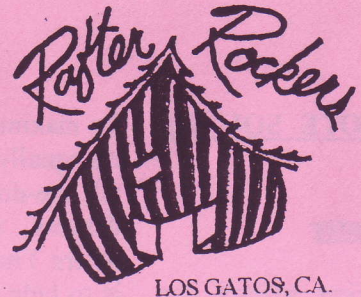


Tillman

From the *Rafter Rockers* Hayloft



LOS GATOS, CA.

***** NOVEMBER 1999 *****

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

We are entering into a very busy time of year - both for you and the Club. Some dates to note on your calendars:

NOVEMBER 9 - BRING ALL THOSE DANCE CLOTHES AND SHIRTS THAT DON'T FIT, WE WILL HAVE A SALE AND ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO OUR GIFTS FOR THE CONVALESCENT HOMES. THIS WAS A SUGGESTION BY HELEN GRANT AND A GREAT WAY TO ADD TO THE JOY WE CAN BRING TO OTHERS.

November 23 - Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner at Muir. Tom & Jane are chairing this event. We still need turkey cookers! Bring a raffle prize and give to Jane. That night bring a toy for the Salvation Army.

November 24 - DARK

December 1 - Bring cookies and holiday cards for the convalescent homes.

December 4 - Dancing at Emmanuel and Our Lady of Fatima. Sign-up for brunch.

December 15 - Our Holiday Potluck Dinner. Bring a toy for the Salvation Army. Be prepared to do a super job on the "Twelve Days of Christmas." We promise to be at our best, Chris!

December 22 & 29 - DARK

We are planning to start a Beginner Class on January 26th. One club has a class of five squares. Let's get out there and bring in new people to our activity. The class will go until the end of September. Marv and Ina Tanner will be our Class Coordinators.

Even though we want to keep Ken forever, we have to get a new caller. A committee has been formed and we will start auditions by invitation after the holidays. After all auditions are over, you will vote for your choice. If you have suggestions, see Bill Barnes, Don Wilson, Chuck DePalmo, or Lee Burkett. We hope this process can go smoothly and that all of you will support the Club regardless of the ultimate decision. We are the largest club in the valley - let's keep it that way!!

Special thanks to Tom and Jane for all their hard work on the dinner and the dancing and brunch. You are wonderful!

Teamwork .. means never having to take all the blame yourself. Seriously, I can't begin to thank all of you who have supported us, and hope we can make decisions that will benefit and keep Rafter Rockers a fun, active club.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE SQUARE DANCING

Article For November Prompter

As this article is being written our promotional efforts for the September classes is complete and the 6 clubs initiating beginner classes have completed at least one class. Although it's too early to draw conclusions, this report will describe what we know. So far, the beginner class sizes range from 1 square to 8 squares. The Committee's recommendation was to have just 4 clubs providing classes in order to create larger classes that are more likely to retain the dancers. The Committee will work with those clubs with very small classes to either merge or carefully "mentor" the dancers so we don't lose them. Further, this mentoring process needs to occur within all our classes since it "appears" that we lose too many dancers within the first few weeks. As noted in last months article it is important to determine why people drop out-in particular if we can readily solve it (don't like the night, the location, etc).

So far our most successful promotions are the country radio station, flyers, VALPAC coupons, dance teams, PSA announcements, and people getting friends or neighbors. The news station and the movie theaters were not very successful this time. However, we must caution about making a final judgment since many people do not recall how they heard about us and a promotion in January may provide very different results.

All our promotions focus on the FUN OF SQUARE DANCING. To help our beginners experience this quickly, we have 5 beginner hoe-downs committed. They are November 13 at Rogers, January 15 at Rogers, March 4 at John Muir, March 18 at Rogers, and April 1 at Rogers. Everyone should make an effort to support these beginner hoe-downs so that new dancers can experience the sociability and enjoyment of dancing.

Looking ahead, The Committee plans to promote our January classes during the first 2 or 3 weeks of January. It is very important that ALL OUR CLUBS PROMOTE THESE CLASSES-with flyers, contacting friends, etc.

To maximize the enjoyment of square dancing it's equally important for every club to promote all hoe-downs, those for beginners and club dancers. And finally, there are 3 critical areas where The Committee needs your help. First is to help us find opportunities for our Dance Teams. This effort has the potential to be highly successful and we need more opportunities to demonstrate within set environments such as church groups, or social clubs, etc. Second is to actively distribute flyers to various business and work areas, community centers, and clubs within your area. And third is to continue contacting anyone you see about joining us in this fun way to socialize and exercise.

