

THE ROUNDUP

NEWSLETTER FOR BOOTS 'N' BUCKLES DECEMBER, 1990



BOOTS 'N' BUCKLES CHRISTMAS DANCE DECEMBER 21, 1990

Get your tickets early for our annual Christmas dance. Tickets sold at the door at our regular Friday night dances. ENTERTAINMENT- SANDY ELLWANGER & BAND

ADMISSION - MEMBERS \$8.00
NON-MEMBERS \$12.00

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S NOMINATIONS

At a dance in January, Boots 'N' Buckles will be accepting nominations for its Board of Directors. Ten club members are elected for a minimum term of one year each and a maximum of two years each. Elections are held every six months to replace those members retiring from the board with new members. In this manner we always maintain a balanced board made up partly with experienced "know how" members and partly with newer less experienced members. This is how we keep our Club running smoothly while at the same time gaining new and fresh ideas. We would like to encourage all club members to consider running for one of the open positions. I can honestly tell you that I did not join the board to "serve the club", I joined to serve myself. By participating as a functioning

member of the board my satisfaction and enjoyment of the Clubs' activities have increased ten-fold. It is out of this self fulfillment that I am able to serve the Club. I remember before nominating myself I held the position that being a board member would require a lot of work and effort to which I was not sure I was ready to commit to. What I discovered once on the board was that it was simply "just a lot of fun". I feel a lot of ownership of the Club and its activities along with feeling a lot closer to all the wonderful people who dance at Swiss Park on Friday nights. We have a great club!!!

If you have even an inkling of an idea you might be interested to be on the board please contact one of the present board members the next time you are at a Boots 'N' Buckles dance and have him or her give you more details. We are looking forward to your nomination in January.

Howard Noel B & B Treasure



COMPETITION DANCING

As many of you already know the Grand Championships were held on Thanksgiving Weekend in Burlingame. You should mark this event on your calendar for next year, it will be held in

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the same hotel in Burlingame and on Thanksgiving weekend. The Hyatt Regency did a fantastic job of making the Country Western Dancers feel welcome and rolled out the red carpet. The accommodations were outstanding. Two large ballrooms to dance in. The main being the biggest but the one for lessons was also large and very nice. You didn't feel like you were trying to take lessons in a very small hotel room, were you couldn't breathe because you were so crammed in.

Tammi Ernst & Robert Royston won **1st Place Overall Champions** Division 2

1st Place Swing 1st Place Waltz
1st Place Shuffle 5th Place Two step

We are very proud of Tammi & Robert keep up the good work!!!! 😊 😊
Lori Bradshaw and Rich Rosso won some money in the Jack 'n Jill contest. They were part of a team that took 1st place in the contest. \$500 dollars was shared by all members of the team. The weekend was alot of fun and dancing till your feet fell off, so mark your calendars for next year and plan to attend and show our support for all of our competitors.!!

**HAPPY HOLIDAY
TO ALL FROM THE
BOOTS 'N' BUCKLES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

COUNTRY QUICK STEPPERS

DANCE SCHEDULE

December 1	Bowditch
December 15	Bowditch Christmas
January 5	Vetrans Memorial

All dances are from 8:30 to 11:30 pm
Members \$2.00 Guest \$3.00

Dance lessons at Swiss Park

Intermediate / Advanced		
Mondays	7:30 to 10:00pm	\$4.00
West Coast Swing		
Tuesday	7:30 to 10:00pm	\$4.00
Beginners		
Wednesday	7:30 to 10:00pm	\$4.00



Thanksgiving Review

Our Thanksgiving Dance was a good success. Food was collected and donated to Tri-city Volunteers. Warms Springs Lucky Store donated 3 turkeys to be given away at the dance and Boots 'N' Buckles donated the value of the turkeys to Tri-city Volunteers. Many thanks to all who brought in donations, Tri-city was very appreciative of the donation.

COMPETITION - What Are We Doing Here!

