Rugbjerg Firtur
(Denmark/Germany)

Rugbjerg Firtur (ROO-bee-yr FEER-toor) is from the Danish Province of Sønderjylland. The name means four-figure dance from Rugbjerg. This village, now reduced to only a few houses, is north of Rødekro. The dance dates back to when this region was part of Germany, and the name of the village was Rauberg. This is a dance for two couples taught by Wolfgang Schlüter and Olivia Linde at the 2013 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. We are grateful to Wolfgang for his help in preparing this description.

CD: 2/4 meter  Liflig Sang CD 1, track no. 6. Video: 2013 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, DVD. Camp videos can be viewed in the library at the University of the Pacific, or by contacting a camp participant who purchased it.

Formation: Two cpl sets arranged in a circle. One cpl faces LOD and the other RLOD.

Steps: Reel step: Step on R foot behind L (ct 1), chug fwd on R (ct &), repeat with opp ftwk (cts 2, &). W hold skirts and M have fists on hips. Pivot steps: In ballroom hold or polska hold (M’s L hand on W’s R upper arm, R on W’s back; W’s R hand on M’s upper L arm, and L hand on M’s R shoulder), turn CW. M steps on L forward and to L while W steps on R between M’s ft (ct 1); reverse roles (ct &). Usually one complete turn can be accomplished with these two steps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>2/4 meter</th>
<th>Pattern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1 note and 1 chord

INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. CIRCLING

1-4 Two cpls join hands to make small circle and move CW with 8 step-hops (step on designated foot on major ct and lift heel off floor or make small hop on ct &). All begin with L ft. Hands are held at waist height or a little higher.

5-8 Change directions and dance CCW with 8 step-hops. The change of direction can be made on meas 5 by stepping back on L ft, turning to face CCW and continuing with a R ft step-hop. Or, the direction can be changed by swinging L ft across in front of R on meas 5 (ct 1). For W, meas 8, cts 2, & need to be step R, L, so that R ft is free for Fig. II.

II. LADIES CHANGE AND REEL-STEPS

1-2 Ladies beginning with R ft pass back to back with one chassez step (step R to side, close L to R, step R to side) (meas 1); turn over R shoulder to face corner with second chassez step, starting with L ft (meas 2). Everyone now faces their corner.

3-4 All dance 4 Reel steps (R,L,R,L) facing corners.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with W returning to original positions; all face ptr and dance 4 Reel steps.

III. ELBOW TURNS

1-2 With R elbow hold, turn corners once around with 4 walking steps (start with R ft), to end facing ptr.

3-4 With L elbow hold, turn ptr once around to face corner with 4 walking steps.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 ending in approximate original pos. On meas 8, ct & take polska or ballroom hold with ptr; and M makes foot change by not taking wt on L ft.

*Let's Dance!—MARCH, 2014, Page fifteen*
IV. PIVOTS

1-8 Each cpl dances 16 Pivot Steps turning CW with ptr and CCW around the other cpl. If the two cpls remain fairly close to each other, each cpl can rotate around the circle twice. End approximately back in original positions.

Repeat dance to end of music, but on the second and all subsequent times through, use the alternate Fig. 1.

alt. Fig. 1 BUZZ STEPS WITH BASKET HOLD
1-8 W put hands on M’s shoulders; M make back basket hold with hands clasped behind the W. Dance 16 buzz steps moving CW, stepping fwd toward ctr with the R ft, toes pointed approximately toward the ctr (ct 1), and stepping back onto the L (ct &.).

We’ve stood the test of time!

By Lou Tucker

There have been so many dance crazes in my lifetime, starting with The Twist, The Mashed Potatoes, the Watusi, and The Monkey when I was a pre-teen. Later we saw Lambda and Salsa become popular and then fade. Michael Flatley gave us Riverdance and Lord of the Dance and little girls filled Irish step dancing classes. Now! Not as popular. There were exercise programs like jazzercise and aerobics and Richard Simmons “Sweating to the Oldies” that allowed people to move to music. Health facilities had a full schedule of classes from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Now? Maybe a class or two per day.

Country-Western line dancing morphed into Line Dancing. Television network gave us Dancing with the Stars and ballroom dance classes popped up in every community center like mushrooms after rain. Crazes come and crazes go. Zumba is currently the hot exercise-to-music craze, but will we still see zumba classes 10 years from now?

During all those years, there was international folk dancing. Our roots go back to the 1800s, but we really took center stage in the 1940s. Sure, we’d had our ups and downs. We have had decades when classes had hundreds of dancers and festivals gathered thousands in huge dance halls. Folk dancing is, admittedly, not as popular as it once was, but - we’re still here!

Looking back through back issues of Let’s Dance! and you’ll find that at least once a decade someone wrote an article about the aging, shrinking and fading of the folk dance community. “Where are the young people?” “We need a better advertising campaign to lure singles!” “If we don’t replace the people who age out, we won’t survive.” “We only have two nights of dancing left in our area!”

And yet – we’re still here. While I don’t dismiss the need to advertise, promote, and generate enthusiasm for this engaging but perhaps obscure hobby that we enjoy. I think we should also put ourselves on our individual and collective backs and congratulate ourselves: We’ve stood the test of time.

Welcome new members

Alicia La Fetra, our new membership chair, reports the following new members:

Robert Avery
Santa Clara, CA

Melissa Rosano
San Jose, CA

Veseloselofolkdancers
Ed Cohn, Trea.
PO Box 5434
Fulerton, CA 92833
n6ee@aol.com

Thank you, Marion Rose for your years of excellent Membership chairmanship. We appreciate your service.

Scandia Camp Mendocino

Join us June 14-21 and explore the richness and variety of the dance and music of Norway & Sweden.

Dance and music classes at all levels.

Complete details and an application are on our website:
www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org

Scholarships available

Let’s Dance!—MARCH, 2014, Page sixteen