

From the



Tillman

Hayloft

***** JANUARY 1999 *****

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year's to all!

Glenn and I started the year with a great trip to Palm Desert, where we danced to Mike Sikorsky, attended the Palm Springs Follies, and enjoyed SEATS at the Rose Parade! Four couples (3 RR's) drove down in beautiful weather with our RV's. What a way to celebrate a new year...it was so warm, some of us had to buy shorts!

As you know, there is great concern about the future of square dancing in California...and, in fact, in the USA. Van & Anna May Symons and the committee to promote square dancing are actively doing something about it; and they need our support. We CAN make changes, and stop the decline in our favorite activity. Several ways have been suggested:

1. Attend the benefit dance to raise funds for advertising of square dancing. It's at Leigh High School, Friday, February 19th from 8:00 - 11:00. Ken K. and Gary Carnes are calling, as well as line dancing with Joanne and Ted Arouzzet, and rounds by Jim and Adele Chico. I hope we all will attend this function, not only to enjoy it, but also to show our support for square dancing.
2. Attend all of the **local** dances (Friday and Saturday nights) that we can. Not only will we have FUN, but we will show are support for our local callers and clubs.
3. Think about a fund raiser that Rafter Rockers could sponsor. What would be

enjoyable for all, and draw a good crowd? One suggestion might be to sponsor a Casino night. What do you think?

4. Or...even think about a private donation you could make to the Committee.
5. Participate in the weekend festivals...what a wonderful, inexpensive way to take a long-weekend vacation.

Tell others about our "sport" (hobby?), and how beneficial it is to state of mind, and is good exercise as well! If we all recruited one couple, we would double the square dance community!

I am sure you can think of other ways...It is critical that square dancing **LIVES!** We have one of the most active clubs in the valley, and we **CAN** make a difference!

Thanks to the by-laws revision committee for their hard work. Bill Barnes, Frank Smith, Chuck DePalmo, and Glenn Weber met to review and revise our by-laws. The changes will be published at the next two meetings. Changes include establishment of additional duties for the "Hospitality Chairman" and changes to the Leave of Absence Policy.

Glenn & Lenny Weber

THE CIRCUS IS COMING!

That's right! The Rafter Rocker annual Circus Circus Hoedown is coming March 27th. Now that the holidays are over, we can concentrate on preparations for our big "fun raiser" event of the year. We have several committee chair-persons that have volunteered already. Sign ups are coming out for committees to assist in the production of

the event. So – be sure to consider how you can help, and sign up for a position on a committee. A little help from a lot of members makes for a fun time and a successful Circus Circus.

We need to think of getting our prizes ready. We have door prizes to bring (one from each couple would be great). They can be bought or homemade, but nice. No flea market items or white elephant gifts. No need to wrap them. We are known for lots of door prizes. So start bringing them to club night for collection and storage.

For ticketed prizes (can't call them raffle), we will have form letters to hand to merchants for donations of merchandise, and/or services. We need you to be creative and approach those in your circle of activities, and of course walk the beat to find those willing to donate for the exposure to 300 plus dancers.

We will need every couple to bring two dishes of food (our chairperson will further define our need later).

Also needed are couples to visit other clubs to advertise our hoedown.

You can see a lot of man/woman hours are needed for success. We need you. We can have a great time working together.

Hugh & Jobie Berry

PATCHES FOR PATCHWORK SKIRTS

Jean Jones and Mollie Henry are making two patchwork skirts to be given away as prizes at Circus Circus. For this purpose they need 8-inch by 8-inch patches. If you have materials suitable for this purpose, bring them to club or contact Jean or Mollie.

THANKSGIVING DINNER DANCE

For many years the Acey Deuceys Square Dance Club, under the leadership of Honey and Chuck Wolfson, sponsored a Thanksgiving Dinner

Dance on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Originally it was intended to provide a social square dance evening for clubs who did not dance that week, especially the Wednesday and Thursday clubs. This event became an almost instant tradition, and clubs and dancers looked forward to it each year. Callers who could make it that Tuesday would take a turn at the microphone; and rather than charge admission, eventually new toys for the Salvation Army toy-drive were requested as the "price of admission". When Honey and Chuck retired from square dancing, the question most often asked when someone heard the news was, "Will there be a Thanksgiving dinner?"

