

From the



Hayloft

\*\*\*\*\* July 1995 \*\*\*\*\*

**FROM THE PRES:**

Many thanks to Honey Wolfson for calling at our June 28th and July 5th dances while club caller Ken was on vacation. We are pleased to welcome to the club: Don Herrera and Donna Sims, Richard and Anne Sandler, Howard and Mary Panttaja, and Lee and Laurel Wilson. Start lining up your friends for a new square dance class to begin Sept. 13th.

Our July 19th party night dance with Jerry Helt is going to be a dance to remember by all indications. With so many Wednesday night clubs responding to our invitations and other dancers asking to come, we will be hosting a very large group of square dancers. Although duty square for July is square seven, and it is the odd-squares turn to bring finger food, we think it would be advisable if all RR's brought goodies for this party.

Remember RR's picnic at Vasona Lake County Park on Sunday, Aug. 13th. Fun and games for all. Maps will be available next month. Bill and Joan Blood will have the coals fired up and ready for all you chefs. More details next month. Dancing at the Fair will be Aug. 2nd. There will be no dancing at the hall that evening.

Please read the letter (attachment 1) from the Belle Swingers concerning 5th Wednesdays combined club dances. We have written to them expressing our interest and will let you know the outcome.

We know there are times when you can't make it to a dance even though it is your duty square month. How about doing what some others are already doing - that is "trade-a-duty". That way you will be sharing your responsibility with your duty square members in a fair way. If you wish to refresh your memory on duty squares see attachment 2.

On a brighter note, Shirley Hall reports that Lee is doing well and we hope he will be back with us soon.

Jack and Anne

PS: We were honored to have special guests Elmer and Dot Stone dancing with us on July 5th. Elmer and Dot joined the Rafter Rockers 20-years ago, and were active in the club until leaving the area.

**CALLER'S CORNER**

Ken and Chris are enjoying a well deserved vacation so we'll catch them in the next issue

## FROM THE OUTGOING PRES.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to the many people who helped us while we were holding office - both as vice-president and as president of the Rafter Rockers. There are too many to mention by name without the risk of forgetting someone. We would just like to let everyone who helped us along the way know that we are very grateful. All of the board members were very supportive and did a great job, and all of the square heads made sure we knew where to dance and what to bring for party night.

I think everyone knows that being an officer of the Rafter Rockers is not an easy job, but all the people who worked with us and supported us made the job a lot easier. We both feel that the experience was very rewarding. We both grew as club members and got to know a lot more people in the club that we might not have otherwise. And we were constantly reminded of how this club comes together when the need arises. A good example is the record amount of money we collected during the silent auction. When other clubs are losing membership and even folding, the Rafter Rockers were able to maintain and even grow its membership. That doesn't happen because of the President of the club - although a bad one might bring a club down. The Rafter Rockers is the great fun-loving club that it is because of the people who come together to make it happen. We have a great caller but we also have people who take on the jobs that need to be done. Because they

do, club night is just another party night. If they didn't do those things necessary to make it all happen, club night would be chaos and attendance would drop fast. The President doesn't do all the work, he can only identify what needs to be done or delegate others to do what needs to be done. Because there are people willing to do their part, everything gets done and more. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of you who made our task so much easier.

We have just returned from a months vacation, and it was so great to be welcomed back so heartily by everyone. Almost 5 years ago I had no desire to learn square dancing, but Madonna drug me along, kicking and screaming the whole way. Now we don't know what we would do if we didn't have this great activity and great club. We have made so many new friends and enjoyed so many good times. Once again, thanks to all who have helped us along the way. A special thanks needs to go to Jack and Anne Fournier for filling our shoes. We wish them the best of luck and hope they enjoy the same kind of support that we did. Hope to see you all in a square sooner or later.

P.S. Congratulations to the new grads. You bring new vigor and vitality to the club. Welcome aboard to all the new members.

Les and Madonna

## Grass Valley Festival 5/12-13

Nine Rafter Rockers participated at the May-Daze Festival at Grass Valley -- Cyr, Gardinier, Berry, Boyles, Smith/Watson, Mason, Matthews, Nelson, and Symons. However, we were confused - we thought it was Mothers Day - we didn't know it was "mudders day". The beautiful Nevada fairgrounds turned into a valley of water and mud. Although the younger and inexperienced members of our group camped on the blacktop, the older and mature members went for the excitement of camping in the mud!!! ! But the many enjoyable activities made up for the weather. It's hard to beat the fabulous calling of the threesome of Story, Oxendine, and Preston. But in addition, we christened and toasted the Mason's new 5th wheel - you'll have to ask them about those mirrors in the bedroom ??? On Saturday night we all ate at a delightful German restaurant nearby and during the evening dance, some of the Symons and Boyles grandchildren showed up to provide a real show stopper. And finally, we capped this wonderful weekend off with our usual Sunday morning brunch - there was enough food for a small army - but isn't that the way the Rafter Rockers always do things - excessive.

