



Buckles & Bows Square Dance Club



Volume 47, Issue 1

Editors: Pat & Jerry Akers

President's Message

Well, 2020 is finally over! Truth is though all of the problems we have been facing are still with us and promise to be around for quite awhile which makes it more important than ever that we maintain our identity as members of Buckles and Bows. The thirty or so club members who make up our Board of Directors continue to meet monthly to discuss club business and dream out loud about plans to restart our favorite activity whenever it becomes possible. With that in mind, we will be having a special meeting on January 20th where Mike and Lisa will join us to discuss the plans being presented by Caller Lab and A Square D. There have been ongoing meetings and discussions for several months but the focus of our meeting will be further discussion and explanation of these plans and more importantly, how or if they are a good fit for Buckles and Bows. We will provide more information shortly with login information for this Zoom meeting. It is our hope that many of you will take time to join us and participate in the meeting. In the meantime, on page 2 of this Newsletter is an article by Mike Seastrom with background and information about "Social Square Dancing". Your input and questions would be most welcome. Looking forward to being with all of you soon.

Bill & Nancy



Buckles and Bows Continues to Support Our Community

In November the collection for the Manna Food Bank gathered a SUV full of food plus \$1075 dollars in cash and checks. The total includes \$300 donated by our club. As the food was collected in the Goebel Center parking lot, members enjoyed the chance to say hi and linger for conversations at a social distance.

In December we participated in the Goebel Center's Angel Tree for less fortunate seniors. 23 members donated a total of \$1000. We were able to buy gift cards for 20 seniors.

In February members will have a opportunity to support the 'Lighthouse for Women and Children' as the Blue Box Project collects feminine supplies for women at the shelter. Details will be in the February Newsletter.



Goebel
Angel
Tree



CALLERLAB VIEWPOINTS

November 2020

By Mike Seastrom

Let's Restart with the Social Square Dance Curriculum

Members of CALLERLAB and the American Callers Association have struggled to find common ground on an easier to learn program for non-dancers to enter our activity for many years now.

The CALLERLAB Basic Program is remarkably close to the *Sets In Order Basic 50 Program* that we used in the early years of square dancing in the 50's and the early 60's. There was a big explosion starting in the early 1960's, of calls written by callers and dancers and chaos followed. CALLERLAB was formed in the early 1970's and tackled that chaos.

CALLERLAB organized and standardized our programs. Over the years Mainstream and Plus have become the primary programs that new dancers must learn, to join our activity, instead of the Basic Program as it was for so many years.

In 1985, many in CALLERLAB recognized this problem and a major motion was voted on to make an easier entry program for new dancers. The split on the vote was almost even, but the motion to use an easier program was defeated by only a few votes.

Many callers were disappointed and some of our leaders left CALLERLAB and formed the American Callers Association. The program they developed has less calls, but it is a combination of Basic, Mainstream, and Plus calls, and many have strongly felt there are still too many calls for new dancers to learn before they can join our clubs.

The Pandemic of 2020 has had the most serious impact on our activity since World War II. Nothing since that time has just stopped everything in its tracks. Many have made "lemonade out of lemons" by continuing our dancing and social connections through the wonder of the internet, but more than half of our dancers, callers, and leaders have not had a dancing connection since March of 2020.

Returning to dancing, as we knew it, will take time and some serious adjustment. To bring us back together and to be able to have new dancers join us again, we need to come together with an easier entry program and allow dancers to stay in that program for as long as they chose to. We will still have more involved programs for those who want them. We just need to open our doors to new dancers more than once a year with less calls, all the fun so many of us enjoy, and no pressure to keep learning more calls and programs.

This is the time we need to come together more than any time I can remember.

I sincerely respect every caller that has ever had the courage and motivation to call and teach new dancers over the years. Every one of those callers has brought so much joy and fun into the lives of those they have taught and called for.

Many of those callers have brought that joy and fun at their personal expense of family time, occupational involvement, and their own health. So many of our callers have passed on, retired, or just burnt out, that we need to teach the art and joy of calling to a whole new generation.

CALLERLAB has provided a curriculum and an amazing Square Dance Knowledgebase (<http://knowledge.callerlab.org>) for new caller education and there are many callers all over the world actively mentoring new callers.

CALLERLAB is again providing positive leadership and guidance to preserve and build both square dancing and our calling ranks. The CALLERLAB Board of Governors now endorses the use of Social Square Dancing (formally called Sustainable Square Dancing) as a way of getting current dancers back on the floor, having fun and enjoying the social connections that are so important in life.

Social Square Dancing is a simpler, yet fast paced approach, for bringing new and existing dancers into our square dance community. It provides the prospect of having a well thought out plan in place for multiple starts in a year.

