

Tillman

From the Rafter Rocker Hayloft



LOS GATOS, CA.

*****AUGUST 1999*****

FROM THE PRESIDENT

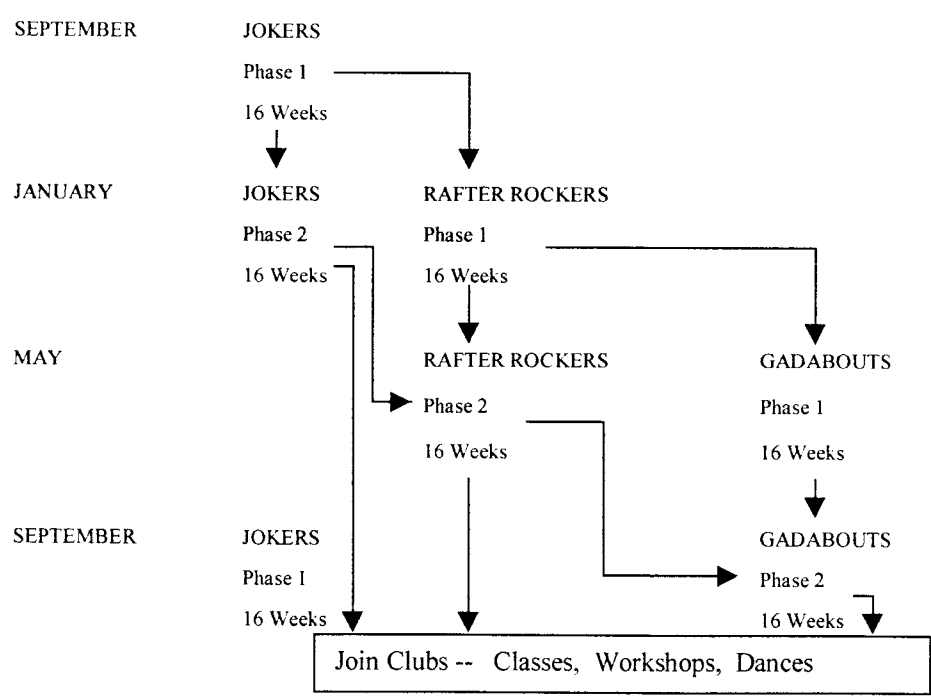
After the first few weeks of being locked out of the hall, putting 200+ chairs away, taking down a room-full of tables and cleaning the floor, I thought it was an omen. Perhaps, I should resign and lift the "hex." I am happy to say things are looking up. We are having a fun summer - lots of dancers every week and truly enjoying having the Gadabouts with us!

August 18 - Rafter Rocker and Gadabouts will be co-hosting an open dance with donations going to the Committee to Promote Square Dancing. We are asking everyone to bring fruit platters or finger desserts.

August 21 - Ken will be calling at the Slab. A potluck dinner is planned and Jane and Tom are in charge. More details will follow.

September 8 - We return to Union School. It's hard to believe summer has gone by so fast!

Bob and I attended a meeting called by the Committee to Promote Square Dancing. A plan for beginner classes was presented to the attending clubs. Basically, it is a rotating class schedule offering several options to the newer dancers. The participating clubs will begin classes at three times during the year, giving beginning dancers the choice of moving on to the next level or remaining at their present level if they need to repeat or wish to dance at that level. Below is a chart of the plan. Being the largest club in the Valley and having supported the Committee, I felt we needed to give the plan a chance. We all know dancing is declining and we need to explore new ideas. This plan has worked well in Southern California. Hopefully, it will prove viable for our area. Several questions and concerns were expressed at the meeting. The Committee and Callers are addressing these issues. If you want more information, contact me or Van Symons, Chairman of the Committee. We will start our class in January. I hope you will be optimistic and support the efforts to help square dancing grow and flourish.



FROM ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN
(Jane Bishop)

Theatre Party –Friday, Oct. 1st

Act 1 Dinner at 6:00 – any suggestions?

Act 2 The show - My Fair Lady by Lerner and Lowe, said by many to be the best musical comedy ever written. Re-experience the classic musical battle of wits between Professor Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle. Set against the streets and estates of London, enjoy “I Could Have Danced All Night,” “The Rain In Spain,” “I’ve Grown Accustomed To Her Face,” and “On The Street Where You Live”.

