



California Square Dance Council, Inc.

Youth Advisory Committee Report

February 12, 2005

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“BLAST” CLASSES CONTINUE TO BE POPULAR

The Croakers youth club in Orange County held their first all day “Blast” Class in January and it was a great success. They had 15 youth and 8 adults, giving them two full squares of dancers. They had lots of fun and ate lots of pizza, and were able to get their dancers far enough to be able to dance in Del Mar. Their next phase will be held on March 5th when they will finish up the basic program and go on though Mainstream. Their third class will finish the Plus program.

The River City Rugratz, in conjunction with Sharon & Casey Parker of the Penny Arcades, held the first session of their “Blast Class Manteca” series on January 30th. Bill Silver did a fine job of directing the six squares in attendance, which included 29 new dancers who came from as far away as Susanville (*approx. 5 hour drive*) and Reno. While targeted at youth (and there were several), the class also drew a large number of adults, many of whom had begun local classes but for various reasons had to drop out. The class enabled them to “catch up” with their classes so they could rejoin them. Scot Byars will take the class through Mainstream on February 27, 2005, and the final Plus class will be held in early April. The Rugratz have already been contacted by dancers from a Turlock club who are not taking the earlier classes, but plan to be there for the Plus class. Callers Byron Yoshimura, Ben Goldberg and Phil Farmer all dropped by the class to see how it was run, and Doug & Sandy Stiles, new presidents of the Central California Square Dance Association, dropped by to offer their support. The Rugratz have been asked to co-sponsor another series of “Blast Classes” in the Yuba City area in the Fall.

Scot Byars has conducted a series of Advanced Classes for many of the youth in northern California, including A1, A2 and C1 Blast Classes.

While not a Blast Class format, Ruth Reigelhaupt-Herzig started a new dancer class on February 4th for 5 to 8 year olds. Her Cloverleaf Critters meet on Friday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Hyde Middle School in Cupertino. Anyone with youth in that area should try to support Ruth’s group.

NEW YOUTH CLUB UPDATE

We’ve gotten word of another “youth friendly” club in Alturas, with 3 youth dancers. The Alturas Alamanders is just beginning, but they are very excited to get going. They dance on Thursday nights at Alturas Elementary School.

SILVER STATE HELPS FUND YOUTH PROGRAM

The California Youth Dancers will be selling raffle tickets on Friday night, May 6th in the Plus hall at Silver State in Reno. Each year they offer local clubs the opportunity to sell raffle tickets in specific areas. Since no club had requested the Plus hall on Friday night, Rose Styczinski, a member of both the Rugratz and the Silver State planning committee, volunteered our group. The Silver State planning committee provides all the supplies, and we provide the manpower, and will receive a portion of all ticket sales we make. So, if you are planning to attend Silver State in Reno, plan to buy raffle tickets in the Plus Hall on Friday night to support our California youth programs.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES APPROACHING

Deadline for the California Youth Scholarship is April 1st. Applications are available on the Council website or you can contact Bonnie to get a copy. Please encourage young dancers in your area to apply.

YOUTH COMPETITION

Flyers are available on the back table for the 2005 Competition, scheduled Saturday, April 16, 2005. 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.