



DANCING CACTUS NEWS

SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

A Newsletter For SARDASA Dancers

Visit us on the web at: www.sardasa.com

Winter Edition

January-February 2012

Dancing Cactus Returns to Tucson

After a long sabbatical of traveling and meeting square dancers around the world Sid and Stephanie Saguaro have once again planted their roots in Tucson. With their return the newsletter is back in business. This publication will have five editions this year, including the current edition. Deadlines will be the 15th of the month prior to each edition.

- Spring Edition March-April
- Summer Edition May-June-July
- Fall Edition August-Sept.-Oct.
- Winter Edition Nov.- Dec.

We look forward to your club news, articles and information. With your help we can be an informative source for all dancers in southern Arizona.

Square Dance Classes start in January

Classes begin at the OPSD Square Dance Center on Thursday, Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 29. at 6 p.m. Classes are open for three weeks.

Brand new dancers are welcome, singles, couples and families, ages 10 and up. Rick Gittelman will teach the classes which are sponsored by SARDASA and Swingin' Singles. Please be active and help us promote this activity. We need new dancers to help all of clubs increase diminishing attendance. We also need angles to come out support our new dances.

Our fall classes were a complete bust, none of the new dancers stayed in class so it is very important that we have a successful spring program.

Without new dancers all of our clubs potentially will continue to loose attendance. If everybody takes an interest in promoting this great activity the entire community will grow.

January is Festival Month in Tucson

CLOGGING FESTIVAL

The Tucson Clogging Connection and SARDASA sponsored the annual Clogging Festival. Jan. 13 and 14 at OPSD.Hall.

There were workshops Friday and Saturday during the day and evening dances. The featured clogging instructor was Chip Summey from North Carolina.

For more clogging information please visit our **website- SARDASA.com.**

SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE FESTIVAL JANUARY 19-22

The Southern Arizona Cuers and Callers Association is sponsoring the annual Square and Round Dance Festival at the Radisson Suites Hotel in east Tucson. There will be more floor space this year and of course our floors are real wood.

The festival begins on Thursday evening and continues through Sunday morning. The featured callers are: Mike Kellogg from California, Nasser Shuykar from Texas and Bill Harrison from Maryland.

The featured round dance cuer is Barb Haynes from Mesa, Lynn and Bob Van Atta who are new to Tucson will also do some cueing. SACCA callers and special guest caller Richard Lane from Albuquerque will also be on the schedule.

There will be daytime workshops, intro sessions, a contra teach, new dancer invitational and intro to square dancing for the public.

Dancing programs will include Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, C1 and Round Dancing during the entire weekend. For more information visit our website at **tucsonsquarefestival.com**

CLUB NEWS

-1-

CLUB **Dance Program**
Location **TIME**

SUNDAY DANCES

RICK A SHAYS **Advanced**



OPSD **4:00-6:00**

We dance every Sunday to the calling of Rick Gittelman, always casual dress. NO DANCE on January 22, Festival Weekend. Feb. 5-Super Sunday Dance special time 1-3p.m. The first dance of the month is finger food day. We welcome all Advanced dancers for a fun filled dance.

Submitted by Rick Gittelman

SWINGIN' SINGLES- **MS/Announced**



PLUS OPSD **Class(starts 1/29)**
6:00-7:30 **Club Dance**
7:30-9:30

Come join us to the calling of our club caller Rick Gittelman. We welcome all dancers, we dance Mainstream with announced Plus tips. We will be trying to start a brand new class on January 29th so if you have anybody interested send them our way. We welcome everybody to our Mainstream dances, we do an announced plus tip. We are a fun club singles and couples are always welcome.

Submitted by Rick Gittelman

VOYAGER RV RESORT

Voyager RV **6:30-8:30**

Hello from the dancers at the Voyager RV Resort. We are about midway through our dance season, we will dance through the month of March. Here is our dance schedule: Sundays at 6:30 to 8:30, in the ballroom. Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 to 12:00, mainstream teach and dance. 1:00 to 2:30, plus workshop and dance, in the Catalina room.

Come on down and dance with us, you will enjoy it. Yellow Rocks for all.