Act 3 Dessert – Willing to host this after-theatre favorite? We all bring drinks, desserts and necessities. Please see Jane to volunteer.

For tickets (\$14 each) & reservations – see Jane.

Dancing Under the Stars

Help celebrate Ken’s birthday on August 21st with a potluck dinner and dancing under the stars on the slab at Ben Lomond.

Potluck – set up at 6:00, eat at 6:30

Dancing – 8:00

Also, the following Saturday Gary Carnes will be calling the season’s finale at the slab. Come enjoy yourselves and help promote square dancing.

The Fair

The Rafter Rockers had a great turnout last Wednesday to dance at the Santa Clara Co. Fair. Cool weather made dancing a pleasure. Joe Carboni, were you there every night? What a way to promote

square dancing! Also, our cuer danced every dance Friday night, our last evening of dancing at the fair. Way to go Shirley Hall! A final observation – we sure bought lots of cinnamon rolls!

Anyone For Hiking?

How about a fall hike? We are fortunate to have many beautiful nearby trails. See Jean and Don Arndt for details and requests. Let’s set a date! Dust off your boots or sturdy shoes and have some fun and good exercise.

USS Hornet

Some RRers have expressed interest in a group trip to the USS Hornet and perhaps Jack London Square. We’d board the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier Museum, (designated a National Historical Monument in 1991), at pier 3 Alameda; and see the ship which was honored for her role in WWII and for recovering the Apollo 11 and 12 moonwalkers. Anyone willing to organize this trip please contact Jane.

KOOL KAPER

Once again, the Kool Kaper festival, held at the Santa Cruz County fairgrounds was an outstanding success. As everyone in San Jose sweated, we enjoyed 3 days of beautiful cool breezes while dancing with Bronc Wise, Mike Sikorsky, and Mike Jacobs. They provided a separate hall for A and plus dancing and featured Russ Mathewson doing the rounds. The after party featured the 3 callers singing lots of our favorite tunes. We also parked our rigs on grass and under trees (wow).

The Symons, Boyles, Nichols/Foster, Sandlers, and Steele/Plunkett’s did their best to make sure everyone knew the Rafter Rockers were in town.

The same dance and same callers is set for July 7, 8, 9 in 2000 so make a note-it’s a superb 3 days of dancing.

Van Symons

DEAR RAFTER ROCKERS -

Chris and I have come to a decision and, although my five square dance clubs are very dear to me, and it will be especially difficult to leave the Rafter Rockers (as it will be 20 years next spring that I have called for you), I feel that our parents have become more important to us at this time in our lives. Each of our three remaining parents has been in the hospital within the last six months and, although they are all recuperating, another time we may not be so lucky and Chris and I would regret the lost opportunities to be with them. Therefore we have decided to retire and make the move to Montana, probably in June of 2000.

As many of you know, I will be retiring from my electrical job around the 1st of March of next year, but I will plan to remain with the clubs until June to see the beginner classes graduate, and to complete other square dance commitments I already have.

We decided to notify our clubs at this early date to give ample time for you to audition and decide on a new caller and give you the decision of when to switch to the new caller.

I do not intend to give up calling, as I do love the people and the joy of the activity. Rather, I will probably become a "traveling" caller. Our plan is to divide our time between Montana in the summers (with my Mom), Mesa, Arizona, in the winters (with Chris' Dad), and various trips to Portland to see Chris' family and back to the Bay Area to visit with my children.

I already have had some offers to call some dances in Montana and Oregon; even in Colorado from the club of Les and Madonna Gardinier (former Rafter Rockers). And, of course, we plan to be part of the very active dancing community in Mesa during the winters.

Chris and I would just like to say that our association with the clubs and the dancers of the Bay Area has been a wonderful experience and we wouldn't trade it for the world. We hope to be back ever so often for a hoedown in the area, or perhaps we'll see you in Mesa --

Fondly,

Chris & Ken

COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE SQUARE DANCING

To develop a strategy that ATTRACTS AND RETAINS dancers, the Committee to Promote Square Dancing contacted marketing people to determine how to market what the public wants and held discussions with successful recruiting associations and callers to determine what might work best for our area. We then presented a proposal for conducting our beginner classes to the Callers Association and to the 13 general Plus clubs between Palo Alto and San Jose. Based on the outstanding support received from these groups, the proposal is being implemented this fall by most of these clubs.

