

Reelers Square Dance Club



REELERS REPORTER

Volume 2, Issue 4

June 2010

From the Presidents

We would like to thank the Reelers community for allowing us to be presidents for the last two years. It has been a wonderful experience – all due to the many individuals who volunteered their time and energies to make Reelers such a great club. If we listed everyone who helped out, the names would closely mirror those Jean Gruntals thanked for making the Raid Program successful, plus so many others: those who come that bit early to help set up chairs or stay a bit late to put away the chairs, the supporters of early rounds, the providers of delicious food for every dance, those who donate to the Food Bank, the members of other clubs who support us so regularly... The list could go on and on.

Please don't take it for granted; this is what makes Reelers Square Dance Club special. Everyone works in big and small ways to keep our club in existence. This is remarkable. Other clubs' officers have warned us: "Just wait, you'll see that you will have to do it all." We are still waiting.

We are also still waiting to hear from the Randolph Board of Education regarding the use of Ironia School for the next dance season. Fortunately, we were invited to use the school at no charge for the remainder of the current season. In appreciation, we plan to donate \$250 directly to Ironia School. Our fingers are crossed that this arrangement will continue after the usage policy is rewritten. In these days of budget difficulties, however, nothing is certain.

Members, please keep an eye/ear open for other possible dance locations. Note that one square takes about 100 square feet to dance comfortably. An average dance night for us sees about five squares, although we may enjoy 10 or more squares. While we hope to remain at Ironia School, we don't want to be caught totally flat-footed.

And a huge thanks to Av and Bear Brady, who will take over the reins this month. The club will be in good hands – because our members do not expect the president to do everything! Congratulations, Av and Bear. You will be presidents as our club celebrates its 50th anniversary. What an honor!

Linda and Rick Murphy (rilimicy@optonline.net)

**From the club: Thank you, Linda and Rick,
for your outstanding leadership these past two years!**

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*Silence is often
misinterpreted,
but never
misquoted.*

Announcements!

★ **New officers:** Congratulations to the new officers, who are listed on page 4.

★ **We made it!** The Reelers once again completed the NNJSDA's annual One Square Is Fair and Raid programs, resulting in dues reduction - to zero! - for next year. We had one or more squares at 10 of the 11 qualifying OSIF events.

★ **Executive Committee meeting:** Our incoming club presidents, Av and Bear Brady,

will host the next Executive Committee meeting at their home. *All outgoing and incoming officers* are invited to attend the meeting. Please let the Bradys know *whether or not* you can be there. All club members are invited to send discussion topics to Av and Bear. Saturday, June 19

12:00 noon: potluck barbecue followed by meeting.
Brady home: 189 Lake Drive, Stanhope 07874 (on Lake Lackawanna in Byram Township)
RSVP: 973-347-1675 or avyril.brady1@verizon.net

★ **Freedom Festival demo:** Join the club on Saturday, July 3 for a parade and demo in Randolph - great free publicity in our club's hometown! Meet at the County College of Morris by 11:15 for shuttle buses to the start site. Let Av and Bear Brady know if you can participate, and they'll give you the details.

★ **Reelers jackets and caps:** It's not too late to order a snazzy Reelers cap and/or jacket with your name embroidered on it. Contact Helen Jacobson for details.

NNJSDA Officers – The Delegates elected the following officers for a term beginning June 1: *President* - Lise Greene, Ken Robinson; *1st VP* - Donna Poyer; *2nd VP* - Audrey Kerner, Barbara Berger; *3rd VP* - Alice DeLancey, Billy Flynn; *Recording Secretary* - Jeanne Weisman; *Corresponding Secretary* - Eleanor and Steve Frank; *Acting Treasurer* - Rusty Ball; *Assistant Treasurer* - Kay Davis, Sig Eisele.

Grand Square Benefit Dance – The Reelers were among the 23 squares at the hugely successful Benefit Dance on April 25, where Joe Landi and Mary Pickett donated their services as caller and cuer. The proceeds will cover the expenses for more than one full issue.

