



REELERS REPORTER

Volume 1, Issue 4

June 2009

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Tip for summer gardeners: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

From the Presidents

We would like to write about “the healing power of square dancing.” In these economic times, perhaps this is what we all need. Have you ever seen a square looking down-in-the-mouth? We haven’t. Even when squares are breaking down, everyone seems to be laughing and trying to figure out what just happened. Each square dance evening is filled with fun and fellowship. Even new dancers are swept into our small but smiling world of camaraderie.

We were looking through the March issue of *American Square Dance* and got caught up in the article “Quick! I Need an Allemande Left!” We had never thought of it before: As much fun as a Yellow Rock is, which call elicits the whoop? You guessed it. We all greet an Allemande Left with a “whoop and a holler ... knowing that the security of home [is] a short promenade away.” When done right, it is a build up of excitement as the patten keeps on coming and then “ALLEMANDE LEFT” – you’re in the home stretch. Job well done!

Square dancing gives us all a chance to escape from worries over jobs, money, etc. It gives us a chance to relax, to celebrate, to be surrounded by the comfort of corny quips and jokes that have been told for as long as square dancing has been around.

So remember “the healing power of square dancing” and the excitement of heading home when you hear that Allemande Left. Our small, worldwide fellowship of square dancing may be just what the doctor ordered for surviving our tough times.

Linda and Rick Murphy (rilimicy@optonline.net)

Announcements!

★ **Election of officers:** The annual election took place at the May 1 dance. All current officers and committee chairs were reelected for a one-year term from June 2009 to May 2010. See page 4 for names and positions.

★ **The Gathering 2010:** Helen Jacobson has volunteered to represent the Reelers on the NNJSDA’s Gathering 2010 committee. The Gathering will be held on Saturday, Oct. 16 next year. If you have ideas for the event, please contact Helen.

★ **Demo on Sept. 16:** Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone have arranged a demo with John Kaltenthaler calling at the Morris View “Time Out” adult care center.

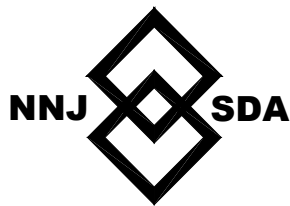
The demo will be on Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 1-2 PM at 540 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown. Please let the Van Stones know if you can participate. We need at least eight!

★ **Round dance classes:** Mary Pickett will continue throughout the summer teaching two round dance classes on Monday evenings in Morris Plains at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 51 Mountain Way at Hillview.

The beginner round dance class starts at 7:30 and the Phase III class at 9:00. The fee is \$7 per class. For more information, contact Jeff Stevens at 862-209-1254.

★ **Grand Square:** To offset rising printing costs, the NNJSDA raised the annual assessment for the *Grand Square* to \$3 per club member.

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 Officers

The following officers were elected at the Delegates Meeting on April 26 for a one-year term from June 2009 to May 2010:

President: Lise Greene (Reelers, Kittatinny Rangers) and Ken Robinson (Rutgers Promenaders)
1st VP: Donna Poyer (Kittatinny Rangers)

2nd VP: Audrey Kerner (Belles & Beaux, FAD, Western Wheelers)

3rd VP: Jeanne Gannon (Middletown Ramblers)

Recording Secretary: Judy and Al Kendziora (Y Squares)

Corresponding Secretary: Greg Fokszy (Cross Trail Squares, Spinning Wheels, Belles & Beaux)

Acting Treasurer: Rusty Ball (Belles & Beaux)

Assistant Treasurer: Kay Davis (Kittatinny Rangers) and Sig Eisele (Lakeland Squares)

One Square is Fair

Each NNJSDA club that has at least one square at a specified number of Association dances each year earns a reduction in its dues the following year. This year, clubs must have a square at seven of the twelve dances to fulfill the "One Square is Fair" program.

Help the Reelers attain the goal by attending the exciting NNJSDA **summer dances on Wednesdays** at the VFW in Elmwood Park. Dances are from 7:30-10:30 alternating Mainstream, Plus, and Rounds:

July 8 - Joe Landi/
Karen Kushla

July 22 - Jim DeNigris/
Jane Styer

August 12 - Ken Ritucci/
Roy Gotta

August 26 - Glenn Matthew/
Peg Millar

For up-to-date information on NNJSDA clubs and events, visit the website at www.nnjstda.org.

