



# ASARDA NEWS

VOLUME MMXX, ISSUE 1- MARCH 2020



## From the President:

At our February ASARDA Board meeting, I was glad to hear that 2020 is off to a great start for our Alabama dance family! It was phenomenal to learn from the District Representatives that we have about 107 new dancers taking lessons at clubs around the state. Classes are the only way we can ensure our activity continues to thrive and prosper. It was especially exciting to hear of the youth getting involved in both Fort Payne and Prattville clubs.

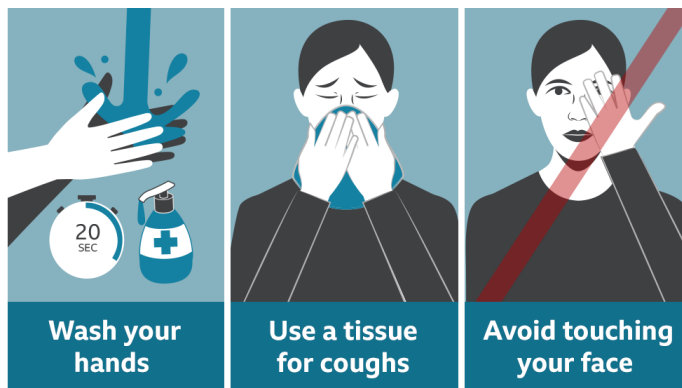
I have also seen a lot of clubs visiting other clubs and banner stealing among them. There have also been a lot of dancers attending dances out of state already. Please be sure to post your travels on our Facebook group page *Alabama Square and Round Dance Association* for others to see. We have had a couple of dancers tell us that they are attending certain dances because they saw a video or pictures, we posted having good times at that dance. So, publicity helps!

ASARDA Raffle tickets have been distributed to the District Representatives and should be arriving at your clubs soon. Please remember that the Raffle Tickets are not only a fundraiser for ASARDA, they also benefit your club as you keep half of the money for each ticket sold, while ASARDA pays for the tickets and the prizes! We have a goal of selling 3,000 tickets this year, so please take part in selling the tickets.

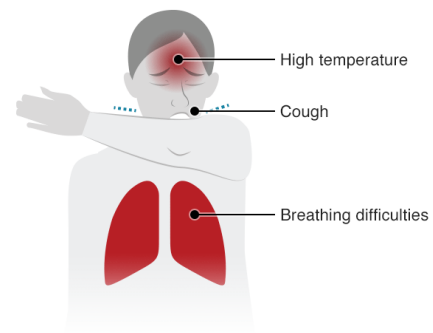
Plans are underway to make this year's Alabama State Convention another success. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or even complaints about anything you would like to see this year, let us know. We are currently working on the dance programs and value and appreciate requests suggestions from our dancers as we aim to offer you a weekend full of events.

Each year, we have tried to sell enough Advertisements in our Convention Program Book to cover the cost of printing. We are a little short on Ads this year, so please consider purchasing one for your club – it can be a flyer or invitation to visit, etc. The Ad Form can be found on the ASARDA website under the Convention tab. Prices are Full Page \$60, ½ Page \$35, 1/3 Page \$25, and for Staff (Callers & Cuers) only Business Card Size \$20.

As with dancers everywhere, we are keeping a close eye on the spread of the Coronavirus. We have already seen many dances cancelled as a precaution. At this time, the Pre-Convention in Jackson, MS next weekend has not been cancelled, nor has the 69<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention® in Spokane, WA in June. We will let you know as soon as we hear any more information on these dances. In the meantime, stay safe and wash your hands!



Coronavirus: Key symptoms



*ASARDA President – Tom Wilkins*

## DISTRICT 1 NEWS

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and you have started 2020 dancing. District 1's new year started off with Tom Millers Plus Boot Camp. There were 7 squares of dancers who wanted to improve their plus dancing. Actually, the dance was a few dancers shy of 8 squares. (pictured below)



On January 4, 2020 Darryl McMillian, The Fun Bunch Square Dance Club, had a 2020 Launch Dance. They had 6 squares of great dancers. Thanks to Pauline Angress and Tim Eum for helping with the Rounds. Tom Miller and Rusty Willoughby for helping with the Square Dancing.

The 8ers from Decatur dance every Friday night except the 5<sup>th</sup> Friday at The Decatur Aquadome. Early Rounds from 6:30-7:30, squares from 7:30-9:30. Introductory class lessons will officially start February 7<sup>th</sup>. The Club voted not to have any Special Dances in 2020.

Duos and Solos started new dancer lessons on February 6, 2020. The month of February is free to the students. Then starting in March, the fee is \$20.00 per person, per month. The Clubs' younger members recruited friends to come take lessons. (pictured right) This proves you are never too young to learn to square dance.



Boaz Squares and Guntersville Lake Twirlers are also conducting lessons. Boaz Squares meets on Tuesdays from 6-8 at the Boaz Senior Center, 112 S. Church St. Boaz, AL. Lake Twirlers meets on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 at the Guntersville Senior Center, 1500 Sunset Driver, Guntersville, AL. Go check out these two Clubs.

