



FREEWHEELERS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2010



PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Elections are in and the Freewheelers have a slate of Officers. As members let's come out and dance and welcome our new officers. I am very blessed to follow in the footsteps of Penny. She has done a great job. I am looking forward to adding my creativity and leadership abilities to the Club and I know the new Board members are excited as well. We as the Board will need everyone to participate as you can to support our Club as angels this fall with lessons, greeters, kitchen, and of course your smiles. Each dance has a special meaning to the club and memories are wonderful to share with your club members. Bob Wright & Shari will be retiring from the Club this year and the 25th Anniversary Dance & BBQ on July 18th will be his last dance as our caller. So let's all come out and support Bob & Shari, and let them know how much we have enjoyed him being a part of our club. Thank you in advance to all the club members for supporting our club. We look forward to seeing you on the dance floor. Sally Buckingham, President sally.buckingham@yahoo.com



SPOTLIGHT ON SALLY BUCKINGHAM

Sally Buckingham and her twin sister, Nancy were born in Carmel, California in 1952 when her father was stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco. One of Sally's early memories showed something about the adult she was to become. It occurred at her kindergarten graduation. The children were being called up one at a time to receive their diplomas. Nancy got one, but Sally was passed over. When she couldn't wait any longer Sally walked across the stage, put her hands on her hips, and asked the principal for her "paper." He told her she was just like her sister and dismissed her. The indignant Sally kicked him and then returned to her seat and waited to be called. (The diploma Nancy had received had both girls' names on it.) A teacher quickly rolled and tied a piece of paper and Sally was called up. After receiving the paper, she made a big curtsy and went proudly back to her seat. She was her own person and ever since has continued to "stand her ground."

Sally says she has always been "in front of the line for a challenge." When Sally and Nancy were about 7, they started their first business – collecting golf balls at Pebble Beach and reselling them to the golfers. Sally saved every penny of her share. With compounding, it added up to almost \$3000 when it was used toward the down payment on her first home. When they were in junior high school the girls started their second business, a babysitting service with 40 families. By this time her father had retired from the Navy and the family was living in Houston where he had started his own refrigeration engineering business. At 12 Sally began working for him. When it came time to go to college she knew she wanted to do what her father did. She went to Rice University so she could live at home and continue working with him. She majored in Civil Engineering and by the time she graduated she had learned all aspects of the business and "knew all about dirt," an expertise which would have benefited the company. Unfortunately, her father died a few months later. She was able to carry on the business until all the projects were completed and dissolved the business. Not long after that, Sally had an opportunity to work for a year in China, doing seismic studies in the China Sea. She worked 6 weeks aboard the ship collecting data, and then was whisked away to an orphanage outside of Hong Kong where she lived with a family and worked during the alternate six-week periods. On her return to Houston she was payroll master for Houston Board of Mechanical Contractors. This involved a lot of travel. Among the projects was the Veterans Hospital in Tacoma, the Bank of America building in San Francisco, and a project with the Swinomish Indian Council.

She met her husband Glen on a blind date. He was smitten right away, but it took her 2 years to decide it was the right thing to do. They were married in 1983. Two years later Amber was born. In reflection, Sally believes that Amber was why the Lord brought them together. Amber was a gifted child and has grown into an amazing adult. In 1989 Glen joined the Navy and they began the living from port to port, ending up on Whidbey Island in 1995. (Continued on the next page.)

Sally was a busy mother, working in a real estate office, helping out at Amber's school, being active in her church and the Navy community, and serving as Whidbey Island Water Commissioner. She and Glen divorced in 1999.

When she was diagnosed with diabetes in 2004, Sally needed to increase her physical activity. She was a former Arthur Murray dance instructor and was looking for an opportunity to dance. Through the encouragement of Nancy Becher, she was the banker for the business where she works; she began square dance lessons with the Dudes and Dolls. She just loved it and was soon taking lessons a second time each week with the Whirlybirds. When she came to a level dance at the Freewheelers, she was impressed with the friendliness of the group. When Dwight told her she should join she paid her dues and ordered a badge on the spot. She went to a board meeting and Penny remarked, "We have new president!" But her life got very full with her commitments at local, state and national levels of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She wasn't even able to attend dances regularly. But now those commitments are beginning to wind down and she has accepted the presidency of the Freewheelers. She is looking forward to helping implement the new lesson-concept. She is convinced it will bring new life to square dancing. She said, "Square dancing is infectious and given an opportunity it will grow." -- Thank you, Sally. We look forward to your presidency with your enthusiasm and leadership skills. By Donna Franklin

SUNSHINE REPORT: Ken Sharp is having eye surgeries to remove cataracts from both eyes – the 1st on April 19th & the 2nd on May 3rd. So, he will be able to see all of you again. If you know of someone in need of our special thoughts, please let our Sunshine Lady, Millie Hecht know at 425-349-4011. (Please note Millie's new address below.) We wish good health to all of you! We do care!

