

Reelers Square Dance Club



REELERS REPORTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2008

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It's that time of year. The summer is rapidly coming to a close. The fall is almost upon us. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and was able to sneak in some square dancing. Our club is very fortunate to have several new graduates from the Plus class as our newest members. A big welcome to: Bill Bohrer, Bruce Cunningham, Gail Cunningham, Helen Jacobson, and Ken Shampatore.

Our first dance, September 19, is our Friendship Dance. Please see the enclosed flyer and remember to bring your non-dancing friends and neighbors to enjoy the evening with us. If possible, please post our Friendship Dance and class flyers in stores, post offices, libraries, diners, mailboxes, etc. We need to get the word out about our wonderful world of square and round dancing.

The *Grand Square* will be available at our first dance. Check it for the NNJSDA's special dances. The dances are always fun and you will meet lots of great people. Remember that "One Square is Fair" and that we are reimbursed for half our club's dues if we have at least one square at all NNJSDA dances. Let's try to attend all the dances. We will have a great time while helping our treasury.

Remember: When visiting other clubs, proudly wear your Reelers badge and invite dancers to visit us. If you are asked to help out on one of our activities (raids, demos, refreshments, etc.), please say yes. We need everyone's help to keep our club strong. See you in a square!

Rick & Linda Murphy, Presidents (rilimicy@optonline.net)

News briefs

4-H Fair

Nearly two squares of Reelers did a demo in July at the 4-H Fair in Chubb Park, Chester. Fran Wadel called and quite a few onlookers gave square dancing a whirl.

Wallet cards

Use your new green wallet card to find Reelers and NNJSDA dance dates plus Reelers officer names and numbers. Thanks, Mary Jane and Greg Roome, for hiring our callers and cuers.

Themes!

Matty Sharkey and Bonnie Van Stone created some exciting dance themes this year. Check the flyer or wallet card and use your imagination before deciding what to wear to each dance! Colors, costumes, accessories – (almost) anything goes ...

Friendship Dance/ classes

Our annual Friendship Dance will be held on Friday, September 19. We'll begin as usual with round dancing at 7:30. The rest of

the evening will include opportunities for visitors to try basic dancing as well as Plus tips for club members. Bring your friends – no charge for them! Main-stream classes with Fran Wadel begin on Tuesday, September 23 at 7:30.

Change in location

Because Ironia School is not open on November 7, our dance will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 51 Mountain Way (at Hillview), Morris Plains, NJ 07950-0104.

NNJSDA News



Saturday
September 27, 2008

Douglass College Center
100 George Street
New Brunswick 08901
12:00 noon - 10 PM

The Gathering 2008

Presidents Rick and Linda Murphy will be on a panel at The Gathering 2008. See page 12 of the *Grand Square* for a sample of the many afternoon sessions plus registration information.

Tim Marriner from South Carolina, an excellent international caller, is the keynote speaker and evening dance caller. Roy Gotta is cuing.

During the dinner break, you can go to a restaurant,

bring a brown bag, or join The Gathering committee for a \$10 buffet supper on campus. To reserve a buffet spot, contact Lise Greene by September 22 (973-663-4396).

Grand Square on line

Did you know? You can access the *Grand Square* on line at www.nnjsda.org. The website also has up-to-date information on NNJSDA and club activities.

Mini-Festival

Come to the NNJSDA's 34th annual Mini-Festival on Sunday, November 9 from 2-9 PM in Bridgewater.

* Separate halls for Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, and Rounds

* Three callers – Bob Baier, Tom Miller, Betsy Gotta

* Mary McGee cuing rounds

* Square dance shop

See page 35 of the *Grand Square* for registration information.

New dance fees and dues for 2008-2009, student scholarships, club scrapbook, and completed raids

Highlights of Executive Committee meeting

The Executive Committee, consisting of Reelers officers and committee chairs, held its organizational meeting for 2008-2009 at the home of incoming Presidents Linda and Rick Murphy in Morris Plains on July 14. Highlights:

Outgoing **Treasurers** Chris and Sue Wright reported that the new dance season starts with a beginning balance of \$3,100.49. Dues for this year are \$8. Dance fees are \$5.50 for members and raiders, \$6 for guests.