Van Symons

Article For December Prompter

Currently we have 6 clubs providing beginner square dance lessons and 3 providing workshops. For the beginners, our callers have scheduled 4 newer dancer hoe-downs for year 2000 (1/15, 3/4, 3/18, and 4/1) and they are listed in the Prompter. It is important that our newer dancers experience the fun and excitement of dancing at these hoe-downs. YOUR PARTICIPATION AT THESE HOE-DOWNS IS CRITICAL TO OUR SUCCESS. You can help them by showing how much and why you enjoy this activity, answer their questions, and assist them through the calls. TRY TO BE THERE-WE NEED YOU.

Somebody must love us square dancers. Recently Ameritrade initiated a set of ads during the football games and on CNN which utilize square dancing as their theme (Johnny Preston is the caller). These are outstanding ads that show the fun and excitement of dancing. Certainly this can only help our advertising campaign for our four beginner classes starting in January. For these classes, we plan to repeat our radio and VALPAC ads, the PSA's, flyers, and dance teams.

As for the future, the Committee plans to focus the promotion expenses on the most productive areas that complement our efforts and that continue to "change the image of square dancing." Our focus is on 3 efforts that

cost nothing but are highly productive. First is our DANCE TEAMS. Our initial effort was very successful since 20 of the 25 participating couples indicated they would like to take lessons. To maximize our potential, we need your help in identifying places to perform. Our preference is perform where we can get audience participation-such as at a club, church, or event.

Second, is our effort to RETAIN current dancers. Friendliness, enthusiasm, and fun are the key elements. Our motto is "KEEP FUN IN YOUR DANCING AND YOU WILL KEEP YOUR DANCERS." For club night, there are many good ideas such as a "good night" tip, amateur night, mixer tips, dance cards, caller gimmicks, mini squares, progressive squares, birthday dances, and theme parties. Equally important is for each of us to organize, encourage, and get current dancers to participate in the many enjoyable activities that are outside of our club. Hoedowns, raids, parties, mystery trips, picnics, and social events greatly increase the friendliness of dancing, help people to know each other, and in general help them to feel a part of square dancing-rather than just something we do once a week.

And third, is always a significant contributor-PEOPLE GETTING PEOPLE. Many dancers seem to feel they have run out of friends. But, even if true, you haven't run out of contacts. Distributing flyers to community centers, work areas, and church groups, promoting dancing at various clubs, social groups, and events can be very successful. It's amazing how many people say they once danced in 3rd or 4th grade and would love to try it-they just needed someone to contact. I was at an RV Halloween party recently and 3 couples at my table said they would love to try it. We also get many people from the Internet-they're trying to find a place to learn to dance. The point is-there are many people looking, they didn't now that YOU ARE A SQUARE DANCER-WEAR IT PROUDLY.

Van Symons

AN EVENING WITH TOM AND JANE

Tom Robertson lived up to his reputation as a master chef, and Jane Bishop as a charming hostess, when they served their gourmet meal, which they donated at the Silent Auction held this May. It was a perfect August evening when they presented winning bidders Rudy & Margot Malstrorn, Norm & Betty Storms and Marv & Ina Tanner with an exquisite 8-course menu of expertly prepared and presented food and wine. The relaxed setting of their beautiful yard, alongside their pool, with perfect weather, made it a memorable evening. To whet your appetite, and convince you to bid on Tom and Jane's millennium meal at next year's Silent Auction, Tom's menu was:

- 1st Course Brie baked in phyllo
- 2nd Course Seafood cocktail with mango salsa
- 3rd Course Portabello mushroom stuffed with mushroom varieties and Greek olives
- 4th Course Red pepper soup
- 5th Course Salmon baked in puff pastry with balsamic sauce (otherwise known as Salmon Wellington – a definite photo opportunity too!)
- 6th Course Salad of baby greens and assorted tomatoes (fresh from the Farmers Market)
- 7th Course Chicken Kiev with basmati rice and summer squash
- 8th Course Fresh nectarine and berry cobbler with vanilla ice cream

Each course was served with the appropriate, finely selected beverage.

On behalf of all the delightfully spoiled guests, a very special thank you to Tom and Jane.

Marv and Ina Tanner

**FROM THE ACTIVITIES CHAIR -
PERSONS (Jane Bishop & Tom Robertson)**

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us, and for Rafter Rockers that means that we will be co-hosting the annual Thanksgiving Dinner with the Steppin' N Stompin' Line Dance Club on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

This has become a major event in our community. Last year we had over 400 people in attendance. It was a real high point of the Holiday Season. Guests are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy per person and a dish to share. Volunteers among the sponsors will prepare turkey, dressing, gravy, and mashed potatoes and bring raffle prizes. The event provides the Salvation Army with a significant contribution of toys and cash to help needy families during the holidays.

Please sign up to prepare one of the major dishes, to work in the kitchen, and/or to provide a raffle prize.

The My Fair Lady theater party on October 1st was a great success, and many attendees thought it was the best performance yet. Dinner at Casa Valencia was enjoyed by many of the theatergoers prior to the performance. Dessert was deferred until the following night when many of the dancers attended the Apple Pie Hoedown, sponsored by the Square Hoppers and called by Ken Kenmille and Gary Carnes. The dance was well attended and Ken and Gary did their usual great job of calling. Apple pie and ice cream were enjoyed by all.