In recent years, the dinner was co-hosted by the Steppin-and-Stompin Country Line Dancers at John Muir Middle School. When Honey and Chuck retired, Joanne and Ted Arrouzet vowed to carry on the tradition, which by now had evolved into an event that drew over 300 line and square dancers and brought in a significant number of toys and donations for the Salvation Army. In the last few years, Salvation Army representatives attended as guests and were gratified by the response. Because this activity originated in the square dance community and has always been heavily supported by square dancers, it was felt that it was important that square dancers continue to be a co-sponsor. The Rafter Rockers graciously assumed that role, and in 1998 the Tuesday Thanksgiving Dinner and Dance continued under the sponsorship of both line and square dance communities.

And what a job they did! At least 350 people were fed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings (and then some) in just over an hour. The first square kicked off at 8:05 P.M., and one of the best dances of the year was underway.

Eight callers alternated with double line dances under the tight scheduling of Joanne Arrouzet, and there was not a dull moment. At one point, about 9:00P.M., 22 squares were observed on the floor; and there were 135 people on the sides (and some in the back room checking on the leftover desserts).

The Rafter Rockers, as usual, went out of their way to help make the event a success, as did the Steppin-and-Stompin Line Dancers. Under the expert generalship of Tasha Burkett, the kitchen crew kept the food line supplied and moving. The dancers donated 75 raffle prizes which were processed and tickets for them sold.

As the dancers finished eating, the tables had to be cleaned and put away; and when everyone had eaten, the kitchen had to be cleaned. It all happened like clockwork, and the only complaints heard the whole evening were that there were no rounds, and that the coffee was late because the circuits overloaded.

When the presentation was made to the Salvation Army, it was very satisfying to know that we sent them back with 9 barrels, 9 large plastic bags, and other items of toys. In addition, they were presented with nearly \$800.00 raised from raffle tickets and donations. They are going to try to get some media coverage for the event next year - something that should be good for all of us.

As dancers departed, many expressed, in glowing terms, their enjoyment, appreciation, and hope that the event – the Tradition – would continue. They were assured that it will. Many thanks to all of you who supported this wonderful event.

Tom & Jane

DUES INCREASE

On the club night of Jan. 13th, following the recommendation of the RR board, the membership unanimously voted to increase the monthly dues from \$16 to \$20. Included in the increase is the provision that the club will pay insurance costs for the members.

The increase is necessitated primarily by the increasing cost for the school, and decreasing membership. In 1998 we operated at a net loss of \$638.70. Our Treasurer's projections indicate that, with the increase, we should be fiscally sound for at least five years.

NEW YEARS EVE WITH SIKORSKY

Frank Smith & Bettey Watson, Glenn & Lenny Weber, Van & Anna May Symons and Harvey & Beth Stone RV'd their way to Palm Springs to dance with Mike Sikorsky on New Years Eve. This trip had many highlights. First was the Follies show in Palm Springs which features a 3 hour show of singers and dancers – between the ages of 53 to 86 – doing all the old time favorites. Donald O'Conner was the featured "old timer" (he's 73). Then we had a fast moving plus dance with Mike Sikorsky. Then we had to leave this dance by 1:00 a.m. because this package included a bus trip to the Rose Parade (leaving at 5:00 a.m.). There's nothing like seeing the parade close up. We had excellent grandstand seats with the sun at our back. Being real Rafter Rockers, we also initiated several outstanding potlucks and variations of potlucks!!! However the real highlight of this trip was the establishment of the FIRST ANNUAL RAFTER ROCKER CROQUET CONTEST. It was the battle of the sexes with the 4 Darling, Dangerous, Dancing, Dollies vs. the 4 PITA's (pain in the asses!!!). We created so much excitement that people were actually watching us (well 4 did). In spite of the women's dirty techniques and questionable rules, the men won both days and the losers had to demonstrate the Macarena in public (it's also on tape). This was a wonderful event, so if you plan to go, remember that the croquet contest will probably be sold out early!!!