Vice Presidents Arlene and Tom Simansky reported that two Randolph High School graduates received \$500 college scholarships from the Reelers. The club provides an annual scholarship in exchange for free use of Ironia School for dances and classes. Two were given this year because the district did not select a recipient last year.

Historians Frank and Ruth Pagano are updating the Reelers scrapbook and would like to receive photos taken at dances

during the past couple of years.

Outgoing **Raid Chairs** Mark Bippes and Lise Greene reported that the raid program was completed for last year. Our eight raids earned the club a 50% reduction in our NNJSDA dues for the current year. More importantly, we enjoyed dancing with friends throughout the region and meeting for dinner before the last raid. Most of the clubs we visited had raided us the previous year.



Reelers raiding a Kittatinny Rangers dance

Raids—save these dates!

Jean and Inars Gruntals, Raid Chairs, are continuing the policy of returning the visit of any club that raids the Reelers.

Following raids to Lakeland and Hix & Chix in July, the schedule includes the following clubs so far (more to be added):

* September 26 (Friday), Kittatinny Rangers (MS/PL) - Tim Marriner from South Carolina, who will be at The Gathering the next day

* October 11 (Saturday), Western Wheelers (PL, RD) - Jim Snyder, Peg Millar

* March 4 (Wednesday), Mountain Squares (A2) - Joe Landi (he will call PL for us)

We've just about perfected a "reely" great raid routine developed by Matty Sharkey last year, so come out and raid with us.

Meet the Murphys

Early years

Linda: I'm an Air Force brat. We lived in Ohio, Texas, Illinois, New Jersey, and four years in Norway – where I skied and ice-skated during recess at school! My father was assigned to the NATO base in Kolsås.

Rick: I lived in the same house in Morris Township where my father was raised until the day Linda and I married.

How did you meet each other?

Linda: I danced at a teen club in high school for a year. As a Douglass College student, I went to a Hi-Lo Rutgers Promenaders dance [like a Reelers Friendship Dance] with a friend. That was the first time I saw Rick, who was one of the angels.

Tell us about your work.

Linda: I used to volunteer 20 hours a week at my children's school. When the librarian was on medical leave and I ran the library for the substitute, I realized there was something wrong with the picture. The sub was getting paid, but I was doing most of the work! I got my certification as a media specialist and now have a wonderful position at Alexander Hamilton School.

Rick: I am a computer programmer and have been with a small software company, AccessIG,

Rick: I went to a Promenaders' Hi-Lo dance as a Rutgers freshman and thought it would be a great way to meet girls! I took lessons and continued going to the dances after I graduated.

What is your most memorable dancing experience?

Linda: One was square dancing so fast and furious to a loud disco song that students were coming in to see what was going on, and another was my first national convention last year in Charlotte. There were how-many-thousands of others walking around in public in square dance attire; it felt very normal.

Rick: Probably the first national convention I attended in Milwaukee in 1979 was memorable

Inc. in Florham Park for 24 years.

When and why did you join Reelers?

Linda: We knew the Simanskys from church, and they got us back into square dancing. We joined the Reelers primarily because the dances were on Friday, which was good with work and children. We graduated from Plus lessons in 2005, but didn't become active until 2006 due to my bout with breast cancer.

Rick: Ditto.

Describe the best thing you ever did or that ever happened to you.

had shaken the president's hand, and I was happy. In Norway, a member of Thor Heyerdahl's Ra II expedition came to speak at our school, and one of the moon rocks from the first moon landing came to our school. And I was an exchange student to Venezuela during high school.

for the same reasons Linda mentioned: the crowds of people on public streets in square dance attire, the sheer numbers in the halls, from everywhere, and all the fun.

What occupies, or formerly occupied, your non-dancing life?

Linda: We used to be very involved in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Morris Plains (Moms' Group, Sunday school, and vestry). But reading is my biggest addiction.

