



Buckles & Bows Square Dance Club



Volume 47, Issue 3

Editors: Pat & Jerry Akers

President's Message

Just a year ago about eighty Buckles and Bows members were looking forward to dancing with Buddy Weaver and Ken Bower in Solvang. Little did we know that one of our favorite festivals would be our last for many months.

There does seem to be hope that we will restart our favorite activity in the not too distant future since by the end of April most of our members will have received the vaccine shots. At that point we will be awaiting word from State and local authorities as well as the Goebel Center for directions on when and how we may resume our dance schedule.

In past Newsletters and Emails we have been providing information on the new start-up program being promoted by CALLERLAB, the International Association of Square Dance Callers, and our A Square D Organization. Our favorite caller and instructor, Mike Seastrom, is one of the strongest advocates of the new program called Social Square Dancing (SSD). In a nutshell this program involves far fewer calls so that a New Dancer Class can be completed in 12-15 weeks allowing new dancers to become club members and start dancing much sooner. This will also allow for starting more than one New Dancer session per year and allowing those new graduates the opportunity of inviting their own family, friends, and co-workers right after they graduate.

Many of our club members have expressed concern that the new system will make Mainstream and Plus dances go by the wayside. For Buckles and Bows at least, this will not be the case. We are working with Mike Seastrom to develop a program for Buckles and Bows that will not only encompass the new SSD program but will also allow plenty of opportunity for Plus dancers to maintain and improve their skills and will offer new dancers the opportunity to eventually become Plus Dancers if they choose. We will continue to update club members as the plans are completed and brought into focus.

We have previously provided articles written by Mike Seastrom relating to SSD and restarting Square Dancing. Later in the Newsletter you will find another article addressing SSD written by our good friend and caller Buddy Weaver. We are looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

See you on Zoom.

Bill & Nancy



ON-GOING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SSD

by: Buddy Weaver from www.Buddyweaver.com

The discussion of coming back post-pandemic with SSD as a DESTINATION program is really taking off. In one of the largest square dance areas in the world - Southern California - the club leadership, association leadership, and prominent callers have had quite a few productive meetings. The sentiment, while not yet unanimous, leans strongly to having SSD become THE dance program for all clubs in this region.

This is a huge departure from "the way we've always done things" mentality and all of the leaders involved in this decision are to be congratulated for their open-mindedness. Admittedly, change is difficult. It can be forced on us or embraced and planned for. Planning for SSD as a club program is a big change and requires lots of planning, not only to execute a re-starting of dancing with a new program but also to answer the doubts of those opposed to change.

I have suggested that clubs, Mainstream or Plus, become SSD clubs that offer tips at the Mainstream or Plus level. An evening's program could look like thirty-minutes of pre-rounds followed by ninety-minutes of SSD dancing followed by thirty or forty-minutes of Mainstream/Plus dancing. A comment received from a reader, feels that including Mainstream or Plus tips might be an inducement for SSD dancers to "move on from SSD". A valid concern. However, it's been my experience that when higher level tips were presented at the end of the evening, after the main event of dancing, that few people stayed on. For example, when Advanced tips are offered at the end of a Plus dance or A-2 tips at the end of an A-1 dance. A few folks stay on to watch and those few that did, were seldom interested in "moving on". In my opinion, if folks are happy with their dancing and if they think they look good, they will keep coming back every time without looking for something else.

I would further suggest that we need to offer diversity at our dances. By offering SSD as the main course of the evening while also having a place for Mainstream/Plus dancers, we are inclusive and acknowledging those dancers who enjoy Mainstream or Plus. Perhaps at some date in 2022 or 2023, there may be enough dancers interested in learning Mainstream or Plus, in the meanwhile we can dance under one big tent.

If you haven't read my previous articles on SSD, please visit buddyweaver.com and click on the "articles" link. Write to me at buddy@buddyweaver.com and find me on facebook on the following pages: Buddy Weaver, Blue Star Square Dance Music, New Hi Hat Square Dance Music, and Rawhide Square Dance Music.

Buddy Weaver



Live Lively -



Square Dance!

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!

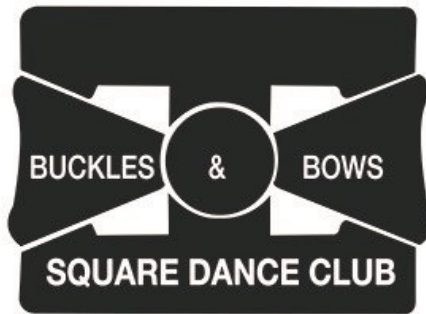


March Birthdays

- Jon Newbill
- Pat Weeks
- Mike Lemos
- John Hood
- Carl McLaren
- Tom Sunderland
- Hall Place
- Linda Egli
- Mark Spector
- Sharon Hopkins
- Doreen Karsai
- Sybil Duhig
- Suzy Moore

March Anniversaries

- Bill & Nancy Armstrong
- Bob & Roxana Chappell



IF THERE IS ANYTHING, WE DO BETTER THAN SQUARE DANCE, IT'S EAT.