There are 3 major components to the plan-MULTI-CYCLE CLASSES, CENTRALIZED CLASSES, AND 16 WEEK SEGMENTED CLASSES.

MULTI-CYCLE means we have classes starting in September, January, and May. Therefore, people starting in September can recruit their friends into a January class and people who need to repeat and people who are interested in dancing won't have to wait up to 9 months to join a class.

CENTRALIZED means we will offer classes in somewhat of a north, south, east, and west location and on different nights of the week. This creates larger classes which increases the fun and sociability of dancing and reduces drop outs.

SIXTEEN WEEK SEGMENTS means that at the end of a segment, dancers will have 3 choices-to go to the next 16 week segment, to immediately repeat the class (by joining the next new class), or to stay at their current level and dance at monthly dances designed just for them.

One way to explain this concept is to imagine that we have 4 classes starting in September, 4 starting in January, and 4 in May. For those starting the September class, their first 16 week segment will end at the beginning of January. They can then continue on with the same class and complete the next 16 week segment, or they can repeat by joining one of the January classes, or they can stay at this level and participate in the

monthly dances. At the end of each 16 week segment they will be encouraged to recruit their friends into one the beginner classes. It's important to note that this plan has been successfully implemented in other areas but not to the extent of our plan. In addition, this year the bows and Beaus initiated the September, January, May plan with excellent results.

The Promotion Committee believes that this plan, merged with our promotional efforts, provides the best opportunity we'll have to "jump start" a significant increase in recruiting new dancers. As a result of implementing this plan, the Committee is budgeting funds to promote our January and May classes. Currently our total donations are \$11,112.64. Some of these funds and all of the funds donated at the Mike Sikorsky dance on 7/13 and the Rafter Rocker/Gadabout dance on 8/18 will be utilized to promote the January and May classes. This fall, from 9/6 through 9/19 be sure to listen to KRTY (93.3 FM) and KLIV 1590 AM) from 6 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. to hear our radio ad. Also attend a movie at the Century 21-25 theaters between 8/13 to 9/20 and you'll see our movie theater ad.

And finally, please note that the most critical effort in all of this is FOLLOW THROUGH-by the committee and by all our square dancers. The committee has the responsibility to collect the names and pertinent information about interested dancers, to understand their dancing requirements, and to provide them with key information. Each name will be maintained in a data base and forwarded to one of the beginner class clubs. Each club is expected to assign club members to personally contact these people, to get them to the class, to help them to understand the fun and sociability of dancing, and to answer their questions and concerns. You aren't to be an "angel," rather you are being a MENTOR. This not only increases our success rate, it gives every one of us the chance to promote this activity that we all love and want to share with others.

Van Symons

WHY PARENTS GET GREY

The boss of a big company needed to call one of his employees about an urgent problem with one of the main computers. He dialed the employee's home phone number and was greeted with a child's whispered, "Hello?" Feeling put out at the inconvenience of having to talk to a youngster the boss asked, "Is your Daddy home?" "Yes," whispered the small voice. "May I talk with him?" the man asked. To the surprise of the boss, the small voice whispered, "No." Wanting to talk with an adult, the boss asked, "Is your Mommy there?" "Yes," came the answer. "May I talk with her?" Again the small voice whispered, "No." Knowing that it was not likely that a young child would be left home alone, the boss decided he would just leave a message with the person who should be there watching over the child. "Is there any one there besides you?" The boss asked the child. "Yes," whispered the child, "a policeman." Wondering what a cop would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked "May I speak with the policeman?" "No, he's busy," whispered the child. "Busy doing what?" Asked the boss. "Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the Fireman," came the whispered answer. Growing concerned and even worried as he heard what sounded like a helicopter through the ear piece on the phone the boss asked, "What is that noise?" "A hello-copper," answered the whispering voice. "What is going on there?" asked the boss, now alarmed. In an awed whispering voice the child answered, "The search team just landed the hello-copper" Alarmed, concerned and more than just a little frustrated the boss asked, "Why are they there?" Still whispering, the young voice replied along with a muffled giggle, "They're looking for me"

RECIPES

Here are two more recipes from our great Rafter Rocker cooks. Keep em coming!

