

Kaneohe Chapter
Reporter: Phyllis Dayao



Hmmm . . . what should we do for our Christmas skit that's festive and fun? Someone said "Let's do the Chacarera!" The Chacarera? Taught by Robert and Vanelle Hirayasu, six couples from Kaneohe Chapter - Wayne and Sharyn Smith, Calvin and Rowena Jay, Ted and Charlene Sodaria, Judy Carlson and her fiancé, Richard Hill, Wayne and Frances Okimoto, and Manny and Phyllis Dayao – bravely took up the challenge to learn how to do the

Chacarera, a folk dance from Argentina, and perform it at the Palladium. The Chacarera is danced by couples dancing on their own, but in a group, with rounds and turns. It was different for us to have our partners opposite us, not in a closed hold, but connected just the same. The choreography was easy if you could count to three and cross one leg in front of the other without falling down. We did have some difficulty with lifting our arms correctly while dancing. Most of the guys looked like scary Halloween monsters instead of macho men, so we decided to snap our fingers to the quick beat of the music instead. We danced, we laughed, we clapped the rhythms together, the men stomped their feet (zapateo), the women swished their skirts around their ankles, we repeated the steps, got all out of breath, and we laughed some more. The Chacarera is also supposed to be a sensual dance with amazing energy, flirting looks between the man and the woman, and close turns without touching until the very end when we got to embrace our partners. It was great fun to learn the Chacarera and to dance as a group. Thank you to the Hirayasus for a wonderful experience.

We also would like to recognize and thank our standing instructors, Les and Sybil Tawata, and our current rotating instructors, Eric and Gail Tiwanak. Both couples started their dancing careers as students at our Kaneohe Chapter and now generously share their time and expertise by teaching others. We are so proud of them and are very excited to see them perform at this year's Telemarks Ball. We are truly blessed to have such talented, dedicated, and maika'i teachers at Kaneohe!

