



# The 5th Wednesday Letter

From Sandi & Dan Finch

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

## Carousels--What's It All About?

Our Tuesday and Wednesday workshops are officially an active part of the National Carousel Clubs (NCC).

That organization has been around for 33 years, doing an important job unknown to many dancers who benefit today from what the Carousel clubs have accomplished.

We have been asked by several dancers recently what it is all about. Orange County dancers played an important part in the early days of the organization, so we thought it was time to look back at the history and purpose of the Carousels.

Its purpose today remains much as it was when formed in 1972: To promote round dancing at the high-intermediate and advanced level and to provide a forum for member clubs to share a common repertoire of dances. This means that if you are traveling, you can go online and find a Carousel club near your destination, and its program should include many of the dances we do.

Today, as for most of the 33 years of the Carousels' existence, each club makes a monthly report to the national chairman. From those, a list of the most taught dances in the past month, the past four months and the past year is generated and distributed to members by email. Members can also report their ongoing most popular dances. When we receive the monthly report, we put it out for you all to see.

Carousels now function under URDC, ceasing to be a separate entity after the death of its founder, Frank Gilbert.

NCC started in October 1972 when the Gilberts came up with the idea and dubbed their advanced class in Florida as NCC #1. (It no longer exists.)

Within four months, there were 18

clubs and at the end of the first year, there were 34. Today, there are 101 dues-paying clubs worldwide.



The Carousels' purpose also was to eliminate step cues and to publish a figure manual based on the international ballroom style (the basis for our advanced choreography today).

The Orange County connection? Eddie and Audrey Palmquist recognized the value early on and joined as NCC #36.

The Palmquists also hosted a barbecue at their home for cuers who were at the 1976 National Square Dance Convention in Anaheim, to talk about the possibility of a national *round dance only* convention, separate from square dancing. There was great dissatisfaction that round dancing played second fiddle at square dance events.

And the cuers at the Palmquists' home that July day in 1976 did something about it. Audrey had them sign a table cloth as proof of their commitment to support the Gilberts in hosting the "First Worldwide Round Dance Convention" in Kansas City the next summer. The 1977 convention was attended by 329 couples, according to a National Carousels history published this year by chairman Jack Lane. Irv and Betty Easterday were the only teachers there in 1977 who are still actively teaching today.

"Do it again" was the consensus after that first convention, and the new URDC took on the job. This year, URDC is hosting the 30th annual convention.

And that table cloth? It supposedly still exists. Stay tuned for details.



## Days of Our Lives

### Birthdays:

#### June

Eddie Span	June 2
Betty Stottlemeyer	June 5
Sun Bae	June 29

#### July

Joe Fortenberry	July 1
Bill Murff	July 11
Harold Peyton	July 11
Larry Miquelon	July 11
John Michaelson	July 14
Lynn Brewer	July 15
Nancy DuFault	July 18
Dee Myers	July 25
Robert Hornsby	July 25
Don Miller	July 29

#### August

Margaret Shirley	Aug. 1
Barbara Evanko	Aug. 1
Marie Marlow	Aug. 3
Ray Martinez	Aug. 4
Jean Miller	Aug. 5
Eva Zieg	Aug. 9
Carol Rhyne	Aug. 15
Judi Nelson	Aug. 23
Mickey Marshall	Aug. 29

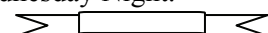
### Anniversaries:

Junius & Judi Nelson	June 1
Mas & Aiko Nabata	June 4
Bob & Nancy DuFault	June 22
Bill & Millie Murff	June 22
Don & Jean Miller	June 27
Malcolm & Audrey Pecor	Aug. 14

## Special Thanks

So many of you go out of your way to help us make dancing a special experience each week. Some of you help with setting up, breaking down, signing in and bringing food. We want you to know we appreciate all of that.

This month, we specifically thank *Alice Nackard* who gave us a gift on her birthday--a large stock pot for our kitchen supplies at the Long Beach hall for Wednesday Night.



# Ramblings:

*Eddie Span & Cami Bolduc* and *Harold Peyton* spent the end of May in England to see what is considered THE ballroom dance event of the year, the Blackpool dance competition. It now draws professional and amateur international style ballroom competitors from all over the world—but it originated in 1920 as a contest to determine the best “sequence” dances in England. Sequence dancing is the British equivalent of our round dancing. ♪

Travel and summer graduation were big on the calendars of some others too: *Barbara Johnson* went back to Texas for her granddaughter’s graduation. *Dee Myers* went to Washington State to see her daughter’s new home and to return her five-year-old granddaughter who had been staying with the Myerses for a few weeks. *Andy & Linda Lin* have returned from a trip to China. *Russ & Stella LaRose* went to Las Vegas to see their daughter’s piano recital. *Larry & Ellie Miquelon* went back to Missouri for a family reunion and took in Branson while they were there. *Marie Marlow’s* daughter has graduated with her MA in psychology. ♪

*Madeline Ruge’s* unofficial “daughter” Dawn Victoria (whom she raised to her pre-teen years) visited with us on a Wednesday Night. ♪

*Mas & Aiko Nabata* returned to Vancouver after Springfest in May. A week later, *Bob & Nancy DuFault* along with the Migliorinis and Don & Jan Russell, left on a cruise from Los Angeles to Vancouver, and stayed over a couple of days with Mas & Aiko after landing. The same day their ship arrived in Vancouver, *Ken & Marion Scholtz*, who had been visiting family in Washington, embarked from the same port for a cruise to Alaska. *Ken & Marion* planned to come home for a week after the cruise before heading back to Washington for their daughter’s June wedding. ♪

*Barbara Evanko* was broadsided this spring by a driver who ran a red light, and she has learned she needs knee surgery. She expects to be out until August. *Bill & Millie Murff* are missing from Thursday night because of an injury to his foot from a misstep off a curb. They had just redone a room with wood floor, TV and VCR for dance practice, which Millie says is “hers” for now. ♪

*Dan & Sandi* have been invited to teach this summer at both the Roundalab and URDC national conventions. In June at the RAL convention in Texas, they will present a clinic on dancing picture figures. They will be part of the URDC Education Program in North Carolina in July, teaching a workshop on a selection of common problem figures in smooth dances.



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