



Single Spinners

HOMESPUN NEWS

December 2014

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PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS

Well, here it is the final month of 2014. It has certainly been a crazy ride this year hasn't it?

As we come to the end of 2014, it is time to start thinking of what is going to happen in 2015. First to wrap up this year, we are going to have a party next week. The theme is Toys on Parade. I would encourage everyone that can to bring a toy so that we can give them to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. Please remember this outstanding program when you are out shopping for Christmas. On the following Saturday (the 13th) we will be traveling to Alpine Squares annual fundraiser for Children's Hospital the Sock Hop. All of the money raised that evening will go help the kids at Children's Hospital. They will have silent auctions to help raise as much money as possible. The following Saturday will be Third Saturday Round-Up. Again, this is where we will be dropping off all of the toys for those that can't make the dance.

Prior to Third Saturday however will be our final CLUB dance of the year. We will be celebrating at least a couple of birthdays on the 16th. So if you have a birthday or anniversary come out and enjoy some cake and ice cream to celebrate. We will then be dark on the 23rd (so that you can celebrate Christmas with your family) and on the 30th (so you can save your energy). But we have this dance over in Lemon Grove on the 31st.

Looking ahead to January, we are going to be getting a class up and running. So start now talking about square dancing (I always encourage folks to always talk about it) and see who might be interested in joining the fun. Once we do start the class, we are going to need angels to help the class. If you have any suggestions that we haven't tried before, let me know. Anything and everything can help us get the word out.

In March, we are going to be having a special dance down in Balboa Park with Dan Nordbye. It is shaping up to be a great dance so make sure to keep the 14th open on your calendar.

If you have any questions or ideas on what we can do next year, let me or anyone on the board know what the idea is so that we can put it into motion.

Merry Christmas,
Chris Davis

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CLUB TRAVELS AND VISITATIONS

THIRD SATURDAY ROUNDUP

Official travel:

Upcoming Official Travels:

Round-Up December 20
Calling: Carl McCullough
Cueing: Rey Garza
Afternoon: Advanced
3:15 - 5:15 pm
Pre Rounds: 7 - 7:30pm
Squares & Rounds 7:30- 9:45 PM

Travels for New Year's Eve Dance

Our New Year's Eve dance is coming up soon! We want every square dancer in San Diego to come dance with us! The more the merrier, right? So we need to tell everybody that our dance is the place to dance in the New Year! Here is a list of the dances we are

going to travel to next month to promote our dance. Please come to as many as you can!

December 3rd, Wednesday –
Finest City – WMB – Toys for
Tots party with Charlie Rob-
ertson.

December 6th you will find us
at the new club in town, in
Ramona.

Circulators on December 19th,
Alpine Squares on December
26th (this is a free dance)
Sundown Squares December
28th. La Mesa Rec.

These are the main travels we
have planned. If you should
visit any other club dances,
please feel free to make an
announcement about our
dance, or tell everyone you
know personally. We are go-
ing to have John and Andy
calling and Bill Hale cueing.
We will have our yummy
Subway sandwiches and other
treats to eat. We will have a
dance after midnight and Mar-
tenelli's sparkling cider to cel-
ebrate. It's going to be great,
and the more people we have,
the more fun it will be!

Freya Peterson
Travel Chair

Websites

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

Most of the websites have
links to dancing in other loca-
tions, including overseas, and
is available via our website's
"links" feature.

singlespinners.sdsda.org/
www.sdsda.org
www.PalomarSDA.org
www.backcountrysda.com
www.squaredance.org

www.NSDCNEC.org

www.wheresthedance.com/
www.facebook.com/singlespinners

NEW WEB SITES /EMAIL INFO

San Diego County Square Dance
Callers Assoc. Chart of monthly San
Diego dances. [dickneu-
mann@gmail.com](mailto:dickneumann@gmail.com). If you would like
to receive this list directly
from Dick, just send him an e-mail
and he will add you to his list.

