



Hayloft

*****AUGUST 1998*****

FROM THE PRES

It looks as though Rafter Rockers will have another busy (and happy) year for 1998/99! We have plans underway for dancing at the fair (8/5), dancing at the Slab in Ben Lomond and celebrating Ken's birthday (8/15), and dancing at the Almaden Art and Wine Festival (9/20). A theatre night is planned on September 25th, to go to "Caberet", which will, of course, include dinner!

Ken will not be having a beginning dancer class this year, but will offer a Plus Workshop instead. This will be a perfect chance to brush up on your plus calls, get in more floor time, or just to review the calls. All club members will be able to participate FREE of CHARGE! A fee will be charged to those outside the club who wish to join the workshop. If you are only dancing at Rafter Rockers, don't get to dance too frequently, or just want to get some extra practice, this class is for YOU! It will make square dancing more enjoyable for all of us!

Glenn & I look forward to being involved in all these affairs....between trips, that is. Our big trip this summer

included the National Square Dance Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, and we plan a week at McCloud in August. Another planned trip is a fall colors cruise that will go from Montreal to New York! We will, of course, participate in many of the up-coming weekend hoedowns, which all adds to our dancing pleasure! The National Square Dance was really wonderful....at a lovely air conditioned Convention Center. It is great to see about 14,000 other dancers who enjoy your favorite pastime. Next year the convention is in Indianapolis, Indiana...the last week in June. We think it would be fun to get a group of Rafter Rockers to go along. Any takers? Let us know if you might be interested. Another large dance next year is the State Convention in Sacramento. This is closer, and we should send a large group to this one.

Our club continues to grow and prosper, and we are interested in any ideas you have to make it more enjoyable. Just give us a call with your suggestions. Happy dancing!

Lenny & Glenn

'Tis My Duty

"Gee, seems our square has the same Party Night each year." "Sure aren't many helping clean up tonight." "Our square is short, seems some never come."

Has everyone picked up the new roster and square lists? They are out and waiting for you. There have been a few changes and additions. We have five new member couples from our newer dancer class. We have made an additional square and robbed one couple from most established squares. So check them out. We have eight squares now, with 9 to 10 couples in each. This will let us rotate through the year and duties will not fall on the same month (and function) each time.

Members, please respond positively to your Square Head's call for help in arranging duty assignments during your month as Duty Square. Duties seem simple but require planning to make it easy for all:

A. Provide coffee, punch, and water for all club functions held during the month they serve.

B. Provide refreshments for Party Nights as directed.

C. Assist the Club Caller with setting up and removal of his equipment.

D. Set up and take down the dance hall, sweep the floor, clean up kitchen area, and turn off lights.

If you missed Party Night "at the beach", it was a great evening. Even though it was hot and summertime (with many people away), we had 10 squares. Lots of goodies, and even a mermaid show up on stage. If you haven't seen someone in a while, give them a call. We now have air conditioning.

Hugh Berry

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

A Couple of Fine Nights of Dining

On Friday evening, June 5, many RRs gathered at Casa Valencia to dine, then continue on to the magical land of BRIGADOON, presented by the Saratoga Drama Group. We then enjoyed the usual high level of desserts and fine company at Karl & Jackie's home for the after party.

Whether you have years of experience at our theatre parties, or have yet to enjoy your first, I hope you will join us on Friday, Sept. 25 for a similar evening with CABERET! Step back into the wild life of pre-war Berlin and enjoy this most popular of RR events. I will announce in early August the cost of the tickets and dinner. This time we will need to pay for the tickets "up front" so please plan now to hold that night open and be prepared to reserve your seats!

Ken's Birthday at the Slab

We are planning to have a potluck

dinner on Saturday, August 15, at the Slab in Ben Lomond. That is Ken's actual birthday AND he is the featured caller. Please sign up so we will know who to expect. We will gather at about 6:00 for dinner, and enjoy birthday cake during the dance. We hope there will be a huge RR turnout for this event. Let's support our caller!

