

From the



Tillman

Hayloft

***** NOVEMBER 1998 *****

HAPPY

FROM THE PRES

The fall season is underway...travelers have returned, and it is great to see everyone on Wednesday evenings. What makes the Rafter Rockers a superior club is the enthusiasm and participation of our members. When a job needs to be done, many hands pitch in to do it. It is so easy not to become involved when there is work to be done...but we see very little of that.

This year we have undertaken a large job...the Thanksgiving Dinner, (November 24), which was previously

sponsored by Acey Deuceys and the Line Dance Club. It requires a lot of participation by our members, as we are to cook the turkeys, dressing and gravy, as well as furnishing raffle prizes and toys for the Salvation Army. Once again, we are seeing members pitching in and volunteering to do whatever they can. Still needed are people to help in the kitchen, and more raffle prizes. Congratulations to Jane Bishop and Tom Robertson for their work in chairing this major square dancing event.

There have been some opinions

THANKSGIVING

expressed to say that they were not in favor of having both this dinner, and the December potluck, (December 9), which follows two weeks after the turkey dinner. Since we are committed to working on both of these for this year, we will continue to do the jobs needed. However, we can certainly evaluate what we want to do for the next year. If you have creative suggestions, we need to hear them.

We are excited, as well, by the prospect of dancing for the Nursing Homes on December 5th. Jackie Daemion has done such a wonderful job of locating material, purchasing, cutting and serging 25 lap robes for the Emmanuel Nursing Home. We need a few "sergers" to complete the other robes. They are lovely, warm fleece. I know the residents will love them.

Another need is for a Chairman to coordinate our Activities. This does not mean that you would be obligated to do all the work, just to coordinate the planning. If you would be able to work this into your busy schedule, PLEASE let us know. Otherwise, we may not be doing too much socially in 1999.

We want to wish all of you a wonderful, and happy holiday season. May you be in good health, and enjoy time with your families.

Lenny & Glenn

DANCING AT MCCLLOUD CALIFORNIA

This year a number of Rafter Rockers

spent a week dancing with a national caller, such as Bronc Wise, Mike Sikorsky, Johnny Preston, or Bob Baier at McCloud Cal. This is a wonderful program that includes 3 workshops and nightly dances, plus get acquainted parties, dinner buffets and desserts, skits and nightly bonfires with singing. In addition, you'll have time to enjoy the area-golf, fish, boat, hike, go to Birney falls, etc. This year they also organized a brunch at the Mount Shasta ski resort which also included a ride up the tram to the top.

For 1999, I will be promoting this exciting opportunity to have a dancing vacation, to make many new square dance friends, and to enjoy a beautiful area. In addition to the beautiful RV park, there are numerous reasonably priced B&B's in the area. The regular program runs from Sunday thru Thursday night, and you simply pick the level you want to dance and the caller you want to dance with. These programs normally run from June 1st to about the middle of September. You can also participate in the Friday and Saturday programs anytime you are in the area.

I'll have the 1999 schedule by late October for you to look over. We'll even make you a promise - once you go, you'll be hooked for life. It's a great combination of fun and dancing and mixing with people from all over the country.

Van Symons

THANKSGIVING DINNER

On Thursday, November 24th, Rafter Rockers will co-host the annual Thanksgiving dinner and Toys To Tots drive to benefit the Salvation Army.

This dinner has been a tradition in the square dance community since at least 1982 when it was held at Union School. Clubs who would not be dancing Thanksgiving week were invited to gather together on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to share the spirit of the season and the fun of dancing.

For many years the Acey Deuceys Square Dance Club sponsored the event, and eventually moved it to John Muir School. Then, when Joanne and Ted Arrouzet began to use Muir for line dancing, Acey Deuceys and Steppin-n-Stomping Line Dancers began to co-host the dinner.

When Honey and Chuck Wolfson and the Acey Deuceys retired last December, Joanne and Jane promised to continue the tradition. Fortunately, at a recent RR Board meeting, the Rafter Rockers voted to co-host the dinner with Joanne's group, and continue the square dance community's participation in the event.

