

Rockland Rockytops

The 2018-19 Rockytops season started with a raid to Cross Trail Squares, where we danced to one of our favorite callers, Mark Franks. Our own first event of the season, a Mainstream dance, had four squares enjoying another of our favorites, Howard Richman. In September, 50 attendees participated in our annual introductory dance, which featured our inspirational caller/teacher Fran Wadel and a delicious array of refreshments provided by our members. Our new Mainstream class began in October and, thanks to Fran and a large number of devoted club angels, we expect to graduate eight enthusiastic new dancers (see their names on page 5).

The highlight of our October Mainstream dance was a duet of our theme song, "Rocky Top," by two lovely ladies: our caller, Sandy Corey, and our own Fran Wadel. Also in October, Rockytops raiders joined two other clubs at Circle Eights, where Jim Snyder called one of his last dances before retiring. The refreshments that evening were a veritable Oktoberfest feast. The November Mainstream dance featured our annual turkey raffle and fun caller Ed Foote.

Plus dances in the fall found us dancing to popular Don Coy and Howard Richman. Eleven Rockytops members attended the NNJSDA Mini-Festival. More than four squares and caller Betsy Gotta spread good cheer at our annual free Holiday Spirit dance in December. That month also found 12 Rockytops dancers on the move to raid Western Wheelers/Hix & Chix.

Congratulations to Cathy and Don Schlesinger, who observed a special wedding anniversary by taking their family in December to Aruba, where they had spent their honeymoon 40 years before. Also, happy anniversary to Sue and Ken Ehnenn, who celebrated an impressive 55 years in December.

Joan Schierlitz and Perry Didriksen took a respite from the cold and snow in February to attend the Florida State Square Dance Convention in Daytona Beach, Florida.

On a sad note, we extend deep sympathy to Pat Lutter on the loss of her mother.

Rockytops kicked off 2019 with a large turnout at our first dance, called by popular Paul Ingis and raided by Western Wheelers/Hix & Chix. You gotta dance to Betsy Gotta, and we had fun doing so at our Plus dances in January and March. Other callers who have enriched our spring dancing thus far are Fran Wadel (annual Student/Valentine dance), Todd Felleggy, and Howard Richman. We look forward to Sandy Corey, Ed Foote, Don Coy, and our annual visit from Arizona's Rick Gittelman, in addition to return appearances by Howard Richman and Paul Ingis.

Rockytops continues to dance in the summer; check our ad for the schedule and locations. We look forward to welcoming you in a square.