

CHIRPER



APRIL 2014

Katydid Square Dance Club Newsletter

Volume 51, No 4

START YOUR WEEKEND RIGHT ...DANCE WITH THE KATYDIDS ON FRIDAY NIGHT!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the CLUB MEMBERSHIP Friday, April 11th at 8:30 PM

Agenda: Elections and Bylaws Revision

All Club members are strongly urged to attend.

CLUB CALENDAR

www.katydid.info

Fri., Apr. 04: Campbell United Church of Christ
400 W. Campbell Ave., Campbell
7:00 – 9:30 PM; INVITATIONAL SEPT. CLASSES
7:00 – 9:30 PM **BEGINNER'S CLASS**
Resurrection Lutheran Church
2495 Cabrillo, Santa Clara

Fri., Apr. 11: Campbell United Church of Christ
400 W. Campbell Ave., Campbell
7:00 – 8:00 PM; Club Dancing
8:00 PM **General Meeting; ELECTIONS**
7:00 – 9:30 PM **BEGINNER'S CLASS**
Resurrection Lutheran Church
2495 Cabrillo, Santa Clara

Fri., Apr. 18: **DARK**

Fri., Apr. 25: Campbell United Church of Christ
400 W. Campbell Ave., Campbell
6:30 – 7:00 PM **POT LUCK DINNER**
7:00 – 9:30 PM; **BEGINNER'S CLASS** at
Katydid

Sun., Apr. 27: INSTALLATION BRUNCH
Michael's at Shoreline in Mountain View.
11:30 – 3:00 PM
Sign up on Club night or call, Char Pitts at
408-984-5888. \$18 per person.
Directions: Just north of the Hwy 85 & US
101 interchange, exit at Shoreline Blvd. At the
end of the ramp, turn right onto Shoreline
Blvd. and follow it (through the Baylands Park
gate) to the very end (road curves to the left)
& turn left into the parking lot.

Fri., May 02: Campbell United Church of Christ
400 W. Campbell Ave., Campbell
7:00 – 9:30 PM; Club Dancing
9:35 PM; In/Out Executive Board Meeting
Chirper distributed
7:00 – 9:30 PM **BEGINNER'S CLASS**
Resurrection Lutheran Church
2495 Cabrillo, Santa Clara

Fri., May 09: Campbell United Church of Christ
400 W. Campbell Ave., Campbell
7:00 – 9:30 PM; Club Dancing
7:00 – 9:30 PM **BEGINNER'S CLASS**
Resurrection Lutheran Church
2495 Cabrillo, Santa Clara

Fri., May 16: Campbell United Church of Christ
400 W. Campbell Ave., Campbell
7:00 – 9:30 PM; Club Dancing
7:00 – 9:30 PM **BEGINNER'S CLASS**
Resurrection Lutheran Church
2495 Cabrillo, Santa Clara

Fri., May 23: Campbell United Church of Christ
400 W. Campbell Ave., Campbell
7:00 – 9:30 PM; Club Dancing
7:00 – 9:30 PM **BEGINNER'S CLASS**
Resurrection Lutheran Church
2495 Cabrillo, Santa Clara

Fri., May 30: 5TH FRIDAY HOEDOWN for Sept. level dancers

Sun., Jun. 01: ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC AND REUNION
****MARK YOUR CALENDARS****

SQUARE HEAD ASSIGNMENTS and DUTIES

Super Square Head
Stephanie Stevens (408-871-9525)

Apr. 04Hebson
Apr. 11Matolyak / McManus
Apr. 18DARK
Apr. 25Hastings / Wies

May 02Gray / Pitts
May 09Wilhelmsen
May 16Shaney / Stevens, Skip
May 23Smart / Krulee
May 30Willey

Jun. 06DeLapp
Jun. 13Grubb / Lehnhoff
Jun. 20Parsons / Tillman
Jun. 27Darknell

Before the dance:

- Notify the Super Square Head, Stephanie Stevens, 408-871-9525 of any needed changes to assigned dates.
- Purchase and bring 6 to 8 lbs ice for the water cooler.
- On scheduled night, the designated Square Heads should arrive by **6:30 PM**. A Katydid member with a key will open the doors.
- Sweep floor as necessary and set up tables and chairs.
- Make ice water.
- Start hot water for tea and coffee.