Submitted by Don & Sandie Haney

MONDAY DANCES

RINCON COUNTRY RV RESORT PLUS
RCW Auditorium **10:00-Noon**
Doughnut Dance Casual Dress

CLOGGING DANCES- BEG/INT/3
OPSD **6:30-9**

GREEN VALLEY SQUARES **MS/PLUS**



CANOA HILLS **6:30 (PRE-ROUNDS) 7:00-9:00**
Having successfully completed 2011 with our big New Year's dance, Green Valley Squares had a great biannual Introduction to Square Dance Party on Jan. 9.

We sponsor Rick's full schedule of beginner, Mainstream and Plus classes and reviews two days a week, and hope to encourage new dancers to sign up with the free party.

We have been getting about two squares of new dancers each semester with this program. Our Club dance is every Monday night, 6:30 Rounds, 7:00 Squares, with Rick as our club caller. Every square dancer is welcome to come to the Canoa Hills Recreation Center (great wood floor, good A/C) and join us any night, all seasons, including summer. (Probably no rounds in summer.) The only time we're dark is when a holiday falls on Monday.

Rick calls to the level of dancers present, usually mixed Plus and Mainstream. When Rick's on tour, we have other great local callers fill in.

Our website is temporarily (we hope) shut down while we find a new webmaster, so you'll have to either call Rick at his phone or e-mail, or our President, Dean Capes, at 520 647-9916, deandcapes@aol.com for further information.

Submitted by Gary Hill

TUESDAY DANCES

Bernie's C1 C1 Workshop
OPSD 10:00-12:00 a.m.

It was great to be back to dancing on Tuesday morning. I would like to thank all the wonderful dancers for an excellent 2011. All C-1 dancers welcome to join in. Dark 1/31 thru 2/14. HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Submitted by Bernie Weber

T-SQUARES- (GLBT) MS/PLUS



Cornerstone Church 6:00-8:00

You are welcome to join us for a fun dance. We dance DBD, always casual dress with our club caller Rick Gittelman.

WESTERN WHIRLERS Plus



OPSD 7:00 (Pre-Rounds) 7:30-9:30

Our caller is Dave Walker. pre-rounds with Tina/John Wrbanek from 7p.m. to 7:30pm. Square dancing is from 7:30p.m. to 9:30p.m. with rounds in-between tips. TucsonSquareDancing.com

submitted by Mona Sandefur

WEDNESDAY DANCES

CINDERS C1



OPSD 7:30-9:30

Come join the combined calling of Rick Gittelman and Bernie Weber for a great night of C1 dancing. Always casual dress and always lots of fun.

RCW Auditorium 7:00 (Pre-Rounds) 7:30-9:30

The square dance schedule is in full swing now

and we continue to welcome dancers from the park and also from throughout the Tucson area.

We have a special Sunday night PLUS dance planned for February 19 with Dan Preedy calling the squares and Ronnie and Bonnie on the Rounds. Pre-Rounds will begin at 7:00 and Squares at 7:30, fliers are available in the office or at any of the dances.

SUN DANCERS



Sun City Vistoso Auditorium 7:00-9:00

Our club caller is Ron Markus, he calls a plus dance and cues rounds between tips. The Sundancers proudly host Special Guest Caller dances with Nationally recognized callers. The next three are: Saturday Jan 28th at 7pm with Dave Guille from Wyoming, Sunday Feb 26th at 2:30pm with Tom Roper from Illinois, and Saturday March 24th at 7pm with Bob Asp from Illinois. Ronnie and Bonnie Bond cue rounds at the special dances with pre-rounds one half hour before the times above. Please put these dates on your calendar!! Square Dance with us: www.sundancersquarestucson.com

Submitted by Karen and Mike Duellman

THURSDAY DANCES

SWINGING SAGUAROS Mainstream



Tanque Verde Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

6:30-7:30 Class(started in Sept.)-

7:30-9:00 Club Dance

Come join us every Thursday night for an evening of fun and dancing with caller Dave Walker..

Class begins at 6:30 pm until 7:30PM. Club dance is from 7:30 to 9:00 PM.