Many thanks to all the turkey, dressing, gravy, and mashed potato cooks, and to all the raffle prize donors. The raffle provides a significant cash contribution to the Salvation Army and to John Muir School. Thanks as well to all who have attended, supported, and helped to make this evening possible. Your generosity and spirit are truly appreciated; and we

hope to see many RR's at the dinner at 7:00 p. m. at John Muir School.

Jane & Tom

THEATRE PARTY

Jackie Daemion and her helpers, Betty Watson and Donna Herrera, did a great job organizing the fall theatre party on September 25th. Everyone enjoyed the dynamic production of Cabaret by the Saratoga Drama Group. Many gathered before the show at Hometown Buffet, and a few hearty souls topped off their evening with dessert at Baker's Square.

1998 JUBILEE

How wonderful to see many RR couples and recent Shingle Shaker graduates out to support Ken and the other Top Ten callers at the Jubilee in Watsonville on October 9th and 10th.

We missed the pagentry of former Jubilees, but we did enjoy dancing, seeing many familiar faces, and meeting new ones. It was a great weekend with superb weather, an excellent BBQ dinner, and fine dancing. Let's hope dancers continue to support the Jubilee.

Tom & Jane

Barn Dresses/Patchwork Skirts

With the holidays hard upon us, it will be sooner than you think when Circus Circus time rolls around. Those who want "barn" dresses or patchwork skirts for the occasion should be

making arrangements with someone to have them made. Perhaps Jean Jones has the patterns and could help.

IN MEMORY OF

As Circus Circus rolls around on March 27, we will certainly miss Liz Carroll who passed away in October after a valiant struggle with cancer.

Many RR's attended her services and extended sympathies to her husband Ken. Donations were sent in her memory to Kaiser Hospice.

CONVALESCENT HOMES

It's not too late to sign up for dancing at the Emmanuel and/or Our Lady of Fatima convalescent homes on December 5th. The schedule is:

- 10:30 Dancing at Emmanuel
- 11:45 Brunch at Live Oak Kitchen
- 2:00 Dancing at Our Lady of Fatima

You are welcome to participate in 1, 2, or all of the above activities. If going to the brunch, don't forget to prepay and indicate your choice of dishes on the sign-up sheet at club, or see Jane. Also, don't forget to bring Christmas cards and cookies to club on December 2nd.

Rafter Rockers are making 50 lap robes for Emmanuel - Maria Kuentz made the first one, and Jackie Daemion, her sister and her elves are making the others; and we are giving Our Lady of Fatima a CD-tape boom box. Both gifts are in response to desires of the homes.

NAPA VALLEY GRAPE FESTIVAL

As expected, the Rafter Rockers turned out in force for the Napa Valley Grape Festival with 24 RV rigs and others staying in local motels. This has historically been one of the best weekends of dancing and socializing of the year, and this year was no exception. The weather was great, and in addition to dancing, folks found a whole host of other local activities (golf, shopping, wine-tasting, a craft fair, etc.).

The square dancing to callers Bob Baier, Gary Carnes, Kip Garvey, Dan Nordby and Joe Saltel was outstanding; and was ably augmented by Sharon and Casey Parker on rounds, and Joanne and Ted Arrouzet teaching country-western. The afterparty on Saturday night was one of the best that we've attended for some time. Gary Carnes acted as master-of-ceremonies, and all of the callers joined in with some great singing and some hilarious clowning around that kept the audience thoroughly entertained.

As usual, the Saturday night potluck was a huge success with 50 participants stuffing themselves with that excellent Rafter Rocker cooking. This year's dinner seemed especially good, even by Rafter Rocker standards. A great big THANK YOU goes to Tom and Anna Hoegel who made all of the parking arrangements, and organized the potluck, including getting the use of one of the halls so that we could

eat inside.

The whole weekend was punctuated with good conversation, many moments of hilarity (which we wouldn't even try to repeat), and even some creative art work to accent the exterior of Hugh and Jobie Berry's new Dynasty - Jobie thinks that they now have at least a years supply of toilet paper.