During Club dance:

- Welcome everyone at the sign-in table.
- Collect a **\$5.00** donation from each guest and have them sign in. "Regular" guests sign the prepared sheet, new guests sign the guest book.
- In the green box, there is an envelope with petty cash for making change.
- Offer raffle tickets: 5 tickets for \$1.00.
- In the green box, there are envelopes for keeping track of money collected during the evening.
- Divide the raffle proceeds – 50% to the Club, 50% to the winner.
- Check that water and cups do not run out.

After the dance:

- If Treasurer is not present, pass monies collected to any Executive Board Member.
- ALL MEMBERS: **Clean up!** Help pack up supplies and jugs and put into the Club cupboard.
- **Remove non-recyclable trash accidentally tossed into the designated recycle bins.** Take the trash bags out to the dumpster located in the side parking lot.
- Sweep or wet mop the floor as necessary.
- Note: Tables must go into the closet FIRST (remember the Caller's table, too), then the chair rack.
- Notify the Quarter Masters, **Gary or Sue De Lapp**, 408-446-1910 of any supplies needed.

UPCOMING SQUARE DANCE EVENTS Plus Level Dances

- Apr. 5: General Dance; SCVSDA (all levels)**
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
728 W. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale
7:30 – 10:00 PM; Callers: Bob Elling, Harlan Kerr
- Apr. 6: Tea Dance; Oaktown 8's**
St. Paschal Baylon Church
3700 Dorisa Ave., Oakland
2:30 – 5:30 PM; Caller: Dick Henschel
- Apr. 11-13: California State Square Dance Convention**
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, Turlock
Callers: Shane Greer, Jimmy Robertson, Joe Saltel, Tony Oxendine
Cuers: Sharon & Cassey Parker, Ron & Mary Nobel, Christine & Bruce Nelson
- Apr. 12: Circle and Squares Hoedown**
Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Ave, Santa Rosa
7:30 – 8:00 PM, PreRounds: Jeanne VanBlaracom
8:00 – 10:30 PM, Caller: **Jim Ostorne**
- Apr. 17: Gary Carnes' 70th Birthday Celebration**
Washington Park
840 W. Washington Ave., Sunnyvale
7:30 – 8:00 PM; Pre-Rounds
8:00 – 10:00 PM; Squares
No gifts, please.
- Apr. 19: Farmers & Farmerettes Hoedown**
Walter's Junior High
39600 Logan Dr., Fremont
7:30 – 8:00 PM; PreRounds: George Gardner
8:00 – 10:30 PM; Caller: Scot Byars
- Apr. 26: Walk and Dodge into Spring; El Camino Reelers**
St. Andrews United Methodist Church
4111 Alma St., Palo Alto
7:30 – 10:30 PM; Caller: Gary Monday
- May 3: Black & White Ball, Krazy Dazys**
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
728 W. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale
7:30 – 8:00 PM; PreRounds: Sue Harris
8:00 – 10:30 PM; Caller: **Jim Osborne**
- May 9-11: Silver State Square & Round Dance Festival**
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, Nevada
Callers: Scot Byars, Ken Rittuci, Tony Oxendine
Cuer: Mary Ann Callahan and Craig Cowan
- May 23-25: NCSDA Golden State Round Up**
Mariott. 2600 Bishop Dr., San Ramon
- May 31: Caller's Appreciation Whing Ding; SCVCA/SCVSDA**
- Jun. 7: Ice Cream Fling Thing; Bows & Beaus**
- Jun. 14: Strawberry Festival; Sunnyvale Squares**
- Jun 25-29: National Square Dance Convention**
Little Rock, AR
- Jun. 28: Slab Dance; Lucky Steppers**
Caller: **Jim Osborne**
Cuer: Sue Harris

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (or "As I See It!")



"Okay, Steph... So I guess you want my President's Corner article for the *Chirper*, huh? Do you think that I should bring up the subject of classes and the future of square dancing, again?"

"No, Skip... Are you remembering that this will be the last article that you will be writing before we have our new Executive Board? It needs to be positive and upbeat!"

"Oh, okay... Let's see what I can come up with..."

Fellow Katydids... I don't know where the time went but, in a short week, the Katydids Square Club will be presented with a new slate of officers for your consideration for your Executive Board. This group of individuals will undoubtedly bring new ideas about what can be done for the benefit of the Club and the square dance community in general. That is the way things should be...without fresh new ideas and differences of opinion, we will stagnate and will fail to meet the challenges of our ever changing dance community.

It has been an interesting year for me. There have been a number of challenges that the Club has been presented with including the question of renewing beginner square dance classes and the future of our Club in the face of slowly dwindling membership. Within our Club there has been the expression of differences of opinion on these and a number of other topics but we have come through these difficulties, perhaps with a good measure of compromise and innovation, and we are still here.

