

Tam Twirlers Square Dance Club



Newsletter *March, 2012*



Dance Schedule

Tuesday Square Dance Classes

Los Robles Mobile Home Park Rec Center

March 6, 13, 20, 27

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. Come and angel a future Tam Twirler.

Wednesday Squares & Rounds

Rod and Gun Club

March 7, 14, 21, 28

6:15–7:30 Phase 3 Round Dance Class Review

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 will resume as soon as Dan's knee is in good shape.

Prez Sez

Gen Sheppard

I am happy to share with all of you the news that Bob Farwell's throat surgery went better than expected; and that the surgeon was able to remove all of the cancer. Bob is expected to make a full recovery and should be home within the next ten days or so. Soni and Bob appreciate all of your calls and emails.

Roger Rapport tells me that Herm Johnson is in serious condition in the I.C.U. at the hospital in Santa Rosa. Herm and his wife, Barb, were long-time Tam Twirlers and attended our Christmas dinner/dance in December. Barb would appreciate your calls.

Our annual black lite dance will be Wed., Feb. 29. Please wear dark clothing and white sox. We will supply the white gloves. Join us for a fun-filled evening.

See you on the dance floor.

Gen

Student Class Act

Jeanice McGee

Please remember we will not be dancing on Tuesday March 13th. Our mainstream and plus dancers will be going to the Adobe Squares' corned beef and cabbage feed/dance.

Our newer dancers continue to improve. You might see a few on black light night.

We continue to need angels to dance with us, if you can come Tuesday nights please do.

Round Dance Class Back in Action

Meg Wallhagen

Dan's knee is still a bit tender but he is ready to get back in action after knee surgery and thus so are we. Just don't ask him to demonstrate any complicated steps. The first class will be Wednesday this week (February 29) with the starting time moved up 15 minutes early to 6:00 because of the Black Light dance that same evening. In March Dan will review all we have learned so far (that's a lot!) and then move on to Rumba. Here's the tentative schedule:

March 7 – Full Cha Cha review

March 14 – 2-Step review

March 21 – Waltz review

March 28 – Review where needed

April 4 – Start Level 3 Rumba

Ghost Riders History

By an Anonymous Ghost Rider

[Editors' note: This is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Ghost Riders Band, a unique local musical group started and maintained by square dancers who also like to play music designed for square dance callers. See page 3 for the location of their 40th anniversary hoedown. Here is an edited version of their history taken from their web site.]

The Ghost Riders started in Concord, California with one man's idea on how to combine live music with square dancing calling. Problem was that musicians didn't quite understand how to change a regular country western tune to something a caller could work with. So Hal Langer, a square dancer himself, decided to start with square dancers and teach them how to play an instrument.

Hal formed a four-piece band in the 1960's and called it the "Ghost Town Echo." In 1972, he moved to Mack, Colorado, to pursue his career in science, but asked Dan Bright, one of the other members to keep the band going. Dan did but changed the name to what it is now, The Ghost Riders. A caller (Bert Swerer) designed their logo (ghost on the horse holding a guitar).

The Ghost Riders continued over the years under Dan Bright, who kept the idea of replacing members who left with square dancers who also wanted to play. But then came a big change in 2006, when Dan Bright passed away suddenly.

The remaining Members had a meeting and decided that the GHOST RIDERS MUST GO ON. So they picked up the torch to carry it forward in memory of Dan Bright with member David Zachery (Zach) taking up the reins as Manager for the Band. Zach had joined the Band in 1988 as the sound technician; he moved to the stage 6 years later to play rhythm guitar and sing lead and backup vocal. Zach is an active square dancer who can be found most Tuesday evenings dancing with the Martinez Swingers.

Ghost Rider Salute to Square Dancers

Thank God, over the past quarter of a century plus, we have been very fortunate to have all of you in the square dance world support us, and make the GHOST RIDERS a National Square Dance Band. You, the hard-core dancers, have brought us the opportunities through being our faithful fans, by dancing to us, and requesting your clubs to have us perform at your Hoedowns, Festivals and Conventions.

The opportunities that we have had are as follows: A European Tour to Poland, two square-dance cruises (Mexican Rivera and Caribbean), State Fairs, an H.B.O. Movie special called Barbarians at the gate (starring James Garner), live recorded square-dance CDs with Deborah Carroll-Jones and Dan Nordbye, ten Nationals Conventions and right now we are talking to the future National Chairpersons for the upcoming National Conventions.