Rick: I coached youth soccer, participated in the YMCA's Indian Guides and Indian Princesses programs for fathers and children, and went camping with our son through the Boy Scouts. Linda and I were also active with Friends of Morristown Fencing when our kids were on the high school fencing team.

Rick: It is hard to describe anything as "the best" in my life, other than meeting my beautiful wife through square dancing! There were also a few memorable trips: a high school exchange to a school in England and a post-college backpacking trip through five European countries. That trip ended abruptly when I looked the wrong way crossing a street (stupid American!) and was hit by a car – although I now know what a Welsh hospital is like. Fortunately, I was dancing



"It is hard to describe anything as 'the best' in my life, other than meeting my beautiful wife through square dancing!"

Rick Murphy

again in less than two months.

Linda: My life has been terrific. For example, when I was six years old in Texas, my mother took us to the airport to shake President Johnson's hand. Just as he got to me, someone stuck his hand in front of mine. I was about to cry when my brother's friend let me hold his hand that

If you could be granted one wish, what would it be?

Rick: As sappy as it sounds, just that Linda and I and our children and grandchildren live long, healthy, and happy lives.

Linda: I wish that my two children, Michael and Cynthia, will be able to look back when they're my age and be able

Reelers Square Dance Club

Ironia Elementary School
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We're on the web!
www.reelers.nnjdsda.org

*Member of Northern New Jersey
Square Dancers Association*



1st & 3rd Fridays
Early Rounds 7:30, Plus and Rounds 8:00-10:20
Cell for dance night: 201-572-5073

2008-2009 Dance Schedule *RD Cuer: Mary Pickett unless noted*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Theme</u>
09/19	Roy Leber	Friendship Dance
10/03	Ken Ritucci	Autumn Leaves
10/17	Joe Landi	Sweetest Day of the Year
11/07*	Jim Snyder	Patriotic Colors
11/21	Dan Koft - cuer Kathy Koft	Macy's Parade
12/05	Len Anfinson	Holly Time
12/19	Mike Jacobs	Cookie Night
01/16	Dennis Reardon	Birthday
02/06	Jim Snyder	Where in the World?
02/20	Mark Franks	Pie Night

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 51 Mountain Way at Hillview,
Morris Plains 07950-0104

Reelers Officers/Committee Chairs 2008-2009

President: Linda and Rick Murphy	973-539-9315
VP: Arlene and Tom Simansky	973-984-0009
Secretary: Lise Greene	973-663-4396
Treasurer: Mark Bippes	973-476-8844
Nancy Caufield	973-537-8021
Jim Anderson	615-830-8448
Class: Bonnie and Charlie Van Stone	908-832-5313
Delegate: Gay and Bill Grier	973-543-9698
Historian: Ruth and Frank Pagano	973-827-3134
Program: Mary Jane and Greg Roome	973-543-4109
Publicity: Avyrl and Bear Brady	973-347-1675
Raids: Jean and Inars Gruntals	973-543-7792
Refreshments:	
Irene and Hal Stoller (Schedule)	973-744-1969
Matty and Bernie Sharkey (Supplies)	908-852-7931



Mary Pickett, regular
round dance cuer
for the Reelers

Murphys (cont. from p. 3)
to say life had been pretty good
to them. If their lives can be
better than mine, they will be
outstanding.

Anything else you would like to say?

Linda: I have found the Reelers to be a warm and generous group of people, and I'm pleased to have so many wonderful individuals become a part of our lives. Thank you.

Rick: I agree about the Reelers being a wonderful group of people. It has already become evident that serving as presidents of the club will be no problem, given the huge amount of support we have already received.

Thanks to Joyce and Jim Kelly...

for their service as club Presidents during the past two years. Their co-presidents, Arlene and Tom Simansky, are now serving as Vice Presidents while the Kellys take a break from leadership.



First issue of Reelers Reporter

Welcome to the first issue of the *Reelers Reporter*. This is the club's newsletter and all suggestions for articles are welcome. Please send information, suggestions, and photos to Lise Greene at lise.greene@montclair.edu.

Reelers 50th anniversary

Our club will turn the Big Five-O in 2011, and plans are being made for a Big Party!