We welcome all dancers to join us at 6:30 to help with class and stay and dance with the club from

7:30 to 9:00 PM. To keep up on Swinging Saguaros, go to

our website at www.swingingsaguaros.com.

Submitted by: Carol Ann Dohrmann

FRIDAY DANCES

THUNDER MOUNTAIN Mainstream TWIRLERS



Sierra Vista Lutheran Church 7:30-9:30

Several Members of Sierra Vista's Thunder Mountain Twirlers traveled to Green Valley Squares New Year's Eve Dance and had a GREAT time, as we always do when we visit Green Valley Squares! The food was bountiful and delectable, our hosts were gracious, warm, and delightful, and Ken Bower's Calling was superb, as was Ronnie & Bonnie Bond's Cueing!

After celebrating "New York Midnight" with that great crowd we moved over to the SARDASA dance to ring in Arizona's Midnight with them. Rick Gittelman and the Tucson Gang kept our fun meters pegged until well after the ball dropped. In fact, we were so energized we went to a local restaurant for a few hours after!

Locally, 16 of our members earned their Glow Worm Fun Dangles recently, and we kept our tradition of Mummifying our Caller, Bill George, on our last dance of 2011. He is such a great sport, never missed a beat or even flinched when we snuck up on him.

A handful of our Dancers have been, and will continue to have, "Plus Workshops" every week or two, so we may soon have enough Plus .Dancers to have a Plus Tip at the end of our regular dances more often!

Looking ahead, SV-TMT will be well represented at the Tucson Festival, and we look forward to seeing all our "northern" friends there! Several of us will be going to the Yuma

Festival in February as well.

In the planning stages are more trips to Clubs in the Tucson area, so keep your banners handy and your eyes open for us. We have 4 future callers who will be attending SACCA's Caller's Class over the next few months. In addition to our "regular" rotation of southern Arizona Callers, we have several upcoming Callers from out of state. Our Caller Schedule is at our website, see the link in our Club Info. See you across the Square!

Submitted by Mike "SoundChaser" Smithers

TUCSON TWIRLERS Plus



OPSD 7:30-10:00

Come join us every Friday for a fun filled dance. Plus with DBD workshops and dancing.

We always have an interesting and exciting dance as we dance quite a bit of all positions. This makes for a great dance with a little bitter of testing your and improving your dancing skills.

Rick Gittelman is our club caller. We will be dark on January 20th due to the two festivals. Submitted by Bernie Weber

SATURAY DANCES

MERRY MIXERS ADVANCED



OPSD 7:30-9:30

No dance on Jan. 21st because of the Tucson Festival. Dance to the creative choreography of Bernie Weber. Rick Gittelman will be filling in when Bernie is away. No dance 2/4. Please call Rick thru Feb. 11, then Bernie to confirm that we will be dancing.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY

RCW Auditorium

7:00 Mainstream Review

SWINGIN' SINGLES

6:00-7:30 Beginners- starts (1/29)

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

VOYAGER RV

10:30 to 12:30- Mainstream teach and dance.

1:00 to 2:30- Plus workshop and dance

Monday Continued

GREEN VALLEY SQUARES

LAS CAMPANAS SOCIAL CENTER

11:00-12:45-Plus W.S. (with some DBD teach)

1:00-2:45-Beginners Class- (starts 1/9)

3:00-4:45-Mainstream Workshop and Teach

RINCON COUNTRY RV RESORT

Monday-7:00 p.m. Beginner Class in Rec. Hall

Wednesday- 9:30 a.m. Beginner Lessons in Aud.

TUESDAY

RINCON COUNTRY RV RESORT

RCW Auditorium

9:30 a.m Advanced Workshop

1:00 p.m. Plus Review in Auditorium

THURSDAYS

RCW REC Hall

9:30 a.m. PLUS DBD in Rec. Hall

SARDASA OPSD

OPSD

7:30-9:00

Beginners Class (starts 1/26)

(CLASSES/WORKSHOPS CONTINUED)

SWINGIN SAGUARO'S

Tanque Verde Luth. Church Fellowship Hall

6:00-7:30 (started in Sept.)

