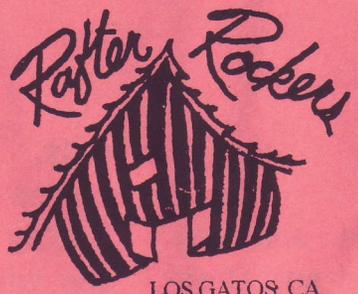


Tillman

From the *Rafter Rockers* Hayloft



LOS GATOS, CA.

***** FEBRUARY 2000 *****

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Can't believe it is really 2000! I hope the new year will bring you all much happiness and good fortune. Two of our couples have moved - Ron and Glenda McClelland and Don Ferguson and Pat Donovan. We will miss them and wish them well in their new homes. We are so glad that Jerry Boncyk is on the mend. Jobie's foot is healing and she will be "tripping the light fantastic" soon.

As you all know, we are in the process of auditioning and selecting a new caller. We hope to take a club vote the end of February. The Board and the Committee have been working very hard and I want to thank them for all of their efforts and input. Obviously, the caller selected may not be the one you voted for. I urge you to continue to be an active member and supporter of the Rafter Rockers. The transition will bring new problems and challenges and all of us need to be positive. It will depend upon each one of us to keep the club growing and moving forward. I have great faith in all of our members and know that you will support the majority decision.

Circus Circus is just around the corner. Don and Donna are already on the job! Start thinking about raffle prizes and ways that you can help. See Donna's article for more details.

A friendly reminder - leaves are usually granted for illness, family obligations, work conflicts, etc. The bills must be paid each month, so please consider the validity of your request before asking for a leave.

We will have a guest caller on February 9th - Bill Helms. Hope you can all come and give him a big Rafter Rocker welcome.

Marv and Ina Tanner are busy coordinating our Beginner Class. Square 2 will be on angel duty during February. Please come and dance with the class, greet them, introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. The image that we present is the very thing that will keep them dancing!

Judy

CIRCUS CIRCUS 2000

This year will be our 45th annual Circus Circus Hoedown. Please mark your calendar - in ink - for **Saturday, April 15**. As you know, our Ken and Bronc Wise will be calling. It is not too early for us to begin to focus on preparing for this great event. Past Circus Circus' have been so successful that we have created a reputation for the club. We have become known for our door prizes, raffle prizes, and plentiful array of attractive, good food. We all need to work together to make this event another success.

Please, let's start thinking about door prizes now. Some suggestions for prizes include: homemade crafts, gift certificates, wine; gift packs of coffee, candy, sweets, pasta or fruit; plants and planters, books or candles. By the middle of February sign-up sheets will be available for the work committees. There will be opportunities to volunteer to sell tickets at the door, for kitchen duty, and to sell raffle tickets and badges. In addition, those who can will be asked to visit other clubs and deliver a personal invitation to our dance, and we will keep a record of these club visits.

If you have any ideas on how to improve our dance, or maybe you feel it's the right time to make some changes, please let us hear from you.

Don & Donna

CIRCUS CIRCUS



APRIL 15th

NEW YEARS IN SOLVANG

Ten Rafter Rocker couples and one ex-RR couple took their RVs and their fanciest square dance outfits to Solvang (actually Buellton), to spend New Years Eve dancing the night away to the calling of Larry Ward.

By Friday afternoon (Dec 30) everyone had arrived and settled in at the Flying Flags RV Park. Then, first thing Saturday morning all 22 of us descended on this little Danish restaurant where we breakfasted on aebleskivers, Danish pancakes, and such - delicious!! The rest of the day was spent playing golf, shopping in Solvang's quaint little shops (the First Street Leathers shop did quite a business selling at least three jackets to our group), and resting up for the evening to follow.

The New Years Eve festivities were held at Pea Soup Anderson's restaurant where cocktails at 6:00 were followed by a Mexican buffet dinner at 7:00 and dancing from 8:30 till 12:00. At midnight the New Year was brought in with champagne toasts, noise makers, streamers, etc. and the singing of Auld Lang Syne. It was a great way to celebrate the "out-with-the-old, in-with-the-new" with a wonderful group of Rafter Rocker friends!!