With all the great recipes we have exchanged over the years, we think they should be collected in our own cookbook.

If you have favorite recipes for main dishes, appetizers or deserts please send them to Nancy

nancy@sturdybuilt.net

We will compile a record of your favorites. Nancy Armstrong



Buckles and Bows, thank you for your donations to the 'Blue Box Project'. This years collection of feminine hygiene items was the largest ever. In the picture below, the air packing was removed from each Amazon box and the void filled with items donated in bags. On March 5th, the items along with a \$200 donation from our club were delivered to the Lighthouse for Women and Children in Oxnard. The staff and residents were overwhelmed with the donations. The Director commented that our annual donations supplies the women's need for a year.

A special thanks to Bill and Nancy Armstrong, and Bryan and Carol Taping for helping load the truck.

Pat and Jerry Akers



BlueBox
project | IN MEMORY OF REBECCA READ



Solvang Spring Fling - March 2020



On the Dance Floor



Saturday Evening Dinner Crowd



Buckles and Bows Dancers

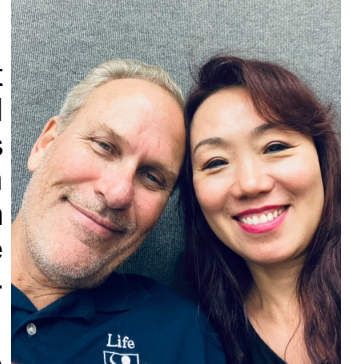


**Can of Coffee Trophy
for the Most Dancers
Attending**

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. A special thank you to John Duhig, This featured continues because he hunts down volunteers to be interviewed.

— Our Story— Scoot and Jessica Boucher

Scott was born at the Army base in FT Hood, Texas, moving about and eventually arriving in Southern California, where he went to school through high school, and Oxnard College. He had various odd jobs throughout school. After high school he headed to the oil rigs in Southern California, working on oil platforms for 5 years, moving up to a lead on rigs. He then moved to Susanville, California and started working for the state as a truck driver, mechanic and finally to Stationary Engineer in Ventura.



Scott was married for 18 years and has 3 children; 2 sons and the youngest, a daughter. All three served in the US Air Force and are now living in Kentucky, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the daughter in Missouri.

Scott's grandfather was a square dance caller in the 50s and 60s, and called at the Bakersfield Fiesta and in the Casino on Catalina Island. His parents were also square dancers. He started square dancing with the Center Wheelers in Susanville. After several years, he re-entered square dance classes with the Bachelors & Bachelorettes in Ventura, Boots & Slippers in Simi Valley, and our club.

Jessica was born in Beijing, China. After high school she attended University, the Beijing Dancing College, after which she taught dancing to children 6 years old and up. She also spent 2 years in The Netherlands. In 1997 she married a Chinese-American, who was a US Citizen. The same year she started her beauty school in Beijing, teaching students the art of beautifying nails and the like, a business she still runs today in Beijing, even if remotely. In 2003 they moved to Los Angeles, where she acquired her green card and eventually full US Citizenship in 2006. They parted ways after 10 years.

Jessica would spend 6 months in China, the limit for non-Chinese citizens, and then back to the US for about a month, then back to China until the border was recently closed. She entered many nail shows and competitions, earning numerous awards and even the championship trophy as US Champion one year. She purchases beauty products in bulk, selling them to distributors for distribution in China. She also works, helping out at companies here. She is fortunate to have a niece running the school for her in Beijing.

Jessica's sister, who is an advanced square dancer, got her interested in square dancing with the Teng Fei Club in Beijing, taught in Mandarin, with all calls in English.

Scott and Jessica first met with a casual "Hello" at the RIVCO Festival in 2018. They started dancing at the Bakersfield Fiesta the following March. Jessica had been encouraged to attend by her friend, Ed Appleton and his dance partner from the Major Keys Club in Whittier. Scott asked her to dance a tip when she was sitting out. They danced one tip. Someone asked her to dance the next tip, after which she returned to Scott, saying she would prefer to dance with Scott. The rest is history.

They were engaged in Hawaii and then announced it to all at a restaurant where many of us gathered after the 2019 Sweetheart Ball in Hawthorn on February 9, 2020. Not being able to hold a regular ceremony due to this virus, they were married in a civil ceremony at the Honda Center in Anaheim, with Ed as their witness, on May 8, 2020. They will plan a reception in the future when folks can once again gather in public.

March 2021

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Den- tists Day</i> 
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Day- light Sav- ings Time</i>  SPRING	15	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 <i>Natl. Pencil Day</i> 	31			

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Live Lively -



Square Dance!