FRIDAYS

THUNDER MT. TWIRLERS

Sierra Vista Lutheran Church

101 N Lenzner Ave, Sierra Vista, AZ

6:00-7:30

Beginners Class (starts 1/27)

SPECIAL DANCES

JANUARY

5-Sunday 1-3 p.m. Advanced

CALLER-Rick Gittelman, Tucson

Rick-A-Shays Super Sunday Dance

OPSD

28-Saturday 6:30 Pre-Rounds 7:00 Plus

CALLER-Dave Guille, Wyoming

Sun Dancer Sun City Vistoso Auditorium

FEBRUARY

14-Tue. 7:00 Pre-Rounds 7:30-9:30 Plus

CALLER-Dave Walker, Tucson

CUER- Tina & John Wrbanek

Western Whirlers-Valentine Dance

OPSD

19-Sat 7:00 Pre-Rounds 7:30-9:30 Plus

CALLER-Dan Preedy

CUER-Ronnie and Bonnie Bond

RINCON COUNTRY RV RESORT

26- Sunday 2:00 Pre-Rounds 2:30 Plus

CALLER-Tom Roper, IL

CUER-Ronnie and Bonnie Bond

Sun Dancers Sun City Vistoso

Auditorium

MARCH

3-Saturday 6-7:30 Advanced

7:30-10 MS/Plus

CALLER-SACCA CALLERS

SACCA – OPSD

17-Saturday-7 pre rounds 7:30-9:30 Plus
CALLER- Marshall Flippo
CUER-Ronnie and Bonnie Bond
Green Valley Squares- Canoa Hills S.C.

24- Saturday-6:30 Pre-Rounds 7:00 Plus
CALLER- Bob Asp,IL
CUER-Ronnie and Bonnie Bond
Sun Dancers
Sun City Vistoso Auditorium

SARDASA CLUB LOCATIONS

Canoa Hills Social Center

3660 South Camino Del Sol,Green Valley, AZ

Cornerstone Church

2902 North Geronimo Ave.,Tucson, AZ

Las Campanas Social Center

565 W. Belltower Drive, Green Valley, AZ

OPSD-Old Pueblo Square Dance Center

613 E. Delano Road, Tucson, AZ

Rincon Country West RV

4555 South Mission Road, Tucson, AZ

Sierra Vista Lutheran Church

101 N Lenzner Ave, Sierra Vista, AZ

Sun City Vistoso Auditorium

1495 E Rancho Vistoso Blvd, Oro Valley, AZ.

Tanque Verde Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

8625 E. Tanque Verde Road, Tucson,AZ

Voyager RV

8701 South Kolb Road,Tucson, AZ

ABC-Easy as 1-2-3!

by Mike "Sound-Chaser" Smithers

As our very successful ABC Program, comes to a close at Thunder Mountain Squares in Sierra

Vista, we are analyzing what things helped make it such a success.

We averaged 20 to 25 people each week. Most of them returned time after time. We even had a few former Square Dancers show up wanting to get back into the groove!

We have decided that the most important contributing factor to the program's success was the recruiting done by our members. So many of our dancers handed out and posted fliers and "business card" information about the program, and did so with genuine enthusiasm and friendship.

We took advantage of radio, newspaper and public events resources of course. We learned much and this will help us improve our efforts for next year.

Still, as it turns out, the face-to-face contact, smiling, caring and sharing is what brings fun-loving, enjoyable people to an ABC Program in the long run.

Naturally, a major contributing factor to our program's success has been the entertaining and very well-thought-out instruction by Jill Gunzel and Juanita Portz!

Getting people to show up is only half the task. Providing them with a great time, lots of laughs and a taste of what fun Square Dancing brings is the clincher.

Many, if not most, of our ABCers say they plan to continue with our ETC Program, which begins near the end of January. ETC is a beginners class that takes dances through the

Mainstream program. We look forward to the "funnest" of them becoming lifelong Square Dancers!

If your

Club is considering an ABC Program, or is looking for ways to improve your existing one, feel free to contact us,we'll be glad to share our ideas with you. Better yet, come on down on a Friday and Dance with us, we can talk then!

