

Reelers Square Dance Club



REELERS REPORTER

Volume 1, Issue 3

March 2009

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*"The roundest knight at King Arthur's table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi."
(Thanks to all the bakers at our recent Pie Night who added to our circumferences!)*

From the Presidents

In looking through the March issue of *American Square Dance*, we enjoyed "Your Rovin' Corners," a column that mentions three types of dancers: (1) those who dance in their own club only; (2) those who occasionally dance with other clubs; and (3) those "who meet their thirst for dancing by traveling far and wide, dancing at many different events." Here's a (very) small sampling of places to go for some extraordinarily good times that will move us into that third category:

- 51st New England Square and Round Dance Convention in Sturbridge, MA, April 24-25, where "Dancing Is Divine in 2009." (www.nesrdc.org)
- 58th National Square Dance Convention in Long Beach, CA, June 24-27. Talk about a lot to see and do: fashion show, raffle, exhibitions, tours, and dancing, dancing, dancing from 10 AM until ??? (www.58nsdc.org)
- Plus/Advanced four-day Labor Day Weekend in the Poconos with Mike Jacobs, Betsy Gotta, and Tom Miller – and don't forget Rounds with Roy Gotta. (www.cherryridgecampsites.com)

For \$25, you can have a lifetime subscription to the National Square Dance Directory, which gives information and contacts for thousands of clubs in the U.S., Canada, and around the world. (We hear it's great for traveling and planning vacations.) You can subscribe at www.nsddirectory.com.

Linda and Rick Murphy (rilmicy@optonline.net)

Announcements!

★ **Election of officers:** In accordance with the bylaws, Linda and Rick Murphy have appointed a Nominating Committee (themselves!) to present a slate of officers for the club's consideration at the March 20 dance. The election will take place at the April 17 dance. Officers will serve a one-year term from June 2009 to June 2010.

★ **Delegates Meeting:** The NNJSDA is led by elected officers and delegates from each member club. Gay and Bill Grier ably represent the Reelers. Delegates and officers meet three times a year to discuss matters of interest to member clubs.

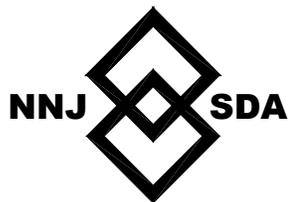
Only delegates can vote on NNJSDA business, but all are invited to attend.

Next meeting: Sun., April 26
When and where: 1:00 PM, VFW, 6 Veterans Place, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407
Followed by: Spring Fling dance, MS, 3:00-5:30 PM.
Caller – Steven Jacques
Cuer – Roy Gotta

★ **Round dance classes:** Good news for everyone who's eager to learn round dancing: Mary Pickett will start a beginner's class on Monday evenings in Morris Plains at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 51 Mountain Way at Hillview. An advanced class may start also, at the same or a different location. Details will be provided shortly.

★ **Potluck supper:** Our holiday party got snowed out in December, but mark your calendar for the annual potluck supper on June 5, preceding our final dance of the season. No snow is predicted!

★ **Grand Square:** To offset rising printing costs, the NNJSDA is now charging clubs \$1 instead of 33¢ for each copy of the *Grand Square*. (The actual expense is \$2 per copy, so the NNJSDA is still subsidizing half the cost.) At its Jan. 18 meeting, the Reelers Executive Committee approved asking dancers to contribute \$1 per copy at the Treasurer's table, beginning with the May 2009 issue. The Association and other clubs are doing the same.



NNJSDA News

Gay and Bill Grier, our NNJSDA Delegates, report that at the Jan. 11 Delegates Meeting, the Constitution and Bylaws were revised. The new version can be viewed at www.NNJSDA.org.

The Northern New Jersey Square Dancers Association has some exciting dances planned for the next few months. And as a bonus, each club that has at least one square at a specified number of NNJSDA dances each year earns a 50% reduction in its dues for the following year. This year, clubs must have a square at seven of the twelve dances. Help the Reelers attain the "One Square is Fair" goal!

Sunday, April 26 - Spring Fling, VFW, Elmwood Park, 3:00-5:30, Steven Jacques/Roy Gotta.

Note: This dance is Mainstream so that new graduates can experience the thrill of a big dance.

Saturday, May 30 - Don Coy/Mary McGee, and a live band! YMCA, Springfield, 7:30-10:30, MS/PL/RD.

Summer dances on Wednesdays - VFW, Elmwood Park, 7:30-10:30, MS/PL/RD:

July 8 - Joe Landi/
Karen Kushla

July 22 - Jim DeNigris/
Jane Styer

August 12 - Ken Ritucci/
Roy Gotta

August 26 - Glenn Matthew/
Peg Millar

From the Executive Committee

Vice Presidents

Twenty-seven people enjoyed the dinner-dance on Feb. 6. For those who were raving over the chicken, here is the marinade recipe from BettyAnn Crandall of Mt. Fern Church (enough for about six chicken breasts).

