

# October 2006 **Star** **The Western**

Newsletter of Western Star Dancers,  
 a contemporary American square dance club  
 primarily serving the San Francisco LGBT community.  
 International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs member.  
 Contact us at:  
[www.westernstardancers.org](http://www.westernstardancers.org) OR 584 Castro Street #480  
 San Francisco, CA 94114

## Red Mainstream Class Scheduled

The Red Mainstream Class of 2007 will square up with two free introductory lessons on October 2 and 16. This will be our first class since returning to Eureka Valley Recreation Center. The Board is hopeful that our fabulous venue in the heart of The Castro will facilitate recruiting. Hundreds of flyers and brochures are being distributed, and we have placed ads in the Bay Area Reporter. A good turnout is anticipated.

The always-exciting, always-entertaining Rich Reel has again agreed to be our class caller. The class per se will begin on October 23.

The schedule calls for 26 weeks of Mainstream, followed by 15 weeks of Plus program. The cost of the class will be \$100 for beginning dancers (a real bargain—and easy payment plans are available). Any former WSD members who wish to brush up on their dancing for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be charged only \$50. This is a special offer just for our Silver Anniversary.

Bring your friends, partners, colleagues, classmates, roommates, comrades, buddies, homies, and amigos. They make the BEST dancers!

  
**Bob Brundage**  
 826-0879  
[bernalbob@cs.com](mailto:bernalbob@cs.com)

  
**Jim Dewsnap**  
 864-5447  
[dewsnap@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dewsnap@sbcglobal.net)

  
**Joe Casserly**  
 436-9161  
[joe@hirejoenow.com](mailto:joe@hirejoenow.com)

  
**Russ King**  
 863-0990  
[rkingsf@aol.com](mailto:rkingsf@aol.com)

  
**Daryl Daniels**  
 586-2599  
[daryldaniels@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daryldaniels@sbcglobal.net)


  
**Todd Young**  
 436-9161  
[EarthsLaughter@yahoo.com](mailto:EarthsLaughter@yahoo.com)

2006-2007 Western Star Dancers Board of Directors


## \$ WSD Yard Sale \$ Nets a Bundle

The WSD Yard Sale on September 9 earned the club a nifty \$444 in proceeds. Additionally, goods valued at \$200 were donated to Community Thrift at the end of the day. The AIDS Emergency Fund was the chosen to receive our largess. Thank you to everyone who donated treasures to the sale.

A special thanks to the ones who did the grunt work on a chilly, cloudy day.  
You are heroes in the WSD pantheon of greatness!



**Grey Todd**  
**Joe Casserley**  
**Todd Young**  
**Dan Smith**  
**Jim Dewsnap**  
**Russ King**  
**Daryl Daniels**  
**Steve Scott**  
**Tomas Todd**







## Babies, Barbies and Bargains

While some current Western Star Dancers were already promenading with crinolines aflutter 25 years ago, a few others had only just learned to walk. Now, not only can they walk and dance, some can dance and jump at the same time!

Turning back the hands of time, Ammon relates what he was up to in the early 1980s.

“During the time when these pictures were taken I was a young lad living with my mom and my grandparents in Melrose, Massachusetts, which is a suburb of Boston.”



At left—Ammon sitting on some old guy's lap. “My favorite pastimes included watching game shows on TV with Grandma (shows like

"Card Sharks", "Jokers Wild", and "The Price is Right") and playing with my cousin Tracy, who lived just down the road. I used to think that Tracy had all the coolest toys, including a Jacuzzi spa for her Barbie dolls, and a board game called "Bargain Hunter", which was all about shopping at the mall using credit cards. Such joy. I didn't have too many career aspirations at age 3, although I do remember that I really wanted to be one of the kids on Sesame Street.”



Daniel liked to spend quality time with his grandma, too. At age three, he was living in Florida, spending most of his toddler time munching on Cheerios, and devouring ice cream cones. In those bygone days, his favorite flavor was vanilla. And, his favorite pastime was reading “The Charlie Brown Encyclopedia” with Grandma (most likely because he did not have a cousin with Barbie dolls or credit cards).



**Creamy lips**—Probably ice cream.



**AMMON:** Little Heartbreaker



**Daniel**—Caught in the act.



**Gary**—During the Truman Administration.

**Gary and Daniel**—Anaheim '06



### EXCLUSIVE!

#### Brenda interviews Gary

**Brenda Line:** So, how is it that you got to be included in the group who were tiny tots 25 years ago?

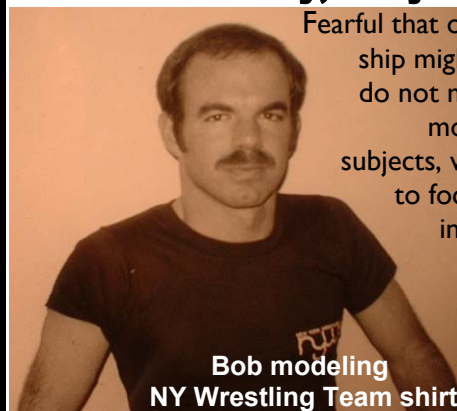
**Gary:** I danced in the “Under-30 Tip” at the Convention this year.