Southern Ariz. Callers-Cuers Association

by Rick Gittelman

Last year SACCA sponsored five Saturday

night special dances at OPSD. The goal was to bring the entire dance community together for a special night of dancing featuring our SACCA callers.

All of the dances were very successful. Attendance ranged from four to seven squares. All of the SARDASA clubs supported the dances.

SACCA callers donated their time and their were several callers at every dance. Due to the overwhelming success, SACCA has scheduled five dances for 2012 which will be held, **March 3, May 5, Sept. 15, Oct. 27 and Dec.1.** We appreciate your continued support.

SACCA callers: Ron Markus, Rick Gittelman, Dave Walker and Tom Crisp will be teaching Caller's School for new callers.

SARDASA is sponsoring the school which will be held for several weekends at OPSD Hall starting Jan. 28.

Several new callers have already signed up to take the course. The school will use CALLERLAB curriculum and will include live calling for all new callers.

CALLERLAB is an International Association of Square Dance Callers but is not the sponsor of this school. The school is free and the caller coaches are volunteering their time.

We look forward to many new talented callers to be behind the mic soon. For information contact Rick Gittelman.

SACCA is sponsoring the Tucson Area Square Dance Festival once again, Jan 19-22 at the Radisson Suites Hotel.

Along with great Featured Callers many of the SACCA members will be calling and cueing at the Festival. The Festival committee has again worked hard to put together a great weekend.

In December SACCA elected officers for 2012. Rick Gittelman was re-elected President again, Rick has been president since the mid 90's. Don Haney was re-elected Vice President, Juanita Portz who is a new caller is the brand new secretary, Chuck Bjore was re-elected treasurer and Tom Crisp was re-elected member at large. For the first in over a decade SACCA has a full executive board.

Area Callers Visit Out of State Caller Dance

On Friday, Jan. 13 Thunder Mountain Squares in Sierra Vista had guest caller, Bob McVey from Texas. Seven area callers where at the dance visiting that night.

There where over five squares of enthusiastic dancers at the dance including club members and Tucson dancers.



**Rick Gittelman- Chet Bahn-Bob Mcvey-
Juanita Portz- Bill George- Bill Williamson at
Thunder Mountain Twirlers**

Desert Springs Academy Dancers

by Rick Gittelman

Since 2003 Rick Gittelman has been teaching the students at Desert Springs Academy basic Square Dancing.

During the fall semester the students from 3rd through 8th grade meet twice a week. The students are broken into age groups and each group has four week sessions.

Currently this is the only school in Tucson that has a Square Dance program. Many of the students have danced for several years.

At the end of the semester the students perform in the annual holiday show for their parents.

Some of the students will be dancing at the Tucson Square Dance Festival at a special session from noon till 1p.m. on Friday,

If you get a chance come out and dance with these young dancers.

DESERT SPRINGS HOLIDAY PROGRAM



Death Notices

Stephen Lester Gunzel



May 13, 1951 — January 2, 2012-
Source Sierra Vista Herald

Stephen Lester Gunzel, 60, of Sierra Vista, Ariz. passed away January 2, 2012 at his residence of 12 ½ years after “beating the odds” by living 2 ½ years with brain cancer.

Steve was born May 13, 1951 in Missoula, Montana to Louis and Carolyn (Davis) Gunzel. He lived in Yellowstone National Park for 13 years before moving to Arizona. He attended Palo Verde High School where he met Jill Vactor in their freshman year 45 years ago.

After attending the University of Arizona for 5 years earning a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, he and Jill married in 1974 and moved to Lemmon Rock Lookout.

He worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 33 years including Catalina District (Tucson); Chevelon District (Winslow, Arizona); Mt. Taylor District (Grants, New Mexico); Regional Office Albuquerque; Payson District (Payson, Arizona) and Sierra Vista District. He moved to Sierra Vista to be a District Ranger in 1999, after being the District Ranger in Payson for 14 years.

Always an outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting, knife making, fishing, square dancing, riding his Harley and Rotary Clubs of Payson and Sierra Vista. His greatest joys included keeping the grandchildren supplied with gummy worms and being the official "sleeping platform" for the six grandbabies.

