

Reelers Square Dance Club



REELERS REPORTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

September 2009

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When other people get you down, take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

From the Presidents

It's that time of year! The summer is rapidly ending and the fall is almost upon us. We hope you all had a wonderful summer and were able to enjoy some square dancing.

Our club is very happy to have several new graduates from the Mainstream program, continuing this fall with our Plus class. A warm Reelers welcome to: Kathy Fischer-Davis and Sandy Davis, Carol and Frank Gingerelli, David Vnenchak and Robin Olson.

The Executive Committee has been working hard to ensure a new year full of great dancing and great fellowship. If you are asked to help out with one of our activities (raids, demos, refreshments, etc.), please say yes. We need everyone's help to keep our club strong.

Check the *Grand Square* for NNJSDA's special dances. The dances are always fun and you will meet lots of great dancers. Remember "One Square is Fair" and that we are reimbursed for half our club's dues if we have one square at seven or more NNJSDA dances during one season. Let's try to attend all the dances! We will have a great time while helping our treasury. The *Grand Square* will be available at our first dance and on-line at NNJSDA.org.

Remember: When visiting other clubs, proudly wear your Reelers badge and invite dancers to visit our club.

The theme for our first dance on September 18 is "Back to School Night." See you in a square!

Linda and Rick Murphy (rilimicy@optonline.net)

Announcements!

★ **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. At the next meeting, there will be a session on "How to keep a meeting from running you."

Next meeting: Sun., Sept. 13

When: 1:00 PM

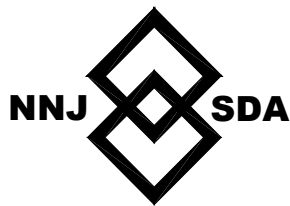
Where: YMCA, 100 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield 07081

★ **Demos:** The Sept. 16 demo at the Morris View adult care center has been *postponed* (new date not yet determined). But please come to a demo on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Craftsman Farms from 2-3 PM with a free tour of the museum. Sign up with the Van Stones at 908-832-5313.

★ **Round dance classes:** Mary Pickett's round dance classes continue Mondays at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 51 Mountain Way, Morris Plains - beginners at 7:30 and Phase III at 9:00. The fee is \$7 per class. For more information, contact Jeff Stevens at 862-209-1254.

★ **Holiday party:** In place of the traditional holiday party following our last dance in December, we will have a party on Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Murphys' home. Please bring an appetizer or dessert, and the hosts will provide beverages. The time will be announced later.

★ **Message from Erma and Bill Donaldson, former members:** "Please send this Internet link to all our square dance friends and tell everyone we said hello and are thinking of them. Enjoy..."
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WxyzS0vCME>.
Note: This is a great video of tractor square dancing!



Dance format

The NNJSDA Board wants to know the preferences of its members with regard to the dance format. A decision was made in 2008 to try for two years the current format (30 minutes of Mainstream followed by 2½ hours of alternating Mainstream/Plus/Rounds, with all singing calls (Mainstream) and solicit feedback on the format.

When providing feedback, please keep in mind

that the NNJSDA has members who dance (or prefer to dance) only Mainstream, only Plus, Advanced/Challenge, a combination of square dance programs, and/or Rounds! Clearly, no format will suit everyone's wishes, so please suggest acceptable compromises that will keep new Mainstream graduates dancing while providing sufficient challenge for other dancers. For *summer only* in 2010, the NNJSDA will try square dancing alone (no rounds).

One Square is Fair

Each NNJSDA club with at least one square at a specified number of

Association dances each year earns a dues reduction the following year.

We made it for 2009 – let's do it again for 2010! We already have credit for two summer dances, and we need five more by June. Check the list of upcoming events on page 4 of the new *Grand Square* (\$1 at the Sept. 18 dance).

Keep informed

The *Grand Square* is online at NNJSDA.org, in case your printed copy is not handy. The website also contains up-to-date information on NNJSDA clubs and events, and now there are photos of the officers so you can match a name with a face.

From the Executive Committee

Highlights of June 13, 2009 Meeting

Treasurer: Mark Bippes stated that last year's starting balance was \$2,289.21 and the ending balance was \$3,126.33, for a profit of \$837.12. Please pay your dues at or before the Sept. 18 dance.