On February 15, 2020, District 1 hosted the quarterly meeting of the Alabama Squares and Round Dance Association Board meeting and membership dance. (pictured right) The membership dance was free to all ASARDA members and was well attended. Plus, the Association gained 14 new ASARDA members.

Heads up all District 1 Clubs, the raffle tickets (Alabama State Convention) are here. Not only does the sale of the tickets help ASARDA, it's a fund-raising event for your Club. For each ticket sold, your Club gets to keep \$0.50. So, sell those tickets.



*District 1 Coordinator – Celeste Penny*



## DISTRICT 2 NEWS

Well – as you can see, we are in full swing for 2020. While we might have a few New Year's Resolutions, here is evidence that we are also sticking to tradition - -that of bouncing all over the place to get to DANCE!!

We started by celebrating “IN” the New Year!!! What a great dance. And as always – the BSDA was decorated so perfectly for the 20's themed party atmosphere. Everyone seemed to delight in dressing the part.

On Thursday night January 16th, we enjoyed a visit full of Line and Square dancing with the Swingin' Squares in Jasper. Thank you, Caller Roy Dutton and Club members, for your patience with some of our less experienced Plus dancers. How very easy it is for experienced dancers to FORGET ‘they’ once wore the same level of “dance shoes”.

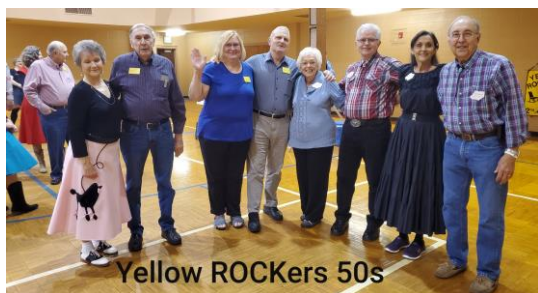
As you know, several of our District 2 Clubs recently completed classes and graduated new students. Let's all make a concentrated effort to try to put one or two of these new dancers in an “experienced” square to help them build their dancing confidence. We truly “need” our new and/or revitalized dancers to keep Square dancing alive and “growing”.

And speaking of “New Dancers” – what fun we had participating in the Graduation celebration at the Shelby Shufflers on Friday night, Jan 17th. Here is the Master of Graduation Ceremonies Paul Marrs, as he charges the new students with “continuing education” opportunities to further develop their skills. Members of several other clubs were on hand to congratulate the graduates. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Remember - this is the way



we ‘grow’ our clubs.

We were so pleased with the hospitality and “patience” afforded our new dancers – that we made another trip on January 23rd to the Swingin' Squares in Jasper. Thank you, Caller Roy Dutton, for ‘refreshing’ all of us with a ‘Plus Workshop’. And we also enjoyed the ‘meal’ provided: fantastic pizza, fresh baked donuts, chips, dips and lots of deserts – yum!!



On Friday night January 24th, Caller Roy Kirkland reminded us about all the fun songs from the 50's during the Yellow ROCKers ‘ROCK and Roll’ Dance. After a little ‘sock hoppin’ with them, we headed over to the BSDA Friendship Hall in Fultondale to enjoy Caller Larry Belcher and Cuer David Holliday at the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Wheel Arouds.



Since we had already dragged out our 50's attire, we once again dressed in our poodle skirts and rolled hemmed blue jeans for the Kurly Q's 50's Dance. And what a great dance it was -with 14 squares on the floor for the first dance. Thank you, Caller Jet Roberts, for providing us a multitude of challenges. And it seems the Shelby Shufflers are giving the Kurly Qs a little taste of their own

medicine by showing up at the 50s Dance to steal the Kurly Qs Banner. Way to go Shelby Shufflers. We see you brought some of your “new” dancers with you. Thank you for setting an example for these new dancers by “visiting” other clubs. It was also nice to have visitors from Yellow Rockers, Boaz Squares (Dist 1), Gadsden Twirlers, Fun Bunch Decatur (Dist 1), Wheel Arounds, Lake Twirlers Guntersville (Dist 1), Krazy 8s, Duo’s & Solos (Dist 1), Swinging Stars Bynum, Pelham Promenaders, T-Squares and Swingin’ Squares Jasper and Campers and Dancers.



Next, we visited the Kurly Qs Round Dance lessons in Odenville where we watched in fascination as Cuer David Holliday and his lovely wife flawlessly glided around the floor to ‘example’ the Round dance moves for us. And what a large class. It is great to see so many couples expanding their dance repertoires.

Kicking off February, we tracked over to the Krazy 8s on Saturday night for some entertainment with Caller Jamie Stewart. And it was “Modus Operandi” for the Kurly Qs – because they showed up in force to “Steal” the Krazy 8 Banner. We stopped in for a quick bite to eat at Five Guys in Brookwood Village and guess who had taken over the place? Yep! The Banner Stealing Group from the Kurly Qs.



