

Article authored by Judy Romanenkov for the World Line Dance Newsletter, June 30, 2014 (permission from Judy to post here on my website). The Boots 'n' Buckles 3rd Annual San Francisco Bay Area Line Dance Connection was held on Friday, June 27, 2014, Newark, CA, USA.

WHAT: BOOTS N' BUCKLES SCORES A GOAL

While the world gathers in Brazil for the World Cup, the SF Bay Area gathered last Friday night at Swiss Park in Fremont, California for the Boots n' Buckles 3rd Bay Area's Annual Line Dance Connection. I risked being tarred and feathered by fannnnatics for putting the two events in the same sentence, but there it is. 14 dance clubs came to participate, from the Silicon Valley in the South to the Wine Country in the North (from chips to sips?): 1st Sunday Dancers (San Bruno), 1st Thursday Dancers (Dublin), Amy & Friends (Fremont), Bay Area DanceMonsters (San Jose), Boots n' Buckles (Fremont), Clock Tower Dancers (Benicia), Country Hustlers (Livermore), Country Quicksteppers (Belmont), Dancin' Shamrocks (Cupertino), Mexico Lindo (San Jose), Moose Lodge (Sunnyvale), SnK Dancers (Cupertino), Steppin' Back To Country (Danville) and Wine Country Dancers (Novato). It more than tripled BnB's Friday night dance attendance to 150 and Swiss Park was rocking to the rafters with many new faces and many great dancers. Each club was asked to submit 3 dances that they would like to dance during the 3-hour social and the dance list that came out, which was published about a week before the event, was an exciting mix of beginner to advance, of oldies (some of them I have not heard of), current hits, and the newest (which I haven't learnt yet, thank God we had a week to get it or fake it).

The 3 newest ones from Amy&Friends: SUICIDE WALTZ by JOEY WARREN, DEBBIE McLAUGHLIN & NIELS POULSEN. As if the title is not scary enough, the dance, a waltz, is replete with turns. So if you're just jumping in to fake it, it would be suicidal. I don't know the lyrics to the song, but it ends with groans. Yet despite the name and the groaning, the dance is electrifying (pun intended), DOWN TO THE RIVER by KLARA WALLMAN. Diana Ward calls this the coolest dance of the moment and not because it has a river in its name. I think it's a bay area hit already. AK FREAK by GUYTON MUNDY & RACHEL McENANEY. This is fast becoming my favest and as soon as I learn not to look like freak doing it, it will be.

One dance that all the world knows from the movie Footloose, that I didn't know was being linedanced in the bay area was FAKE ID by JAMAL SIMS & DONDRAICO JOHNSON. So when I saw it on the list of the Bay Area Dancemonsters I became terribly excited that on the dance floor I asked the dancer next to me "how many floors is this dance"? which flustered the poor girl. Someone heard me and rescued me from my stupidity by saying "4 walls". Also on the Dancemonsters list was TIMBER by ERIC LECARDONNEL & AUDREY LE BLEIS. So when the dance was played, 3 versions of it were being danced on the floor.

Some bay area choreographers were on the list : HEAVEN'S JUST A SIN AWAY by GARY CLAYTON (who was the evening's DJ); FLY LIKE A BIRD by HEDY McADAMS; BABY FACE by MARIA TAO (who was present and led the dance); SEARCHING by MIKE SHANNON (he too was there); L-O-V-E by KATHY CHANG (lovely in a shimmering green blouse) and I'M MAD by BRENDA SHATTO. Conspicuously absent on the list is Julia Wetzel whose 3 latest dances – Wanna be Contigo, Ring My Bells and Say Something are favorites although we did dance her Treat Me Right later on after everything on the list was played.

I'd risk another thing by saying that no bay area social can equal the excitement of meeting new dancers from other clubs, seeing their styles and their dances, their infectious energy and making the evening a most memorable one. For this we thank the great EVELYN KHINOO for organizing the event, the Boots n' Buckles board currently headed by president MARCIE WALTER and last but not least GARY 'THE DUKE' CLAYTON for being the DJ that makes everyone happy.

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