

THE ROUNDUP



Boots 'n' Buckles Dance Club Newsletter

February 2006

Vol 17, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi to all of our members.

The hall at Swiss Park was filled with dancers last week, and we had a wonderful lesson by special guest instructor Michael Barr. He taught his popular new dance "Just a Matter of Time". Thank you, Michael, for helping to make it a fun and memorable evening.

There will be something for everyone during February at the Boots 'n' Buckles Dance Club. We're looking forward to welcoming "Hopping Mad!" Henry Costa as our special guest instructor on February 3rd to teach his hot new line dance "Temptin". Henry is a very popular local dance instructor and choreographer who often teaches at the Saddle Rack.

Then our Valentines dance will be on February 10th. Wear red and bring a tasty treat to share. Our decorators Glenn and Carole Wiegand will make this a very special evening. By the way, we are always looking for volunteers to help them put up and later take down the decorations; please see Glenn or Carole if you can donate some of your time.

We are also looking for help with the Roundup and website. Anyone who can contribute articles, pictures, editing assistance, web maintenance or help with printing and distribution should contact Fran Bailie, our new editor and webmaster.

We'll be having an open board meeting at 6:30pm on Friday, March 10th at Swiss Park, and all members are invited to attend to discuss their ideas and suggestions.



Swiss Park is a great place to dance, and on behalf of the board I'd like to thank all the members and guests who come each Friday and make our events so special.

Bonnie Sayre
President

THREE DOT DANCE NEWS

Let's break out the champagne! Mike Hanson and Lee Springer have finally tied the knot. And wasn't Mike saying something about offering everyone Cuban cigars?

Gina Mello has choreographed a new dance. It's called 'Everyone Loves to Cha Cha Cha', a beginner/intermediate dance done to the song of the same name written by James Taylor and sung by Sam Cooke. Already the dance has been taught in the Bay Area and done at Swiss Park. Nice work, Gina!

Michael Barr and Michele Burton's annual Boogie event on March 18 has sold out, but a waiting list is being maintained (see www.michaelandmichele.com). Michael and Evelyn Khinoo will be teaching at the Palm Springs festival February 3-5 (www.la.events.org/viewevent_2929.htm). Michael's new dance 'Just a Matter of Time', taught at Swiss Park last week, has an updated step sheet available at his website.

Other hot new dances and floor fillers include Trippin', Bossa Nova, Beautiful Boy and End of the Road. See the step sheets at LineDanceFun.com.

The annual Crystal Boot Awards will be held next week, February 3-5 in Blackpool, England. The event is organized by Linedancer Magazine, and the awards dinner is said to be something like the Academy Awards for the line dancing community. Watch Linedancer Magazine's website (www.linedancermagazine.co.uk) to see who will win the awards this year.

Kate Sala's new dance 'Heartbreaker' is to be introduced at the Crystal Boot event, but has already been taught in Southern California and the Bay Area. Kate is the choreographer of popular dances that include Shakatak, Black Horse and Chiky Latina. A step sheet for Heartbreaker is posted at www.LineDanceFun.com. The music is a slightly funky and vaguely reggae version of the old Dionne Warwick song 'Heartbreaker'.

You can celebrate Chinese New Year on Saturday, January 28 at the Keep on Dancin' 4th Saturday workshop and social dance, to be held at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto. The workshop will extend from 4 to 7pm, followed by an all request social between 7:30 and 11pm. Dancers are invited, but not required, to bring snacks and finger food to share.

Last week the Quicksteppers celebrated Chinese New Year with a wonderful dance, in a hall very nicely decorated by ringleader Belinda Cheng and accomplices Jocelyn Liu, Yuli Su, Paul Goodman and others. Rumor has it that Yuli traveled all the way to Taiwan, just to purchase decorations for the event, but it seems at least possible that she also visited her family while she was there. Welcome back, Yuli. And Happy New Year to all, this year of the dog!



BOOTS 'N' BUCKLES DANCE CLUB

DJ: Bob Hubbard

COME DANCE WITH US AT SWISS PARK

5911 Mowry Ave. in Newark, CA

Every Friday Night - 8:00 to 11:30pm

Feb. 3 FIRST DANCE OF THE MONTH

Guest Instructor: "Hopping Mad!" Henry Costa

Feb. 10 VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

Wear red and bring a tasty treat to share.

Bob Boesel will teach a new dance at 7:40pm

Feb. 17 CELEBRATE FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Guest Instructor: Bob Boesel

Feb. 24 ARRIVE EARLY TO LEARN A NEW DANCE!

