



Single Spinners

HOMESPUN NEWS

February 2012

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President: Dana McCrary (619-465-9205, Mccdnlyn@cox.net),

Vice President: Chris Davis (619-434-1993, chrisdavis542@cox.net)

PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS

CLASS GRADUATION JAN. 31' 2012

I extend huge well done to our graduating class and a big thank you to our club members who have served faithfully as angels and mentors. The caller's job is always easier when there is a good mix of both students and angels on the floor. Square dancing is a team activity comprising of club dancers, student dancers and caller/ instructor. The interaction with the various parties makes dancing more enjoyable.

I encourage our new dancers to 'become involved' with square dance activities. To learn more about what makes square dancing tick.

NEW CLASS 2012

Our new square dance class will start on February 7, 2012. We need to really promote this class well to get better turnout than we usually get. Does anyone have internet knowledge and experience at promoting a class on the Internet? Spinner's board has approved an internet promo-

tional idea to assist our usual promotional ways.

Nasser Shukayr (a caller) has developed a promotional internet program to reach a much wider untapped area of non dancers. Our caller, John, is working with Nasser to put this program into play. Did you know John Marus has been working at keeping our web site up to date? Chris Davis has done it for a long time also. Keeping the internet up to date sometimes is a full time job.

Note:Ruffles 'n Beaus class just started recently with about 60 people as a result of using internet promotion. We are trying this method this year in hope of a larger class.

PROMOTE SQUARE DANCING.

SUPPORT BACK COUNTRY ASSOCIATION

Back Country Assoc. will put on a Valentines theme dance on February 4, 2012 at the College Covenant Church, 6126 Adelaide Ave. (About 3 blocks south of El Cajon Blvd)(Down College Ave). Time Pre-rds 6 pm, sqr 7-930 pm

Callers: John Marus, Dick Neuman and Jimmy Akin. Cuer Bill Hale

THINK RED

THIRD SATURDAY ROUNDUP Feb. 18.

The theme for this dance is you guessed it; Sweethearts Ball. The color of choice isyou guessed it..... **RED!!!!** This will be super dance with Mike Seastrom calling and Radka Sandeman cueing. Single Spinners has refreshment duty so I' m looking for Spinners to be out in droves with their best valentine outfits on. Our food selection will most definitely have a red slant to it.

Come join the fun.

PALOMAR SQ. DANCE ASSOC. CLASS LEVEL DANCE

John Marus will call the class level dance on March 11, 2012 at the Escondido American Legion Hall. 230 E. Park Ave. 6:30 - 8:45 PM

See you on the square dance floor

Dana

CLUB TRAVELS AND VISITATIONS

Feb. 4 Back Country's Quarterly dance.
Feb. 18 . Roind Up (we have duty)
Feb. 25 Lighthouse Anniv. Park Club

Websites

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

Most of the websites have links to dancing in other local tins, including overseas, and is available via our website's "links" feature.

singlespinners.sdsda.org/
www.sdsda.org
www.PalomarSDA.org
www.backcountrysda.com
www.squaredance.org
www.61nsdc.com - Spokane
www.NSDCNEC.org
www.wheresthedance.com/
www.facebook.com/singlespinners

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Greetings from the new/old VP...

Well, the club has voted me into the position of VP. I thank the club for the opportunity to serve as your VK (Vice King). I will support the club to the best of my abilities and help when or where needed.

Please don't forget about our new class that started tonight. It will be open for two more weeks, so bring some friends and introduce them to your square dance family.

That brings me to my thought of the month (I hope to have a new one every month, but we'll see). As a club, Single Spinners tries to be a family. If at any time you think that we are falling down on that,

please don't hesitate to come talk to me about it. As the VP, I believe it is my job to be the voice of the club to the board. Now, as a group we should all feel welcome and glad to be at Spinners. Of course, there are going to be nights when we show up in a bad mood due to activities that have occurred throughout the course of the day/week, but come anyway. Maybe a little square dancing will knock the bad mood out and give you a great way to "reset" the mood going into the middle of the week (or the beginning of the week, depending on your work schedule).

So, I'll wrap up this column with the way one of my favorite professors wrapped up every class.

Any comments, concerns, things you wouldn't dare tell your psychiatrist but would gladly share with us?
Chris D.

CALLER'S CORNER

Happy New Year! I sincerely hope you had a great holiday season. We took a little break from dancing and spent a little time with our families. Now, as we head into a new year, we can feel rejuvenated to resume our dancing activities.

Let's thank all of the people involved with putting on you New Year's Eve dance. We had an enthusiastic crowd. If you missed it, you missed a great time! Hope you can join us next year.

Thanks again for the wonderful card and gift given to us for Christmas. The gift has been put to good use. I am very privileged to be the caller for such a thoughtful group as you. As I begin my 23rd year as your caller, may we have many more good times together.

Remember, our next beginner dance group will be starting on February 7. Please spread the word to those you think might be interested and personally bring them to the dance. Make it a social event that they don't want to miss.

I would like to share with you a part of a recent discussion on the square dance callers email list. We were talking recently about recruiting new dancers and rejuvenating clubs and there was an interesting post that I thought might be relevant to our club. We'll step into the middle of the conversation...