Many of these problems still are present, hopefully with some resolve and with further decisions to be made by this and future incoming Executive Boards and General Meetings of our Club membership.

What I have tried to provide to the Club is a sense of leadership without demands and single mindedness. A good leader presents a direction he thinks that should be taken by his followers. But a very good leader should present the rationale behind the direction he is recommending and insight into why he is leaning in that direction versus others which could have been selected. He or she should always keep an open mind, thinking in terms of the best interest of the group and be willing to compromise and to take another course when shown a different and better way of doing things.

It isn't easy to be in the position of a leader. Rarely do you have the consensus of your group. It is inevitable that there will be a difference of opinions or sense of direction from some members of the group. The important thing is that you try to remain impartial and to take in the big picture and think of the best interests of the whole group. This is what I have strived for and this is what I hope I have accomplished.

With a small Club there were fewer of us to accomplish all that needed to be done to keep the Club running smoothly. These included weekly Square Head duty, greeting and socializing with our guests and the providing snacks by all members of the Club. Steph and I continued to issue the *Chirper* and **Morris** printed it while we were on our cross-county roadtrip. **Parker, Char, Janis** and **Morris** alternated in making sure that Nelson Hall was open and hosted during our absence. Various Club members and associated guests contributed to the recommendations and direction taken by the Future of Square Dancing Committee. Everyone pitched in to make our Sweetheart Special hoedown successful, especially **Maxine** in the snack room, **Linda** at the raffle tables and **Parker** for overall event management. **John Caywood** became our regular round dance cuer in preparation for the 2015 Valentine's Day Sweetheart Special. **Pat Angotti** organized her final Club social outing this past year. **Dory** was especially angelic in providing a regular dance partner for **Tillie** and performing as Club graphic artist for our various flyers! **Roger Smith** and **Valerie Patterson** took on the roles of instructing our newer dancer class. I could try to go on and on but I would run out of space before I ran out of deserving kudos to be awarded! Be mindful that no job was so big or so small to not be appreciated by the whole Club (even if I neglect to give honorable mention in this column). Everyone is deserving of a round of applause!

So, with this being my last President's Corner article for the *Chirper*, I want to wish the new Executive Board the very best in their term of office and the hopes that they will continue to invigorate the Club in its travels through the coming year! And as a returning general member I promise to continue to support the Club in providing healthy recreation and entertainment.

Returning to my first comment, PLEASE try to attend our GENERAL MEETING at 8-PM on April 11th so we can elect our new Executive Board and ratify the proposed revised Club *Bylaws* (copies available on the sign-in table beginning April 4th). Also sign up for the INSTALLATION BRUNCH for April 27th at the sign-in table.

Skip

skip.stevens@comcast.net
408-761-6588

Chirper Chatter...



We are indeed sorry to hear that around mid-March **Teri Consentino** had reconstructive surgery on her ear and was instructed not to lift heavy things and bending over for 6 weeks. Now, that is a long time but follow your doctor's orders and we will see you back dancing soon...

Here is an update on **Lisa Steele's** left knee. She saw her orthopedic doctor on March 17 and was informed that she has osteoarthritis (OA) and may have a slight tear in the meniscus. She is scheduled for arthroscopic surgery on April 17 to smooth out the rough parts of her cartilage and to repair the small tear in the meniscus. After the surgery, she will go back to the doctor's office once a week for 3 weeks for Synvisc injections to help cushion the knee joint. If all goes well, she should be back dancing in early May...

Morris Hosoda played senior softball in Manteca, March 6 & 7, won 2, lost 3. We played in Hayward on March 22 & 23 and both teams with identical records, 4-0, played the last game for the championship and boo hoo, we lost. That is 3 tournaments he has played in this year and 3 times he has performed very poorly. As a result, he has asked the manager to place him on Leave Of Absence for a while to get somethings straightened out. He is strongly considering retiring from Tournament play and just play in local leagues...

Janis Parsons is getting better and driving but because of family affairs has not been able to visit the Club. Just wanted to let you know she is fine...

Do we have problems when we age? Ask **Lloyd and Maxine Darknell**. He is having problems with his back and she is having problems with her arm. They are joining the ranks of the rest of us seniors...

Good to see **Char Pitts** dancing again; however, just for a tip or two. She should be full time pretty soon...

Ted Shaney had foot surgery on March 28th. We trust all went well and that we will be seeing him and Kathy back on the dance floor before too long.