Vice President: Arlene Simansky is checking locations for the 50th anniversary dinner-dance on April 10, 2011 with Tom Miller calling and Mary Pickett cueing.

Historians Ruth and Frank Pagano request photos and articles from the past few years, which will be used in planning the 50th celebration. Please label photos on the back to identify the people, place, and event.

Class Coordinator: Our six new Mainstream graduates will begin a Plus class with Fran Wadel on Sept. 15. Invite others – the fee is \$50 for the complete set of lessons. The Van Stones plan a new Mainstream class

for January, beginning with a “free introductory dance” on the class night so that prospective students have an opportunity to participate all evening.

Refreshments: The Sharkeys and Stollers thank all members for sharing the responsibility and work for dance refreshments. Once again, they are asking everyone to bring goodies to each dance. There will be a sign-up sheet for set-up, clean-up, etc. twice during the year. Pick a date with a theme that appeals to you! Your help and cooperation make the dances more enjoyable for us and our guests.

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

Jean and Inars Gruntals started our new season with a raid on July 9 to Hix and Chix. They will develop a schedule for the remaining raids shortly. Please join the raids!

National Convention 2009

by Helen Jacobson

I just returned from the 58th National Square Dance Convention in Long Beach, California – what an exciting time! I can't decide which highlight was my favorite, because there were so many.

The feeling of community was contagious. Some of the squares I danced in were so friendly that we didn't want to break up after the tip. There were many group hugs.

Dance workshops were available at every level. I participated in both Mainstream and Plus workshops and learned challenging variations in each class. Each caller had something new to share. I also attended clogging workshops to refresh rusty skills.

Another highlight was dancing with the Hunterdon Stars and Mercer ARC Angels, handicapped dance groups from New Jersey. Although these participants were developmentally delayed, they had competent dance skills and were justifiably proud of their accomplishments. Each time these friendly groups performed demonstrations in the exhibition arena, they received rousing applause. I plan to keep in touch with them.

This convention had something for everyone. The dances were lively, the callers entertaining, and the dance exhibitions terrific. I even danced the Salty Dog Rag with a teenage exhibition group from Colorado. Shoppers found an entire hall of vendors. There were sewing demonstrations and educational sessions on issues such as club promotion, member retention, and successful event planning. It was well worth it to stay awake for the after-parties, which began at 10 p.m. after the convention dances ended. I can only describe those spirited parties as “wild and crazy.” I had a ball!!

There were also plenty of activities outside the convention center. Many dancers enjoyed trips to beautiful Catalina Island, the Getty Museum, and Knott's Berry Farm. I visited some Kittatinny Rangers who were staying on the Queen Mary, an ocean liner beautifully preserved from the 1930s.

Dancers from Louisville, Kentucky are planning next year's convention and they

promise it will be fantastic. Let's all plan to pack up and head to the Bluegrass State, June 23-26, 2010! (www.59thnsdc.com)



History of H. J. Delchamps Memorial Scholarship

In 1976, the Reelers decided “to sponsor a small scholarship for a deserving Randolph High School graduating senior.” Club presidents Jim and Lois Drake sent a letter to the school’s Guidance Department. The general requirements included service to the drama club, financial need, and good character and citizenship. The \$100 scholarship was to be used for college or vocational school.

Although the letter did not specify the club’s motive for creating the scholarship, honorary member Dave Manning recalls that the purpose was to give something back to the town for allowing free use of Ironton School. The following year, when a charter member of Reelers passed away, the club decided to name the scholarship in his memory: the H. J. Delchamps Memorial Scholarship. As the club prospered, the scholarship amount was increased over the years to its current level of \$500.

Harold John (Jeff) Delchamps and his wife Winifred (Dickie) had learned to dance in 1938. Jeff was president of the Bell Labs Pioneers Square Dancing Club for two years before he retired in 1957. They were

also charter members of Hanover Squares and Grand Prowlers as well as active dancers in Somerset Hills Squares, Warren Wheelers, and Lakeland Squares.

The Delchamps, who were neighbors of Dave and Betty Manning, joined the Reelers when the club was formed in January 1961 and became pillars of the group. They were officers and active recruiters for many years. They even taught square and round dancing to neighborhood adults and children at their home. Dickie died in 1971, but Jeff continued working with students. He earned a “Permanent Angel” badge for angeling every class since the club’s founding.