- 4 oz. olive oil
- 4 oz. red wine vinegar
- 4 teaspoons sugar
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons dried mustard
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon tarragon
- 1/2 teaspoon rosemary

Bon appétit!

Arlene and Tom Simansky

Class Coordinators

Our Plus workshops in the fall were very successful, with at least two squares each week.

On Feb. 17 we held an open house for a new Mainstream class, which started on Feb. 24 at 7:30. The Plus workshop follows at 9:00. Fran Wadel teaches both groups.

We look forward to welcoming the new dancers into the club!

Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone

Refreshments

Schedule – If you haven't yet signed up for hosting two dances this season, please select a date on the sign-up sheet. Thank you.

Irene and Hal Stoller

Supplies – Although it's only March, please give us your suggestions for themes so we can work up a schedule that will be fun and exciting for all next year. Remember, there's no cost to the club, because we use items people already have!

Matty and Bernie Sharkey

Treasurer

Financial report for June 16 to Dec. 31, 2008: The club's starting balance was \$3,100.49 and the ending balance was \$2,289.21, for a loss of \$811.28. Of that amount, \$500.00 was for a scholarship that should have been paid the previous year, but the school did not provide the student's name. Therefore, the actual loss for the first half of the dance year was \$311.28.

Mark Bippes

Raids

We've enjoyed some great raids this season, enabling the club to receive a discount in next year's NNJSDA dues. Join us for the final raids on March 4 to Mountain Squares and April 8 to Cross Trail Squares.

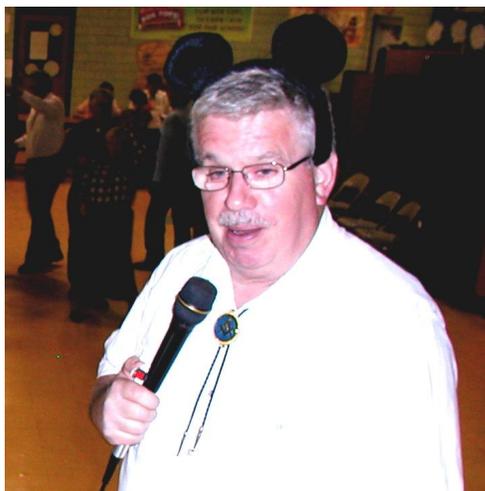
Jean and Inars Gruntals

Historians

If you have photos and articles from the past few years, please give them to us for inclusion in the club's scrapbook. All historical information will be used in planning the club's 50th anniversary celebration in 2011.

Ruth and Frank Pagano

*Chicken recipe,
club finances,
classes, raids,
refreshments,
and more*



Joe "Mickey" Landi calling for Reelers

Reelers Spotlight: VPs Tom and Arlene Simansky

A boy named Tom lived with his family in a coldwater flat in Brooklyn. When he was eight, they moved to a house in Queens with *heat, hot water, and lights* in the hallway! From such humble beginnings, Tom retired from a 40-year career on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. What happened in between those years?



Well, the teenage Tom learned to play golf, and a golfing buddy set him up on a blind date with a friend of his wife's from Queens.

"Arlene was obviously blind," he quipped, "but beautiful! I asked her out for dinner and she chose lobster. After that lobster investment, I just had to marry her."

Tom and Arlene bought a house in Queens. He was the opening and closing bell ringer for the NYSE, along with other responsibilities and pleasures – such as meeting Yogi Berra, Joe Namath, Martha Stewart, and Arnold ("not so big") Schwarzenegger, among others.

Tom was drafted into the Army Medical Corps for two years during the Vietnam War, where he became trained as an operating room technician. Although medicine was inter-

esting, he decided to return to Wall Street rather than become a doctor.

In 1987, the Simanskys moved to New Jersey to give their four children a better education. Arlene was a stay-at-home mom and also continued caring for her brother, who had Down syndrome. "I took my children to their basketball, soccer, baseball, and football games and swim meets," she said. For many years, she was president of their daughter's swim team.

Now Arlene takes classes at the Morris Center Y, belongs to a book club, and makes ceramics. The Simanskys spend their summers at Lake Wallenpaupack in Pennsylvania, where Arlene teaches a ceramics class and takes water aerobics.

Tom retired on April Fool's Day in 2003. He has played several sports, but tennis has been his favorite for 52 years. Both Simanskys enjoy traveling, particularly cruises. They also took ballroom dancing.

Of course, a special shared activity for the past 15 years has been square dancing. Their interest was first piqued during annual summer barn dances and demos at Lake Wallenpaupack. Then in 1994, Tom spotted a square dance flyer in the Parsippany library and thought it was something he and Arlene could do together. They took lessons with Pal Johnson at Lakeland Squares, which they joined upon graduation and served as officers. A couple of years later, their friends Eileen and Bill Ebell persuaded the Simanskys to take Plus lessons with Wilson Hoff at Reelers.