Katydoer Class Happenings...

Since I am wearing two caps, I will use this column to keep the Club posted on what is happening with our Katydoer Class being held at Resurrection Lutheran Church, also on Friday nights. The class is now 3 nights deep and is closed to NEW dancers. We have been having attendance of 20, 15 and 18 and strong support of Angels to give us 3 to 4 squares each

night. Some of you may recall the names of **Mary Howlett** and **Ann Kernan** who dropped out of Katydids and are now attempting to return to square dancing. Some of the calls taught include, Pass The Ocean, Square Thru, Star Thru, Swing Thru, Circulate (limited), Ladies Chain, 4-Ladies Chain, etc. Due to **Roger's** prior commitment, on April 25, Katydoers will be joining the Katydids for a Potluck Dinner and square dancing so plan to be there to get acquainted. Potluck will be at 6:30 PM and dancing to start as soon as we can get the tables cleared after 7:00PM.

Morris Hosoda

moho77@gmail.com

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INSTALLATION BRUNCH
Sunday, April 27th, 11:30 - 3:00 PM

Club members and friends of Katydids are invited to a delicious Sunday Brunch at the lovely Michael's at Shoreline in Mountain View

\$18.00 per person

Sign up with Char Pitts 408-984-5888

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NEWER DANCER HOEDOWNS
Be an angel – Support our newest dancers!!

-- JANUARY (2014) CLASS LEVEL --

Sat., April 12th

Bunny Hop; Castaways
 Resurrection Lutheran Church
 2495 Cabrillo Ave., Santa Clara
 7:30 – 10:00 PM

Callers: Tork Clark, Rob Paull, **Roger Smith**

Sat., May 10th

Cinco De Mayo; Castaways
 Resurrection Lutheran Church
 2495 Cabrillo Ave., Santa Clara
 7:30 – 10:00 PM

Caller: Joe Gonzalez, **Jim Osborne, Roger Smith**

Sat., May 17th

Butterfly Ball, CPSD
 Camden Community Center
 3369 Union Ave., San Jose
 7:30 – 9:45 PM
 Caller: Tork Clark

Nominating Committee Report:

As the Nominating Committee Chairperson, I want to announce the candidates for the following Executive Board positions:

- President Linda Caywood
- Vice President Val Paterson
- Treasurer Morris Hosoda
- Secretary Janis Parsons
- Publicist Pat Angotti

At the General Meeting of the Club Membership, next Friday, April 11th the President will conduct the meeting for the elections of officers for 2014-2015. Additional nominations from the floor will be taken at that time. Below is a brief listing of the job descriptions for each of the officer's responsibilities:

President: Presides over all Executive Board and General Meetings. Is responsible for the smooth running of the Club.

Vice President: Is responsible for the property of the Club and is the Chair of our annual Sweetheart Special Hoedown.

Treasurer: Keeps accurate records of Club income and disbursements and files appropriate tax forms.

Secretary: Takes and keeps minutes of all Executive Board and General Meetings.

Publicist: Provides for the preparation, accuracy and distribution of flyers and announcements, and notices to publicize Club activities.

*Submitted by Skip Stevens
Nominating Committee Chairperson*

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On Club nights, are you remembering to keep the chairs clear of your personal belongings?

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REMINDER:
Tork's CPSD class on Tuesday nights at the Camden Community Center can always use angels!!

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PERSONAL HYGIENE

It is springtime and it seems to be a good time to remind everyone that it is important that we all pay closer attention to our personal hygiene as the weather gets warmer. Be mindful of body odors as well as aromatics to be respectful of our allergic members and guests.

VERY IMPORTANT!!

Bylaws Revision Committee Report

The Bylaws Committee has been working hard on revising our Club's *Bylaws*. It had been suggested that we needed to do this in our last two General Meetings of the membership. The President formed a committee consisting of myself, Bea Clark, and himself.

Initially we thought we could just do a simple correction and update. The more we got into it, we found that this tactic really was shortsighted. Eventually we decided to go with a simpler set of *Bylaws* and then add *Standing Rules* that would cover more of our day-to-day business. The Committee presented its recommendations to the Executive Board at its last Board Meeting on March 21st and with its approval we are now ready to present them to the membership.

Friday, April 4th, we sent our members, who have email, a copy of the "old" *Bylaws* that had been revised April 27, 2012 and a copy of the proposed *Bylaws* for you to look over prior to the official presentation of the *Bylaws* to the Club membership at the General Meeting on Friday, April 11th. To those who do not have email a copy will be mailed to you.