He is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Jill

Gunzel; one son, Jon (Trina) Gunzel; one daughter, Julie (Jeremy) Graff; six grandchildren, Wyatt and Abigail Gunzel, Leslie, Adam, Bailey, and Warren Graff, his parents; and two sisters, Donna Calvert and Jeanette Thompson.

Memorial contributions may be considered to Musella Foundation for Brain Tumor Research <http://www.virtualtrial.com>; or Caringbridge websites <http://www.caringbridge.org>



Mary Ann Schnitzer

July 3, 1930 – Dec, 12, 2011

Source Arizona Daily Star and Wyona Shipp

Mary Ann Schnitzer died peacefully on December 12, 2011, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Mary Ann was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan and grew up in Washington, DC. In 1952 she married James Schnitzer, a career Army Officer and together they raised three children and traveled the world.

Mary Ann was a social woman who loved meeting people, playing bridge, and travel. Those joys served her well during the frequent household moves of Army life.

Once retired in Tucson in 1980, she vowed to never move again. Mary Ann worked for Pima County Adult Probation Office for eight years before her retirement in 1992. Then she devoted her time to volunteering at the Arizona Theater Company, hiking, square dancing and travel.

Jim and Mary Ann were very active in the local square dance committee and served many time on the Southern Arizona Dance Festival.

Mary Ann is survived by her loving husband of 59 years, James Schnitzer; her daughter and son-in-law, Patricia Schnitzer and John Bowders; son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Geralyn Schnitzer

and three grandchildren, Patrick, Caitlin and Cole Schnitzer. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Carol Schnitzer.

In lieu of flowers, memorial

contributions may be made to the [Alzheimer's Association](#) of Southern Arizona or the Heartland Hospice of Tucson. A Memorial Service will take place on Sunday, January 22, 2012, 1:00 p.m. at Old Pueblo Dance Center, 613 E. Delano St., Tucson Arrangements by the NEPTUNE SOCIETY.

John Eldon Westmoreland

July 21, 1942-Oct. 11, 2011

John Westmoreland, 69, a long time square dancer in the Tucson area, died suddenly.

John is survived by his wife, Bonnie Greenwald, his children, Kathy, John, Justin, Kris, 4 sisters and 14 grandchildren.

Bill Cisler

Bill Cisler who was a long time Square Dance Caller died in 2011. His official obituary was not found, Bill was in his 80's.

Bill called at the Old Red Barn which was a dance hall at Limberlost and Stone.

Along with his wife Lucille, deceased, Cisler helped organize Diamond Squares in 1967 and was their club caller until 1976. The club danced at the OPSD Square Dance Center until it was disbanded in the early 2000's.

Gordan and Wyona Shipp danced with Cisler and their children, Cisler's daughters and other youth

dancers learned to dance from him. Some of the youth dancers went on to be exhibition dancers, said, Wynona Ship.

The exhibition teenage group was called the "Tucson Shooting Stars" and performed at the 1976 and 1977 National Conventions in

Anaheim, Calif., and Atlantic City, N.J. according to Wyona Shipp. "I recall watching them doing the Airplane Spin and it was quite a feat."



Donald Frank McCammond

April 11, 1932 -October 14, 2011

Source Arizona Daily Star

Donald Frank McCammond 79, passed away October 14, 2011. He was born in Rockford, IL on April 11, 1932. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was president of Tucson Plumbing until he retired.

He and wife, Shirley enjoyed square dancing and RV trips around the U.S. In his spare time he enjoyed flying radio controlled aircrafts at Tucson International Modelplex Park

Don is survived by his wife, Shirley; daughter, Michelle Farmer of Phoenix and sons, Steve (Jennifer) McCammond of Tucson, Bryon (Susie) McCammond and Mike McCammond of Phoenix; stepsons, Bob (Martha) Christy and Scott (Lisa) Christy of Tucson and many grand and great-grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



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SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

A Newsletter For SARDASA Dancers

Visit us on the web at: www.sardasa.com

**WINTER
EDITION**

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**JANUARY
FEBRUARY
2012**

**SARDASA
President
BERNIE WEBER**

**Spring Edition Deadline
Feb.15,2012**

**Send all news and comments to
Rick Gittelman
Emails only please.**