There is so much more I could list, but it would take forever, so I would like to thank all of you on behalf of the Ghost Riders for all of your faithfulness and support for the last thirty-four years.

God bless you all and keep on dancing.

March Dances

Circle & Squares Plus Dance

Saturday, March 10, 7 – 10:30

Romney Tannehill and Jeanne Van Blarcum

Rounds with Jeanne Van Blarcum from 7 to 8 and then double rounds between tips. Plus with Romney Tannehill from 8 to 10:30. From southern California, Romney is another caller who started very young (age 9). He was also very young to have a heart attack, battling back from a triple bypass operation at age 38. Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa.

OR

Twin City Steppers Anniversary Hoedown

Saturday, March 10, 8:30 – 11:00

Buddy Weaver and DAN DRUMHELLER

Yes, our very own Dan (fresh from his knee surgery) will cue this dance with a good caller in

Buddy Weaver from San Marcos thrown in for Plus dancing. Rounds 8 to 8:30 and between tips, squares 8:30 to 10. Hardwood floor. Fairfield Community Center, 1000 Kentucky St., Fairfield.

**Adobe Squares St. Patrick's Dinner & Dance
Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 Dinner, Dancing at 8
Scott and Erin Byars**

An annual event where you get your dancing mixed with a corned beef and cabbage dinner. Dinner reservations had to be in by March 1 but if all you want to do is dance just show up at 8:00. Scott does the calling, Erin the cueing. Petaluma Woman's Club, 518 B Street, Petaluma.

**Early April Dance
Ghost Riders 40th Anniversary Dance
Saturday, April 7, 7:30 – 10:30
Charlie Robertson and Hunter Keller**

Can't beat this combination. Live music from the Ghost Riders and two great callers all in one evening. Plus the Ghost Riders are planning on bringing back some of their earlier members just for this one evening. Their manager, Dave Zachery, is assembling old pictures and memorabilia. See the previous page for a brief history of the Ghost Riders.

Both callers for this hoedown started young and one of them still is. Older one is Charlie Robertson, who began his calling career at the ripe old age of 12 in Southern California. He mentioned to his mother that he wanted to learn how to call, so she contacted a local square dance caller and arranged lessons. 30 years later he still calls and lives in southern California.

From Billings, Montana, Hunter Keller is so young he still lives with his parents. Following his grandfather's influence he started calling in 2004 and later attended the 4Dance Caller's Academy in Napa, California with Scot Byars as the instructor. He also studied under Tony Oxendine. You can also catch him a week later in Redding (see below).

Sharon and Casey Parker will cue rounds. Ygnacio Valley High School. 755 Oak Grove Road in Concord.

Upcoming Festivals

**Swing Into Spring Jamboree
Redding, April 13-14
Bob Baier and Hunter Keller
Sharon & Casey Parker**

www.northstatedancersassociation.com

Another chance to dance to Hunter Keller, but this time with Bob Baier. Two halls and a chance to see the famed Sundial Bridge on a break. Reserve by March 15 for the full weekend \$30 per person rate. Day/evening rates also available. Redding Elks Club and Redding Senior Center. Advanced and Plus evenings & Saturday morning/afternoon.

Far-Out Festivals

Here are farther out festivals popular among Tam Twirlers. More details will follow as they draw closer.

**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**

**Sonoma Wine Country Senior Games
Spring Village, Santa Rosa, May 31-June 10
Steve Minkin
www.winecountrygames.com**

**Harvest Hoedown
Yuba City, Oct 26-28
Dee Dee Dougherty, Mike Seastrom, Bronc Wise
Ron & Mary Noble
www.asdsc.org**

**Winter Festival 2013
King City, January 18-20
Baier/Oxendine/Story/Henerlau/Tannehill
Web link not yet available**

**Sequoia Stampede 2013
Tulare, February 15-17
Other information not yet available**

March Birthdays

Richard Grissom
Jack Street

Jennifer Henerlau
Bill Strawbridge

Gen Sheppard

Setup and Cleanup Schedule

7:00 Setup

March 7 Strawbridge/Wallhagen
March 14 Aftowicz/Anderson
March 21 Bowcock
March 28* Clinton
April 4 Street
April 11 Grissom
April 18 Kerby
April 25* Nelson

9:30 Cleanup

Carter
Christie/Jones
McGee/Cornish
Hard
Mousley
Parker
Prudhomme
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.

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www.tamtwirlers.org

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