Garden Potato Dip (From Tasha Burkett)

(Makes 3 cups)

2 cups frozen Ore-Ida Mashed Potatoes (firmly packed)
1 cup milk
1/2 cup light or regular ranch salad dressing
1/2 cup plum tomatoes, chopped
1/2 cup red, orange and/or yellow bell peppers, chopped
1/4 cup pitted Kalamata or ripe olives, chopped
1/4 cup red onion or chives, chopped
1/4 tsp each salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
Prepare potatoes according to package directions

using 1 cup milk for 6 minutes in microwave (3-4 minutes on stove top). Stir remaining ingredients into potatoes; cover and chill at least 2 hours before serving. Serve with pita or bagel chips and fresh vegetables dippers, such as wedges of bell peppers and carrot and celery sticks

Chicken Enchiladas (From Jean Jones)

Ingredients

2 Chicken Breasts
One bag small flour tortillas
1 Yellow Onion (Diced)
1 Small Green Pepper (Diced)
3 Garlic Cloves (or 1 tablespoon jar wet Garlic)
1 Can Diced Green Chilies and Olive Oil (make oil/paste)
1 large bag shredded Monterey/Cheddar Cheese
Sour Cream
Can Enchilada Sauce (or Verde Sauce)

Directions:

Sauté onion, garlic, pepper in Chile/oil paste Add raw (diced) chicken until brown.

Put chicken mixture into tortillas with a little cheese. Roll and place seam down in greased (PAM) glass casserole dish.

Sauce:

Combine 2/3 cup sour cream and 1 can Enchilada sauce (or one jar Verde sauce). Pour over tortillas. Top with 2 cups cheese.

Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Serve with rice and beans. Serves 4 to 5

NEW LONG DISTANCE

YOU ASKED FOR IT: KT&T Communications, not to be confused with AT&T Communications, has registered several new operating units in Texas. Those companies, "I Don't Know", "I Don't Care", "It Doesn't Matter", and "Whoever", charge about double the cost of some other long distance companies for operator-assisted long distance calls, the Associated Press says. The choice comes when the operator asks which long distance company you want to complete your call. "It's not deceptive at all," insists Dennis Dees, president of KT&T. Dees won't say how

many calls his new companies has completed, but said "I Don't Care" and "It Doesn't Matter" were the most successful.

LATEST UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE SQUARE DANCING

By the time you read this our 7 major promotions will be in full swing-the KRTY ads, KLIV ads, Century 21-25 movie theater ads, VALPAC coupons, Public Service Announcements, our web page on the Internet, and our dance teams. Our promotions focus on our image (fun loving and energetic people) and our product (a fun way to socialize, exercise, and travel). As we all know, our objective is to greatly increase the number of newer dancers in our area. But these efforts can only succeed with FOLLOW UP BY ALL OF US.

There are 2 significant parts to follow up. First, many of you know friends and neighbors who might want to join a class or people who previously started a class but dropped out. As described below, it is very important that you contact these people and encourage their participation. Even if your club does not have a beginner class in September, IF THEY ARE "READY"-encourage them to join now. Some of you might feel that calling is being "pushy." Be assured, a well organized call impresses prospective members that we are professionally run and we care about them.

The second effort is the result of The Committee forwarding the names, phone number, and preferences of people who responded to our promotions. In both situations you are being asked to function as a MENTOR-one who helps them understand the fun and sociability of dancing, answers their questions and concerns, and encourages them to attend-at least during the first 3 "open enrollment" classes.

In general, there are 4 important parts to contacting prospective dancers.

1. THE INITIAL CONTACT. The initial contact sets the tone and greatly influences those "sitting on the fence."

THE INTRODUCTION. Introduce yourself, express hope that they will join one of our classes, explain why you love to dance, and offer to answer their questions.