Nasser Shukayr (who is helping us with internet advertising) wrote:

There are a few square dance groups which are thriving. It makes sense to figure out what they're doing right. In my view, the thriving groups all excel at two particular things. They are great at recruiting (which comes mostly from hard work rather than skill) and they make sure that new dancers have a great time. Many MWSD clubs are crummy at those two things: they don't put much effort into

recruiting and they treat new dancers like second-class citizens.

Clark Baker (a caller from Massachusetts) responded:

My understanding is that, in our area, the Sage Swingers are the club that is growing while others are not. However, no other clubs seem interested in understanding and imitating what the Sage Swingers do. I found this on the web. While it is dated, my sources tell me that the Sage Swingers are still doing fine and that their methods work (and still no one in New England cares to imitate them).

News From
The Sage Swingers
Brunswick, ME
(January 2, 2003)

In the various square dance magazines and web sites you can read how square dance clubs and national organizations have plans for advertising square dancing, for "improving" our public image, for altering the dance program and for growing memberships. For the SAGE Swingers in the process began with a change in philosophy.

What are the club's goals for its dancers? The Club thinks this can determine how you go about gaining and keeping new members. The Clubs goals today are different from what they might have been five and ten years ago. For

example, at SAGE Swingers some of our goals are:

- 1) To help the club grow by getting more new members.
- 2) To make sure people are having a good time learning to dance.
- 3) Insure that new members return.

Here are some of the "old" goals the club no longer strives for.

- 1) The Club does not feel people need to graduate from a Mainstream program by a certain date.
- 2) Classes do not have to start in September only.
- 3) Learning to dance is not a race to see how quickly you can get to Plus or A-1.
- 4) The Club tends to downplay classic square dance clothes and make sure people know it's optional.

These ideas express themselves many ways in how the club recruits and how new dancers are treated. The club does start a class in September, but a class also starts in January.

With the help of club caller, Bill Fulton and his wife, Norma, SAGE Swingers try to make dancing as low key and fun as possible. They have recognized in order to keep new dancers interested there

have to be many opportunities for them to dance, and that means more Mainstream dances. SAGE Swingers has been scheduling more and more Mainstream dances and we search for Mainstream dances on the schedule for our club to support. If you want to get and keep new dancers, Mainstream is the place to be.

The SAGE Swingers tried all the methods described in a handout they prepared to recruit for the club. No single one of the methods brought in mobs of people but, taken together, they have helped them build classes of two and three squares and graduate 39 dancers over two years. The Fall class of 2002 has witnessed a continuation of the club's success with 28 additional dancers participating in the first two free workshops and 18 remaining through October. The additional regular support of club members has helped us dance with 5 to 8 squares at every workshop this year.

(Me again) What do you think about the above post? It sounds as if the Sage Swingers club sat down and defined the three key goals they had for the club. The answered the question of how they wanted to be defined. After they determined their primary goals, everything else didn't matter anymore. My interpretation is that they de-emphasized the structural nature of their organization, many club stereotypes here, and focused their efforts on building more per-

sonal relationships with people and made sure their club was welcoming.

So, my inevitable question to you is this: What would be the three most important goals for the Single Spinners? What three things do we value the most? And, are we willing to let go of everything else? These are difficult questions. I hope we can spend some time to discuss what your answers may be.

Sorry for my rambling this month. Bring new dancers! Until next time...

Until next time...

John

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO ROUND DANCE?

San Diego Round Dance Instructors – brand new website: rounddance.org

AROUND SPIDEY'S WEB

If you have anything you want in this fine publication, just give it to Lynn Davis at a dance (deadline is the last dance of each month, and IF SPACE PERMITS, it will be included in the next issue) or you can e-mail it to: lynnedavis542@cox.net

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Party Central

It is hard to believe that January is behind us! But February is here and we will be having a February 14th Valentines Party. And on February 21st we will have a Mardi Gras Party.

I hope everyone remembers Back Cuntry's Quartly dance

in February 4th. And put February 25th on your "square dance to go to list" remember Lighthouse Squares has their Anniversary dance that night.

Our caller will be calling March 17th Round Up. That is the same week we celebrate our own "St. Patrick's Party on March 13th Green is the theme!

And April 10th is our "April Showers Brings May Flowers" dance. Put on your pretty flowers and think about the B;ossom Trail to the State Convention in Visalia, Ca. April 20, 21, 22.

So, 3 months of Parties, mark them on your calanders and enjoy the dancing

See You in a square
Jane Marus
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Joke time
A Brilliant Student

ANSWERS OF A BRILLIANT STUDENT WHO OBTAINED 0% (I would have given him 100%)

Q. In which battle did Spartacus die?
A: His last battle

Q. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
A: At the bottom of the page

Q: River Ravi flows in which state?
A: Liquid

Q: What is the main reason

for divorce?
A: Marriage

Q: What is the main reason for failure?
A: Exams

Q: What can you never eat for breakfast?
A: Lunch & dinner

Q: What looks like half an apple?
A: The other half

Q: If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what it will become?
A: It will become wet

Q: How can a man go eight days without sleeping?
A: No problem, he sleeps at night.

Q: How can you lift an elephant with one hand?
A: You will never find an elephant that has only one hand.

Q: If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in the other hand, what would you have?
A: Very large hands

Q: If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?
A: No time at all, the wall is already built by those first eight men.

Q: How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?
A: Concrete floors are very hard to crack