Sunday, February 2nd, Caller Jerry Handley gave us a good Plus workout at Heardmont Senior Center. We are glad Jerry’s leg is well enough to Call again for Plus-R-U’s. They will be dancing at the Heardmont Senior Center the first Sunday of each month starting at 2:30 pm. We certainly hope all the Plus dancers will pack the Senior Center to help revive Plus dancing in our District. Thank you, Jerry, for helping us expand our plus moves by providing a 'workshop Tip. Hey new Plus dancer – this is a great way to perfect your plus talents, so come on out and join the fun. Thank you Cuer Annie and Paul Marrs for supporting Plus-R-U’s and providing Lines and Rounds between the Plus Tips.

So glad to see Square Dance lessons being taught at the T-Squares Club in Trussville. They start their class at 1:30pm, then the club dances at 2:30pm. We are surprised but delighted to see a good turnout of students for these lessons. The T-Squares meet “every” Tuesday and alternate between Caller Kevin Cozad and Caller Jerry Handley. Many of the T-Square members have been “Angels” supporting other clubs. Please consider returning the favor by visiting the T-Squares and helping them. The ‘more’ Angels we have – the LESS “new” students we have to put in a square.

The very next afternoon (Wednesday February 5th) we visited the Pelham Promenaders at the Shelby County Senior Center. Thank you, Caller Jerry Handley, for filling in for Caller Kevin Cozad while he was Calling for several Clubs throughout his touring of the Northeast region.

Thursday night February 6th, we visited the Gadsden Twirlers. We didn’t get to dance – because all five squares were loaded with their Square Dance students. What a joy to see so many of our clubs teaching lessons. You have heard us say

numerous times – this is the way to ‘grow’ our Square Dance Clubs. And if you are going to have to take a short break from dancing – this is a good place to do it. They always have hot coffee and a lot of interesting refreshments on hand.







Friday night February 7th, we saw a LOT of ‘Banner Stealing’, ‘Club Visitation’ and ‘Banner Retrieval’ when we visited the Shelby Shufflers at Heardmont Senior Center. The Krazy 8s showed up in force to ‘Steal the Shelby Shufflers Banner’. AND – the Kurly Qs showed up from Odenville to “Retrieve their Banner”

from the Shelby Shufflers. See folks how much fun you are missing if you are not out there Square and Round dancing and visiting all those clubs available to you. Grab a friend and head out to dance with your club and with others.



What a JOY. On Saturday night February 8th, we got to watch the fun as Kurly Qs “Graduated” their latest class of new students. It is always so much fun to watch the antics orchestrated by Square Dance Clubs

when they challenge the new dancers. At one club we visited, the new dancers had to square dance without their ‘Angels’ while swapping hats on command during a Tip. The Shelby Shufflers graduating students had to “partner” with a ‘male broom’ and a ‘female mop’. Hey – don’t laugh – it is not near as easy as you think. At this graduation, the new dancers were divided into 2 teams



for a “potato relay race”. Holding the potato between their knees, they were required to travel approximately 30 feet, around a chair, return and pass the potato to the next new dancer. You guessed it – we had “mashed” potatoes with our refreshments (smile). But that’s not all. The Krazy 8s visited the Kurly Qs Graduation dance to “Retrieve” their Banner. Do you know how challenging it is to keep all these Banners straight while these are flying from one club to another club. Be part of the fun and help YOUR Club Steal or Retrieve. Take your new dancers with you so they can learn where all the clubs dance. And look at ALL the experienced dancers they get to interact with while visiting and dancing.



On Tuesday, February 11th, we visited the T-Squares (Trussville Senior Center) and were thrilled to see they were also providing lessons for new students and refresher lessons to several dancers that haven’t danced

in a while. If you are able to visit the T-Squares, please do so and help ‘Angel’ these new/refresher students. As we have mentioned a couple of times – it is so much better for the students if we have several squares available, so the club does not have to put too many students in one square. For the T-Squares, the lessons are a bit interesting since ‘one’ week the lessons are taught by Caller Kevin Cozad and the ‘next’ week they are taught by Caller Jerry Handley. The T-Squares dance every week and start Square dance lessons at 1:30pm. Then the Club members dance at 2:30pm. Remember - this is how we keep Square Dancing alive and keep



growing the Clubs.

Next, we visited the Eastern Wranglers Sweetheart Dance at the BSDA Friendship Hall in Fultondale. With ALL the visiting we (District 2 Coordinator and Delegates) do – it is rather unique to catch all four of us at any one time. But that is exactly what happened at the Sweetheart Dance. Also, at the end of this article, you will see ALL the Sweetheart Couples and the 16 Clubs they represent. The Guest Caller this year was Caller Gene Aldridge.







Yellow Rockers Steal Banner

Well, it seems this “Stealing Trait” is catching. On Saturday night, February 22nd, the Yellow Rockers visited the Kurly Qs in Odenville. During their visit, they stole the Kurly Qs Banner. They even brought Caller Roy Kirkland with them.