**Brenda:** Are you sure you're under 30?

**Gary:** I have a dangle to prove it.

## Oh Baby, Baby

Fearful that our readership might fall if we do not move on to more mature subjects, we decided to focus on Bob in his sporty foundation garments.



**Bob modeling  
NY Wrestling Team shirt**

Looking back to a quarter century ago, Bob remembers, “I was living in S.F. at that time, but was a member of the New York wrestling club. I always

have been interested in wrestling, sexual and pro style. I was also a member of wrestling clubs here in S.F. Being from New Jersey, I had a certain bond with some guys from New York. They asked me to join their club. This picture was taken for their monthly newsletter back when I was the Wrestler of the Month.”



**Daniel**

**Keeping limber**—This position might come in handy some day.



**Ammon**  
All grown up.



**Bob**  
Still growing.







# Hillbillies on the Moon Or Fencing at the Halberstadt

## An Interview with Marilyn Fowler by Dan Smith

**D:** Your name is?

**M:** Marilyn Fowler.

**D:** So Marilyn where were you born?

**M:** San Francisco.

**D:** Oh wow! And have you lived here all of your life?

**M:** Pretty much, yea. I went to Grattan Elementary when I was really little, then to Westmoor High in Daly City. I also have a BA from Berkley in Social Science field major, with emphases in mass communication and Social Psychology.

**D:** So that's what you do for a living?

**M:** No I build web pages. I used to work at this company, I call it the evil company; it's the evil place. I was building a data base for them, so they lent me a computer because I didn't have one at home. While using the computer I thought, "Well what's this thing they call the web?" I found free E-mail and a free web site. So I went to this web site and I followed the template. One day I wanted to do something more then what the template offered. Again I thought, "I wonder what would happen if I did this?" and "Oh! It worked, it worked." I went on line, found tutorials and taught myself.

With the web you see right away what you've made. "Well I'll try this, how does that look? Um no; OK change this. OK THAT'S what I want!" I like the challenge of figuring out the Java script. How to get it to work the way I want it.

**D:** How did you happen to hear about square dancing?

**M:** Through Joe and Todd. They invited me one evening and everyone was having a good time. I also went to Class Completion. Joe and I go way back, we've known each other since 1988 or 1989. I met Todd through Joe when they started going out. In fact I live in Joe's old apartment.

Its fun to say, "Oh let's do gay square dancing. You want to come with us?" I like all the little stylings. A bunch of my friends came to class completion and they loved it. Well, one woman really wasn't in to it but her friend Zach just loved it. We think he'll be coming back and I think my friend Steven might want to square dance and my friend Jon expressed a real interest. I enjoy it because my friends are in it. When I went to the freebie thing (Class) and there was Leigh and Laurie, in addition to Joe and Todd; that sealed the deal.

**D:** And already you've impressed us by calling two tips.

**M:** Those were memorized. I didn't ... they're not extemporaneous.

**D:** They may be memorized but they were executed flawlessly without any nervousness apparent what so ever and without squares breaking down really.

**M:** Oh! (Marilynn laughs)

**D:** Do you want to continue with that?

**M:** I think it would be fun. Part of my history was as a choreographer. I used to be a dancer with a group called Voice Farm and at this club named The Box on Divisadero, we were The Box Dancers.



Joe (Casserly) was also a Voice Farm dancer. He came on probably a year after I did. Then I did some choreography for some shows...

**D:** Tell us about the shows?

**M:** My favorite show that I did choreography for was *Hillbillies on the Moon*, it was a musical and Leigh Crow and Laurie were in it. Leigh was one of the two hillbillies and I was the evil insect queen... Oh! The other show I really liked was *Women's Prison Christmas*. That was fun although I didn't choreograph it. And my favorite show that I choreographed where I hated the show would be *Rocky Horror Superstar*. I loved all the people that I met but it was a disaster. But the dancing was flawwwwless, I was really happy.

**D:** Have you done any other kind of dancing?

**M:** I tried the Brazilian martial art Capoeira until I got kicked in the head and realized that it was just a little bit beyond me. Then I learned the Cuban couples dance called Danzón. With Danzón you have to listen to the music because there're specific

things you're suppose to be doing depending on what the musicians are playing.

**D:** You've done a lot of dancing and choreography. Did you go to Rich's Caller Lab several weeks ago?

**M:** Yes. I sucked but it was fun. It was so hard 'cause I had all these people standing there looking at me expectantly and I'm standing there going, "Hummmmm..." and they'll be whispering little helpful hints..."Do this." I realized I had no idea what it was I needed to do to get the people back where they need to be. I remembered the stuff Rich told us on how to resolve things but otherwise I had no clue. (Marilynn softly claps her hands together). I like the kaleidoscopic nature of managing people. I think that Calling would give me that ability to manage a group of people.

**D:** Have you done any other artistic things?

**M:** Well once I had a fake art show. I knew this woman who had a hair salon slash art gallery. She Ask me, "Want to have an art show?" and I said, "Sure." So I made up all this fake art..."