Future National Conventions

64nsdc.com Springfield, Massa-
chusetts ~ June 24 – 27, 2015

65nsdc.com Des Moines, IA ~
June 22 – 25, 2016

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

We are anticipating the start
of Spinners next class in Feb-
ruary. This year we will be
starting about the same time
as a couple of other classes in
the county. Please start let-
ting it be known the fun ac-
tivity we are in, how good it is
for our health, mentally and
physically.

Dana

CALLER'S CORNER

Greetings to you all! It's so
great to be back dancing after
almost a full month off! First
of all, I want to thank the club
for allowing me to hold the
graduation dance for the caller
school at the club. I think it
was of mutual benefit as there
was a much higher attendance
that night.

Well, here is the holiday sea-
son upon us. While we all
may have our own way of cel-
ebrating the season, I think it
is a great time to think about
our activity and our square
dance family. The social as-

pect of our activity is an often
overlooked, yet very im-
portant, aspect of our activity.
This is a time where we can
reconnect with each other and
celebrate the "family" atmos-
phere of our activity. Holding
dances such as Alpine
Squares' Sock Hop and the
Toys for Tots Roundup, where
we all chip in and help a
needy cause, can further ce-
ment this social glue that
makes square dancing a great
activity!

This month, I would like to
publish one or two emails that
deal with recruiting new danc-
ers to our activity. This
should be our absolute top
priority for the future of Spin-
ners, as well as the activity in
general. I thought I would
share with you some thoughts
from Eric Henerlau, a caller
from Northern California and
featured caller for a couple of
Fiestas in recent years, about
recruiting new dancers:

Hi All,

*I've been reading about the
doom and gloom of square
dancing from everyone. Eve-
ryone has a comment on how
bad things are. We can all
lament on what was, or where
we think square dancing is go-
ing, but what really matters is
getting new dancers in the
door and teaching them. We
can always adjust whatever
program we use as we see fit
to keep them coming back,
but we need them to start
square dancing first!*

*Getting new dancers in to
square dancing is our biggest
challenge AND our biggest*

imperative! Several clubs have started new classes recently - I've been hearing anecdotes of large classes. Let's hear about the successes and what the clubs did to attract and retain dancers!

I'll start:

The Tam Twirlers in San Rafael, CA, started a class three weeks ago. In preparation for the class, a club member contacted our local paper in July and suggested they do an article on square dancing. The reporter visited our club in August, wrote the story, and we got front page exposure. We also printed 4x6 glossy postcards (VistaPrint) with fun pictures of our club members dancing. We selected the pictures carefully to show square dancing in the best light. The postcards were distributed throughout the county and businesses were willing to display them. We also exploited online tools as much as we could: we used meetup.com, Facebook, craigslist, we updated our club's web site, we emailed prospects, and we advertised in the Patch and other local papers.

Our two prior classes, which started in September, 2013 and January, 2014, were full of enthusiastic newer dancers. These dancers invited their friends and many came. We had 41 new people join us for an "intro" night. Bountiful refreshments were served, and the club was primed to welcome the visitors. 31 came back the following week and signed up for the class, paying for the 12 weeks of

lessons in advance (our requirement). We have a partner rotation board so any singles have an easy way of getting a partner for each tip.

We are three weeks along and the new dancers are having a ball!

Who else has a success story they can share?

Ginda Fisher, a member of M. I. T.'s, "Tech Squares," adds this:

Tech squares has a similar story this year. Last year we have some successful classes, and this year the students from those classes competed with each other to recruit friends from their living groups. We had approximately 50 students start the class, mostly undergrads. We are five weeks in, and I expect a bunch of the kids to drop out after next week, when they complete the requirements for phys-ed credit (we only offer that for the first academic quarter) but I expect a lot to stay, too.

Enthusiastic members trying to recruit their friends were the key factor in the number of people who showed up, but they said that they found videos of Tech Squares dancing to be a really good recruiting tool -- it's hard to explain what square dancing is, much easier to show it. We also did a good job poster around campus and such this year, but I'm not sure that was very different from other years.

While not an easy process. It is simple to explain what the success stories have in common. It involves placing a lot of time and effort into the job, and it takes researching, designing, and implementing a plan. Organization is im-

portant, along with genuine support from all club members. We can do it, if we work together.