On Tuesday, February 25th, once again we visited with the T-Squares in Trussville. We



T-Squares Trussville

helped a little with the students as Caller Kevin Cozad taught lessons, then finished the dance with members of the T-Squares. It was nice to have Caller Roy Kirkland there dancing with us.

Now days, when we mention ‘Mardi Gras’, our thoughts instantly go to the 72<sup>nd</sup> National Square Dance

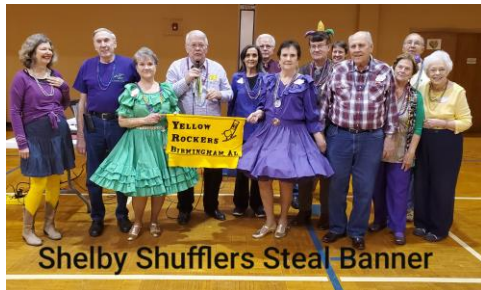
Convention coming to Alabama in 2023. So, you will see many of us wearing our purple, green and gold shirts sporting the logo “Party Gras – Y’all Come Dance and Play on Mobile Bay”. That was the case when we celebrated with the Yellow Rockers at their ‘Mardi Gras’ dance on Friday night, February 28th. And what a surprise to have a couple from “Michigan”, Russ and Pam German, Presidents of the Michigan Council of Square and Round Dance Clubs, show up at the Yellow Rockers dance sporting 72nd NSDC Badges.



Michigan Advocates for 72nd NSDC

After further investigation, we learned they were personal friends of ASARDA President Tom and Tina Wilkins. The couple even brought their tabletop display advocating support for us. Here

they are shown with the 72nd Registration Chairman Ann Leithauser. We enjoyed a full half hour of Round dancing with Cuer Jerry Pierce, followed by Square dancing with Caller Roy Kirkland as we donned our masks and feathers for a Madi Gras celebration. Also celebrating were the Shelby Shufflers who Stole the Yellow Rockers Banner



Shelby Shufflers Steal Banner

while they were there.

To “Round Up” the month of February, we celebrated ‘Cowboy Days’ in Columbiana with a Square Dance Exhibition. We had 17 Square dancers from several local area Square Dance Clubs in District 2. A special ‘Thank You’ to our Cowboy lookin’ Caller Roy Kirkland who professionally explained to the crowd a little about Western Square Dance, then Called a couple of Exhibition Tips for us. Thank you, Square dancers, from Shelby Shufflers, Yellow Rockers, T-Squares, Crazy 8s and Kurly Qs. We so appreciate you ‘corralling’ your dancers on such short notice – and performing with us. We all had a “Rootin Tootin good time and hope to be invited back next year. If so, maybe we can ‘Rope’ a few more Square dancers in to helping us. Wouldn’t it be fantastic to have four full squares next year?? What great advertising for Square dancing.



Exhibition at Cowboy Days Columbiana

Last by not least – On Saturday night, February 29th, we helped Krazy 8s celebrate 45 years of Square Dance Calling for Caller Jamie Stewart. Seven squares started the night off - - but many others were there to socialize and ‘Congratulate’ Jamie for his many years of Calling and



Krazy 8s Members Past & Present

promoting Square Dancing. A Big and Special THANK YOU to ALL our Callers and Cuers. Without them, I guess we would be lugging around old records or Computer downloads. Personally, we prefer our jovial and lively Callers and Cuers who can stop the dance to help with a little workshoping to get us back on track. Please remember to “Thank” our Callers and Cuers at every dance.

On Thursday night **March 12th**, please mark your Calendars and plan to attend the **Swinging Stars 42nd Anniversary Dance** at the Bynum Community Center, 200 Victory Dr, Eastaboga AL. Caller Rusty Willoughby will be calling Mainstream and Plus Tips. Snack at 6:00pm, dancing starts at 6:30pm. Last year, they had some wonderful food and desserts – but additional snacks are always welcome.

As you can see – there are MANY MANY dances and Special Events to satisfy ALL your “Dancing Pleasures” – whether it is Square Dancing, Round Dancing or Line Dancing. For a comprehensive list of upcoming dances; classes, clubs and events, simply log on to the **Alabama Square and Round Dance Association website** @ [www.alabamasquaredance.com](http://www.alabamasquaredance.com) to FIND it “ALL” !! See you at a DANCE.

*District II Coordinator – Carol Varner*

## **DISTRICT 3 NEWS**

**Beaux and Belles** have certainly had a busy fall and winter so far! Our new class members came early for two weeks to get in some extra dancing and are proceeding nicely with their new moves. Thanks, Larry Belcher, for being willing to do this. We discovered that Irene Robbins had danced for many years in other states and she was able to officially join the club as a new member. Several of the ladies in the club are taking advantage of this class by also learning to dance the man’s part.



