

Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club



Newsletter January, 2012



Dance Schedule

Tuesday Square Dance Classes

Los Robles Mobile Home Park Rec Center

January 3*, 10, 17, 24, 31

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

*New class begins January 3rd.

Wednesday Plus & Rounds

Rod and Gun Club

January 4, 11, 18, 25

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

Dues Increase Reminder

Here are the new dues and fees for Wednesday nights starting immediately.

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

Memo from the Membership Chair

June McClanahan

Please notify me if you are planning on taking a leave of absence. There is a three-month minimum and a six-month maximum. After six months, it will be necessary to reapply for membership per the by-laws change in spring 2011.

If you have any questions, please email me

Thank you for your cooperation.

June

Prez Sez

Gen Sheppard

Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous NEW YEAR!!!

Our joint Christmas dinner/dance with the Buzz 'n Boots (67 people attended) December 2 was a huge success with delicious food and the Charley Baker Trio entertained us with great music. We danced away the evening.

Our last dance night of the old year, Dec. 21, was fun as we toasted in the New Year. Mr. and Mrs. Claus made a special guest appearance and gave out Christmas candy.

Remember, starting this month, our monthly dues are \$25.

Our next board of directors' meeting is Jan. 7. If you have any suggestions or concerns regarding your square dance club, please email them to me or you can give me a

note Wednesday night.

See you on the dance floor

Gen

Student Class Act

Jeanice McGee

With a new class starting January 3rd we will have continuing students moving up to mainstream and plus. The current class will angel our new class, but we can always use experienced dancers to help out. So, please join us on the 3rd, and bring a little food.

Marin Food Bank Donations

Mary Carter Collects \$885!

Mary Carter once again accepted contributions on behalf of the Tam Twirlers for the Marin Food Bank and did we ever respond in spades – an incredible \$885 raised this year. Given that the food bank is able to provide \$6 worth of food for every \$1 contributed, that means \$5,310 worth of food provided for those in need. A big THANK YOU for such a generous response.

Round Dance February Break

Meg Wallhagen

Dan's knee surgery is now scheduled for early February so our round dance class will have a break then while he recovers. Fortunately the surgery does not involve a total knee replacement so he's estimating about 4 to 6 weeks. We'll use email to notify class members exactly when Dan will return. Let's all hope the surgery goes well and recovery is speedy.

Square Dancing Levels

by Caller Steve Minkin

[Editors' Note: Steve calls for four local clubs. He's also great with kids and teaches square dancing in local schools. His column is from the Redwood Rainbows web site.]

The levels (officially called Programs) were established and are maintained by Callerlab, the International Association of Square Dance Callers. The founding of Callerlab in the mid-1970s and its establishment of programs (levels) came about in response to the second of the two big creative breakthroughs that shaped our modern western square dance. Here's the story:

In the first half of the twentieth century, square dancing was essentially a museum piece, an artifact from an earlier time. Champions of square dancing like Henry Ford and Lloyd 'Pappy' Shaw were paying homage to an historic dance form, and faithfully followed the old tradition.

But Gustav Mahler (who was not himself a caller) said that tradition is the tending of the fire

and not the worship of the ashes, and square dancing caught fire in the post-world World War II era.

Two new methods of calling – modules and sight – led to the first key breakthrough, a new kind of choreography which freed the square dance from a set routine and in which “The dancer did not know what would be called next, and the dancer liked that he did not know what would be called next.” (Ed Gilmore, California caller active 1930s-70s) The “thinking on your feet” aspect of square dancing, which is unique in all the world's dances, had begun to emerge, adding a fresh mental element to the old dance.

The second creative explosion in modern square dancing took place in the 1960s and 1970s, when the old traditional movements of the dance were deconstructed and their elements recombined to create literally thousands of new movements. It was a dynamic and exciting environment, but the square dancing world was also starting to feel overwhelmed by this unregulated and chaotic proliferation of new moves.