Bob Boesel will teach a new dance at 7:40pm

4th Sunday Dances
have been canceled
until further notice

OTHER BAY AREA DANCES

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Sat. Jan 28 | Fourth Saturday - Keep on Dancin'
Covent Presbyterian Church -Palo Alto
DJ: Trish Boesel
Workshop at 4pm, Social at 7pm | Sat. Feb 11 | Country Hustlers
Danville Veteran's Hall
DJ: Rich & Melody Beard
8:00 - 11:00 pm |
| Sat. Jan 28 | Country Hustlers
First Presbyterian Church, Livermore
DJ: Gary Clayton
8:00 - 11:00 pm | Sat. Feb 18 | Quicksteppers -Hearts & Flowers
American Legion Hall in San Mateo
DJ: Diana Ward
7:30 - 10:30 pm |
| Sat. Feb 4 | Quicksteppers - I Dunno Dance
Barrett Community Center, Belmont
DJ: Neil Hale
7:30 - 10:30 pm | Fri. Feb 24 | Fourth Friday Firehouse Dance
Pedro Point Firehouse, Pacifica
DJ: Matt & Carol Fitzpatrick
8:00 - 11:00pm |
| Sat. Feb 4 | Cactus Corners
First Presbyterian Church, Livermore
DJ: Gary Clayton
7:30 - 11:00 pm | Sat. Feb 25 | Fourth Saturday - Keep on Dancin'
Covent Presbyterian Church -Palo Alto
DJ: Trish Boesel
Workshop at 5pm, Social at 7pm |
| Sun. Feb 5 | First Sunday Country Swing Dance
830 Stewart Drive, Sunnyvale
Instructors: Heide & Kaylene
6:00 - 11:00 pm | Sat. Feb 25 | Country Hustlers
First Presbyterian Church, Livermore
DJ: Evelyn Khinoo & Denny Harris
8:00 - 11:00 pm |
| Sun. Feb 5 | First Sunday Dance
San Bruno Senior Center
Guest DJ: Neil Hale
1:00 - 4:00 pm | Fri. Mar 3 | Cactus Corners
The Grange in Danville
DJ: Diana Ward
7:30 - 11:00 pm |
| Fri. Feb 10 | Second Friday Dance
Masonic Temple in Menlo Park
DJ: Jamie Hogan
7:30 - 10:30 pm | Every Friday | Finally Friday Scripted Social
Saratoga Senior Center
DJ: Doris Volz
10:15 am - 12:15 pm |

A BIT ABOUT FILE SHARING

Members of the line dance community who are interested in shariang music and video files might find it worthwhile to investigate bitTorrent, a relatively new Internet-based technology that is becoming quite popular. Napster is ancient history. Kazaa was acquired by unscrupulous purveyor of sleazy spyware. bitTorrent is the newest new thing.

Widespread file sharing on the Internet started in about 1999 with the release of Napster. This program was free and used by millions of people, primarily to share MP3 files containing popular music. The MP3 file format allows for very high compression for digital audio recordings, so that a typical 3 minute song can be stored in a file as small as about 3 megabytes. During installation of Napster, the user would designate a folder on his computer to contain the MP3 files he wanted to share. When run, the program would read the directory of this folder and upload that information (file name, size and type) to a central database. The Napster client featured a search facility that allowed users to scan through the central database to locate files of interest shared by other users. For example, a search for the word 'Marley' would yield a long list of files on other computers, many of them MP3 files containing songs by Bob Marley. The user would select one of these files, which initiated a direct connection to another user's computer and the transfer of that file. While a user was downloading files to his computer, uploads would also take place as other users transferred files from the shared folder on his computer.

Napster was one of the first widely-used peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing services, but it relied upon central servers for searches and the information needed to connect users to one another. Napster maintained the central servers, and was forced to shut them down in 2001 as a result of copyright infringement lawsuits brought by recording companies.