Have you ever tried to smile, while dancing, and your lips stick to your teeth? Has your upper lip started to quiver so much that you know everyone in the room can see it move?

Have you danced on a sticky floor with only four couples and still had no room?

If yes to the above, you have either competed or are currently competing. The above are just a sample of things you go through,....there's more.

In general, a competition couple will work on their routines for two hours three to four days a week. This will go to five then six days a week prior to the competition. The dances will not be perfected for about a year, provided there are no big changes between competitions.

The hours of practice include working on the basic dance patterns or for movements. Then on to the hand and upper body movements and posture: let's not forget the "smile" movement. Yes, you even have to practice to smile. Next time you dance look around at the number of people that smile. You can count them on one hand. Once you have a routine you sit down and go over the rules and regulations as they apply to the dances to insure your steps and phrasing are correct. Those are precious points you don't want to lose from the judges.

An example the **TWO STEP**: Any two step pattern using 6 counts of music (quick, quick, slow...slow, 1,2,3, slow) may be used that has a generally forward progression; any move that temporarily slows forward motion will be performed toward the center of the floor etc.....

Then you study the sections on what the judges are looking for and the scoring. This covers the following:

Three Categories- **Content, Execution & Style**. Each is worth 50 points.

Content: Variety of dance positions, difficulty of dance movements, uniqueness, continuity. Content scoring shall be done by "mark & tally" system with each mark being worth one point and tallied up from zero points.

Execution: Basic pattern, rhythm, timing and initial phrasing between partners and to the selected music, proper performance of footwork, alignment, frame work. Execution scoring same "mark & tally" system with each mark worth two points and tallied down from fifty points.

Style: Artistic interpretation and choreography projected through dance. Enthusiasm, enjoyment of the dance. Appropriate presentation of lead and follow rules. Posture, grooming and use of costume as it compliments the contestants and their dance style. Style scoring done by "number & grade reference" system with possible number scores being from twenty-five to one plus graded marks.

Having studied the rules, you hope you know what the judges are looking for. Then the serious practice begins. Time passes-practice after practice-planning and costume fittings and a dance practice in the costume. I guess we feel ready for competition.

In our case, we went to Reno. We thought that this would be far enough that no one would know who we were. So, if the worst happened, not many people we know would be there. Well, we should have gone to Alaska or Iran. It seemed like they moved all of Boots and Buckles and Swiss Park people to Reno for the weekend! But, it was great to have their support and to see some friendly faces after all. The time finally arrives, we walk onto the dance floor for the first time. The hardest time we had and still do is when we walk on the floor and have to stand there waiting to dance. You pray a Little, you worry about your routine and the other dancers. Are they ready? Are they any good? What dance are we doing? What the hell are we doing here! Then you hear the familiar phrases, "Couples take your positions, let's Two Step".

The music begins, you have heard the song the night before, and you are ready. You start to take the first step, and your foot will not move. You stand there for what seems like forever getting the count. Your partner looks at you and smiles, tugs your shoulder (gently) and you both begin to move. Everything's going to be all right. Your partner tells you "It's OK dear, just keep going". You make your moves and listen to the music and not the words of the song. The teacher told you several times if you listen to the words of the song, you'll lose the beat. Keeping count in your head you move through the routine, so far so good. Your floor usage is very good, looking out for other couples, knowing if you make contact you will lose points. You keep to the outside of the floor doing the turns you have practiced in just the right places so more than one judge will see them. Time for the duck unders, you remember to tilt your head back, and bend at the waist, you can't lose your hat, you don't. As you dance you move your eyes away from your partner, gazing seeing that everyone in the world is watching you dance. Just you and nobody else. Not your partner not the couple next to you no one but you. You go brain dead! You forget your routine, and at this point you think the some will last forever. Lynn knows I'm in trouble. She can see how pasty white I have turned and the beads of sweat pouring down my face, I'm shaking more now than in the beginning. What a great time for this to happen in front of everybody! I hear the gentle soft words from Lynn, swing right, yes that's it, I remember the routine! The dancing continues. Finally the music is over and no more chances.