Special Plus Dance – Ken Bower of California called an outstanding NNJSDA *all-Plus* dance with star tips (Plus DBD and Advanced) on May 15. Mary Pickett cued, including half an hour of early rounds.

The Gathering – Helen Jacobson is a member of the committee planning this afternoon and evening event on Saturday, October 9 at Douglass College (Rutgers), New Brunswick. Themed “Evolve, Or Die,” it will feature a keynote address by John Marshall and breakout sessions on topics relevant to club leadership, followed by an evening dance called by John Marshall and cued by Mary Pickett. Tickets (ribbons) for the entire event: \$15. Gourmet sandwich buffet (optional): \$10.

Mini-Festival – Save the date of Sunday, November 14 for the annual Mini-Fest in Bridgewater from 2-9 PM. Callers: Jerry Story, Glenn Matthew, Ken Ritucci. Cuer: Roy Gotta. Fee: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. See *Grand Square* for registration information.

Grand Square Editor – Our own Chris Patrick will be the new *Grand Square* editor. Thank you, Chris!

Summer Wednesday MS/PL dances at 7:30 – Extra MS by new callers between tips! Bound Brook Methodist Church: July 14 (Betsy Gotta, Wes Thielke), August 11 (Rodney Spencer, Daryl Murphy). Elmwood Park VFW: July 28 (Dan Koft, Paul Ingis), August 25 (Ken Ritucci, Dan Tapper).

Freeloader – If you attend three summer NNJSDA dances and the Mini-Fest in 2010, you'll get a free dance next summer. Forms are available online and at dances.

Patron – If you dance at 14 NNJSDA member clubs and have the form signed, you'll earn a free ticket to the next Mini-Festival! There's no time limit.

Website – Check NNJSDA.org for special events and other clubs' dances. There's also a half-hour cable TV program about square dancing, including video clips from a Reelers dance. Show it to prospective dancers!

From the Executive Committee

Vice President: For the Reelers 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance, Arlene and Tom Simansky have booked the Zeris Inn (342 Route 46 East, Mountain Lakes 07046). *Date:* Sunday, April 10, 2011. *Time:* 12:00 cash bar (with free cheese, crackers, vegetable dip); 12:30-4:30 dinner and dancing. *Caller:* Tom Miller. *Cuer:* Mary Pickett. *Meal:* penne vodka appetizer, tossed salad, choice of entrée (chicken marsala, salmon, prime rib), broccoli, stuffed baked potato, soda, coffee, tea, anniversary cake, ice cream. *Fee:* \$40 per person.

Treasurer: Mark Bippes, Outgoing Treasurer, reports that this has been an exceptional year with enough income from every dance to cover that dance's expenses. “We even received an extra \$100 from the Girls Scouts for a demo. The Reelers have been wonderfully committed to keeping our club one of the best in the area. It's been a pleasure working along with all of you.”

Class Coordinator: Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone report that the Mainstream class is continuing with two couples. The Gingerellis, who graduated in the previous class, have joined the regular angels. A Plus class is planned for September.

Program Chair: Mary Jane and Greg Roome request suggestions for callers and cuers in 2012-2013. Please let them know when and where they can dance to the suggested callers before contracting with them.

Delegate: Gay and Bill Grier remind everyone that the Reelers are responsible for refreshments at the Saturday, October 30 dance in Caldwell. Other NNJSDA news is reported above.

Raids: From Jean and Inars Gruntals: “Raids to Hix and Chix, Cross Trail Squares, Mountain Squares, Y Squares, Circle Eights, Bee Sharps, and Kittatinny Rangers were completed this season, thus

fulfilling our raiding obligations. Thirty-eight club members participated in at least one raid. Our largest raid this year, to Bee Sharps, included 24 Reelers. We're just ‘nuts about all of you raiders.’ Our thanks to you!”

[Editor's note: The club is just nuts about our Raid Coordinators – and delighted with the baggie of yummy nuts presented to each raider at the conclusion of the season!]