Future Events

There are a couple of events down the road that you should put on your calendar now:

On Sunday, Sept. 20, we have been invited to dance at the Almaden Wine and Art Festival. Ken will call and we will do a couple of tips. It would be fun to have a potluck lunch at the park after we dance. More later.

We are planning to hike at Fall Creek in Felton on some Saturday morning in October. That is a beautiful time of year and it's a lovely hike up to the kilns where building materials were produced in the late 1800s and early 1900s for the building of San Francisco. We thought we could follow the hike with a stop for a picnic lunch at the winery across the road....

Do you notice a theme here? Let's eat in as many different places as we can!

If you have ideas for an outing, please contact Jackie and Karl. We are new at this and would like your input! Thanks!

Jackie & Karl

A Committee Is Working On Ways To Promote Square Dancing

Most square dancers are aware that the active membership of square dance clubs has dropped off and that there is a significant lack of younger dancers in our clubs. This is clearly a danger signal to the future of square dancing - the activity we all enjoy so much. Van Symons of the Rafter Rockers decided to do something about these problems and organized the Committee To Promote Square Dancing.

The purpose of this committee is to initiate actions and activities that will increase the enjoyment of square dancing and increase participation by both current and new dancers. As a start, invitations to participate were sent to all of the clubs in the valley that dance on Wednesday night. The actively participating clubs are the Rafter Rockers, Crazy Dazys, Jokers, Bows and Beaus, and the Gadabouts.

A few of the ideas that are being pursued are:

*Drop-in dances on weekend nights. These are basic teaching sessions of contra, line, and square dancing to develop interest in these activities for non-dancers. Gary Carnes and the Jokers are holding three of these evenings this summer. The first evening was very successful with 60 non-dancers attending.

*Reduced class length
Teaching will be conducted in 15-

week segments instead of the 9-month program commonly used now. This will make it easier for couples to commit to and complete a teaching series. Keith Ferguson is going to try this format with the Bows and Beaus beginner class this fall.

*Encourage drop-ins on club nights

Each club should charge a fee for drop-in guests and encourage non-members to come without an obligation to join.

*Relaxed dress code

Encourage clubs, hoedowns and festivals to accept country outfits as appropriate dancewear, and allow casual summer wear.

*Improve dancing quality

Encourage mixing on the dance floor and include workshops as a portion of regular dance nights.

The Rafter Rockers who are participating on the committee are Ken and Chris Kenmille, Van and Anna May Symons, Shirley Hall, Chuck and Phyllis DePalmo, Marv and Ina Tanner, Tom Robertson and Jane Bishop. If you have any questions or suggestions, please talk to one of these people.

Chuck DePalmo

Thought Provoker

I've heard that some of you enjoy solving puzzles, so thought I'd try the following on you:

There are three beasts of burden, a donkey, a goat,

and a camel. They carried either kegs of oil or drums of dates.

1. If the donkey carried dates, then the goat carried oil.
2. If the donkey bore oil, then the camel carried dates.
3. If the goat carried dates, then the camel carried oil.

Whose burden do we know? Who always carried the same load? (Answer on later page).

NEW MEMBERS

Everyone please extend a warm welcome to our newest Rafter Rockers:

Otis & Patti Gresham
Brad & Maria Kuentz
Joe Mannina & Virginia Savstrom
Norman & Betty Storms
Leslie Tract & Velma Straight

We published the following a year ago, but it seems like a great reminder:

Be Kind To Beginners

Be kind to the beginners
even though they often flub.
With courtesy let's greet 'em,
They're the new blood of the club.
And when we see them struggling
Let us lend a willing hand,
To guide them o'er the rough spots
And to help them understand.
Be good to the beginners
When they join you in a square,
And introduce your partner
To the gent and his lady fair.
And though they may be strangers
When you walk into the set.
Remember that a stranger
Is a friend you haven't met.

A BIT OF CLUB HISTORY

I was going through the club scrapbook the other day, and noted a few things about our history that I thought might be of interest to some of you.

The Rafter Rocker Club was organized in 1955 by Jack & Neva Johannes, and consisted of 17 couples (including George & Eddie Spooner who some of us old-timers remember). Their principle dance location was Union school.