Again, we line up and the judges take one last look. Did we final?
Did we screw-up to much - oh well, we did our best. As you walk off the floor, everyone is supportive. We need that! Lynn and I know there are 3 more dances to tackle. It will get better. We bolster our thinking. We support each other. We change our costumes.

Things do get better and smother, the more you compete the easier the moves get. you become tougher - You can handle more. Entering more contests, you're still nervous but wanting to final and trophy become important - you're not just here for fun. You have invested time, effort and money. This has become a serious hobby and we like it.

Speaking of finaling and getting a trophy; it's hard to understand sometimes why you didn't and the "other couple" did! You blame the judges - you blame your teacher, you blame yourself most of all. After all that foolishness, you look at the video tapes of your performance and laugh. Seeing why you didn't final or trophy. That makes Lynn and I work harder and strive to be better dancers. You can always improve. Just try harder.


It is very difficult to compete. You put it on the line every time you walk on the dance floor. Your egos are exposed to the critical eye of all. The hours and months of practice will be over in three minutes or less. There are those critics out there that think if you don't trophy every time you can't dance well. They are wrong, they've never competed. Just finaling is great - the trophy is the icing on the cake.

You will notice that competitors tend to gravitate towards each other. We are a support for each other, even when we're not competing. We know what the pressures are. Helping each other over the rough spots. That's why it is so special to have a club like Boots & Buckles - where all members support their competition dancers. When they do well, everyone is there to share in the victory, and when they miss the same people share in the defeat. It is support like that and smiles of encouragement, which make it worth while.

We will be putting it on the line again in Santa Rosa'91, and again we will look at each other and wonder if it's all worth it. (It is) We'll sparkle in our costumes, glide along the floor, flash smiles of assurance and dance the best we can knowing there are many of you out there - watching and supporting. Thank you Boots & Buckles!

By: Lynn Koth &
Dennis Kenny
Division 3 competitors

December 1990

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SP=Swiss Park, Mowry in Newark lessons by Neil Hale, Charlotte Skeeter and Janean LaGrange on Mon. & Wed. \$4 Charlotte Skeeter and Bill Jackson on Tue. \$4. CT=Cowtown, Monterey Hwy. in San Jose, Mike and Mary on Thu. free						
	7:30pm SP- Prancing Pony Next Stop Cha Cha	7:30pm SP West Coast Swing	7:30pm SP Waltz Across Texas Wild Wild West Boggie Cotton Eye'd Joe	7:30pm CT Wooden Nickel	8:30 BOOTS N' BUCKLES DANCE	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	7:30pm SP Queens Waltz Northside Cha Cha	7:30pm SP West Coast Swing	7:30pm SP Cherokee Kick Backwalk Caribbean Cadence	7:30pm CT Bocephus	8:30 BOOTS N' BUCKLES DANCE	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	7:30pm SP Slo Cadillac Waltz	7:30pm SP West Coast Swing	7:30pm SP Chocolate City Hustle Texas Cha Cha Cottonb Eye'd Joe Mixer	7:30pm CT Step Partner Moves Two	8:30 BOOTS N' BUCKLES CHRISTMAS DANCE SANDY ELLWANGER & BAND	22
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	NO CLASSES		NO CLASSES	7:30pm CT Caribbean Cadence	8:30 BOOTS N' BUCKLES DANCE	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	NO CLASSES					
30	31					

THE ROUNDUP EDITORIAL STAFF

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Material for next Roundup should be submitted to editor by January 28.

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B 'N' B JACKETS

Jackets can be ordered from Gail Cone. Write your name, address, phone * and jacket size (xs,s,m,l, xl,xxl) and print the name you want on the front. Include a check for \$50.00 made out to Boots 'N' Buckles. Bring to any Friday night dance. We can only order when we have orders for six jackets.

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