We continue to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries each month – we love the cake and ice cream! Club members also enjoyed a night at Pizza Perfect before dancing one night and we celebrated the Christmas holidays with some great finger foods. (pictured above).

Club elections were held recently, and the following were elected as officers: Duane Brookhart, President; Terese Goodson, Vice President; Jesse Barron, Secretary; and Irene Robbins, Treasurer. We thank each of them for being willing to serve.

We have had visitors from Auburn, Wetumpka, and Eufaula at our Tuesday night dances. It is always fun to see some new faces. You are welcome to join us from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Dalraida United Methodist Church (Back Entrance), 3817 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36109. Submitted by Twirling Terese.

**Dixie Plus** is enjoying their class of mainstream students. (pictured right) They have almost completed the mainstream program. Kevin Cozad, their caller, had to be hospitalized briefly for an infection. However, Dixie Plus is fortunate to have Ken Brittin as a member. Ken was able to continue teaching the mainstream program, keeping the class on track. Jim and Mary Wolfe visited the club and as always, they were welcoming!



Wayne Ellison (pictured left) at **Dixie Square Thru’s** has done some heavy recruiting at their club, including radio announcements. They have had some success with this. Most recently, they were asked to go to the Cowboy Church in Fayetteville, Alabama to demonstrate square dancing. The church asked if their people could join in the dancing and they readily agreed. Wayne is hoping that they will get some willing dancers from this outreach. Jim and Mary Wolfe have visited Dixie Square Thrus and have met some new students.

**Village Squares** members enjoy regular dancing on Wednesday nights with alternating plus and mainstream tips with alternating lines and rounds between. They have



just began a Plus class from 6:15-7:15, followed by regular dancing. Over the past couple of years, members have formed several special interest break out clubs you may want to look at visiting. One Monday nights, the **Village Rounds** have round dance workshops. On Thursday nights, the **Village Stompers** have line dance workshops, also on Thursday nights the **Village As** have Advanced workshops.

**Prattville Promenaders** has finished teaching the basic program. We had about 8 people from youth to people in their 80's to complete the program. We have had several couples with previous dance experience come to the club who are planning to join the club. We have regular visitors who know how to dance. We also have fun nights for non dancing public who dance for the first time. Most recently we had two people short of four squares of dancers. The room is large enough to handle eight squares so everyone is always welcome! We anticipate offering another class in April. Wayne turns every evening into a fun time with squares, contra, lines, and folk dance.

Mostly submitted by Mary Wolfe for *District III Coordinator – Tina Wilkins*



## ALABAMA CALLERS ASSOCIATION

Greetings from your state caller's association. For those that do not know, the Alabama Callers Association established the Alabama Callers Hall of Fame last year in 2019. This project had been talked about, I know, since 2008, as far as our records go back. Our first two inductees were voted on and approved at our annual meeting in Oxford this past August. Mr. Dewey Lee Glass and Mr. John Paul Bresnan. Both gentlemen were instrumental in the creation of ASARDA and the Alabama Square Dance Callers Association. Both held offices of both organizations, serving in all capacities until their deaths. Both supported square dancing wholeheartedly, taught many people to dance and mentored many aspiring callers. It is both an honor and a privilege to have both these gentlemen voted in as our first two recipients of this great honor.

On New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 2019 I presented John Paul's widow, Bobbie, his son John and daughter Charlotte with a nice plaque commemorating his induction. (pictured right) On a sad note, the very next week, John Paul's son John passed away unexpectedly. I have been unable to locate Dewey Glass' daughter to make a presentation to her and her family. If anyone has any information on how to make contact with Dewey's daughter, please contact me at [caller4u@gmail.com](mailto:caller4u@gmail.com).



The Alabama Callers Hall of Fame is to honor any dance leader, Caller, Cuer, Line Dance instructor, clogging leader, contra prompter, for outstanding contributions to the dance community in the State of Alabama. Anyone can make a nomination. The requirements and forms for doing so are available online at [www.alabamacallersassociation.com](http://www.alabamacallersassociation.com). They are pdf fillable forms that can be filled out online and printed. Forms must be completely filled out and turned in to the Callers association VP, currently Kevin Cozad, for review and approval or disapproval by Nov. 30 of each year. The Hall of Fame Committee will review the nominations and will approve or disapprove the nominations. If the committee disapproves a nomination, the nominee will be brought for a vote of approval or disapproval before the entire membership at its annual meeting in August at the state convention. If approved by the committee or the membership, the result, if approved will be announced at the state convention. If you feel you know someone that meets all the requirements, please nominate them for this awesome honor.

*ASDCA President – Larry Belcher*



# Square Dancing Leads Couple to Lifelong Love

Article featured on the ALFA website February 27, 2017

By Mary Johnson

**Sheila and Wayne Mahathey** met as teenagers during square-dancing lessons with the Brindlee Mountain Promenaders in Marshall County. The two have been married 30 years and now dance together Monday nights with the Guntersville Lake Twirlers, where Wayne is the caller.

