

# MEMORIAL DAY DANCE 2010



## **A bit of where this dance came from:**

I had been hatching this idea of a fundraiser dance for some time. The inspiration for this dance came from my Grandfather Jim Mitchell. He started in the Central Puget Sound Council and ended up in Mount Baker Council. I started in Mount Baker Council and ended up in the Central Puget Sound Council. So it only seemed natural to split the proceeds between these councils that are so near and dear to my heart.

It was after a dance at the Happy Hoppers that a group of us went out for an after party that it started to become a reality. Lee & Lorna Barnhart said we could use the Juanita Community Club. I asked what would the cost be and was told not to worry about it. Dan Preedy offered his services to be the caller. Soon after that Genie Parrill agreed to come on as the cuer. Susan Morris offered her services to be the MC for this event.

I had a place. I had a caller. I had a cuer. I had a crew. I had a MC. We even had a date.

On May 29 2010 we had our first Memorial Day Dance with all the proceeds going to the clubs of the Central Puget Sound Council and the Mount Baker Council.

Our little committee worked like a fine oiled machine. We had no bumps no bruises. It was an honor to work with these fine people.

A lot of what happened at the dance was because of me and I would like to thank my committee for giving me the option to change things up a bit. I wanted this to be a different kind of dance. I hoped this would be one of those kinds of dances that dancers would walk away exhausted because they had so much fun dancing. So that meant some things might be different but I was willing to take the chance. It was my hope to not upset anyone but I felt some things just had to be changed, even if it were only for one night.

## **Here are some stats from the dance:**

- 1) We raised \$720.00 to be split between the councils so that they can give the money to their clubs
- 2) Central Puget Sound Council had more council members in attendance
- 3) Mount Baker Council had more dancers from their clubs in attendance



**Here is my list of thanks (in no particular order):**

- 1) Lee & Lorna Barnhart and the Samena Squares for donating and paying for the hall
- 2) Dan Preedy for donating his time to call for this dance
- 3) Genie Parrill for donating her time to cue for this dance
- 4) Larry & Susan Morris for being kitchen staff, money staff, MC and all around greeters
- 5) Chelsea Hellman & Jessica Snell for being the hostess's with the mostess
- 6) To each and every dancer who came out to support this wonderful cause
- 7) To each and every dancer who stayed to help us clean up after
- 8) Tom Rohde for showing up from my council to help close the till and make sure the money is distributed between the councils
- 9) Larry & Teresa Snider, Dick & Earlene Beham and Tom Rohde for coming from my council (Central Puget Sound Council) to show support for this cause. Ray & Cindy Gallagher for coming from the Mount Baker Council to show support for this cause.
- 10) Jim Mitchell for passing on to me the will and determination to "get 'er done" for teaching me that hard work is the way to make things happen, and for always watching over me from heaven above

If I forget someone please forgive me. This dance was great because of everyone involved

**Some things I changed and why:**

- 1) It was a high energy mainstream dance from the beginning, I asked Dan to kick it up (I think high energy is all he knows which is great) and to not call down to the floor
- 2) There were no breaks and no announcements made during the dance I have gone to dances where the breaks have been 30-45 minutes. I just thought if people wanted to promote their dances they could do that with flyers. We had no complaints that there were no announcements or a break and dancers stayed til the end of the dance
- 3) All of the rounds were phase II rounds and no higher. I have been to dances where there might be 12-15 squares of dancers and most of them are phase II dancers and the cuer puts on a phase III or phase IV round. There might be 3-4 couples that can dance at that level. Another of my pet peeves is why don't we do more mixers, line dances, or contras at level dances. Our newest dancers can't round dance so that means they are paying to sit out at least half of the dance.

- 4) I decided to charge \$10.00 for each person. It is my theory when you put out a good show you can charge a bit more. I also believe when you bring in a National caller you need to charge more. I took my Granddaughter to see Shrek 4 the other day and it cost me \$30.00 so I will gladly pay \$10.00 to attend a top notch show. No one complained about the price of this dance.

**Clubs represented and the top three who “brought it”**

- 1) **Samena Squares=21 dancers taking 1<sup>st</sup>**
- 2) **Happy Hoppers, Freewheelers & CrossTrails=6 dancers each for a 3 way tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place**
- 3) **Solo Squares, Wagon Wheels, PI R squares, and Fern Bluff Squares=3 dancers each for a 4 way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place**

Other clubs in attendance

- 4) Toe Stompers
- 5) Sky Valley Whirlwinds
- 6) Checkerboard
- 7) Dancing Shadows
- 8) Jack's & Jill's
- 9) Shirts & Skirts
- 10) Whirlybirds

**Plans for next year:**

Plans are underway for next year's Memorial Day Dance.

I would like to thank everyone again who came and supported this wonderful cause because without you it wouldn't have been any fun.

Looking forward to giving you a great dance next year

Hugs

Remember to live life & go crazy.

Leslie