



# California Square Dance Council, Inc.

## Youth Advisory Committee Report

### November 13, 2004

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#### RUGRATZ “BLAST” CLASSES

Wanting to try something different, the River City Rugratz (Sacramento Region) decided to offer a series of “Blast Classes” to teach youth dancers in an accelerated format. The first class was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with caller Bill Silver taking our new dancers through the first 35 basics during the morning session, then spending the afternoon reviewing. This also gave our “angels” a chance to dance full Plus to show the new dancers what they had to look forward to. Our primary goal was to have the dancers ready to attend Jubilee and Harvest Hoedown. We had a total of 11 totally new dancers plus few who had had some previous lessons, and with the help of our “angels” danced four squares most of the day. Ages ranged from 5 to 18 years, with some of the younger ones “maxing out” by lunchtime, but the older ones hung in until the end. Although the classes were held in Sacramento, participants came from as far away as San Jose, Reno, Graeagle and Manteca (the equivalent of 2 to 2 ½ hours drive away). After seeing several of our “newbies” at Harvest Hoedown, we held our second “Blast to Plus” class on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> with Scot Byars as instructor. After a quick review Scot was able to take the group through the rest of the Mainstream program and touch on some Plus calls before the day ended. Based on demand, we have scheduled our final class for Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> to take them through the balance of the Plus program in time for them to join the group to dance with Mike Seastrom and the Ghost Riders on December 11<sup>th</sup>. While this was our first try at doing this format, we feel very positive about the results. We have found that the older youth like this format and seemed anxious to bring their friends to the next class; that Sundays work best to avoid all the soccer, football, etc., activities on Saturdays; 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a lunch break seems a good schedule; this format will work if you have young dancers come and bring their friends and you have a lot of strong “Angels” of any age there to help; and scheduling the classes prior to a “big event” gives them something to look forward to and starts them right off thinking about “traveling” and attending the “party events.”

**Next “Blast” Series Scheduled:** Based on the turnout at the first class, Sharon & Casey Parker (cuers) from Manteca, who brought their daughter and a friend to the class, offered to work with the Rugratz to coordinate a series of classes in Manteca. They have arranged for a hall and will help with local publicity while the Rugratz will coordinate the instructors, flyers and other promotional materials. These classes have been scheduled on January 30, 2005 for the Basics with Bill Silver, and February 27, 2005 with Scot Byars to take them through Mainstream. Again, these classes have been scheduled so that the new dancers will be able to dance Mainstream for Wing Ding, Spring Jamboree and the State Convention. Flyers are available on the back table and we are hoping that the Festival Committees and Associations located close to that region will help in supporting new dancers and Angels for these classes. The flyer will also be posted on the [www.ASDSC.org](http://www.ASDSC.org) website.

#### NEW YOUTH CLUB UPDATE

The new youth club in Orange County now has a name, “*The Croakers*,” with club colors of black and gold. They have a Christmas party scheduled for December 12 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and have planned out their calendar for the year with “field trips” scheduled for Jamboree by the Sea and State Convention. Meeting place is 12812 Garden Grove Blvd. in Garden Grove, CA. Let’s continue to support this new youth group by informing any youth in your area and encouraging them to attend, as well as supporting them yourselves. Contact person is Shirley Delp, (562) 428-3096, [sdelp1@earthlink.com](mailto:sdelp1@earthlink.com). Please keep us informed about any other new groups forming in your areas.

#### FESTIVAL YOUTH PROGRAMS

Jubilee in San Jose offered several youth activities during their October event, all spearheaded by youth dancers Michelle LaChance and Sarah Riegelshaupt-Herzig. There was a hall dedicated for youth dancers, and throughout the weekend they offered special sessions on styling, hexagon squares and intro to clogging, as well as a hour-long session featuring youth callers. Michelle also put together a youth competition which saw two squares participating.



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Harvest Hoedown in Yuba City again saw a tremendous turnout of youth dancers, with 30 pre-registered and over 50 in attendance, including several from the Rugratz Blast Class. There were dedicated youth sessions throughout the weekend with over 5 squares dancing wild and crazy stuff 'til the "bitter end" on Saturday night – everyone had a great time!

Bob Kamuf and I attended the Central California Square Dance Association meeting in September to discuss youth programs with them, and while there talked with the chairman of Wing Ding. Jim is very interested in working a youth-focused program into the weekend schedule. In addition, we have been in discussions with the chairman of Spring Jamboree in Plymouth to coordinate a group dinner/scholarship fundraiser/youth program at their festival in April. Unfortunately, I haven't gotten any reports from any of the other festivals – let us know what's going on in your areas!!!

## **2005 NATIONAL CONVENTION YOUTH PROGRAM**

The 2005 National Convention in Portland, OR youth program will include a convention-long fun badge event called "Build-a-Frog". The badge will have five parts and there will be six opportunities to earn the five parts. And, for the first time in National Convention history, a Youth Singing Call Showcase will take place in the main hall. Youth, age 18 and under, who are capable of performing a full singing call for a large audience, may apply for a spot in the Showcase. Youth interested in applying must be registered for the Convention. A form can be found at: [www.54nsdc.com/ext/Register](http://www.54nsdc.com/ext/Register). Next, submit a caller profile form to the Vice-Chairman of Square Dance, Les Seeley. His website for profiles is: [www.seeleycaller.com](http://www.seeleycaller.com). In "Comments or concerns," please note that you want to be part of the Youth Singing Call Showcase.

## **SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES APPROACHING**

Deadline for the USDA Scholarship is February 1<sup>st</sup>, and there are new rules this year that include the requirement of a letter of nomination from the member affiliate (Council President). Also, the qualifications are now that the student be a senior in high school or first year of college. Applications for the USDA Scholarship with revised rules and qualifications are available on the back table or from the USDA website if you have potential applicants in your area. [www.USDA.org](http://www.USDA.org). Don't forget the California Youth Scholarship application deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **YOUTH COMPETITION**

Flyers are available for the 2005 Competition, our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual, to be held Saturday, April 16, 2005 in conjunction with the State Convention. We will continue with the "Open" competition as it has been run in the past, but have added a "Team" Competition with some additional rules and a higher dance level. Dancers will be able to participate in one or both of the competition divisions. Please promote the youth competition to dancers in your area. Given the growing number of participants in the competition, we will be looking for advance sign-ups from adult individuals who would like to volunteer as timers, judges or coaches for teams. There is a sign-up sheet at the youth information table. Volunteers will be asked to be available for the afternoon practice sessions as well as the evening competition so that they are familiar with their duties.

## **CAHPERD PROJECT**

Bronc Wise, Bob Kamuf and I met with Thelma Murtha in mid-October and found that what she had available was not really of use to us so we are going to develop the materials from scratch, but still using many of Jack's teaching methods. The booth has been secured and progress continues. We are still waiting for confirmation of our demonstration time on Saturday.

I know it all sounds like "Northern California" news, but I'm not getting much info from the rest of the State. Please let me know what's happening in your area so we can share it with the "rest of the World."

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Abramson, Chair, Youth Advisory Committee