ITEMS OF NOTE:

After 25 years of calling for Freewheelers Square Dance Club, Bob and Shari Wright are retiring from calling for us and the Anniversary dance in July will be their last dance. They started the club at the Hayloft in 1985 and there are a few of the Charter Members still in the club. We all owe them a lot of gratitude for their work. We are going to miss them very much, but we hope they will come visit us at Freewheelers' dances, caravans or other club functions. Bob and Shari, you have an open invitation any time. (After July, Penny Schultz will be lining up guest callers for the 3rd Sunday dances.) *Note: Included in this newsletter is Bob and Shari's letter.*

Your new officers for 2010 - 2011 are: Sally Buckingham - President; Ron Mitrovich – Co-Vice President; Joe Clein – Co-Vice President/Class Coordinator; Trisha Porter – Secretary; & Randy Lewis – Treasurer. Check with them to see how you can help the officers and the committees.

Our Telephone Committee Chair, Dorothy McReynolds is looking for another person to help on the telephone committee. Let her know if you are willing to serve.

Greeters: See Brenda Torrey if you would like to take a turn as a greeter at a future dance. It does not take much of your time. You just have to get to the hall a little earlier (at least by 6:40).

Kitchen Sign-up: We need people to sign-up for a turn or two at Kitchen Duty at the dances. There is no one signed up for future dances. See Anita Needham if you wish to volunteer.

There are fliers of future Freewheelers dances on the table at the back of the hall. Please pick up some and take them to other clubs' dances that you attend to promote our club. If you wish, you can make an announcement at these dances too. It might get more guests to our dances.

COMING EVENTS:

NW Teen Festival is April 30 - May 1 in Langley, BC - Purchase a button and support our youth!

Sunday, May 2nd is our "Maypole" Dance with Roger & Debbie putting on a fun dance for us.

The next board meeting will be 7:30, Thurs., May 6th at Penny Schultz's home, 15128 48th Ave. SE, Everett. Her phone number is 425-337-5441. All members are urged to attend all meetings.

Saturday, May 15th - Caravan to the Whirlybirds' Spring Flowers" Dance (See Caravans.)

Sunday, May 16th is our "May Flowers" Dance. Bob & Debbie will put on a super dance for us.

Sunday, May 23rd is Mt Baker Council's Spring Dance hosted by the Skagit Squares and held from 2:00-5:00pm at the Skagit Valley Grange, 21273 Cook Rd., Sedro Woolley (I-5 N. Exit#232). Tom Clymer is calling & Bob Berka is cueing. The Shirts-N-Skirts Teen Club will be selling pie, ice cream & root beer floats. See Carol Harris if you want tickets. (Presale tickets \$6 each or \$7 at the door)

LOOKING AHEAD:

59th Washington State Square & Folk Dance Festival - Ellensburg, WA - June 18 - 19

59th National Square Dance Convention - Louisville, Kentucky - June 23 - 26

42nd Annual State Leadership Seminar - July 9 - 11 - Circle (8) Ranch, Cle Elum, WA

Free Mainstream square dance at the Seattle Center House from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. on Friday, July 23rd with Mike DeSisto, Kevin Thomaier and Wayne Easton calling and Randy Preskitt cueing.

Save the date! Saturday, July 24th is the date for the Aqua Sox Demonstration and baseball game.

CARAVANS:

We had a caravan of ONLY 4 (Joe, Ruth, Sally & Trisha) to the Mt. Baker Singles dance that was called and cued by Roger and Jill. Thanks to the 4 of you. Hopefully we will do MUCH BETTER next time. Our next caravan out will be on May 15th to the Whirlybirds' "Spring Flowers" dance at the Hayloft - 15320 35th Ave. W., Lynnwood. They dance from 8:00 - 10:30 (7:30 Pre-rounds) to Dave Harry & Cindy Gallagher. We will go direct. Joe Clein, Caravan Chair

Share dances at caravans & our club dances with others even if you come with a partner. Sometimes there are a lot of extra women. Remember that some of the dancers only square dance. So if they don't get to dance the squares, they sit out a lot of the time! Put yourself in their place. Also, remember that we are known as a friendly club.

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Millie Hecht - 3915 Colby Ave. N. #433, Everett WA 98201 - We don't know her new phone number yet. Ginny Baxter's email address is baxter22@msn.com. She does not have the Comcast one anymore.

OFFICERS:

SALLY BUCKINGHAM - PRESIDENT	425-293-4510
RON MITROVICH - VICE PRESIDENT	425-514-0527
JOE CLEIN - VICE PRESIDENT/CLASS COORDINATOR	425-774-6574
TRISHA PORTER - SECRETARY	206-523-1769
RANDY LEWIS - TREASURER	206-367-9219

