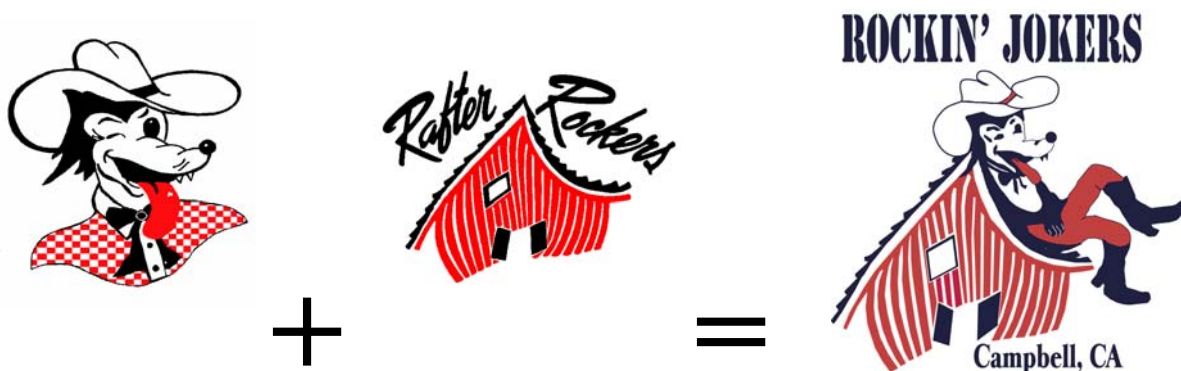


A POEM FROM AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR
BY Karl Arnold Belser

English caller Roger Hemsley from the *Wheel Around Weldon Square Dance Club* in Gweek, Cornwall, UK, met San Jose resident Charlene McAndrews last summer at a wedding between members of both their families. They became an item, and of course Roger wanted to share his love of square dancing with Charlene. They joined the Rockin' Jokers beginning class with caller Roger Smith. Charlene had to catch up with the Rockin' Joker class through the Blast Class at the Jubilee in October.

Roger was so impressed with the merger of The Jokers and the Rafter Rocker clubs, both in Campbell, CA, to form the Rockin' Jokers that he had a Rafter Rocker club shirt modified with both The Joker and Rafter Rocker logos on one side and the combined logo for Rockin' Jokers on the other. He said that he wanted to show off Yankee ingenuity at home in Cornwall.



Roger had to return to England shortly after the huge Santa Clara Valley Thanksgiving Potluck for all Square Dance Clubs. He was truly moved by his welcome to the Santa Clara Valley square dance community. So as a good-by gift he wrote the following poem to the Rockin' Jokers:



*Now "thank you", Rockin' Jokers for your friendship and for fun,
I've enjoyed your new beginners' class as Charlene has just begun
To learn my favorite hobby, to come and dance with me!
I left my home, in Cornwall, then flew across the sea
To find your friendly welcome, to share the day of BLAST,
Concentrated introduction, those calls were taught so fast,
Which has allowed my lady to come and dance with you
On Wednesdays at the legion Hall each week, learn something new.
So, when I'm back in Cornwall to call for party dances
I know you'll care for Charlene so she'll have to take her chances
With other learner dancers, listening to Roger sing,
Then, hopefully, when I return to San Jose in Spring,
We will dance together as we learn with some elation,
Nearing the day when new friends all can dance their graduation;
Become one of the family of dancers round the world
Sharing the fun and friendship as club banners unfurled
Proclaim the message, loud and clear, new friends are made perchance,
Through our Sociable Activity as we ALL LOVE TO DANCE!*

The Rockin' Joker club was so moved with this gift that we are sharing it with everyone.

The Rockin' Jokers
Campbell, CA
<http://www.rockinjokers.com>

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