From the Executive Committee

Class Coordinators

A new Mainstream class taught by Fran Wadel started on Feb. 24. We look forward to welcoming six new dancers into the club when they complete their lessons in July.

A decision will be made during the summer about offering new Mainstream and/or Plus classes in the fall.

Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone

Refreshments

Thank you to everybody for sharing the responsibility and work for the refreshments, both by bringing great refreshments regularly to the dances and by signing up for set-up, clean-up, etc. twice during the year. Your help and cooperation made the dances more enjoyable for us and our guests.

We do have one more task for refreshments. The NNJSDA requests clubs to take turns bringing refreshments to Association events. Reelers has been asked to do so for the dance on Wednesday, July 22.

Please notify our NNJSDA Delegates, Gay and Bill Grier, if you can bring something. (They do not need to know what you are bringing.) Gay says, "Let's make this a dance they'll always remember!"

The NNJSDA summer dances are

generally well attended and a lot of fun, so hopefully many of you will be able to come and do our club proud by bringing a variety of delicious refreshments for everybody to enjoy. Thank you!

Irene and Hal Stoller

Dance Themes

The dance themes for next year have not been finalized, so club members who would like to see a particular theme should contact us with their suggestions.

Matty and Bernie Sharkey

Treasurer

Our most profitable dance of the year was on May 1, when 93 dancers (over 11 squares!) from nine clubs joined us for Mark Franks' calling and Mary Pickett's cueing. There were three raiding clubs that evening, which added to the fun (and treasury).

Mark Bippes

Raids

We've enjoyed some great raids this season, enabling the club to complete the NNJSDA raid program and receive a reduction in next year's dues.

Join us for the first raid of the new season on July 9 to Hix and Chix. Howard and Donna Williamson will be calling and cueing.

Jean and Inars Gruntals

The Twelve Commandments of Square Dancing

(reprinted in *American Square Dance*, April 2009 from *Twirl & Twinkle*, Feb. 2009)

1. You shall square dance only for the fun you will find in it.
2. You shall not be a snob, considering yourself too good to dance with any and all, sitting out the mixers, or leaving a square if you are required to dance with those you think are unworthy of your talents. YOU, too, can be the dancer to goof a square!
3. You shall enjoy dancing, but not offend others.
4. You shall visit other clubs and dance to other callers/cuers so that your opinion will be based on fact.
5. You shall bathe diligently so that others may enjoy the fragrance of soap and antiperspirant.
6. You shall not have a "visitor" arrive and sit on the sidelines, nor fail to speak to him.
7. You shall take care that your breath is not scented with an alcoholic beverage.
8. You shall be faithful and loyal to your club and if you cannot do this, it will be better for you to leave the club and join one whose methods and members are more to your liking.
9. You shall not harm the club by bickering and fault finding.
10. You shall not forget that YOU were once a beginner.
11. You shall not push, pull or drag a dancer around the square. Merely point the correct direction he/she should be taking.
12. You shall always wear your club badge to all square or round dances.

Reelers Spotlight: Program Coordinators Greg and Mary Jane Roome

On March 17, 1950, Freehold High School held its Freshman Dance. Mary Jane Taylor, a freshman who lived in Farmingdale, went to the dance with Greg Roome, a senior who lived in Freehold – it was their first date. “He was a good dancer,” said Mary Jane, “because he had gone to Miss Curly’s Dancing School.”

The first date led to many others. Then Greg went off to Brown University, where he studied mechanical engineering. Three years later, Mary Jane went to Trenton State Teachers College (now College of New Jersey) and earned a degree in primary education. Greg also took courses at the University of Michigan in nuclear engineering. They married in 1957.

occupied her thoughts “nearly 24/7,” she recalled. “I wanted a diversion that would allow me to think about other things.”

One 4th of July, the Roomes (a Dutch name that is pronounced “Rome”) went to a barn dance called by Pal Johnson. He told them about the class he was teaching for Lakeland Squares. Bingo! It was the diversion they were seeking. Following graduation from Mainstream in 1986, they joined Lakeland Squares.

