

Reelers

In December, our annual holiday party was a great success, with delicious and varied food and a rollicking Yankee gift exchange emceed by our president, Bruce Haskell. Our thanks go to Bob Turner, host extraordinaire, who greeted all of us into his beautifully decorated large home with hugs and smiles, and graciously turned over his kitchen to dedicated gourmet helpers.

We celebrated the graduation of our seven Plus students at our December holiday dance, which was held at the scenic Chester Barn. The father-daughter teaching team of Ed Crowley and Katie Wilson did a fantastic job; Katie did not let a momentous event like giving birth to Adorable Son #2 interfere with her dedication to teaching. Thanks to all three generations! We also appreciate our angels and class coordinators, Valerie Lehnert and Victoria Solecki, whose organizational and motivational skills helped make the class so successful.

Our January free introductory dances attracted many interested people. Some saw the announcements on Meetup, a new method of reaching potential students. We are fortunate to have Ed and Katie continuing as our teachers.

Congratulations to our former presidents, Cindy and Dave Whalen, on the birth of their first grandchild, Tanner, who weighed in at more than nine pounds. Helen Jacobson was a lovely mother of the bride at her daughter's recent wedding. Carla and Stephen Holusha both won awards for their running abilities. Mark Bippes was presented with Morris Habitat for Humanity's inaugural 30-year service award.

We mourn the untimely loss of Anthony Casale – a fellow Reelers member, good friend, and melodic caller whom we were lucky enough to enjoy.

Some of our members tried to escape winter by traveling to warmer climates: Nancy and Jim Anderson, Av and Bear Brady, Helen Jacobson, and Arlene and Tom Simansky to Florida; Irene and Hal Stoller to Arizona; and Merrill Hodge to California. As in past years, the Reelers had a large contingent at WASCA in March, with almost a dozen attending.

For dancers interested in beginning round dance lessons, Mary Pickett has a new class on various Fridays from April through June. This is a great opportunity to combine a round dance lesson with a fun evening of square dancing. We hope you will join us for enjoyable square dancing (to a variety of callers, many from out of state), round dancing, delicious food, and friendship.