As Napster was shut down, other P2P file sharing services arose to fill the void, most of them decentralized to avoid the legal risks associated with maintaining a central server. Prominent among them was Kazaa and the FastTrack network. Kazaa was originally a free program that allowed its users to search for and share files with one another, using a series of decentralized supernodes to maintain indexes of files available on the FastTrack network. From the user's perspective, Kazaa worked in much the same way as Napster had worked. However, the Dutch company that owned Kazaa was also hit with copyright infringement suits, and sold the application to Sharman Networks of Australia. Sharman Networks has tried to cash in on the popularity of Kazaa by bundling a large number of truly obnoxious adware and spyware programs into the application. These programs include Cydoor, B3D, Altnet, GAIN, InstaFinder and others that record and collect your web surfing behavior, display popup advertisement on your computer screen, and redirect your browser to their own sites. They leach valuable CPU resources and bandwidth, run on your computer even after you exit from Kazaa, and cannot be removed by uninstalling

Kazaa. Current Kazaa victims might be interested in a free Kazaa removal application that is widely available on the Internet and appropriately called Kazaabegone.

A far better solution than Kazaa is Kazaa Lite Resurrection, a free application that allows its users to connect to the FastTrack network and share files with Kazaa users without installing any adware or spyware (get it at http://www.filesharingplace.com/downloads/kazaa_lite_resurrection.php.) Kazaa Lite Tools K++ is a more sophisticated application for the same purpose (available for free at <http://www.klitetools.com/MM/index.htm>). Both programs were developed independently from Sharman Networks.

Another P2P network widely used for file sharing is Gnutella, which operates in a manner generally similar to FastTrack. Clients that can be used to access this network include Bearshare, Limewire, and Frostwire. Bearshare is available at a cost of \$3.29 per month, and there is also a free version that features more limited functionality and commercial advertisements. Limewire offers a free version, which for a time was bundled with spyware, but now apparently contains only adware, and a Pro version without ads that sells for \$18.88. A better solution for accessing the Gnutella network might be Frostwire, a free and ad-free Limewire clone available at www.frostwire.com.

Over the past two years or so, a different method of file sharing called bitTorrent has become quite popular. To access this technology, you need a bitTorrent client program (one of the most popular clients is μ Torrent, pronounced 'mirco-torrent' and available without charge at www.utorrent.com). Next, you need to locate and download a .torrent file, a small pointer file that describes the file to be shared and the Internet location of a 'tracker' program that manages its distribution. The tracker keeps a list of all users who have the file or want to acquire it, in effect creating a small, ad hoc network that is called a 'swarm'. Executing the .torrent file on your bitTorrent client will cause your client to contact the tracker server, which adds you to the swarm and connects you to other members of the swarm to initiate the downloading of the desired file. Files are transmitted in segments, usually about half a megabyte in size. Even as you are downloading all the segments needed to complete the file, other users in the swarm are uploading from your computer the segments you have already received. In this way the technology discourages 'leeching', the antisocial behavior of those who try to download files without offering uploads. It is also rather remarkable, because the more demand there is for a given file, the larger the swarm and the easier and faster it will be to acquire the file.

bitTorrent users must have a way to search for .torrent files that point to the files they wish to download, and a number of websites have sprung up to fill this need. On the following page is a list of sites that offer collections of .torrent files and/or search engines to locate .torrent files. Happy hunting!

POPULAR BITTORRENT SITES

The following websites contain large collections of .torrent files, and/or search facilities to locate .torrent files. None of them require registration or charge a fee. (For an explanation of .torrent files, see the article on the previous page.)

Mininova	http://www.mininova.org/
The Pirate Bay	http://trackerwww.prq.to/
MyBitTorrent	http://mybittorrent.com
Snarf-It	http://www.snarf-it.org/
Torrentz	http://www.torrentz.com/
TorrentSpy	http://www.torrentspy.com/
isoHunt	http://www.isohunt.com/
TorrentBox	http://www.torrentbox.com/
TorrentPortal	http://www.torrentportal.com/
NovaTina	http://www.novatina.com/
TorrentReactor	http://torrentreactor.net/
Yotoshi	http://yotoshi.com/
BTSites	http://www.btsites.tk/

TREASURER'S REPORT

Boots 'n' Buckles closed the books for the year 2005 with no further adjustments to the preliminary financial statements for December shown in last month's Roundup.

Much of the tax work for 2005 has been completed. Our forms 1099 and 1096 (reporting miscellaneous payments to the IRS) have been mailed. Our 2005 form 199 (the annual informational return to the California Franchise Tax Board) has been filed. The information for form 990-EZ (IRS return for exempt organizations) has been prepared, and will be submitted when the IRS releases the final format for the 2005 form.

All receivables outstanding as of year-end 2005 have been collected. However, the January financials are not ready as of publication date (January 26), because there will be one more dance in January (January 27).