Van Symons, Wagon Master

Thought Provoker

If the caller calls "heads square thru" from a squared set, the resulting formation will be exactly the same as if he had called which (one or more) of the following:

1. Heads lead to the right.
2. Heads lead to the left
3. Heads do a right & left thru, star thru, and pass thru.
4. Heads star thru, do a right & left thru, and pass thru.
5. None of the above.

I'll post the answer on our bulletin board next week.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Our Christmas potluck on December 9th was, as usual a huge success, with enough delicious food to feed a small army. Hats off to all of you great Rafter Rocker cooks. And the rest of the evening was great fun with Ken doing all of his Christmas songs, and Chris again organizing and leading us in our traditional rendition of The Twelve Days Of Christmas (the singing's so bad that it becomes hilarious). And, of course, the spirit of giving was well represented as we presented the Salvation Army with bags and bags of toys for distribution to needy families.

Many thanks go to Doris & Truman Gerken and square 8 for organizing the event, purchasing and preparing the hams and turkey hams, and providing the festive table decorations.

The Month After Christmas

Twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house

Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste
At the holiday parties, had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared.

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you please."
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt---

I said to myself, as I only can
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"
So—away with the last of the sour cream dip.
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
'Till all the additional ounces have vanished.
I won't have a cookie—not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore---
But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

On December 8th a group of 31 Rafter Rockers spent the evening at the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Jose working through bins of donated food, paper products, and other things. The objective was to sort out and discard unusable items, and to allocate the "good stuff" to specific locations for subsequent packaging and distribution to the needy. This is a very worthwhile endeavor, and a big THANKYOU goes to Bill & Beth Barnes, who coordinated this activity, and to all that participated. Bill will be setting up another "work in" in the spring.

WORK DAY AT LEIGH HIGH SCHOOL

Leigh High School is starting a clean-up and beautification program, and has requested community participation. As a goodwill gesture, a number of Rafter Rockers have volunteered to participate, and will work on the morning of March 6th. Bill Barnes will have a sign up sheet at club with more details. If you can, please join us.

Wildflower Hike

On Saturday, May 1st, Jean and Don Arndt will lead hikers six miles or so through the flowers (assuming that we have enough rain to bring them out) at either Russian Ridge (Skyline at Page Mill) or Almaden Quicksilver (Camden & Meridian area). Mark your calendars and dust off your pack and boots or sturdy shoes, and let Jean and Don know your location preference.

Theater Night

On Friday, February 12th, at 8:00 P.M. the Saratoga Drama Group is presenting Company, a musical by Stephen Sondheim, which takes a look at the many sides of marriage as seen through the eyes of a bachelor, his five married couple friends, and his some-times lovers. Jane Bishop

has obtained some tickets for this performance and has them available at the group discount rate. While this is not a formal theater night, those who wish will meet for dinner at Casa Valencia (Winchester at Knowles, formerly known as Ernesto's). Please see Jane or Tom to sign up.

DANCING AT THE EAST WEST SHRINE GAME

Three Rafter Rocker couples joined Ken & Chris On Saturday January 16th to participate in a half-time extravaganza for the annual East West Shrine football game at Stanford Stadium: Karl Belser & Jackie Daemion, Carol & Otto Schmidt, and Jack & Marion Stewart.

The day started out at 8:30 a.m. with rehearsals on the field; although we knew what we were going to do when Ken called, we needed to practice combining with approximately 250 other participants, including trick rodeo riders and even sheep.

We were very fortunate with the weather, it was chilly but at least dry. Although we had a few sound problems during our dancing, the grand finale with Glen Campbell was a great success! We were front-row (along with the 49er cheerleaders) and even had a chance to greet Glen Campbell when we exited the field.

As many of you know, this activity is very important to us and we appreciate any opportunity to share it with others. Many thanks to those who gave up their day to help us out!

Ken & Chris

WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE – 2000

Several Rafter Rocker couples are already signed up to join Ken & Chris for a 7-day Western Caribbean cruise on March 26, 2000. We will be sailing on Holland America's ms Veendam and Ports of call will be Cozumel, Mexico; Georgetown, Grand Cayman; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; and Half Moon Cay, Bahamas. More info later!