But we were not through having fun. New Years morning, at the RV park, we all sat down to an outstanding brunch of waffles, ham, bacon, fruit, sweet

rolls, orange juice, champagne, and coffee put on by Frank Smith and Betty Watson who also coordinated the whole weekend. Many many thanks Frank and Betty!

New Years night it was again off to dinner and dancing to Larry Ward, this time held at the Zaca Creek restaurant where the sit-down dinner featured barbecued chicken and tri-tips. It was an evening of fun-level dancing and even included one same-sex tip just to keep us on our toes.

All in all, a great way to start Y2K!!!

WINTERFEST 2000

Although somewhat below the usual attendance, the Rafter Rockers still managed to have twelve couples at this year's annual Winterfest in King City. It, as usual, turned out to be a super weekend with outstanding dancing to the world class calling of Bob Baier, Kip Garvey, Tony Oxendine, Jerry Story, and guest caller Romney Tannehill. Even the weather cooperated, with the threatened rain holding off until the wee hours of Sunday morning and only lasting about four hours.

Ron and Rita Boyles did a great job as wagonmasters, including dinner reservations at the steak house located on-site. Thanks Ron and Rita!!

The after party on Saturday night was also fun. It was hosted by Gary Carnes, ably assisted by Kip and the staff, and also featured a chili cook-off. Several

dancers demonstrated their culinary skills in this competition, but, (in our opinion), it was John Howard, an ex-Rafter Rocker, who stole the show. He bought 2 cans of Stagg's chili, heated it, put it back in the cans, set the cans in a borrowed crockpot, and served it as John's Gourmet Chili. We've known John and Kathleen for years, but never suspected that John had this mischievous sense of humor.

Next year's Winterfest will have Bronc Wise as the guest caller along with the regular staff, so mark your calendars and plan to attend this fun event.

BEGINNERS SQUARE DANCE CLASS

The first session of our Year 2000 beginners square dance class had a successful start January 26th. We had 10 couples come for the kickoff class. Also, we had a large turnout of Rafter Rockers to welcome the class and to get them dancing in the right direction, (sometimes the left). The new dancers were all enthusiastic. Many are return dancers, and some are former Rafter Rockers.

Vern Weese, who was auditioning to be our club caller, came early to teach the class when Ken Kenmille could not come. Vern created a lively atmosphere, and the dancers enjoyed the fun while being taught -- boopsie daisy and bingo.

Our free introductory beginners classes will continue through February 9th. Please encourage your friends who might be interested in learning to

square dance to come to these classes. The class will continue till September, and will graduate at the plus level.

Marv and Ina Tanner
Shingle Shakers Coordinators

DANISH DELIGHT - SOLVANG

We would like to have a group of Rafter Rockers attend the Danish Delight Square Dance Weekend at Solvang March 31, April 1 & 2, 2000. This is a Plus Level dance. Squares will be called by Mike Sikorsky and Bronc Wise. Rounds will be cued by Russ Mathewson. RVers will stay at Flying Flags, 1-800-688-3716, in Buellton. Recommended motel accommodations are at the Svendsgaard Danish Lodge, 1-800-341-8000, which is right next to the Veteran's Memorial Building in Solvang where the dance festival will be held.

A signup sheet and festival flyers, with the pre-registration form, are available at our weekly dance.

This promises to be an excellent festival for Rafter Rockers to attend, so please sign up.

Marv and Ina Tanner,
Wagonmasters

Patchwork Skirts

8x8 inch squares of material are needed to make the patchwork skirts for Circus Circus. Bring your squares to Mollie Henry or Jean Jones.

FROM THE ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

Theater Party

Rafter Rockers will be enjoying dinner at Casa Valencia, 6PM, The Goodby Girl, 8PM, and dessert after the show on Friday, February 25th.

The tuneful, funny 1993 musical based on Neil Simon's romantic comedy movie hit is the contemporary Broadway story of a struggling young actor trying to share an apartment with an ex-dancer and her precocious daughter. It promises to warm your heart and make you laugh.

See Jane Bishop if you'd like tickets or to volunteer to host the dessert party.

Capitola, March 11

Hike in Capitola for a very scenic 6 mile walk along the Monterey Bay coast and in Capitola on hidden paths and stairs. Lunch at Gayle's Bakery/Deli in Capitola is scheduled, and coffee at the wharf and/or wine-tasting at Bargetto's are options.