See article on page 3 about Inars and Jean Gruntals (photo above). Jean's favorite words of wisdom are: “Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today.” Thank you, Jean and Inars, for doing so much for the Reelers!

Jean and Inars Gruntals

Inars Gruntals was born in Latvia, moving with his family to Germany when he was seven years old. Five years later, they moved even farther, crossing the Atlantic to settle in Ohio. Inars quickly learned English. He graduated from Fenn College (now Cleveland State University) with a degree in engineering science and joined an aerospace company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Jean, who was born and grew up in Milwaukee, graduated from the University of Wisconsin and taught elementary school. She met Inars at a young adult church group they both attended. Inars subsequently moved to Boston on a work assignment. A few months later, he came back to visit and proposed to Jean one balmy evening in June. They planned a September wedding in Milwaukee.

During that summer, Jean and her friend Ann decided to take a driving trip up the East coast, stopping in Boston to visit Inars. The young women arrived to discover that Inars had arranged for blood tests, applied for a marriage license, and talked to a minister in the hope of persuading Jean to marry then. It worked. They wed on a Friday and had a short Honeymoon Part I at Tanglewood before Jean and Ann continued their trip on Monday.

“When I shared the story with some people at Niagara Falls, they thought it was the strangest honeymoon they’d ever heard of – a bride, her friend, and no groom,” recalled Jean. A couple of weeks later, Jean and Inars finally went to Cape Cod for Honeymoon Part II.

They lived in Massachusetts, where Jean taught in Wakefield and Inars continued with his work assignment. Both went to graduate school part time until Inars’ assignment ended, at which point they studied full time to finish their master’s degrees. Right at the end of course work, their first daughter was born. Inars then joined Bell Labs in New Jersey for what would become a 34-year career, and Jean was a full-time mother to a family that expanded to two daughters.

When the younger daughter entered kindergarten, Jean began teaching in Chatham, and especially enjoyed the third grade. When the same daughter was com-

pleting high school, the Gruntals began looking for a physical activity that also had a social component. They saw an ad in the Randolph adult school catalog for square dance lessons sponsored by the Reelers. As children, Jean had square danced in gym class whereas Inars had once seen a square dance with a fiddler and one square at a church event.

They signed up for the class and joined the club after completing Plus lessons in 1988. The Gruntals have held most positions in the Reelers, from presidents to refreshment coordinators. In the coming year, they will serve a second time as secretaries.

Inars and Jean combine their pleasure in both square dancing and camping as members of the Garden State Square Dance Campers. On an RV trip out west, they located a square dance in Montana with a caller who was stationed at a nearby air force base. “There was just one square, but we still had a great time,” they said. “Square dancing has enriched our lives in countless ways.”

Both Jean and Inars like to exercise – Jean at Jazzercise and Inars in his home gym. Jean also enjoys reading all kinds of fiction, while Inars does much of his reading on the Internet following news from around the world. In the spring and fall, they both attend classes at Leisure Learning in Bernards Township. In addition, they like round dancing, attending plays and concerts, traveling, and family time.

“Our daughter Amy, who is married and the mother of our beloved granddaughter Julie, fortunately lives only half an hour away. Wendy, our other daughter, is married with two stepsons and lives in Georgia – unfortunately, more than half an hour away,” they lamented.

When the Gruntals retired, their present to themselves was a five-week trip to Australia and New Zealand. “From the natural beauty of New Zealand to the opera house in Sydney to Uluru and Alice Springs in the Outback to the barrier reef off Cairns, it was truly a memorable trip,” they agreed.

(See photos on pages 2 and 4.)

New England Square Dance Convention

- Chris & Michael Patrick

Late in April, we took a road trip to attend (along with 993 other dancers) the annual New England Square and Round Dance Convention. This year the convention was in Biddeford, Maine, which is a bit of a trek. But lucky for us – Michael’s parents live almost exactly halfway, so we were able to break the trip up. The convention ran from Thursday night to Sunday afternoon.