Originally put together by Jerry Story and the Social Square Dance Committee, this system has the capability to bring the fun of our dance to more people in a shorter period.

There is an abundance of information for callers to teach this system and a large base of choreography that can be used by new and experienced callers alike. This information can be found on the CALLERLAB Square Dance Knowledgebase listed above.

When there are multiple starts every year, any dancer that falls behind or has to take a break, due to the many diversions life can toss our way, it's very easy to join again and get back to friends, fun, and music.

My hope is that all square dance leadership can join for the good of the activity and move us forward. Let's work as a team to re-energize square dancing again as we emerge from this global crisis. This is such a great opportunity! I can't wait to dance, teach, and call again!

Live Lively -



Square Dance!

November Birthdays

Terry Clemens
(Oops we missed one)

December Birthdays

Janet Sewell
Debby Arter
Evelyn Thompson
Elaine Ferguson
Bob Farley
Wendy Wieser
Carol Bryce
Jon McConnel

January Birthdays

David Hankins
Dorothy Sinclair
Avo Artinian
Joyce Schiable
Bill Vlahos
Dan Nathan
Marilyn Benton
Brigitte Dickinson
Chuck Stone
Colette Weiss
Steve Snider
Robertta Plost
Tracy Bolton

December Anniversaries

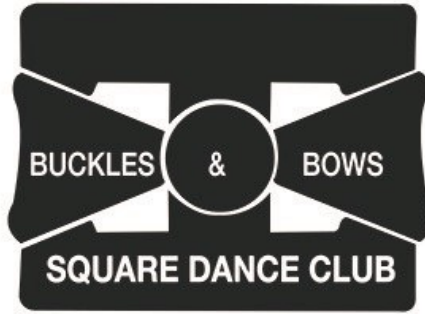
John & Sandy Hood
Harvey & Nellie Cusworth

Spreading Sunshine

Kathy & Jon
DeForge



Everyone stay well!!



Zoom Dancing

John Duhig's emails provide the ZOOM links to dances. You and your Phantom Couple can have the best square in your house.

Mike and Lisa Seastrom make Zoom dancing fun!



See Page 6 for a super screen capture of the Zoom participants on 12/29. Thanks to the 3 callers for making a fun night, Mike Seastrom, Rod Shuping, and Dick Hodnefield.

Can you find yourself in the pictures?

Membership

The membership renewal was very successful considering the Covid-19 Virus this year. As of mid-December, we had 159 of the clubs 195 active members renew, that is 81% of our club. Keep in mind that every year we lose from 10 to 20 % of the club for various reasons however, we usually have dancers requesting to join our club during the year along with our graduating class to add to our club's membership.

We are sorry to see those club members leave and hope that in the future when square dancing returns that they will re-apply to our club or at least to continue square dancing.

On a second note, I have received 8 of the 19 Job Description that we requested. Thank you to those who have sent us the "Job Description Outline" and a gentle reminder to those who have not. Missing are; A square D Rep, Class Coordinator, Dance Refreshment Coordinator, Newsletter, Publicity, Sea Breeze, Sunshine, Treasurer, Vice President, Wagon Master and Web Master.

Happy New Year
Bryan & Carol
Membership Directors



Joanne Cunningham suggested the newsletter could be a path for us to learn about our fellow club member's backgrounds. She has provided the first article in the new 'Our Story' series. The idea is club members contribute a short biography to be shared. The hope is even with limited social contact we can learn about each other. Please send your one page or less stories to Pat and Jerry Akers email: akers.jerry.e@gmail.com.

— Our Story— Susan and Steve Langberg



Susan is a native Californian, and except for the 4 years spent in Santa Cruz grooving with the redwoods during her college years, has lived her entire life in Southern California, mostly in the greater Los Angeles area. She retired 2 years ago after working as a bookkeeper for over 40 years.

Steve is also a native Californian, but lived on the East Coast for many years, both for his undergraduate studies, and for several jobs. After returning to California to earn his PhD in bi-chemistry, he moved back East where he worked for NIH, and then switched careers to become a computer programmer. He eventually moved back to California to live closer to his widowed mother.

We met at a singles mixer (before online dating!) in Santa Monica, and married about 2 years later. Unbeknownst to us, we had our honeymoon before we even knew we would marry. We took a lovely Bed and Breakfast road trip to Northern California and Southern Oregon. Our actual honeymoon was a trip to New Jersey to a cousin's Bar Mitzvah.

We have a son who is a medical writer and lives in Washington DC with his partner. Our daughter is a librarian and lives in Jackson, Wyoming.