"We enjoyed Plus and the Reelers so much that we decided to join," said Tom. They have been treasurers, secretaries, and presidents of the Reelers, and currently serve as vice presidents.

The Simanskys have attended many National Conventions – a good excuse to travel throughout the country! But for Tom, the most memorable dancing experience was a "White and Blue Demo" with Lakeland. In the darkened hall, dancers wore clothing trimmed in white and gloves with special blue lights. "We enjoyed the demo as much as the audience appreciated it," he recalled.

For both Tom and Arlene, the best thing that ever happened to them was meeting each other and raising four children – Paul, Annie, Thomas, and Jonathan. On Feb. 4, 2009, their first grandchild, Lila Patricia, was born to Paul and his wife Kim. All of the Simansky children live nearby.

With their rich life experiences, what words of wisdom do the Simanskys have?

Arlene: "My mother taught me to live by the Golden Rule."

Tom: "Racecar spelled backwards is still *racecar*."

Come on, Tom! Anything else?

Tom: "*Kayak* and *level* spelled backwards are also the same. And I hope we can grow along with the Reelers and square dancing."

Arlene: "We've made a lot of wonderful friendships through our square dancing and really enjoy socializing with our square dance friends."

Thank you, Tom and Arlene, for all you've done for the Reelers!

The best thing that ever happened to them was meeting each other and raising their four children.

Reelers Square Dance Club

Ironia Elementary School
303 Dover-Chester Road (Route 513)
Randolph, NJ 07869

Editor: Lise Greene
133 New Jersey Avenue
Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849
Phone: 973-663-4396
E-mail: lise.greene@montclair.edu

1st & 3rd Fridays
Early Rounds 7:30, Plus and Rounds 8:00-10:20
Cell for dance night: 201-572-5073

2008-2009 Dance Schedule *RD Cuer: Mary Pickett*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Theme</u>
03/20	Roy Leber	Spring Fling
04/03	Dennis Reardon	Play Ball!
04/17	Joe Landi	Black Friday
05/01	Mark Franks	Cinco de Mayo
05/15	Len Anfinson	Ice Cream Social
06/05	John Kaltenthaler	Potluck Supper

Reelers Officers/Committee Chairs 2008-2009

President: Linda and Rick Murphy	973-539-9315
Vice President: Arlene and Tom Simansky	973-984-0009
Secretary: Lise Greene	973-663-4396
Treasurer: Mark Bippes	973-476-8844
Nancy Caufield	973-537-8021
Jim Anderson	615-830-8448
Class: Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone	908-832-5313
Delegate: Gay and Bill Grier	973-543-9698
Historian: Ruth and Frank Pagano	973-827-3134
Program: Mary Jane and Greg Roome	973-543-4109
Publicity: Avyrl and Bear Brady	973-347-1675
Raids: Jean and Inars Gruntals	973-543-7792
Refreshments:	
Irene and Hal Stoller (Schedule)	973-744-1969
Matty and Bernie Sharkey (Supplies)	908-852-7931

Fun Fact:

Did you know we are all engaging in a terpsichorean art?
Terpsichore was the Muse of dance in Greek mythology.

We're on the web!
www.reelers.nnjstda.org

*Member of Northern New Jersey
Square Dancers Association*



Where in the World?

Reelers members are avid travelers, and their journeys are featured in each newsletter.



Vacation on Vieques

Last February, Charlie and I went to Vieques, an island off the coast of Puerto Rico, to visit my sister. We stayed in her lovely guest cottage (above) and went to the beach every day.

The U.S. Navy used Vieques as its main Atlantic training site for air, sea, and land maneuvers until 2003. Military personnel had told the local people that the beaches were so beautiful, they could be named after a box of crayons. So the islanders named the beaches Blue, Red, Green, Silver, Purple, and so on.

We didn't get to all of them, but Green Beach was our favorite. The water was gorgeous, spanning the spectrum of blue hues from almost clear to light, dark, and turquoise. Some of the beaches had trees which were great for protection from the sun (photo below).

Vieques is not a touristy place ... yet. It's still an unspoiled island where roosters crow, dogs bark, and horses roam free. (They have owners, but roaming free means they don't have to be fed!)

Bonnie Van Stone



Member News

Mark Bippes took off on Valentine's Day to spend a week volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. His group blitz-built a home in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, where houses were devastated by Hurricane Katrina more than three years ago.

Arlene and Tom Simansky are thrilled over the birth of their first grandchild, Lila Patricia Simansky, on Feb. 4. Tom and Arlene are now enjoying an extended stay in Florida, and can't wait to see their beautiful granddaughter again.