Bow to your partner. Now bow to the corner. It's how every square dance starts, with a polite gesture that sets the tone for the entire experience.

When a young Sheila Mahathey first learned these words during square dance lessons with the Brindlee Mountain Promenaders in Marshall County, she never expected to find a partner for life.

"My mother, daddy and I started lessons in 1980, and that's when I first met Wayne," said the former Sheila Nabors. "We didn't have just one dance partner, but Wayne was part of a group of teenagers that was taking lessons at the same time."

The two started dating a few years later and have been married 30 years. While they stay busy with their day jobs — Sheila is a CSR with Alfa Insurance in Arab and Wayne is a mechanic with Arab Electric Cooperative — their Monday evenings are still spent on the dance floor.

The Mahatheys are members of the Guntersville Lake Twirlers, one of over 40 clubs associated with the Alabama Square and Round Dance Association (ASRDA). The club meets weekly at the Guntersville Senior Center.

"In today's environment, you won't find many family-oriented activities like square dancing," Sheila said. "There's no alcohol or bad language, so you feel good about bringing your family."

From dosido and allemande left to square thru and grand square, the Mahatheys know every step that can be called, in part because Wayne has been a square dance caller since he was 16.

"When we were taking lessons, the gentleman who taught us, Jim Hydrick, noticed I was singing every word of the song as he was calling," Wayne said. "He gave me a couple 45 records and said 'Next week, you're going to call these for me.' So that's how I got started."

Wayne learned his calling skills from Hydrick and training sessions called Callers Colleges. Wayne said calling requires a love for music, good musical timing and attention to detail.

It takes four couples to make one square. During any given dance, Wayne might be keeping track of up to six squares on the floor at the same time, each with dancers of different skill levels and ages. Guntersville Lake Twirlers range in age from 12 to 84.

"The dancers execute the caller's calls. And if you've done it all successfully, everyone should have their original partner by their side at the end of the song," he said.

Even though it's almost an hour drive from their Huntsville home, John and Jan Bloodworth joined the Guntersville Lake Twirlers because of Wayne's calling style.

"He calls fast, and he calls by sight. He doesn't memorize all the calls, so it's always different," Jan said. John was reluctant to start square dance lessons in 1980, but now he's serving a one-year term as Guntersville Lake Twirlers president.

"When Jan told me we were going to learn square dancing, I told her 'I don't think so,'" John said. "But she convinced me, and as it turns out, I like it just as much as she does."

While both couples enjoy the activity, the Mahatheys said they look forward to weekly dances because of the people involved. "This is friendship set to music with the nicest folks you'll ever meet," Wayne said.



<http://alfafarmers.org/stories/news-detail/swing-your-partner-square-dancing-leads-couple-to-lifelong-love#.XfgwIWRKgdV>

### Little Stories with Lots of Meanings:

1. Once the villagers decided to pray for rain. One the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we still set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80- years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.
7. Good Friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!

## ASARDA MEMBERSHIP

As of 14 Feb, there are 40 clubs/associations and 364 members that have joined ASARDA for 2020. I really appreciate everyone that has joined. It's not too late for you to join and you will get in free on Friday night of the State Convention in Oxford, AL. Membership is still \$10.00 per person if you elect to receive your newsletter by e-mail but if for some reason you can't do so please enclose an additional \$10.00 to mail due to the increase in postage, paper and printing. When paying by check please make the check out to ASARDA and not to me personally. Also, please print your information as some handwriting is very difficult to make out and I spend a lot of time calling trying to find out the correct e-mail. Please list on the form all clubs you are a member of because at the ASARDA Convention I do give an award to the 3 top clubs so this does matter.

The first year you join ASARDA I will give you an ASARDA Dangle with the yearly sticker and the ring to attach to your club badge, but keep in mind that membership runs 1 September through 31 August of each year. After the year is over you will only receive a yearly sticker. If you lose or misplace your dangle it does cost \$1.00 to replace the dangle.

I also would like to remind the people that are doing the Alabama Traveler's Program be sure you get your card signed and return to me NLT the end of July. I already have received some cards that are already complete, and they are still traveling to get even more points. Happy Traveling to those involved.

I hope to see a lot of you in Jackson Mississippi in March for the pre-convention and don't forget the June Bug Jubilee coming up on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

Yellow Rocks to All

Anita

*Membership Chairman - Anita Southern*

## Clog Wild Cloggers featured in Music Video

Clog Wild Cloggers had so much fun being part of a music video shoot for The Secret Sisters for the new release from their new upcoming album! Thanks to Mark Slagle and the Secret Sisters for asking us! To see the finished product, go to

The Secret Sisters - Hand Over My Heart  
[Official Video]

<https://youtu.be/hmW6mE12zSo>





## ALABAMA TRAVELERS



Pictured left: Rick & Liz Sorrell had a great time dancing to Justin Russell at the Estill Springers Snowflake Special in Manchester, Tennessee on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Pictured right: Several ASARDA members enjoyed the General Butler Bash with callers Wes Dyer, Mark Patterson, Tom Davis & Jack Pladdys in Carrollton, KY January 24-27 in Carrollton, Kentucky.