As we approach the Holiday Season, we look forward to one of our most important activities. On Saturday, December 4. We will be dancing at the Emmanuel and Our Lady of Fatima nursing homes. Dancing begins at Emmanuel at 10:30 a.m. followed by brunch at The Live Oak Kitchen at 11:45 a.m. Dancing resumes at Our Lady of Fatima at 2:00 p.m. This is a special way of spreading holiday cheer, and participants always come away with a good feeling about the activity. At both homes we will make a presentation of a gift made possible by your contributions at the annual Silent Auction. This year we have over \$700 to share and we will be in touch with the

nursing home staff to determine what will be most appreciated by the residents. Don't forget to sign up for one or both dancing sessions and the brunch. Then on December 1, please bring holiday cards and 3 dozen cookies.

On August 21, square dancers from all over helped Ken Kenmille and George Holser celebrate their birthdays at the Lucky Steppers Ben Lomond Slab Dance. Ken was celebrating his 59th birthday and George was enjoying the 80th anniversary of his birth. George has been a constant figure in square dancing for many years. He has been president of the Lucky Steppers many times, has been active in local, state, and national square dance organizations, and has done some calling and teaching. It was a special privilege to be part of this joint celebration.

The evening began with a potluck featuring a fine array of tasty dishes. Dancing followed with our own Ken calling what was his last appearance at the Slab. Midway through the evening, Ken and George were called upon to blow out more candles (on two cakes) than most could count. It was a lovely evening at the Slab and we were pleased to learn that the Slab dances will continue next year for the 34th season. With so many functions being discontinued as our activity wanes, it is important that we make an extra effort to support those that continue. It is for the benefit of all of us that we get out and support this wonderful summer tradition next year.

Bits and pieces:

Congratulations to Monika and John (ninjas), Dennis and Lavon (cop & con), and other costume winners at the Halloween party with the Gadabouts.

A fine time was had by all who attended the SCVSDA Halloween Wing Ding on October 30. This dance was well attended and Rafter Rockers were second only to Bows and Beaus in largest representation. Good show! Costumes of note: Ron and Chris Murphy as clowns, and Gloria ... you had to be there you might ask the Sandlerers or Burtons.... shoulder pads where?????

Next theater outing will be The Goodbye Girl in February. Details to follow.

If you have any suggestions for club activities, see Jane Bishop.

Interested in a nice fall hike? See Jean and Don Arndt.

Don't forget that Jobie Berry as hospitality chairperson can always use your extra generic greeting cards.

RECIPES

I'm still looking for recipes from you great Rafter Rocker cooks! How about submitting one or more for the next Hayloft? For this issue I was reduced to including one of my own.

Linguine With Asparagus And Tomatoes

- 1 lb. Asparagus
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 28 oz. can chopped tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 1/2 teaspoons basil
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons chopped, fresh parsley
- 3/4 lb. linguine
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Cut and discard 1 inch from the ends of asparagus then cut stalks including tips into 1/2 inch pieces. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat, and sauté asparagus for 3 minutes. Remove from skillet with a slotted spoon and set aside.

Sauté garlic and onion in same skillet for 5 minutes, until lightly browned. Strain

tomatoes and discard liquid. Stir tomatoes into skillet with tomato paste, wine, basil, oregano, pepper and salt. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover skillet and simmer sauce for 30 minutes. While sauce is simmering, heat a large pot of water for the linguine.

After 30 minutes, stir parsley and asparagus into sauce and continue to simmer while cooking linguine according to package directions. When linguine has finished cooking, stir cheese into sauce and toss with linguine in a large serving bowl. Serve immediately with additional cheese if desired. Serves four.

NEW MEMBERS

Please extend a warm Rafter Rocker welcome to new members Monica & John Berhagen.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A fellow bought a new Mercedes and was out on the interstate for a nice evening drive. The top was down, the breeze was blowing through what was left of his hair and he decided to open her up. As the needle jumped up to 80 mph he suddenly saw a flashing red and blue light behind him.

"There's no way they can catch a Mercedes," he thought to himself and opened her up further. His needle hit 90, 100, 110. Then the reality of the situation hit him. "What in hell am I doing?" he thought and pulled over.

The cop came up to him, took his license without a word, and examined it and the car. Finally he came to the window looking steadily at the driver and said, "I've had a tough shift and this is my last pull over. I don't feel like more paperwork so if you can give me an excuse for your driving that I haven't heard before, you can go!"

(OVER)

The driver blinked only once while his brain scrambled for a reply. "Last week my wife ran off with a cop," he said, "and I was afraid you were trying to give her back!"

"Off you go," said the officer.

1999-2000 RAFTER ROCKER BOARD

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