Sign up with Jean and Don Arndt, and we'll meet and carpool from Los Gatos Park & Ride, highway 9 entrance, at 9:30AM, Saturday, March 11. Bring clothing appropriate for weather changes. Rain cancels.

Charity Events

Thanks for your help and generosity with our charity events. The Salvation Army, Our Lady Of Fatima, and

Emmanuel are all grateful for our activities and donations. It makes our job easy when all the RRers participate in the silent auction and help bring cheer to folks less fortunate.

Editor's note: Tom & Jane deserve a very special thanks for all of their efforts over the years in organizing and spear-heading the club's activities in these charity events.

Future Activities

Please let us know if you'd like to organize an activity or if you have any suggestions for future RR activities.

Tom & Jane

FYI - Ron & Glenda McClelland's new address is:

903 Sweetwater Drive
Gardnerville, Nevada 89410
(775) 265-0854

COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE SQUARE DANCING - Article for the January Prompter

We have 5 beginner square dance classes (including one for our youth group) starting in January. All are advertised in the Prompter. This is a great opportunity to recruit new dancers since the holidays are over and, for most people, the next four months have the least schedule conflicts. In general there is a 4 pronged effort to maximize the number of people participating in these classes.

FIRST, each sponsoring club is distributing flyers and requesting their members to recruit new dancers.

SECOND, The Committee distributed flyers that describe the 5 January classes to all "non-sponsoring" clubs. It is CRITICAL TO OUR SUCCESS THAT EVERYONE-YOU-CONTACT FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS NOW. Although it might be tempting to wait until your club sponsors a class, our "leverage principle" states that for every new dancer in a current class will attract more than one of their friends when the next beginner class starts. Therefore we need YOU to take advantage of the current opportunity to recruit dancers.

THIRD, The Committee, is utilizing radio ads, VALPAC coupons, flyers, and our dance teams to promote these classes. Hopefully most of you have seen the two Ameritrade ads that integrate square dancing with on line trading. These national ads on CNBC and FOX demonstrate the vigor and excitement of square dancing and can only help our current campaign for the January classes.

FOURTH, The Committee is encouraging all September class members to recruit their friends and neighbors into one of the January classes.

Next, a brief summary of The Committee's September 1999 effort is as follows. Our most successful efforts were the radio ads, VALPAC coupons, flyer distribution, and dance teams. The Internet and PSA's are free and did provide several new dancers. Our movie theater result was poor. However Bronc Wise estimates he attracted 70 dancers from his movie theater ads? The Committee continues to monitor our cost per dancer and is evaluating both our current and future efforts. We do not want to draw a conclusion from just one effort since it can be

proven that every type of ad has worked great somewhere.

And finally, The Committee needs your thoughtful feedback and help as follows.

1. Dance Teams. Our dance teams have the capability to be extremely successful at attracting new dancers at no cost. They demonstrate and get participation in square dancing, round dancing, and line dancing. But we need more contacts-clubs, churches, etc., that would like this type of active entertainment. Please contact me if a group you belong to might like this type of participative entertainment.

2. Fund Raising. Starting with the beginner classes scheduled for September 2000 and forward, The Committee plans to focus promotions in 3 areas-those that are effective but cost little or nothing (flyer distribution, Internet, PSA's, dance teams), those areas that provide the best return on our investment, and any new opportunities. The current plan is to reduce our financial needs and to minimize and/or reduce fund raising events. One idea is to simply encourage all current dancers to make a once a year donation of \$4 or 5 per person to The Promotion Committee, regardless of whether or not they belong to the SCVSDA. Your consideration and feedback on how best to financially manage our promotion efforts in the future is requested.

One important reminder-for 1999, all donations to The Promotion Committee are tax deductible (since we are a 501C3 organization). For those people who contributed \$250 or more and would like a letter of confirmation, forward a note to me, stating the amount of your contribution(s) and I will provide you a letter.

Van Symons

Why Women Talk So Much

A husband, proving to his wife that women talk more than men, showed her a study which indicated that men use on the average only 15,000 words a day, whereas women use 30,000 words a day.

She thought about this for a while and then told her husband that women use twice as many words as men because they have to repeat everything they say.

Looking stunned, He said, "What?"