WINTERFEST '99

As all of you who were there know, this year's Winterfest maintained the tradition of being an outstanding weekend of dancing and fun. Even the weather cooperated. But how could this event not be excellent with callers Bob Baier, Kip Garvey, Tony Oxendine, Jerry Story, and this year's guest caller Bronc Wise? This is certainly one of the best caller line-ups in square dancing.

Adding to the fun was a Scavenger Hunt for those who wished to participate. To give some idea of the difficulty of the hunt, among items requested were:

1. An expired drivers license
2. A birth certificate
3. A speeding ticket
4. A shitaki mushroom

It was interesting to listen to the participants describe the things they tried in attempting to obtain these items. The RR team led by the Boyles and Symons didn't win but had great fun trying.

Much appreciation goes to our Wagonmasters Ron & Rita Boyles who did an excellent job organizing and overseeing this weekend.

KEN'S SCHEDULE:

- 1/30 Santa Clara Callers Asso Wing Ding - John Muir
- 2/27 Square Hopper / Dudes & Doll's Mardi Gras dance - San Jose
- 3/13 Spinning Wheels Shamrock Shuffle - Palo Alto
- 3/27 Circus Circus (hooray!)

1999 OUT OF TOWN SQUARE DANCE FESTIVALS

The Rafter Rocker Board has chosen the following out-of-town square dance festivals as those that we, as a club, will try to support. These festivals feature dancing at all levels, and were picked from a more extensive list compiled by, and available from, Van Symons. We encourage each of you to attend as many of these as you can. They are great fun, the dancing is outstanding, and our attendance will help ensure the continuation of these activities.

DATE	FESTIVAL LOCATION	LEVEL	CALLERS	WAGON MASTER
1/15-17	King City	All	Baier, Garvey, Oxendine, Story, Wise	Boyles
2/12-14	Tulare	All	Baier, R Dougherty, Weaver	F. Smith
3/19-21	Bakersfield	All	DD Dougherty, Letson, Oxendine, Roberts	?
4/16-18	Sacramento	All	Calif. State	Weber
4/23-25	King City	All	Carnes, Dibble, Letson, Marriner	DePalmo
7/9-11	Watsonville	All	Jacobs, Sikorsky, Wise	Busch
10/8-9	Watsonville	All	Jubilee	?

UPCOMING LOCAL DANCES

As previously mentioned, the weekend festivals are great fun; but we should also take advantage of the excellent dances held right here in our own local area. The following are recommended for your consideration. We hope you will attend as many of them as you can. As with the festivals, attendance at these dances is the only way to ensure their continuation:

DATE	DANCE	SPONSOR	CALLERS	LOCATION
1/23	35 th Anniversary Dance	B's & B's	Jay Klassen	John Muir School
1/30	Presidents Ball	SCVSDA and SCVCA	Ken Kenmille, Don Lewis Jim Osborne, Donn Thompson	John Muir School
2/6	Sweetheart Special	Katydids	Joe Saltel	John Muir School
2/19	Benefit Dance *	Committee *	Gary Carnes, Ken Kenmille	Leigh High School
2/27	Mardi Gras Hoedown	Square Hoppers	Ken Kenmille, Ken Carrol	John Muir School
3/27	Circus-Circus	Rafter Rockers	Ken Kenmille, Ken Carrol	Leigh High School

*see attached flyer

COMMITTEE for the PROMOTION AND PRESERVATION of SQUARE DANCING

1. The committee to Promote and Preserve square dancing was formed during 1998 to focus on ways to attract new and, in particular, younger dancers to square dancing for the benefit of the 30 plus and advanced clubs in our area. The committee felt that promotional efforts needed to be conducted on a year round basis with special emphasis just prior to any beginner classes. As a result the committee proposed 3 specific efforts.

FIRST-it is recommended we focus on various year round communications. Two dance teams are proposed that would provide energetic and entertaining dancing at various events-art/wine festivals, parades, clubs gatherings, etc. One team would present the history of dancing and the second would provide a fast moving square dance demonstration. Various brochures and flyers would be handed out to promote square dancing and classes.

