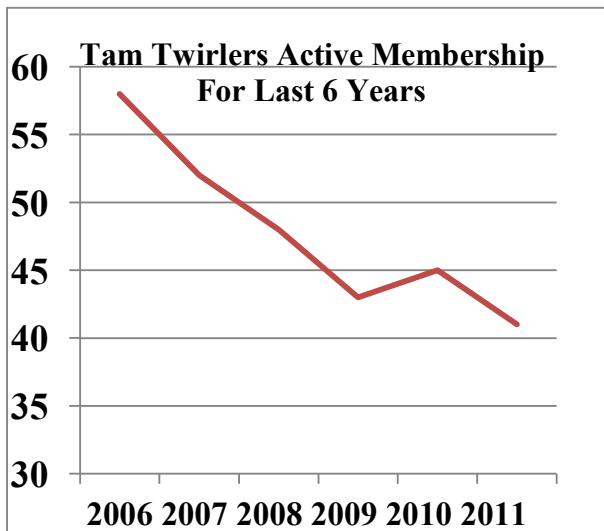
If paying by check, make it out to the Marin Food Bank; all contributions are tax deductible. In the last few years we have donated as much as \$800, which goes a long, long way.

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.

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

Swing Into Spring Jamboree

Redding, April 13-14

Jet Roberts, Hunter Keller

Sharon & Casey Parker

www.northstatedancersassociation.com

Silver State

Reno, May 11-13

Bob Baier, Gary Shoemake, Joe Saltel

Susie & Gert-Jan Rotscheid

www.squaredancenevada.com

Golden State Roundup

San Ramon, May 25-27

Marshall, Lipscomb, Robertson, Kellogg

TJ & Bruce Chadd

www.ncsda.com

Mid Cal Classic

Los Baños, Aug 31-Sep 2

Bob Baier, Jet Roberts

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

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.

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