Pictured left: Several ASARDA Members attended the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Heart of the Smokies Square up in Pigeon Forge February 28-29<sup>th</sup>. Our own Diane Martin-Hamilton cued the lines and will be returning next year. Callers for the event are Terry McGill, Alan Hall, Mark

Foster, Travis Cook, and Bill Salley. Cuers are Bob and Rachel Boudrow.

## ASARDA EDUCATION

Since I started calling square dances in 1946, I have seen many changes to our activity and changes to our image continue today. Not all are good, some are, but we have to keep adjusting to these changes and hope we go down the right path to keep our activity alive and growing. The following article by Calvin Campbell of Castle Rock, Colorado sort of points out some things about our Square-Dancing image. One of the biggest things is when we do demos for the public, we need to do simple things with our dancers laughing, smiling and letting the public know that this is a fun activity that all can enjoy.

### IMAGE IS EVERYTHING

by Calvin Campbell

Most people are attracted to a recreation by what they visually see. If the hobby looks like it's fun to do, they will try it. In the advertising trade, it's called "Eye Candy".

Square dancing used to look like fun to do. Modern Western Square Dancing (MWSD), now, has a big image problem because, from the viewpoint of the spectator on the sidelines, it no longer looks like fun to do.

The square dance routines that used to please audiences visually are no longer used at the average Modern Western Square Dance. When they are occasionally revived, they are poorly danced by most dancers.

20 step Grand Squares are the most glaring example, but good timing and good styling have also vanished from dancing other square dance “basics.” The name of the game, now, is to get to the next waypoint any way the dancer can. The image the spectator sees is much like watching a large ant pile.

Most of the movement seems random to the spectators. Unless callers plan otherwise, it is often random. MWSD is presently a process of following, ever changing directions, given by a leader to a group of eight people moving around a confined geographic area. In many ways, it looks like eight people trying to navigate a miniature maze, and they keep running into each other.

A successful recreation must appeal to a large population base or die. The recreation must have a constant input of new people. Recruiting new people is dependent on presenting an attractive product for consideration. However, any product must be accessible to the average user.

There is a large population of people who want to dance. Many dance forms are attractive to watch. However, many dance forms appear difficult to learn. Most people are afraid to try any kind of dancing for fear of embarrassing themselves in public. They want to look good for the audience.

Traditional square dancing and contra dancing look easy to learn. All you have to be able to do is walk. Beginner Dance Parties look like dancing anyone could do. Most of their dance leaders use only the most simple “basics”.

Square Dancing, at the beginner part level, is probably the most accessible form of any dance form if presented correctly. That’s because it’s a team dance format. It’s difficult not to be able to Circle Left and Circle Right if you are holding hands with other people in a circle. It’s also easy to learn “basics” such as Forward and Back, Arm turns, Stars, and Promenade. I’ve entertained many groups of beginner dancers for over two hours using these five “basics”.

Beginner Dance Parties have remained popular with the public because anyone can enjoy a Beginner Dance Party with no prior dancing experience. There are no lessons. New dancers just need to be willing to get out on the dance floor and move to the music.

Square Dancing is a dance of the hands and not of the feet. It’s an excellent form of dancing for people who learn visually. At the beginner party dance level, almost every movement can be learned by watching someone else do it. When I do beginner dance parties, I dance with the people. What I do is as important as what I say.

Traditional Square Dancing has survived mainly because almost every dance is walked-thru before it is danced. The other critical element is the dance sequence repeats rather than being different each time. That is an essential difference between Traditional and Modern Western Square Dancing.

In general, people are more comfortable with dance routines than with extemporaneous directions provided by some leader. Most dancers want a predictable pattern to follow. It is also true in other forms of dancing. Almost any other form of dancing is composed of repeating movement patterns.

MWSD has evolved away from all the above attributes. Presently, callers take great pride in being able to move dancers around with short commands with very detailed definitions. Unfortunately, this type of “dancing” is only popular with a tiny segment of the general population.

Each one of these goals of MWSD in the present form, contributes to the unattractive visual picture the spectator sees. So, as MWSD continues to evolve the prospective pool of recruits will get smaller and smaller.

Can this be changed? Sure, it can. We have the “basics” to create beautiful movement patterns that will appeal to spectators. We teach many of them during the first few square dance lessons and then abandon them. Many callers no longer have any idea how to match timing with music correctly. Most callers can learn that skill. CALLERLAB has excellent publications that show good styling. We need callers that are willing to teach these skills and dancers that want to learn how.





## 72<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION® NEWS

**Thank you** to everyone who came to our first Fundraiser dance, the Winter Festival, in Guntersville Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Pauline Angress, Tom Miller & Larry Belcher for making this happen quickly!! Larry Belcher, Tom Miller, and Rusty Willoughby on squares and Pauline Angress, Diane Martin-Hamilton and Susan Wolford on rounds and lines.