I want to wish everyone a peaceful and joyous holiday season! Take care everyone. Until next time,

John

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO ROUND DANCE?

San Diego Round Dance Instructors – brand new website: rounddance.org

AROUND SPIDEY'S WEB

If you have anything you want in this fine publication, just give it to Lynn Davis at a dance (deadline is the last dance of each month, and IF SPACE PERMITS, it will be included in the next issue) or you can e-mail it to: lynnedavis542@cox.net

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Party Central Wow!! We are celebrating "My Favorite Christmas Wish" on December 9th. You can bring a new toy to help with Toys 4 Tots, we will collect them here, and then take them to Round Up on the 20th. I am looking forward to the Christmas calls here at Spinners. December 16th is Birthday night. Everyone is looking forward to that!! Cake and Ice Cream, yummmmm!!

We will be dark December 23 and December 30, but don't forget our New Years Eve dance, it will be great! 8 pm to 12:30 am Lots of fun that night for sure.

As you have read in the travel report earlier in the newsletter, we are visiting other clubs to advertise our New Years Eve dance.

Don't forget December 31st!! That is our NYE dance at the United Methodist Church in Lemon Grove

I hope to see you in a square at all of these dances and more. Just be sure to wear your Spinner Smile!!

So... Mark these dates on your calendars as you mark all the Round Ups and party nights for the other clubs. And enjoy the dancing in the Autumn air.

See You in a square
Jane Marus

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10 Uses for Coffee Grounds:

Reusing Coffee Grounds

1. Banish smelly hands.

Get rid of cooking odor on your skin by rubbing a handful of used coffee grounds on your hands and rinsing with warm water.

2. Make compost.

Coffee grounds are rich in phosphorous, potassium, magnesium and copper. If you want, just ask for used grounds for free at your local coffee shop.

3. Repel ants.

Sprinkle dry, used coffee grounds in problem areas where you notice ants in your home or yard and they will just pick up and leave.

4. Kill fridge odor.

If your fridge is full of foul

odors, place a bowl of fresh, unused coffee grounds inside and leave it for a day or two. The coffee will absorb the odors and leave your fridge smelling fresh.

5. Get shiny hair.

Brew up an extra-strong pot, let it cool and apply it to your dry, clean hair. Leave it on for at least twenty minutes, then rinse. Keep it up once a week or so for best results.

6. Fertilize plants.

Azaleas, blueberry shrubs and rhododendrons are just a few of the plants that flourish when treated with coffee thanks to all those nutrients. You can also dilute the leftover coffee in your mug and pour it right into your potted plants.

7. Keep cats out of your garden.

By sprinkling used coffee grounds on the soil, and cats will want nothing to do with it.

8. Repel fleas.

Rub used, damp coffee grounds through your pet's fur after bathing to repel fleas.

9. Repair furniture scratches.

Scratches on wood furniture disappear by simply rubbing in a little bit of instant coffee dampened into a paste with hot water. Repeat if necessary.

10. Scrub.

Mildly abrasive, coffee grounds are great for scrubbing surfaces like cooking ranges and refrigerators. Use them alone or mix them with a little dish soap.

As you can see, your old and previously worthless coffee grounds are worth their

weight in gold! So don't toss them, save them! They can replace many other products around your house that would otherwise cost you precious money. The best part? Coffee grounds are free!

Skip buying pest repellents, scrubs, fertilizers, and clean

ing products. Instead, try **reusing coffee grounds** a try and see what they can do for you!

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UPDATED INFORMATION

Some of you may not be aware – Our Caller's mother, Jane Marus had a problem at club last Tuesday (Dec. 2). John, Kathy Polk and Rosanne took Jane to Grossmont Hospital directly from club. (Thank you to the drivers). They met Jane's sister at the hospital. Jane was admitted, and after tests, it was determined that she had a mass on the brain (near the outer edge) that needed to be removed. This is being done, as I am typing this article. We are not printing the newsletter until we have more information.

6:45 pm (Friday night) – SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS!! Thank you to all who had her in your prayers.