We started square dancing in 2012 when Susan saw an ad in the Acorn for a square dance class, and remembering how much fun it was in elementary school, convinced Steve to give it a try. We went to 2 classes a week, and started going to club dances every week as soon as we graduated. We were hooked!

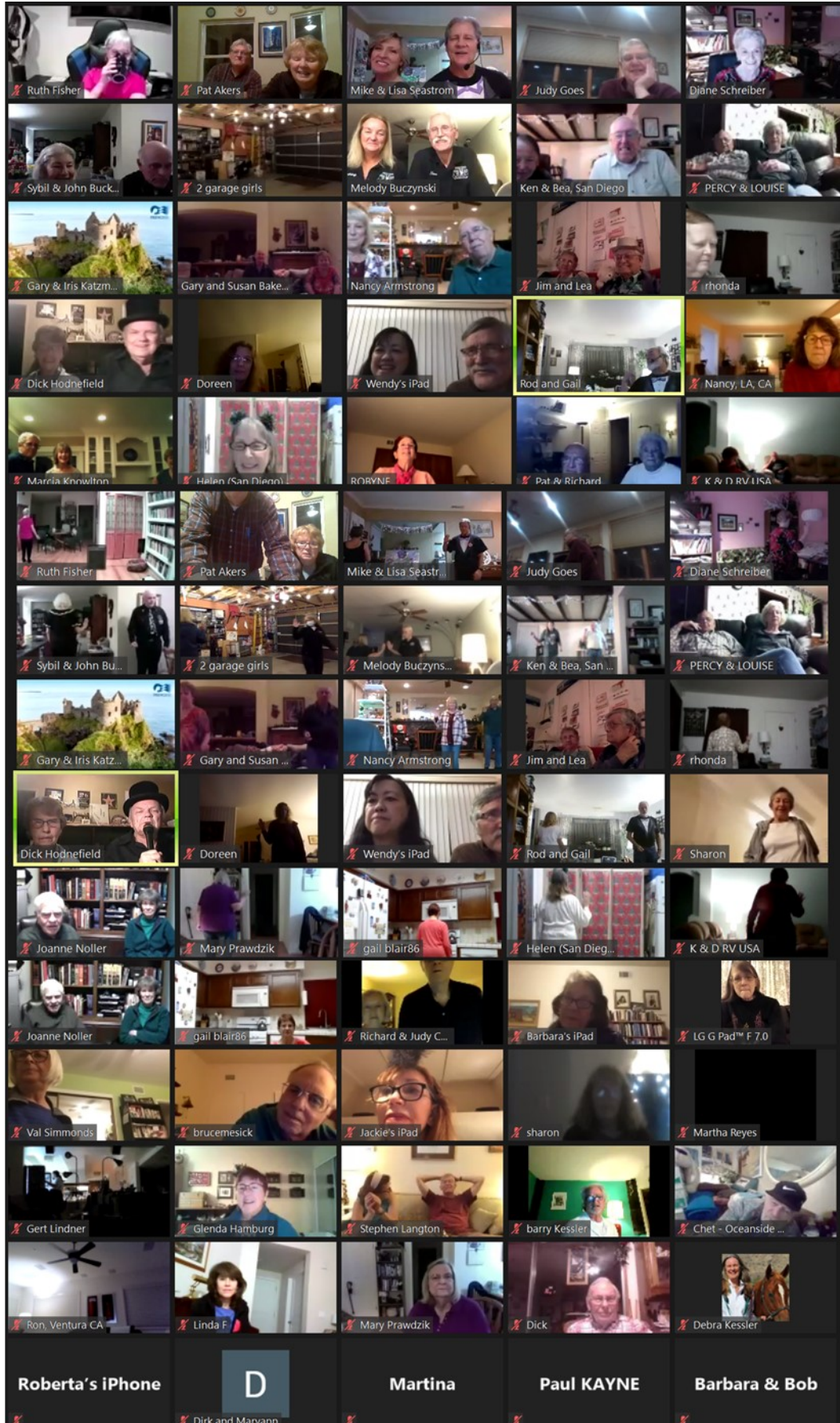
Despite the disappointment of having to cancel a couple of trips, we're trying to make the best of the pandemic restrictions by doing what we can from home. Steve is working hard in the garden, taking bible study classes, and trying to catch up on reading his weekly Nature magazine (he's up to November!).

Susan does Zoom yoga, has read a lot of books, and is learning Spanish.

We miss dancing with you and look forward to the time we can resume our in person classes and dances.

Susan and Steve

Zoom Dance 12/29/20



January 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 bubble bath day 	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 	16
17	18 	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 						

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Live Lively -



Square Dance!

