



ROCKIN' JOKERS

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FACTS ABOUT THE ROCKIN' JOKERS

October 21, 2015

Here are some notes about the Rockin Jokers – how we are organized, some of the things we offer, and the rewards and obligations of membership.

Calendar

We publish a calendar each month that is distributed at the monthly party night. The calendar lists club activities for the upcoming month as well as duty squares for that and the following month.

Websites

The Rockin' Jokers website – www.rockinjokers.com - has lots of information about our club, including contact numbers for the officers and information about upcoming events. The “DANCE DANCE DANCE” link on our website lists clubs and dances all over the country so when you travel you can find a place to dance. The other good website for local hoedowns is www.scvsda.org.

Roster

The club roster is published periodically. When you receive your copy, either in email or printed, please check your listing and let the president or treasurer know if there is an error.

Board

Our club is run by a Board of Directors, which is elected at our General Meeting at the Elections Party Night in November. The board consists of the usual four officers, the past president, and up to four directors. Each of the board members may include their partners if they want, so the number of board members is a minimum of nine and a maximum of 18. Each board member is expected to take on one of the responsibilities of running the club.

By-Laws

You can read our By-Laws and Standing Rules in the DOCUMENTS section of the RJ website.

Membership

We hope you want to join Rockin' Jokers after getting to know us and dancing with our club. When you submit an application, the board will consider your request and let you know our decision as soon as possible.

Dues

Dues are \$16.00 per month. You can pay as much as one year ahead so you don't have to worry about it for a while or you can pay monthly. There is a box at the sign in table with envelopes for each member. Put your check into the envelope and put the envelope in the back of the box. The treasurer will pick up the money, mark your envelope, and note your payment on the club sign-in sheet. If you fall more than 3 months behind in your dues you will be asked to become current. The dues you pay in the application fee cover the month following your acceptance into the club.

Badge

Part of the application fee pays for your club badge. Please wear your badge to club and to hoedowns and festivals. Seeing a dancer's name on their badge makes it easier to meet new people, advertises our club, and it promotes friendliness.

Duty Squares

Your duty square comes up every three or so months for just one club night. Each night, four members work together to set up and cleanup the hall and to sit at the desk to welcome dancers and to collect guest fees.

Dance Rotation Board

We use a voluntary dance rotation board so that everyone has a chance to dance.

Dress

Square Dance attire is not required at Rockin' Jokers. Women can wear traditional square dance clothes, prairie skirts, or street clothes. Men usually wear long sleeves but that is not required.

Club Dress

Our club colors are RED, WHITE & BLACK but we do not have a specific outfit. We sometimes ask that members wear our club colors at hoedowns or 5th Wednesdays. When a lot of us go to festivals, we usually choose one dance session to wear club colors.

Activities

Non-dancing activities are a great place to get to know each other in a more informal atmosphere than club nights and we try to have an activity about once a month. We have game night potlucks, we go to plays, we go to baseball games and we have our traditional annual events – the picnic in July, a croquet tournament in August, a bocce ball party in September and a Mini-Golf party in October. All of our activities involve food and we are always looking for new things to do.

Absences

It is important to dance often in order to become a good dancer and to maintain your dance ability. We certainly understand that there are times when you can't come to club, but it is important to come and dance regularly.

Leaves of Absence

If you have a medical or personal reason to take a Leave of Absence from the club, you are asked to send a note to the president with your request. Leaves are granted for a minimum of three months and a maximum of one year.

Party Nights

We have a monthly themed party, usually on the third Wednesday of the month. Members bring themed food and we may decorate the hall to the theme and have a related activity.

5th Wednesdays

On months that have a 5th Wednesday, all of the clubs that dance on Wednesday join together for a joint party. The host club rotates.

Round Dancing

Round Dancing is choreographed ballroom dancing, cued by a Cuer; similarly to how square dancing is called, and is a part of the square dance family. Our Round Dance Cuer cues two rounds between tips. She will occasionally teach easy rounds during the breaks between tips over the next few months so that you can learn to round dance if you want.

RJ Clothing & Jewelry

Periodically we order Rockin' Jokers clothing. We offer jackets, T-shirts and polo shirts, all with our logo and your name. We have earrings and tie holders for sale at the registration desk.

Class Angels

You can refresh and strengthen your dancing skills by being an “angel” at a class. Being an “angel” is also great advertisement for Rockin’ Jokers. Be sure to wear your badge.

Club Hoedowns

Our club has two hoedowns each year. Club members all work together to make these events memorable and both of our hoedowns have a reputation for being a great party and are very well attended. **CIRCUS CIRCUS** is held in April, and the **NEW YEARS EVE GLASS SLIPPER BALL** is held on, you guessed it – December 31! You will hear more about these events as the dates get closer.

Friendliness

It is our intention to be the friendliest club around. To that end, we always greet guests and fellow members, welcome and support new dancers, and make sure that everyone gets to dance.

Common Square Dance Etiquette not covered above –

- Square up promptly when the music starts.
- Greet the members of your square at the beginning of the tip and then thank each dancer at the end of the tip.
- Be courteous with your fellow dancers. Never walk out of a square or try to cut someone off by pushing your way into a square.
- Always be gentle. Your handholds should be just a light touch so you can tell where your position in the square is.
- Plus dancers dance “hands up” unless it is medically difficult to do so. That way, if you don’t know where to go, other dancers can gently touch your hand and help you.
- The current instruction is that everyone holds hands with the thumb on each hand pointing to the right.
- Everyone makes mistakes so please do not criticize other dancers. Again, be gentle with your fellow dancers – the next mistake may well be yours.
- Listen during the tips and during announcements. If you are talking, you may miss, or cause someone else to miss the message.
- Don’t walk across the floor during square or round dancing.
- Keep your conversation low, especially during round dancing, so the dancers can hear the cues.
- Everyone holds hands at the end of the evening to thank the caller and cuer.

As we work and play together with the above guidelines in mind, we will continue to have a wonderful place to dance and socialize with our friends.