In 1975, Jeff was appointed a permanent member of the Reelers Executive Committee with the title Historian. As chair of the club’s Bicentennial Celebration Committee in 1976, he arranged special demos of new and old style square dancing and participation in local USA bicentennial celebrations.

When Jeff died on May 15, 1977 following a short illness, the club’s *Grand Square* reporter wrote that until the end, he continued square

dancing three or four times a week. All of those clubs “enjoyed his quiet helpfulness, boundless energy, good humor and friendliness. ... Introducing new dancers to the joys of square dancing was Jeff’s greatest pleasure for almost 40 years. Hundreds of square dancers throughout the country would not have enjoyed life half as much without his influence.”

Upon his father’s death, the Delchamps’ son sent a letter enclosing Jeff’s Reelers badge and thanking the club for their expressions of sympathy. “Surely, there is something most special about square dancing and square dancers,” he wrote; “a spirit of mutual joy and a sense of unity that easily surmounts the artificial boundaries which sometimes hamper human interaction.”

Randolph High School seniors continue to benefit from the club’s annual H. J. Delchamps Memorial Scholarship, funded by the 50/50.

“Surely, there is something most special about square dancing and square dancers...”

On August 16, 33 Reelers and Kit-tatinny Rangers gathered at the home of Mark and Lise on Lake Hopatcong for a potluck picnic, sailing, and socializing. Most are shown in this photo, which was cobbled together from three different shots - in case you're wondering why some people look strange!



Reelers Square Dance Club

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

Member of Northern New Jersey
Square Dancers Association



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)

Date	Caller	Theme
09/18	Fran Wadel	Back to School Night
10/02	Glenn Matthew	Autumn Colors
10/16	Dennis Reardon	Hawaiian Night
11/06*	Mark Franks	Red, White, and Blue
11/20	Joe Landi/Karen Kushla	Thanksgiving Food Drive
12/04	Len Anfinson	Gold Rush
12/18	Mike Jacobs	Cookie Night
01/15	Jim Snyder	Book Swap

*Location TBA

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	862-397-4034
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: Avyril 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

Where in the World?

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

Alaska - Hal and Irene Stoller



We flew into Ketchikan and used the Alaska State Ferry System to go through the inside passage, traveling

by day to enjoy the scenery and staying several nights in a bed and breakfast or small hotel. The ferries vary in size but are all spotlessly clean with good food and lounges with panoramic front windows to sit and watch the scenery. The larger ones often had naturalists on board to point out sights like whales. We met many interesting local people, since the ships are a major means of transportation for business – nurses, social workers, teachers, sports teams, etc. – as well as for leisure.

The ferries also stop at many more places than the big cruise ships, such as small interesting towns. Our favorite stops included Sitka, Haines, and Juneau. We were able to spend as much time as desired in each since we were not on a cruise ship schedule.

The photo on the left is the Tracy Arm Glacier, which is a day trip by boat from Juneau. We were lucky to go on a sunny, relatively warm day when the glacier was calving in huge spectacular turquoise chunks into the sea. In the photo below, we're hiking on the network of mountain trails outside Sitka, a fascinating formerly Russian town with a lot of history. There is a great totem pole park right outside the city, as well as churches with icons and a troupe that performs Russian dances for tourists.



Member News

- Condolences to *Helen Jacobson*, whose mother passed away in August, about four years after losing her father. Helen cared for her mother in Florida before she died at home in Helen's arms.
- *Joan Anfinson* is recovering well from having both knees replaced last year, and is now working on a back problem. In sympathy for his wife's knee troubles, *Len Anfinson* had arthroscopic surgery on one of his knees. We expect to see them back on the dance floor shortly.
- *Rick and Linda Murphy* have a new grandchild, Donegan Luke Murphy, born on June 9 with "big blue eyes and dark hair." Brother Vaughan and sister Tristyn are delighted with their baby sibling. The family lives in Florida.
- Congratulations to *Jim Anderson* and *Nancy Caufield*, the proud new owners of a house in Jefferson Township: 603 Berkshire Valley Road, Wharton, NJ 07885 (862-397-4034).