To approve the new *Bylaws*, we need at least 50% of the active Club membership in attendance. That would mean we need 22 of you to attend! A 2/3 majority vote of the attending Club members is required to amend the Club *Bylaws*.

If the *Bylaws* are approved, then the *Standing Rules* will be voted on by the 2013-14 Executive Board after the General Meeting, assuming there is a quorum of 4 officers in attendance. If there is not a quorum, a vote will be taken by telephone or email soon thereafter.

In closing I would like to thank **Bea Clark** who reviewed the *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules* multiple times, and to the Executive Board for its support in this endeavor.

*Submitted by Stephanie Stevens,
Bylaws Committee Chairperson
email: geneosteph@gmail.com*

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY !

- Morris & Louise Hosoda...April 05
- Jim & Joann Osborne.....April 07

**Katydids
September Class Level Invitational**



**Friday Nights
7:00 to 9:30 pm
April 4 & May 30, 2014**

*Free for September Class Dancers
All other guests - \$5 donation*

Caller:
Jim Osborne

Cuer:
John Caywood

Learn simple round dancing between tips!



Campbell United Church of Christ
Nelson Hall
400 W. Campbell Ave.
Campbell, CA 95008

www.katydids.info

It's Baaaaaak!!

Our Rotation Board has returned and our many thanks to **Lisa Steele** for offering to be the Rotation Board Manager! The Board provides an easy way for dancers to find a partner for each tip. It facilitates participation of solo dancers, serves those whose regular partner is absent and gives people a chance to dance with different partners. Dancers may join or leave the Rotation Board at any time.

To join the Rotation Board at any time: Write your name on one of the white magnetic strip and place it on the Board at the end of the column. Your name on the Board is a promise to dance with whomever is matched with your name. It is considered poor form to leave someone without a partner.

Before each tip: Check the Board to find the name next to yours. That person will be your partner for that tip.

Leaving the Rotation Board: You can leave the Board at any time by removing your name immediately after your last tip.

Rotation Board Manager will move the names after each tip.

Give it a try. You just might like it!!

Katydids Annual



& Reunion



**Sunday - June 1, 2014
11 am to 3 pm
Eating at Noon**



**Santa Clara Central Park
909 Kiely Blvd., Santa Clara
(across the street from the old Kaiser hospital)**



Members - sign up to bring:
Appetizers - Desserts - Salad - Side Dishes
Club provides:
Hamburgers - Hotdogs - Condiments - Drinks



Please bring your own table service!

Contact for help with set-up @ 9 am or for other picnic information:
Lloyd - (408) 482-9320 or Maxine - (408) 241-7667

www.katydids.info

Katydids Square Dance Club

Invites **Katydoers** to
Come to Our
Square Dance



and our

get acquainted

Potluck Dinner

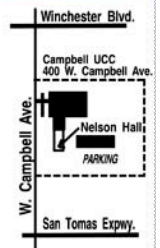


Place: Campbell United Church of Christ, Nelson Hall
400 W. Campbell Ave., Campbell

Date: April 25, 2014

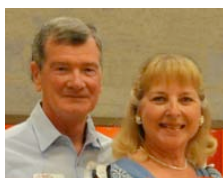
Time: Potluck (6:30 PM) - Square Dance (7:30 PM)

Bring anything you like, a real Potluck
and own settings, club supplies beverages.



FROM MARY & ROD - -

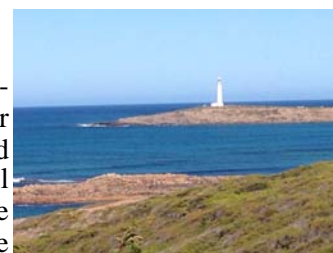
Below is a note from Mary & Rod who used to be Katydid's Club members prior to their full time RVing. They are currently traveling through Australia & New Zealand.