In 1990, Mary Jane and Greg took Plus lessons with Bob Tarrant and discovered a Plus club only 10 minutes from their home – the Reelers. They visited, liked the members, and joined the club. Through the years, the Roomes have served the Reelers as presidents and program coordina-

having been members of each current Morris County club.

What was their most memorable dancing experience? While they were taking lessons, one of the angels dropped to the concrete floor with a heart attack.

“I was the only person who had taken a first aid course,” said Mary Jane. “With help from others, we managed to do the right things until the paramedics arrived 45 minutes later.” Fortunately, the man recovered. Whenever he saw the Roomes at a dance after that, he would tell people, “Here’s the real angel!”

The Roomes enjoy traveling. They have toured in Finland, the British Isles, Switzerland, Norway, Austria, Germany, Canada, Hawaii, Alaska, and most of the continental United States. They also like to read and spend time with friends.

Mary Jane was able to overcome her childhood fear of dogs to the extent that she became certified to take their daughter’s Great Pyrenees on visits to nursing homes, schools, and adult day care centers. Vermont is now a frequent travel destination for the Roomes, because they like to visit Susan and her husband Geoffrey – “and our granddog Cassie,” they said.

Some final words of wisdom:

“Keep a positive attitude and look for the good in every situation,” advised Mary Jane.

“Take things as they come and deal with them as best you can when they happen,” added Greg.

Thank you, Mary Jane and Greg, for all you’ve done for the Reelers!

“Take things as they come and deal with them as best you can when they happen.”



Greg was an engineer with Jersey Central Power and Light for 38 years before retiring in 1993. Mary Jane was a special education teacher for almost 29 years. She also spent some years at home in Brookside to raise their daughter Susan.

But Mary Jane was also caring for elderly family members whose needs

tors (hiring callers and cuers). They have also been faithful class angels for many years.

But that still wasn’t enough, so Greg and Mary Jane took Advanced lessons. That led them to Mountain Squares, where they have served as vice presidents and raid chairs.

Thus, they have the distinction of

Reelers Square Dance Club

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

Fall 2009 Dance Schedule
RD Cuer: Mary Pickett (except as noted)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Theme</u>
09/18	Fran Wadel	Back to School Night
10/02	Glenn Matthew	Autumn Colors
10/16	Dennis Reardon	?
11/06	Mark Franks	?
11/20	Joe Landi/Karen Kushla	?
12/04	Len Anfinson	?
12/18	Mike Jacobs	?

Reelers Officers/Committee Chairs 2009-2010

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 and 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

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

*Member of Northern New Jersey
Square Dancers Association*



Where in the World?

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

Denmark and Scotland

Last May, Lise and I spent a week in Denmark visiting family and friends. She had lived there for a year and a half, and I enjoyed seeing the places and people that



were special to her. But it was hard not being able to participate in the Danish conversations. (Photo at left is from Ærøskøbing.)

Then we joined Lise's sister and her husband in Scotland for a week of hiking, castles, gardens, and lochs (lakes). Driving to our cottage on the west coast was a challenge – steering wheel on the right, driving on the left side of the road, one-lane hairpin turns with traffic going both directions, and two women screaming in the back seat.



But the weather was perfect for being outdoors every day. We all enjoyed the majestic mountains, islands, ruins, spectacular flowers, and delicious local food. The newborn lambs really captured our hearts as we rode through the countryside and strolled across meadows. And ... everyone spoke English!
Mark Bippes



Stay healthy with hand washing!

Hand washing can be the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself and those around you from illness. When done correctly, it can reduce the spread of infectious disease.

Here are some "tips" for washing hands between dance tips, before going to the refreshment table, and after bathroom breaks.

1. Wet your hands with WARM running water.
2. Add soap, then rub your hands together, making a soapy lather. Do this away from the running water for at least 20 seconds, being careful not to wash the lather away.
3. Remember to wash your thumbs, between fingers, under nails, and the front and back of your hands.
4. Rinse your hands well under the warm running water. Let the water run back into the sink, not down to your elbows.
5. Dry hands thoroughly with paper towels.
6. Turn off the water with a clean paper towel. Dispose of the towel in the proper receptacle.

What about hand sanitizers? Apply about a teaspoon of the alcohol gel on your palm. Then distribute over both hands, making sure to rub the front, back, and fingernails. Let the alcohol dry (about 30 seconds).

Helen Jacobson