SECOND-it is recommended we promote dancing and beginner classes by utilizing radio ads, newspaper ads and interviews, theater slides, and TV promotions. In particular, our goal is to utilize the radio ad that was professionally developed by Southern California's Open Squares group. This is a high energy and exciting radio ad that lasts one minute and has the listener call an 800 number (800-FUN 4 ALL) for information. Last year the Northern Cal Square Dance Association used this radio ad on KGO (Dr. Laura) and KTCT (country) and they provided callers from our area with a list of our beginner classes. Our plan for 1999 is to work with Northern Cal and to expand coverage by advertising on KRTY (our country station) and possibly KLIV. THIRD-We need to fund these advertising efforts. Committee members will meet with all our clubs to describe our 3 fold effort-a Kickoff benefit dance in February, followed by each club or groups of clubs initiating a fund raising effort, and then a Grand Finale dance in April to collect all donations. The Kickoff dance is scheduled for Friday night, 2/19/99, at Leigh High School from 8 to 11p.m. Gary Carnes and Ken Kenmille will be our callers, and Jim Chico and Joanne Arrouzet will alternate rounds and line dancing. Various fun events are planned. Note that all these people are donating their time and the Prompter ad is free so that all funds can be used for square dance promotions. Also no specific target is set for any one club or individuals-simply stated-other than the cost of the halls, 100% of all funds collected will be spent for advertising.

HELP. We do need your help to insure a successful effort. For the Benefit dance, we need each club to contact all their members and encourage their support of this dance and to contact various businesses associated with square dancers to provide a contribution to our drawing. We would like to get some really great contributions like gift certificates, dinners, etc in order to make the drawing a big success. We would also like some of these businesses to allow a flyer or banner to be placed in their area. In addition we are seeking a leader and participants for the dance teams and information on where we can advertise for free (or very low cost) in local newspapers, TV stations, businesses, clubs, etc. For this effort to succeed requires each club or group of clubs to raise additional funds such as through a silent auction, special dance, garage sale, special drawing, etc. And finally, we need a contact person from your club-preferably with an E-mail address who we can communicate with and who will collect all contributions for the Kickoff drawing. I will leave flyers here announcing our Kickoff Benefit dance, a copy of this presentation, and my E-mail address and phone number. In conclusion-this is a great cause. Join us and help support YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITY.

Van Symons (vansymons@aol.com), 408-274-3770

RAFTER ROCKER '98/'99 DANCE SCHEDULE

Nov	18	Union	
Nov	24(tues)	John Muir	Thanksgiving Party Dance
Dec	2	Union	
Dec	5(sat)	Convalescent Homes	Dancing and Brunch
Dec	9	Union	Holiday Party
Dec	16	Fisher	
Dec	23	Holiday	
Dec	30	Holiday	
Jan	6	Union	
Jan	13	Union	
Jan	20	Union	Black and White Ball
Jan	27	Union	
Feb	3	Union	
Feb	10	Union	
Feb	17	Union	Valentines Dance
Feb	24	Union	
Mar	3	Union	
Mar	10	Fisher	
Mar	17	Union	St. Patrick's Day Dance
Mar	24	Union	
Mar	27(sat)	Leigh	Circus-Circus Hoedown
Mar	31	Union	
Apr	7	Fisher	
Apr	14	Union	
Apr	21	Union	Hard Times Dance
Apr	28	Union	
May	5	Union	
May	12	Union	
May	19	Fisher	Silent Auction
May	26	Union	
June	2	Union	
June	9	Union	
June	16	St. Francis Cabrini	

BENEFIT DANCE

Friday, February 19, 1999 8:00-11:00 p.m.

*The Committee for the Promotion & Preservation of
Square Dancing presents a plus level dance with:*

Gary Carnes

&

Ken Kenmille

Jim Chico
(Rounds)

Joanne Arrouzet
(Lines)

Pre-Rounds 8:00-8:30, Squares with a single round & a
single line (between each tip) 8:30-11:00

All of the proceeds will be used for Radio & Newspaper
advertising for square dance classes.

Gary, Ken, Jim & Joanne have all donated their services for
this GREAT cause. Please join us & help support your favorite
activity!

Leigh High School
5210 Liegh Avenue, San Jose, CA

Please patronize them if you have need of the services they provide
 Advertising rates are 1 dollar per issue or 5 dollars per year

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