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boogie nights

If you want a new summer activity and possess a high embarrassment threshold, check out these toe-tapping venues.



Western Square Dancing

"We go five miles a night just walking around in a square," Ken Georger says with a chuckle. He's president of the Country Twirlers, a Rochester-based western square-dancing club.

The dance, a combination of Irish, French, and Appalachian traditions, involves couples arranged in a square, dancing a combination of steps including the do-si-do.

They meet every other Saturday at Washington Irving School, dolled up in western shirts, prairie

dresses, and crinolines. But they're not all hee-haw, Georger says. Modern square dancers can get down to just about anything. The recorded music they use includes everything from rap to old-fashioned country-western.

Joining requires about 20 weeks of classes. "The square dancing population is getting older," Georger says. "The long-term commitment is chasing young people off. But once you get into it, it's so much fun."

www.squaredancingrochester.org *continued on p. 20*