Patrick Luby, Treasurer

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/2	Carol Clark	2/16	Joan Dawson
2/7	Jean West	2/20	Peg Moffitt
2/10	Jacey Lin	2/24	Kathy Chang

Members get into one Friday night dance during the month of their birth for FREE! Check with the cashier when you arrive.

A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE ROUNDUP AND BnB WEBSITE

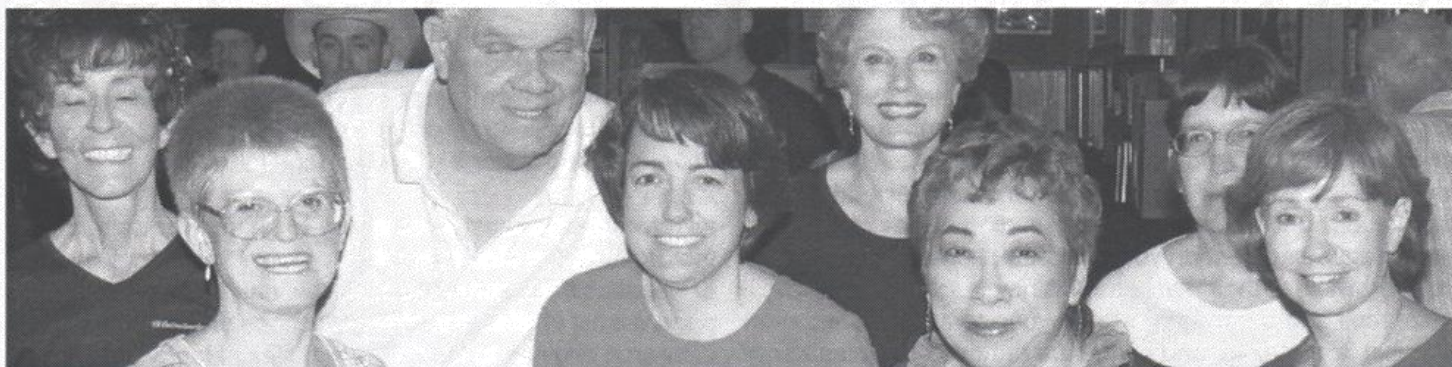
Ink is messy and paper expensive, while electrons are plentiful and easily marshaled into useful configurations by the click of a mouse.

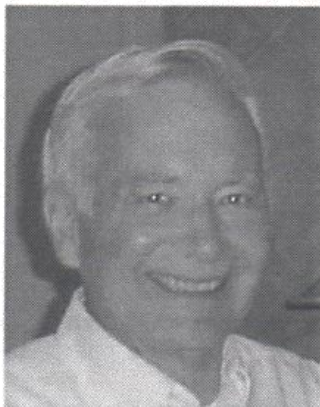
So goes the thinking of those among us who are politely suggesting that we join the twenty-first century and update our methods of communication within the club.

Already a plot is well underway to modernize the club's website. Wiki software is being employed to allow a collaborate effort for site development and maintenance. Anyone interested in how wikis work might want to check out the wiki encyclopedia at <http://en.wikipedia.org>. This site contains a very good article on wiki software at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>, and of course the site itself is an excellent example of a wiki website.

In the future we will be devoting considerably more effort to the club's website, with more information and more frequent updates. (After all, the word 'wiki' is Hawaiian for 'quick', 'fast' or 'hasten'.) There will be a corresponding reduction in emphasis on the printed Roundup. Details have yet to be finalized, but it is likely that the Roundup will be issued less frequently and contain only what has already been published on the website.

Someday, ink-stained fingers will be a thing of the past.





ASK BILL

Our own advice columnist, with a light-hearted look at dance etiquette and tips for those with two left feet.

Dear Bill,
 Christmas sucked this year. I gave some great gifts to my friends, and I didn't get a single thing I wanted in return. Can you make me feel better about this so I don't brood all year?
 Peedoff

Dear Peed,
 Absolutely I can. There are two things for you to think about. First, Christmas is about giving, not receiving. Work hard on that idea. Second, think about what Oscar Wilde said: "If you don't get everything you want, think of all the things you didn't get that you didn't want". My advice: learn a new dance, buy an "Easy Button" at Staples and get over it!