- 30 Jan Getting Ready to Get Ready
- 16 Feb The Longest Journey Starts With the First Step
- 18 Feb Staging in Fort Worth
- 22 Feb The Adventure Begins
- 23 Feb Up, Up, and Away!
- 26 Feb Margaret River Wine & Brewery Country
- 27 Feb Touring
- 28 Feb Journey to Fremantle, WA, Australia
- 01 Mar Touring Perth'
- 02 Mar Touring Fremantle
- 03 Mar Boarding RCL's Radiance of the Seas
- 04 Mar Geraldton, Western Australia
- 05 Mar At Sea
- 06 Mar Port Hedland, Western Australia
- 07 Mar At Sea
- 08 Mar Benoa, Bali, Indonesia
- 09 Mar At Sea
- 10 Mar At Sea
- 11 Mar Darwin, Northern Territory
- 12 Mar At Sea
- 13 Mar At Sea
- 14 Mar At Sea
- 15 Mar Airlie Beach, Queensland
- 16 Mar At Sea
- 17 Mar Brisbane, Queensland
- 18 Mar At Sea
- 19 Mar Sydney, New South Wales
- 20 Mar Narooma, New South Wales
- 21 Mar Mallocoota, Victoria
- 22 Mar Lakes Entrance, Victoria
- 23 Mar Moe, Victoria
- 24 Mar Melbourne, Victoria
- 25 Mar Port Arthur, Tasmania
- 26 Mar Freynicet National Park
- 27 Mar Penguin, Tasmania

27 February
Touring

We planned a day of touring in the Margaret River area, but decided to hold off on winetasting until the afternoon. So we headed south to the Leeuwin Lighthouse.



Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse

This beautiful lighthouse, the third tallest in Australia, is set on a beautiful point of land. But the most interesting thing to us, is that it sits at the junction of the Indian and Southern Oceans. Our guide pointed out the rough water that marked the intersection of the currents of these two bodies of water.



Current Crossroads

This is a line the moves around, based on the temperatures and winds guiding the currents. She also pointed out that we were quite lucky to see it on a clear calm day - the average day is overcast with winds of 50 kilometers per hour!

We had a nice lunch at the Lighthouse Cafe and then drove north on the Caves Road. There are several large caves in the area, both developed and natural, but we decided to spend our time here above ground. We stopped for a walk on Hamelin Beach, another of those gorgeous Australian beaches. Farther north we drove through the Giants Grove, a beautiful stretch of Eucalyptus trees.



Giants Grove



Kookaburra

Hey, it's afternoon! Let's find the Leeuwin Estate and Voyager Estate Wineries, two of the finest in Western Australia. Leeuwin Estate is also a great venue for outdoor concerts. We saw our first Kookaburra here. And Voyager Estate has acres (okay, hectares) of wonderful gardens.

We drove over to Gnarabup Beach for the sunset. It was pleasant but the Sea Gardens Cafe was wonderful. Great dinners sitting on the deck overlooking the Indian Ocean. Yep, we could get used to this!

(Continued on page 8)

(Mary & Rod continued from pg. 7)

**28 February
Journey to Fremantle, WA, Australia**

We said a leisurely goodbye to our hostess at the Riverview B&B. Mary developed a "passion" for the passionfruit grown right in the orchard/garden and Liz



Beckett's Winery

gave her several for the journey north. Just a few kilometers up the road we stopped to take pictures of Beckett's Winery. (My brother's name is Beckett.) We headed for the coast, and stopped

for a walk on Yallingup Beach. Further north we stopped for lunch at Bunkers Beach Cafe near Eagle Bay on Cape Naturaliste - very good food and great setting on the beach.



Yallingup Beach

Continuing toward Perth, we stopped at the Telstra store in Dunsborough. Friends and fellow SKP's had told us about an air card device that provided good Internet access around Australia and we decided to give it a try.



Eagle Bay

store in Dunsborough. Friends and fellow SKP's had told us about an air card device that provided good Internet access around Australia and we decided to give it a try.

The rest of the drive was pretty uneventful. As mentioned before, you really can't see any of the coast from the Coast Road. It was mostly flat and brown.

We arrived at our B&B in Fremantle and met our host, Craig. He recommended a hamburger café that was within walking distance called Flipside Burger.

After a quick check on Trip Advisor, we enjoyed our walk and our burgers. (What a difference the internet and smartphone apps have made with travel!)

That includes airB&B, both a website and an app. We used it for both our stays and have been quite pleased. And it's free to the consumer. Consider this an endorsement.

**24 March
Melbourne, Victoria**

Today is a transition day, so we spent the morning packing up the Class C. The two hour drive to Melbourne was mundane, but getting back into big city traffic was an adventure. No problems though, and we unloaded our bags at our hotel and then dropped



Packing up



Ibis, Melbourne

off the RV. Checking into the Ibis Hotel was reminiscent of many trips we took 10 years ago in Europe.

We had an email from our Tropic Star friends who are also traveling Australia. They had just left Tasmania, and said we are in for a great time there, too.