THE QUESTIONS/CONCERNS. Be prepared to answer the typical questions that people want to know about the class (how long, what nights, how to get there, break for holidays), what to wear, do they need a partner, (all classes

are for singles or couples), what is the cost, do they have to join (the first 3 classes are open for them to see if they like it), what happens after the classes (we have monthly dances planned for them or they can continue on), can I dance with 2 left feet, etc.?

CLOSING. Determine their status (no, maybe, yes) and thank them for their interest. For "maybe or yes" responses, offer your name and phone number as a contact (you can even pick them up), and a "looking forward to seeing you at class."

2. ANSWERING MACHINES. It's recommended that you leave just your name and number if you want them to call you. A "sell" message is not effective.

3. FOLLOW THROUGH. Consideration should be given to follow up phone calls and/or notes of thank you, missed you at the class, hope you'll join, etc.,

4. DATA BASE. We do plan a data base which maintains the status of potential and actual dancers. This helps us to follow up on both people who decide they won't attend (why not, maybe in the future, etc.) and those who start but drop out (why, maybe restart in the future, etc.) For each person you contact, we would appreciate your forwarding this information to us (sdwithus@aol.com or 408-274-3770).

As you can see, it takes a cooperative effort by all of us to really make a difference in ATTRACTING AND RETAINING DANCERS. This note and additional details will be forwarded to all clubs conducting September classes.

And finally, one piece of financial news. The Committee to Promote Square Dancing achieved a significant and unique ruling from the IRS (not California Franchise tax). We are classified as a 501(c)3 organization for 1999 through 2003 which means during these years, you may claim your donations, that exceed "value received" as a charitable deduction. A canceled check will generally be sufficient for contributions less than \$250.00. Note that you must subtract "value received" such as our normal charge at the door of \$5.00 to \$6.00 per person. Since several dancers contributed more than \$250.00, a written acknowledgment is required from me (just send me a copy of your check and I will forward a note). Any questions, just give me a call.

During these last 2 months several square dancers have worked exceptionally hard to complete our promotions. I'm sure that Walt Fant, Joe Carboni, Roger Havasy, and Don Gaubatz would appreciate your thanks for their many efforts on behalf of all square dancers. Special

thanks also goes to the Rafter Rockers and Gadabouts who decided to initiate a fund raiser on August 18 so that we can promote the January and May 2000 classes. Such support is greatly appreciated and it certainly motivated The Committee to work even harder.

DANCING AT MC CLOUD

We joined 8 other Rafter Rocker couples for 5 days of camping, square dancing, golfing, shopping, etc. in the little old-time lumber town of Mc Cloud located near the base of Mt. Shasta. We have been there 3 times before, but I keep forgetting what a really fun time it is. First, the location is great and the scenery, with Mt. Shasta in the background, is spectacular. Next, the dancing, (which most days included morning and afternoon workshops and an evening dance) was outstanding. This, of course, was expected, since we were dancing to Bronc Wise and Johnny Preston – two of the best callers around. Then there were the catered dinners on the first and last nights, and the after-parties in the hall, or around the campfire. One night was pie night, one was hot dogs and marshmallows around the campfire, one featured peanuts, and one champagne. There was even a golf tournament in which I think all of the RR's who were entered won golf balls. Finally, there are the things to do in one's leisure time. The ladies seemed to focus on shopping in McCloud and Mt. Shasta City, while the men played golf.

Speaking of golf, you might remember that awhile back I wrote a Hayloft article on my first golf game, and I can now report on my second and third games. I think to sum it up, I continue to show great consistency - inept on every hole with every club. For example, on the very first hole there was a little stream running across the fairway about 30 feet from the tee. I managed to put, not one, but two balls in that creek before I got one across it. I can think of another hole that I hit a mighty tee shot all the way to the ladies tees. And when I did connect with the ball, the said object departed for parts unknown never to be seen again. And so it went. Fortunately the other guys were very tolerant and helpful. Dennis even kept me supplied with golf balls that he found along the way. (But aren't they supposed to have stopped rolling before he picks them up?)

Anyway, despite the golf, it was a wonderful five days, and I heartily recommend that any of you who can, sign up for one of next year's programs.