Van Symons



## THEATRE PARTY

The next "theatre outing" will be

Sept. 29th at the Saratoga Community Theatre to see "Sound Of Music". As usual, we will plan to meet for dinner (optional) before the show. For details contact Betty Watson, Carol Mason, or Jane Bishop.



## SCVSDA DUES & INSURANCE

The bad news is SCVSDA dues and insurance need to be paid by July 19th. Club payment must be in by July 31st or we become delinquent. The good news is that the cost has gone down to \$5.50 per person or \$11.00 per couple. Please pay with your dues or send to the Treasurer. If you are on leave, the amount is payable upon your return. If you have paid through another club, please let Judy know. Association policy is "no insurance - no dancing".



## LEAVES OF ABSENCE

If you wish to take a leave of absence, please contact the Membership Chairman or Treasurer (in writing, if possible). All back dues need to be paid before a leave is granted. Leaves must be approved by the Board for a maximum of six months. An additional 6-month extension may be requested if necessary. Twelve months is the total amount of leave that may be extended per Club By-Laws.



## PATCHWORK SKIRTS

In order to make three patchwork

skirts, two for Circus Circus and one for the Silent Auction, we need 216 different patches. Let's start now!!

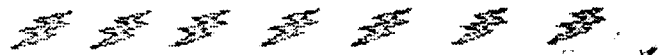
As you cut fabric for any project, consider how suitable it is for a patch. Cut one 8 inches by 8 inches from a scrap. You can save them up or hand them in one at a time to Helen Grant or Molly Henry, who have been great about putting patches together, or Jean Jones who does zippers and waistbands. Thanks.



### GRAND TETONS, YELLOWSTONE, GLACIER, & POINTS WEST

Despite predictions of foul weather to come, 5 Rafter Rocker couples set out on June 5th on a 23-day RV-adventure that would include travel in Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Oregon as well as California. The weather predictions came true, as the couples (comprised of the Barnes, den Broeders, De Palmos, Jones, and Wilsons) encountered severe winds, heavy rains, hail, and snow on this 3000-mile journey. However, despite this, it was a great trip. In addition to enjoying spectacular scenery, highlights of the trip included hiking (and seeing lots of wildlife) in the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks; visiting the outstanding Museum Of The Rockies in Bozeman MT. and the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker OR; watching Joan's nephew (who is a taxidermist) skin a grizzly bear; taking a jet-boat ride through Hells Canyon; attending the National

Oldtime Fiddlers Championships in Weiser Idaho; and visiting Ken's mother, Agnes Kenmille, at her home in Elmo MT. Agnes is a warm, gracious lady who made us feel welcome. It is easy to see where Ken gets his ready smile and great sense of humor. Another highlight was meeting up with the Gardiniers who were with us for 7-days in the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone, and then surprised us by showing up unexpected at our last night in Idaho. We had a few disappointments caused by the weather (we had to cancel a planned float trip on the Snake River, and the Going To The Sun Road in Glacier was closed at Logan Pass) but the many good times and the comaraderie of good friends made it a great trip.



## RAFTER ROCKER EVENTS CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Responsible Square</u>
July 19	Guest Caller - Jerry Helt	3
Aug 13	Rafter Rocker Picnic	All
Aug 16	Summer Short-Pants Dance	4
Sept 20	Back To School (In The 50's) Nite	5
Oct 25	Halloween Dance	6
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Dance - w/Acey Deuceys	All
Dec 2	Convalescent Hospital Dance	All
Dec 13	Christmas Party	7
Jan 17	Black & White Ball	8
Feb 14	Valentines Dance	1
Mar 20	St. Patricks Day Dance	2
Mar 23	Circus-Circus Hoedown	All
Apr 17	Hard Times Dance	3
May 15	Silent Auction	4
June 19	Amateur Callers Nite	5

## RAFTER ROCKER BOARD

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Vice President	Tom Robertson and Jane Bishop
Treasurer	Bob and Judy Hogan
Secretary	Bob and Carol Mason
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# Attachment 1

June 25, 1995

Dear Square Dancers,

There has been some interest in the Wednesday night Square Dance Clubs joining together when there is a month with five Wednesdays. On the fifth Wednesday they would meet at a designated place and dance together.