This convention offered something for everyone – Basic, Mainstream, Plus with alternating Rounds, Advanced, Challenge, separate Rounds hall, and of course shopping. The dance program was extensive and included some “novelties” – dancing by black light, hexagon “squares,” dancing by definition, sunrise dance on the beach, all singing calls, Fast Plus, Fast Mainstream (and it was FAST!!!!), and more. We didn’t dance every tip, but we came close to it.

The Friday “after” party was wonderful with two very talented callers. We danced until we dropped at midnight, and the dancing was still going on. On Saturday, we found a lovely outdoor spot by the water in Kennebunkport to have lobster rolls. After a nice drive through town and a walk on the beach, it was on to more dancing. When we left at 11:00 that night, the dancing was still going on (and on, and on . . .).

We saw several other New Jersey dancers there and even had a couple of “all Jersey” squares. We met some really wonderful New England dancers and a few Canadian ones too, and had a fabulous time dancing to all the New England callers.



Chris after breakfast on the beach before the drive home

Michael on a lobster roll break in Kennebunkport



More dancing was scheduled for Sunday, but for us it was time to drive home. After coffee and a walk on the beach, we reluctantly turned southward, already planning our trip for the convention next year. Hope to see some Reelers there in 2011.

Reelers Square Dance Club

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

Member of Northern New Jersey
Square Dancers Association



1st & 3rd Fridays
Early Rounds 7:30, Plus and Rounds 8:00-10:00
Cell for dance night: 201-317-0073

2010-11 Dance Schedule

RD Cuer: Mary Pickett (except as noted)

Date	Caller	Theme
09/17	Fran Wadel	Welcome Back Reunion
10/01	Glenn Matthew	African Safari
10/15	Jim Snyder	Fall Fruit Festival
11/05	Joe Landi	Guess Who? (bring photos!)
11/19	Dennis Reardon/Karen Kushla	Thanks. Food Drive
12/03	Len Anfinen	Cruise-Wear
12/17	Glenn Matthew	Cookies
01/07	Roy Leber	Baubles/Bangles/Beads
01/21	Jim Snyder/Karen Kushla	Chocolate Delight
02/04	Dennis Reardon	Superbowl Party
02/18	Mark Franks	Pie and Presidents

Email will be sent if dance location changes.

Reelers Officers/Committee Chairs 2010-2011

President: Avyrl and Bear Brady	973-347-1675
Vice President: Matty and Bernie Sharkey	908-852-7931
Secretary: Jean and Inars Gruntals	973-543-7792
Treasurer: Chris and Michael Patrick	973-998-4505
Asst. Tr.: 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: Joyce and Jim Kelly	908-658-4271
Raids: Vicky and Ed Proskey	201-337-7321
Refreshments:	
Irene and Hal Stoller (Schedule)	973-744-1969
Helen Jacobson (Supplies)	973-442-0836

Where in the World?

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

The Australian Salute - Inars and Jean Gruntals

Here's a photo from our Australia trip, taken not far from Alice Springs. It shows a camel rising up to give us a ride.

Camels in Australia? The desert bush environment is friendly to camels; in fact, some live in the wild. The funny hat with the



net? It's to keep away swarms of flies that just love to sit on one's face. The motion of waving off flies is sometimes called the "Australian Salute."

Member News

- Two Reelers are currently working in Pennsylvania during the week and commuting home to New Jersey on weekends. *Rick Murphy* is a Programmer/Analyst in the Technology and Information Systems Department at Benco Dental Supply near Wilkes-Barre. *Lise Greene* will begin a position as Presidential Writer at Lehigh University in Bethlehem later this month

- *Helen Jacobson's* humanitarian trip: "In June and early July, I will be working in a rural part of Rwanda, Africa that was devastated by genocide in 1994. I am working with a wonderful humanitarian group, Global Grassroots, that sends teams to combat critical issues facing women and girls throughout Rwanda. They have developed a rainwater collection and distribution system, so that women do not have to walk miles to carry water for their homes. They have taught illiterate women reading, writing, tailoring skills, and financial literacy. My specific role will be to introduce into the school system a women's health curriculum covering reproductive health issues and violence against women. I just hope that I do not see any snakes!"