THE FIRE

One dark night outside a small town, a fire started inside the local chemical plant. Before long it exploded into flames and an alarm went out to fire departments from miles around. After fighting the fire for over an hour, the chemical company president approached the fire chief and said, "All of our secret formulas are in the vault in the center of the plant. They must be saved! I will give \$50,000 to the engine company that brings them out safely!"

As soon as the chief heard this, he ordered the firemen to strengthen their attack on the blaze. After two more hours of attacking the fire, the president of the company offered \$100,000 to the engine company that could bring out the company's secret files. From the distance a long siren was heard and another fire truck came into sight. It was a local volunteer fire company composed entirely of men over 65. To everyone's amazement the little fire engine raced through the chemical plant gates and drove straight into the middle of the inferno. In the distance the other firemen watched as the old timers hopped off of their rig and began to fight the fire with an effort that they had never seen before.

After an hour of intense fighting the volunteer company had extinguished the fire and saved the secret formulas. Joyous the chemical company president announced that he would double the reward to \$200,000 and walked over to personally thank each of the volunteers. After thanking each of the old men individually the president asked the group what they intended to do with the reward money. The fire truck driver looked him right in the eye and said, "The first thing we're going to do is fix the damn brakes on that truck!"

Author Unknown

THE YEAR 2000

As we approach the "Millennium" - the much ballyhooed beginning of the next thousand years, we might reflect on just what it is that is happening. There are two aspects of this event that are of particular interest. The first is the "mystical event", that point in cosmic time when the cosmos is supposed to take notice; and the more mundane (and probably more significant) point at which computers doing date arithmetic will supposedly "lose it" and go berserk.

Just how mystical is the millennium? (Is 2000 the first year of the 3rd millennium or the last year of the second?) The Gregorian calendar we use today has little to do with cosmic time. It was established in the 1580's by Pope Gregory. In order to bring the Julian calendar (established by Julius Caesar in 46 B. C.) back into synchronization with the solar year, 10 days were dropped from the year in October, 1582. This was not as drastic an adjustment as that made by Julius Caesar when he ruled that 46 B.C. should have 445 days. Of course, at the time he did not know that it was B.C. as the concept of A.D./B.C. did not come into use until the A.D. 500's when the monk Dionysius Exiguus introduced it, though he miscalculated the date of the birth of Christ by four to six years. As you can see, the calendar is pretty much an arbitrary reckoning of the years to which some reasoned adjustments have been made over the years.

The computer calendar is potentially more significant in our daily lives as so many things today rely on computers keeping an accurate account of the calendar. When computers began to keep things that were date related, storage space was in short supply and often the decision was made to store only the last two digits of the year when a date was entered; and, in some cases, the computer itself only kept track of the last two digits internally. The problem occurs when the computer must make a calculation based on the date - date arithmetic. If you need to calculate the time between two dates, say 1936 and 1999, you simply subtract the earliest date from the latest date. ($1999 - 1936 = 63$); if only the last two digits are stored, the same math applies ($99 - 36 = 63$) and there is no problem. However, when the first two digits change (1999 -> 2000), the two digit math gets dicey. $2000 - 1936 = 64$, but $00 - 36 = -36$, a negative number, which some computer programs change to a positive number, and others can't deal with. Depending on how the computer program handles this number, you might expect anything from odd results (I'm sorry, you don't qualify for the senior discount!) to program and/or computer crashes. It is this aspect of the millennial change-over that has had computer organizations scurrying about in various degrees of frenzy for several years. For the most part, computers have been keeping the internal date in four digits for many years. The Apple Macintosh, for instance, had been year-2000 (Y2K) compliant since 1988. The major software publishers for PC's have made their programs Y2K compliant. Instances where the "bug" might bite are likely to occur where old programs and/or old computers are being used.

There has been a significant effort to head off Y2K in major public and private computers and their programs. It is unlikely that any major effects will occur in the USA, mostly because the programs will have been changed, and because there will be very close observation when the change comes. Planes will not fall out of the sky, banks will not lose your money, your stocks will not vanish into the pit of lost bits and bytes, and checks will arrive on time. In short, it is likely that the anticipation of Y2K problems is much more interesting than the actual event itself.

Tom Robertson