On the fifth Wednesday in March the Belle Swingers and the Gadabouts joined the Bows & Beaus at Whisman School in Mountain View. On the fifth Wednesday in May the Bows & Beaus and the Krazy Dazys joined the Belle Swingers at Las Palmas Park in Sunnyvale. In each case the dance floor was filled to capacity.

We would like to include more clubs but we would need a bigger dance floor.

Is there any club dancing in a place where the dance floor is large enough for approximately twenty squares? If so, would it be available for a fifth Wednesday dance?

If no club has a dance floor large enough all the clubs could join together and acquire a dance floor for approximately twenty dollars per club.

There would be no door donation (entrance charge). Refreshments would be provided on a pot luck basis. There would be a fifty-fifty drawing with the proceeds going to help pay for the dance floor.

As this is a regular dance night the callers would decide how they would share the calling, and would be free to join in dancing most of the night.

We are looking forward to your response to the above suggestions and any input (pro or con) you may be willing to offer.

The Belle Swingers Square Dance Club  
P.O. Box 60543  
Sunnyvale, CA. 94086

Ernie Van Den Broeke, President  
Tel. (408) 734-4404

# Attachment 2

## DUTY SQUARE AND HOW TO MAKE IT WORK

Those ugly 2 words "Duty Square" need not be so ugly. Setup and cleanup for dancing each week does not have to be a chore and basically requires less than 15 minutes of your time. If each square is organized, each couple should have to commit to no more than 2 nights for the month their square has the duty. Below is an example of how Square X, consisting of 10 couples who are currently active (not on LOA), would organize their square so that the chores are fairly shared. This example will show setup and cleanup duty for a month with 5 weeks.

	SETUP	CLEANUP
6/2	Couples 1 & 2 *	Couples 3 & 4
6/9	Couples 3 & 4	Couples 5 & 6
6/16	Couples 5 & 6	Couples 7 & 8
6/23	Couples 7 & 8	Couples 9 & 10
6/30	Couples 9 & 10	Couples 1 & 2 **

\* Couples 1 & 2 would have taken the coffee pot and water jug and supplies home the prior week (5/26) and returned them on 6/2.

\*\* Couples from the next month's Duty Square would take home the coffee pot, water jug and supplies. Couples 1 & 2 would only sweep up, put away chairs and help Ken.

The Square Head for each square should be able to organize this with a few phone calls to the people in their square. Everyone is expected to do their share and should be willing to commit to 2 nights a month, no more than twice a year, in order for this to go smoothly. In the past the names of the people in the duty square for that month has been posted on the bulletin board. We will be doing that again just as a reminder to folks as to when they have the duty. It will be up to the square head to organize his/her square in the above manner or, if they feel they have a better plan, to organize that plan. The important thing here is that it needs to be organized. Without any planning, the job does not get done or it gets done by the same people all the time. Some people may have some conflicts that prevent them from helping out during their duty month. In this case, it is their responsibility to find someone else they can trade months with. Some people may have a last minute conflict on their duty night. It is still their responsibility and must find someone to fill in for them. If someone isn't willing to commit 2 nights a month, no more than twice a year to the Duty Square, maybe they should look for another club or activity that doesn't ask so much of them.

I hope this will help everyone involved and make the Rafter Rockers a much more enjoyable club to be a part of. If anyone has any ideas or other solutions please feel free to share them with me. I am always looking for ways to make things easier. Thanks for everyone's help and cooperation and happy dancing to everyone.



## DUTY SQUARE

Responsibilities of the duty square are as follows:

For Setup:

1. Returning coffee pot, water jug and supplies if taken last week. Water jug should have ice.
2. Filling coffee pot with hot water and water jug with cold water. Putting out coffee supplies and cups.
3. Setting up chairs if not already done or setting up more if necessary.

For Cleanup:

1. Picking up cups, cleaning kitchen, emptying water jug and coffee pot, packing supplies.
2. Putting away chairs, sweeping floor. and helping Ken with his equipment.
3. One couple should take a coffee pot and water jug and supplies home to be returned the following week. Since there is 2 of everything, two couples are needed for this job.
4. Ken may also ask for help in turning out the lights and locking the doors.