Today's excitement was getting an email from Darryl Davis, a fraternity brother who moved to Australia right after graduation from OSU. It's been a challenge tracking down an address for Darryl, but now it looks like we might be able to see him in May!



Melbourne

So tonight is clean up and rest up, getting ready for the next leg of our adventure.

**25 March
Port Arthur, Tasmania**



New Homeless in Melbourne?

We were close enough to walk to the Melbourne airport from our hotel, so decided on an early check-in and breakfast at the terminal. Hmmm - our Priceline tickets on Virgin Australia doesn't allow for checked baggage. Now that's a problem to be worked out! Some temporary help from a very nice ticket agent and were on our way.

(Continued on page 9)

(Mary & Rod continued from pg. 8)

The flight was quite pleasant. We heard the ferry crossing of the Tasman Sea can be quite an adventure.

Upon landing in Hobart, Tasmania, we boarded the Transporter bus, drove past all the rental agencies at the airport



Made it!

up there's no room at all in the back of the van. No toilet - at our age? This will be an adventure.



First Look at Tasmania

and went into town for our pick up. A camper van - now that's small. The refrigerator microwave saint and all the storage cabinets would fit in the refrigerator of our fifth wheel. Yes, there's a double bed, but when made



Pirates Bay Beach



Pirates Bay Blowhole

We quickly headed out of town, stopped in Sorrel for groceries, and continued on to the Tasman Peninsula. We made a stop at the Pirates Bay Overlook and also the Pirates Bay blowhole. Both were impressive. We continued on and got checked in at Port Arthur Campervan Park.



Nubeema White Sand Beach

Thought it was early enough to go out and drive the Nubeena loop and get that out of the way - but it wasn't We saw some pretty beaches, but got caught in the dark. That's not a good thing Australia - narrow roads, driving on the left, unfamiliar vehicle and lots of critters on the road after dark. Not a mistake to be repeated.

**27 March
Penguin, Tasmania**

After a month in Australia, we had our first rain day

Since we were feeling pressed for time here in Tasmania anyway, we decided to spend the day traveling to the North coast, bypassing some of the northeast beaches and scenic drives. Our trip across Elephant Pass showed us just how quickly the mountains can



St Mary's Bakery

rise from the sea-shore coast. After some hot chocolate and a sweet in St. Mary's, we quickly descended to the west through ranch land and then into farmland. The ranches (do they call them stations here?) primarily had sheep.

Most of the towns are pretty small, with just two or three stores. Fortunately for us, one of them is usually a bakery. Campbell Town was a



Red Brick Bridge



Campbell Town Wzooden Statue

little larger and we stopped there for lunch. They also had the Red Brick Bridge, built by convicts in 1838 with 1 million bricks. And there were some very intricate wooden statues. In spite of this being an island, the ranchland was very dry. We saw a lot of major irrigation setups.

The rain was heavier in the afternoon, so we just drove through the larger towns of Launceston and then Devonport on the coast. But wait! It can't possibly be raining so hard that we can't stop at d'Anvers Chocolate Factory. Okay, now we have some emergency supplies.



d'Anvers Chocolate Factory



Free Samples!

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(Mary & Rod continued from pg. 9)

We ended our drive in the town of Penguin, in a campground right on the shore. Unfortunately, they haven't seen the penguins haven't come in for the past couple of weeks. But maybe tonight we'll get lucky!

**28 March
Cradle Mountain National Park**

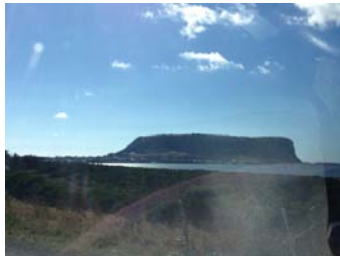


Penguin

Woke up in the middle of the night to moonlight over the ocean and a few bright stars. That's a good sign.

We spent a little time touring the town of Penguin. It is quite pleasant and would've been a good place to browse even longer.

We drove west along the North coast to the town of Stanley. We passed through some beautiful coastal areas and great farmland. Beautiful rolling country. The destination in Stanley was a geological feature known as "The Nut". At the end of the peninsula this massive rock rises, similar to Ayer's rock in Central Australia. Well, at least the hot chocolate was good -- and it was a beautiful drive.



The Nut



Dove Lake & Cradle Mountain

We headed south toward interior Tasmania and their Cradle Mountain National Park. Along our twisty B26 route was a rain forest that was quite interesting to drive through. No way to make speed, but a wonderful tourist route.