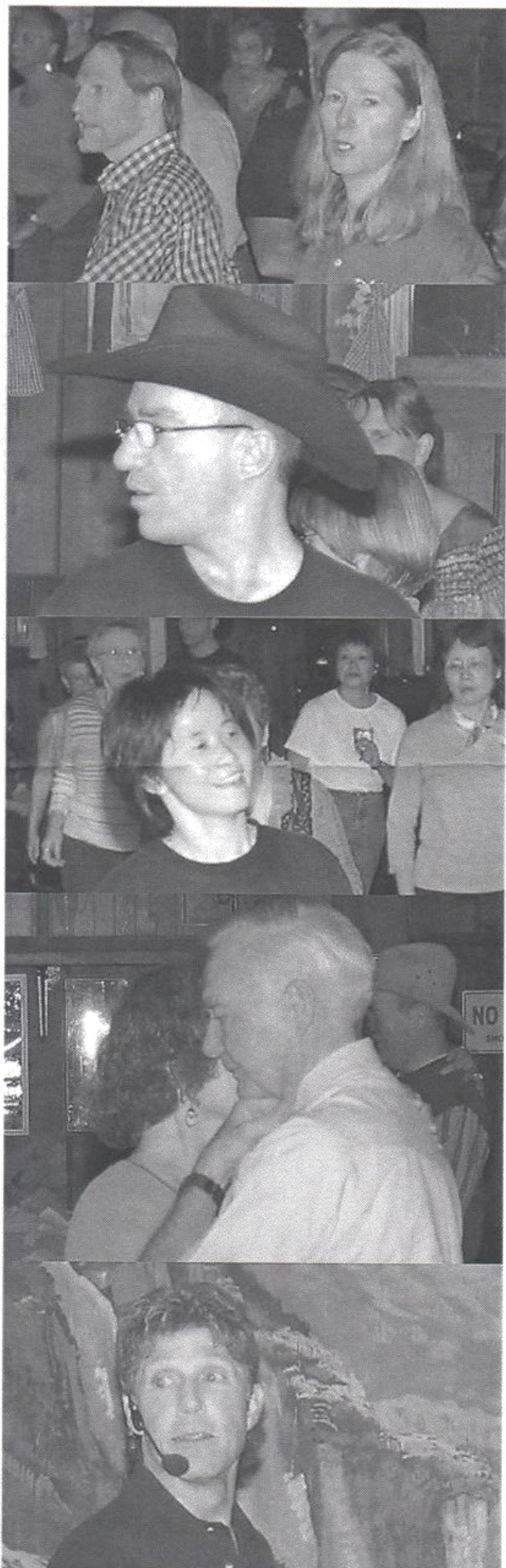
Bill,
 I am fed up with you writing advice that encourages my girl friend to try to get me to dance with her. You are causing no end of trouble in our relationship. Dancing is for wusses (edited from a "p" word). I will not dance no matter what, so knock it off! I like this girl, but am not willing to go that far for her. No name

Dear Nameless,
 Well, I am surprised at your attitude, but you are welcome to it. I don't believe you like her as well as you should. Also, maybe you haven't seen the likes of Jerry Rice, P. Miller and Evander Holifield doing their version of ball room dancing. I don't think you would want to call any of them that name you used to their faces... or at least I would pay big bucks to see it. I could even sell tickets! Let me know!

Dear Bill,
 I am somewhat new at CW dancing and my problem is this. I am prone to making mistakes, and am terrified that people will laugh at me. I am very sensitive. Can you help me with this?
 Gertrude

Dear Gerty,
 I can think of a lot of things to help you get over this idea. First off, no one at Swiss Park will laugh at you. They do laugh a lot, but actually they are laughing at themselves, remembering the times they made the same mistakes. It is all really good-natured stuff. You have to be able to laugh at yourself to remain sane in this world. The only times I can think of that laughter is not a good thing are during a church service, a funeral, when your spouse, boss or master sergeant tells you what to do, or when someone is hurt.. On the other hand, laughter is a major key to happiness. It is acceptable almost everywhere else... even in the bedroom, as long as no one points!

For personal questions, mail anonymously to: Ask Bill, 38724 Glenmoor Dr. Fremont, CA 94536 Otherwise, e-mail wparr@earthlink.net Rebuttals welcome!



DANCE LESSONS AT SWISS PARK

5911 Mowry Ave. Newark CA

Mondays 6:45 - 9:00pm

Intermediate classes

Trish & Bob Boesel

Email Trish at rboesel@ix.netcom.com for details



BOOTS 'N' BUCKLES DANCE CLUB

On the web:

<http://www.bootsnbucklesdanceclub.com>

(see also: <http://www.linedancefun.com> and

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bayarealinedancing>)

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Roundup
February, 2006

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