**D:** Why is it fake art?

**M:** Because I'm not an artist. It was just like drawing all this stuff. I did a couple of paintings; I did some collages with stuff I got from the Weekly World News... I cut out "Is your roommate a space alien?" I said I was the daughter of a Senegalese expatriate and a Dutch lesbian or something like that. I gave all my friends, who were coming, lines to say; things you'd hear at a pretentious art gallery, such as

"Oh I think it is terrific, of Mahler."

**D:** "This reminds me of Vermeer." (We both laugh)

**M:** Oh I'm a deejay at a radio station, KPOO; Poor Peoples Radio, Monday 9a.m. to noon. I play the blues. I get lots of callers. They're the ones who help me make the show. I also started fencing at the end of 87.

**D:** Why?

**M:** Because it's chess with blades. I'm a member of *Halberstadt Fencers Club* which is on 17<sup>th</sup> and South Van Ness; I fence foil. In foil it's all about right of way and only the torso is the target.

**D:** Is there anything else that you want to do that you haven't done yet?

**M:** Oh there's tons of things. I want learn how to weld, hula dance, silkscreen and I want to learn how to play the piano.

**D:** Thank you!

**M:** And thank you.





Decorating



celebrating



Dancing



Eating



Schmoozing



Leather 2006

Don't Stop! San Francisco Western Star Dancers Don't Slow Down!









Class/Club Night--Tuesdays  
TGIF Dance/Potluck  
3rd Friday  
1700 Oak Park Boulevard  
Pleasant Hill



Class Night--Wednesday  
St. Andrew's Methodist  
4111 Alma Street  
Palo Alto

Other Bay Area  
Square Dance Clubs



Class Night--Tuesdays  
Forest Hill Christian Church  
250 Laguna Honda Boulevard  
San Francisco



Class--Sunday Afternoons  
Jon Sim Center  
1519 Mission Street  
San Francisco



Class/Club Night--Wednesday  
Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club  
1650 Mountain Boulevard  
Oakland

October 2  
7:30-9:30 pm

**Red Mainstream Free Intro Night, EVRC - Angels Needed!**

October 6-8

**PACE**, Betsy Gotta caller. Friday 7:30 pm A2, Saturday 11 am & 2:30 pm C1, 7:30 C4, Sunday 11 am C3A, 2:30 pm C3. Diablo Light Opera Co. 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill

October 7  
7-10 pm

**Oaktown 8s Gotta Pass the Pumpkin**. Betsy Gotta caller. MS/P/A\* \$8/\$10 Redwood Heights Elementary School, 4401 - 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Oakland

October 14  
7:30-10:30

**Diablo Dancers Spin Chain & Exchange the Seasons**. Pat Carnathan caller. MS/P/A\* Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek

October 16  
7:30-9:30 pm

**Red Mainstream Free Intro Night, EVRC - Angels Needed!**

October 18  
7:30-9:30 pm

**Club Night Fen Tamanaha caller. EVRC**

October 23  
7:30-9:30 pm

**Red Mainstream 2007 Class begins. Rich Reel caller/instructor. EVRC. Angels Needed!**

November 3-5

**PACE**, Ett McAtee caller. Friday 7:30 pm A2, Saturday 11 am & 2:30 pm C1, 7:30 C4, Sunday 11 am C3A, 2:30 pm C3. Diablo Light Opera Co. 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill

November 4  
7-10 pm

**Foggy City Dancers 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Dance**. Mike DeSisto caller. Class/MS/P/A\* \$8/\$10 Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco

November 11  
7:30-10:30 pm

**El Camino Reelers Trade by Fall**. Todd Fellegly caller. P/A2 \$8/\$10 St. Andrews Methodist Church, 4111 Alma Street, Palo Alto

November 12

**Midnight Squares** Dance with Todd Fellegly caller. Details to be determined.

November 15  
7:30-9:30 pm

**Club Night Ron Masker caller. EVRC**

November 18

**Prime 8s & Capital City Squares Afternoon of Dancing & 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary Dance**. Phil Farmer caller. 2-5 pm A2, 7-10 pm MS/P/A\* Afternoon \$7 Evening \$8 Bell Avenue School, 1900 Bell Avenue, Sacramento

For the latest dance information, check [www.bayareadancecalendar.org](http://www.bayareadancecalendar.org)  
National & International events can be found at [www.lagsdc.com](http://www.lagsdc.com) Click on Events





**Maintenance Class**  
(Beginning Level)  
October 23, 2006  
7:30-9:30 pm  
Cupertino Valley  
Recreation Center

**Not WSD Members**  
**Half-Price!**  
Dunk up on your Aquatics  
dancing in time for our  
25th Anniversary

Slow-lyt feet? No problem!

A Wide Variety of Music

Good physical exercise

Warm, friendly, gay people

Lots of

Hugs

Rich Reel

Callen/Instructor

We're here  
to have fun!

**Dance**  
October 2 & 16, 2006 7:30 - 9:30 pm  
Cupertino Valley Recreation Center,  
Cupertino, near 18th Street

**Free**  
**Introductory**  
**Square**



Western Star Dancers  
584 Castro Street #480  
San Francisco, CA 94132