We arrived at the National Park to find that camping was run by a (very expensive) concessionaire. Nothing like a captive market. Once registered, we took the 7.5 km drive through the park and arrived at Lake Dove. The 6 km walk around the lake felt good after two days of a lot of driving.

On the return drive we stopped for a short walk in an area that promised sightings of wombats. We weren't disappointed. What cute creatures they are!



Wombat

Back at the campground, a dinner of leftovers and a pretty good Tasmanian Pinot Noir. Then these tired puppies are heading to bed.

**29 March
Strahan, Tasmania**

We woke this morning to fog and drizzle - so glad we decided to take our walks yesterday! We spent a little time in the park visitor center, then started our track towards Strahan.



Strahan

Another twisty, turny and slow - but scenic - drive. Fortunately, the drizzle soon stopped as we headed south. We didn't manage to find a café for our morning hot chocolate, but not much else to stop for on this drive.



Boat Ride at Sunset

Strahan, however, made to drive worthwhile. Our particular objective was the evening boat ride to Bonnet Island, where penguins nest and raise their young. The good news is it was quite calm and a very enjoyable boat ride.

The bad news is that with the good weather the Penguins tend to stay at sea to feed, especially now that the young ones are nearly self-sufficient. But our guide was good and managed to find several nests for us to observe.



Penguin Fledgling

Strahan is on our list of towns worth an extended stay. Also available are an extended riverboat ride, a wood mill with tour and handmade products, and a steam

(Continued on page 11)

(Mary & Rod continued from pg. 10)

locomotive ride through the mountainous wilderness to the town of Queensland. Next time.

**30 March
W. Tasmania**

We started our return to Hobart, driving through the Western Mountain Range. First stop in Queensland for a walkabout. This is the terminus of the Strahan wilderness steam train, so there was a nice depot and museum. It is still a major mining community, for gold and copper. The results of stripmining were quite obvious on the mountainsides. Today the mining has all moved underground. There's also a major reclamation effort to try to clean up the pollutants in the rivers and reforest the mountainsides. And, yes, there was a pretty good bakery here, too.



Queensland Railroad Depot



Queensland Copper Mining

There's also a major reclamation effort to try to clean up the pollutants in the rivers and reforest the mountainsides. And, yes, there was a pretty good bakery here, too.

Hard drive next entered the Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers World Heritage Site. 60 slow kilometers in and out of rain forest - quite a beautiful drive. We stopped for a short walk to Nelson Falls, which was well worth the effort. And how can you pass up the Hungry Wombat Café when it's time for lunch? Our next stop was to see "The Wall", a massive wood carving effort by a local artist depicting the history of Tasmania.



Nelson Falls

Our drive continued through the mountains to an area where the hydroelectric reservoirs and dams had been constructed starting almost a century ago. These were engineering marvels of their time, continue to provide all of the electricity for the island of Tasmania today.

Too many stops to make it to Hobart today, so we opted to stop at a small campground where we could get some laundry done and make an early start tomorrow.

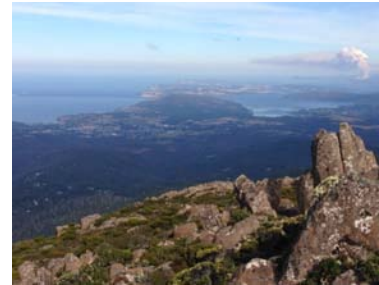
**31 March
Hobart, Tasmania**

We woke to a pleasant morning, chatted with some neighbors, and prepared to continue our journey to Hobart. Wait a minute - my internet access stopped working. Learned a little bit more about the Telstra pay-as-you-go internet device. Stopped for a walk in New Norfolk and managed to have hot chocolate, a sweet, and internet access.

We finally left the mountains, and enjoyed the drive down the river valley toward Hobart. One of our first stops as we neared the city was the Cadberry factory. No factory tour and only a few free samples, but a nice demonstration and a company store with well-discounted product.



Cadbury Factory



Mt. Wellington View

We decided to tour through downtown Hobart in the camper van and spend our afternoon making the drive up Mount Wellington. What an effort making that road must of been! Upon reach-

ing the summit at 1271 m, the 360° views are spectacular. To the west, the mountains that we had just driven through. To the east, the expanse of Hobart city and its harbor.



Mt. Wellington View of Hobart



Our Final Campsite View

On our way back we checked out the routing for our early-morning drop off of the camper van. Then we headed for our free camp overnight - and a very short nights sleep.

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Chirper

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