Callerlab was founded in large part to prioritize and standardize the movements, and provide a screening process for new movements. The founders selected a few dozen calls that all Basic square dancers should know. Most of the first 30 calls are traditional movements from the 19th Century or earlier (Ladies Chain, Weave The Ring, Grand Square, Promenades, etc.). Then Callerlab designated other groups of movements that the next skill levels of dancers should learn.

The standardization of levels and calls allow dancers and callers to travel to other clubs and areas and know they will be using the same calls and the same terminology that they learned in class and dance at their home clubs. Current Callerlab Programs are:

- **Basic** (50 calls and families of calls)
- **Mainstream** (18 calls, the destination level in some states and countries)
- **Plus** (28 calls, the most common destination level worldwide)

- **Advanced (A-1 and A-2**, which together consist of 75 calls, three concepts and a naming convention)
- **Challenge (C-1, C-2 , C-3 and C-4**, 100 or more calls each)

January Dances

NCSDA Anniversary Top Callers Dance

Sunday, January 8, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Ygnacio Valley High School, Concord

Eight callers this year – Plus level with two September class tips. Single rounds between tips with John Flora cueing. Only \$5 for NCSDA club members (that's us!). The new location for this year is at 755 Oak Grove Road in Concord.

There is a no-host dinner afterwards in Walnut Creek but Bob Farwell is once again offering to coordinate dinner at Stewart Anderson's Black Angus for Tam Twirlers and friends. Send him an email by January 6th if you want to sign up. He is pretty sure he can get a great discount rate of \$39 for two (normal is \$52).

Martinez Swingers Double Hoedown Event **Saturday, January 14, 3 – 5:30 AND 8 – 10:30** **Bronc Wise with John Flora**

The year's first double bill hoedown! Alternating A1 and A2 in the afternoon segment followed by a Plus Black and White Ball in the evening. Bronc Wise is the caller. John Flora will cue rounds from 7:30 to 8 and between tips during the evening. \$10 donation for each segment or \$15 for both. Martinez Adult Education Center, 600 F Street in Martinez.

February Dance Cancelled

Adobe Squares had planned for their usual first Saturday in February dance featuring live music with the Ghost Riders but had to cancel it because they were unable to negotiate a reasonable rate at the Petaluma Veteran's Hall. Too bad because it was always a good dance and close to us.

Upcoming Festivals

Winter Festival, King City, January 20-22

Story/Baier/Oxendine/Roberts/Wise

See either of the two previous newsletters for

details on this festival.

Sequoia Stampede

Tulare, February 17-19

Oxendine, Roberts, Robertson

Sharon & Casey Parker, Mary Ann Callahan

www.grandsquareinc.com

This event is only in its second year. Tulare is over 250 miles away but the County Fairgrounds include two dance halls with hardwood floors. Last March Mary Carter wrote a glowing review of the festival's first run which had to compete with some truly awful weather. Mary called it a "very special festival" and singled out one of the callers as "masterful." That was Tony Oxendine and he will be back this year.

Saturday night Plus dancers get rounds between tips; Advanced dancers get alternating A1/A2 tips with no breaks.

Far-Out Festivals

Here are other upcoming festivals for the next 12 months that are popular among Tam Twirlers. More details will follow as they draw closer.

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

Harvest Hoedown

Yuba City, Oct 26-28

Tony Oxendine, Mike Seastrom, Bronc Wise

Ron & Mary Noble

www.asdsc.org

January Birthdays

Vita Drucker

Setup and Cleanup Schedule

7:00 Setup

Jan 4 Aftowicz/Anderson

Jan 11 Bowcock

Jan 18 Clinton

Jan 25* Drucker/Marks

Feb 1 Grissom

Feb 8 Kerby

Feb 15 Nelson

Feb 22 Sheppard

Feb 29* Ryan

9:30 Cleanup

Carter

Christie/Jones

Cornish/McGee

Hard

Mousley

Parker

Prudhomme

Van Herrick

Sayles

***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

Newsletter Editors

Bill Strawbridge/Meg Wallhagen