The 1956 class included Werner & Clara Boe who were also well known to us old-timers.

In 1962 the RRs joined both the Santa Clara Valley Square Dancers Association and the Northern California Square Dancers Association.

The 1965 Board included George & Betty Hallett and Charlie & Dot Ash.

In 1974, Bob Tripp became the caller, and in 1976 the beginner class included Bill & Beth Barnes, Tom & Jeannie Palma, and Mel and Arlene Peterson.

In 1977 the club began it's association with the Bethesda Convalescent Home (now Emmanuel), a tradition that we proudly continue today; and 1978 saw the advent of our controversial "barn outfits", designed by then Rafter Rocker Roberta Baert.

The first Circus Circus hoedown was put on in 1979, and that year's class included Chuck & Phyllis DePalmo and Otto & Carol

Schmid.

Bob Tripp retired in 1980, and was replaced by Ken (a lucky day for the RRs). That year's class included Don & Ginger Gilbert, Don & Linda Peterson, and Van & Anna May Symons.

Two big events in 1981 were the National Square Dance Convention in Seattle, and Ken & Chris' wedding, with a number of Rafter Rockers in attendance.

The first Black and White Ball was in 1987.

SILENT AUCTION

Once again the Rafter Rockers showed their generosity by supporting the Silent Auction, both in the items donated and the bids offered. Our charity fund, used to provide gifts to the nursing homes where we dance during the holiday season, and to support other charities, benefited by nearly \$1,000. Items that drew the most action included a wheel-barrow planter donated by Joe Carboni, Lavon's chocolate cake, Marion's toffee, a shawl made by Carmen, gourmet dinners offered by Tom and Jane and the Edsingers, patchwork skirts, and various items bearing the Rafter Rocker logo. Many thanks to all of you for your support of this worthy event. Thanks, too, to those who could not attend but donated items for the auction and made cash contributions to the charity fund.

Tom & Jane

GOURMET DINNER

On the evening of August 7th, three couples (Joe Zankich and Doris Plymire, Joe Carboni and Tricia McCandless, Don Ferguson and Pat Donovan) who were successful in out-bidding others, assembled for the pleasure of having a gourmet dinner prepared by Tom Robertson and served by Jane Bishop. The feasting began with a plate of Truffle pate and French Brie. Next came a Portobello mushroom stuffed with fresh vegetables and sausage. A light seafood salsa followed, consisting of diced peppers, cucumber, tomato, avocado, olive, fresh herbs, and shrimp and crab, served on Belgian Endive leaves. A cream of asparagus soup, garnished with green onion and fresh basil, came next, as the diners moved from casual seating to the dinner table. Savory Salmon Wellington with a lemon-dill-caper sauce had some of the diners thinking they had come to the main course; but a salad of mixed spring greens, apple wedges, walnuts, baked goat cheese patty, and a dressing of raspberry vinaigrette made it clear that there was still much to come. The main course, Chicken Kiev, brown and wild rice pilaf with toasted almonds, and mixed green and yellow string beans, finally arrived as darkness descended upon the *al fresco* diners. A light dessert of scented orange slices was followed by a serious dessert of "Black and White Symphony" cake, served with chocolate-raspberry flavored coffee. An assortment of wines were offered throughout the evening, including Santa Inez Cabernet, Firestone

Gewertztraminer, Fetzer Merlot, and some Chardonay and white Zinfandel.

Rafter Rocker Board

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Answer to Thought Provoker

This puzzle can be solved by making a table of all possibilities:

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
<u>Donkey</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>d</u>
<u>Goat</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>d</u>
<u>Camel</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>d</u>

Condition 1 tells us that if the donkey carried dates, then the goat carries oil. This eliminates G and H

Condition 2 tells us that if the donkey bore oil, then the camel carried dates. This eliminates A and C

Condition 3 tells us that if the goat carried dates, then the camel carried oil. This eliminates D

This leaves B, E, and F all of which satisfy the stated conditions. Examining these cases leads to the conclusion that the only one whose burden we can be sure of is the goat; since in all three situations the goat carried the oil.

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