Because they are going to tear down and rebuild the main hall, Kip thinks that next years Grape Festival will probably be the last one. So mark your calendars for November 12-14 and let's all turn out to enjoy this festival one last time.

HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Don't forget our traditional Holiday Potluck on December 9th. The duty square will purchase and prepare ham and turkey-ham, and you are asked to bring a dish for 10-12 people (see sign-up sheet for ideas), a donation of \$1.00 per person for the meat, and an unwrapped toy to give to the Salvation Army. This event is always a lot of fun, so plan to attend.

TIGER WOODS BEWARE

Please forgive my writing this article, (which has nothing whatsoever to do with square dancing), but I wanted to relate my adventure as a first-time golfer. Actually, this was not my first time, since I played 3 or 4 times 30 or so years ago, and even have an old second-hand set of clubs. But for all

intents and purposes it was my first time.

It started when Bill Barnes, Dennis Busch and Hugh Berry were kind enough, (or ornery enough) to invite me to complete their foursome. At the appointed time we assembled on the first tee, and the other three, in turn, stepped up and drove the ball smartly down the fairway. Then it was my turn. I took a couple of practice swings and then went for the ball with a mighty effort. Unfortunately, I completely missed the ball..... not once, not twice, but three times. One of my buddies then suggested that I take a deep breath - which helped a lot, and on the next try I hit the ball. Of course it was a grounder that barely cleared second base, but at that point I was willing to settle for anything that let me get off the tee. My friends wisely suggested that I pick up my ball and take it down to the vicinity of where their drives had landed - which I did. Now, I knew I couldn't hit a fairway wood, so I selected a five iron. Guess what, I couldn't hit a five iron either. Well, in the next several shots I managed to dribble the ball to within a seven iron range of the hole. That is, if you could hit a seven iron. I was proving to be a truly consistent golfer - I missed with every club I tried. We eventually finished the first hole, and the other guys tactfully suggested that I not keep score.

As the day went on, I did start to occasionally hit the ball, and feel a

little less awkward. At one point, Bill suggested that I try his driver as opposed to my ancient club. I got off a good drive, and for a short time I gloried in the delusion that my problems had really been the fault of my clubs. This delusion was soon dispelled when I tried his driver again.

I did have a few holes that I felt reasonably good about, (aided by my friends who did such things as surreptitiously kick my ball back into the fairway, etc.). But then things started to go down hill again. By the thirteenth hole I was exhausted and I couldn't figure out why - the other guys were fresh as daisies. Then I realized how many more shots I'd taken than they had.

After that round of golf, I was inclined to think that maybe I should let that be my first and last attempt. However, it seems to me that the game is composed of 1) enjoying great out-of-doors scenery, 2) getting some good healthy exercise, 3) enjoying the companionship of some really great guys, and 4) mastering the art of hitting that @(*&% ball. Well, maybe 3 out of 4 aint bad.....and I did hit a few good ones.....now where did they say Don's Golf Shop was located?..... I could start with a new driver.....maybe I could call up my old high school buddy Earl Woods (Tiger's dad).....he'd probably be willing to give me a few pointers - you know, just to sharpen up my game

your friendly editor

HIKING ETC.

If anyone is interested in hiking, (sorry, the Fall Creek trail in Felton mentioned in your August Hayloft was too storm damaged for that hike to take place), please see Jean Arndt or Jane Bishop. (We could still go wine tasting as mentioned in that Hayloft article - see Jackie, Jean or Jane)

Shirley's Doing Well

Although we miss seeing her on the dance floor, we report happily that Shirley Hall is doing very well following her second knee replacement surgery. She will be at the Thanksgiving dinner on the 24th; and she has appreciated all the cards, calls, and good wishes from all her RR friends.

THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM A DOG!

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride. Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy. When loved ones come home, always run to greet them. When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.

Let others know when they've invaded your territory. Avoid biting when a simple growl will do. Take naps and stretch before rising. Run, romp, and play daily.

Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Be loyal. Never pretend to be something you're not. If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it. When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently. Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shady tree. When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body. No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout...run right back and make friends. Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

... found on a bulletin board

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	

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