Team Mobile will be heading to the 70<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention's® Pre-Convention March 25-28. The Kick-Off dance will be Saturday night, March 28<sup>th</sup> and is FREE for anyone registered for the 70<sup>th</sup> NSDC (or you can register there). It should be a great dance, the callers are Justin Russell, Travis Cook, and Rob Baird, and Tim Eum will be cueing.

We have a couple of exciting dancing opportunities for you, as well as fundraisers for the 72<sup>nd</sup> NSDC coming up.

In June – you won't want to miss the **June Bug Jubilee** at the BSDA with **Jet Roberts, Tony Oxendine and Jerry Story!** Matthew Temples and Ramona Stowe will be cueing.

In October, 72NSDC Ceremonies Coordinator Eunice and Bob Galloway have prepared a special treat for all of you. They have arranged for the popular group **Three On A String** to perform and also play live music for caller **Alan Hall** for your dancing entertainment. **David Holladay** has offered to cue at the event as well. We are also including dinner with the dance. This is sure to be a one of a kind event!

**The 72nd NSDC Presents** **Great Sound! Wood Floor! Two Halls!**

# JUNE BUG JUBILEE

**June 5-6, 2020**

**BSDA Friendship Hall**  
1024 Old Walker Chapel Road  
Fultondale, AL 35068

**Comfort Suites**  
1325 Old Walker Chapel Road  
Fultondale, AL 35068  
Special Rate: \$85 + Tax  
(You must mention June Bug Jubilee for special rate)

**Callers:**  
Tony Oxendine (Friday Only) Jet Roberts Jerry Story

**Remo:**  
Matthew Temples & Ramona Stowe

**Advanced Registration Dance Fee:**  
Full Weekend - \$40 per person  
Saturday Only - \$30 per person  
(At door price - \$5 additional per person)

**Friday Plus Hall**  
7:00 PM Early Remo  
7:30-10:00 PM Plus Dance W/Rounds  
Friday Advance Hall  
7:30 - 10:00 PM A-2 Dance  
**Saturday Plus Hall**  
9:00 - 10:30am Round Dance W/S  
10:30-Noon Plus Workshop  
1:00-2:30pm Round Dance W/S  
2:30-3:45pm Plus Workshop  
3:45-4:30pm Plus Duo  
7:00pm Early Remo  
7:30-10:00pm Plus Dance W/Rounds  
**Saturday Advance Hall**  
10:15-Moos A-2 Workshop  
2:30-3:45pm A-2 Dance  
7:30-9:30pm A-2 Dance  
9:30-10:00pm All Together in Plus Hall

For more info contact: Tom and Tina Wilkins  
generalchairman@72nsdc.com

Make checks payable to June Bug Jubilee and mail to:  
72nd NSDC • 4433 32nd St. SW • Lanett, AL 36863  
You may register online at [www.72nsdc.com/junebugjubilee](http://www.72nsdc.com/junebugjubilee)

**Fundraiser for 72nd NSDC**

# Fall Ball with Alan Hall

**Live Band Three on a String!**

**Saturday, Oct 3, 2020**  
Doors open 5:30pm - Meal starts 6pm  
7-9pm Alan & TOAS

**Limited tickets \$20 pp Including Meal**

Reserved Tickets @ [www.72nsdc.com/fallball](http://www.72nsdc.com/fallball) or contact Bob/Eunice Galloway @ 205-542-0070

**BSDA Friendship Hall**  
1024 Old Walker Chapel Rd  
Fultondale AL 35068

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## UPCOMING DANCES

### **30th Annual - All Western Smoky Mountain Ball Square Dancers Weekend Vacation, Winter 2020**

Dates: Mar 05 - 07, 2020

Ramada Inn, 4010 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN

Callers: Jim Melton, Rusty Willoughby, Johnny Chambers, Ronnie Langley, Ken Roberts, and Gene Record

Lines: Kathy Donohoo

### **Swinging Stars 42nd Anniversary Dance**

Date: Thursday, Mar 12, 2020

The Bynum Community Center, 200 Victory Drive, Eastaboga, AL

### **Monthly MASDA Dance**

Date: Saturday, Mar 14, 2020

Dalraida UMC, 3817 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL

Caller: Jamie Stewart

Cuer: Pauline Angress

### **Get Your Kicks on Route 66 WASCA 2020**

Dates: Mar 19 - 21, 2020

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel, Alexandria, VA

### **Put Some Spring In Your Step At The Alabama Jubilee**

Dates: Mar 20 - 21, 2020

BSDA Friendship Hall, 1024 Old Walkers Chapel Road, Fultondale, AL

Caller: Tim Tyl

Cuer: John Romano

Lines: Diane Martin-Hamilton

### **Trail Out to the 67th Alabama Jubilee**

Date: Sunday, Mar 22, 2020

BSDA Friendship Hall, 1024 Old Walkers Chapel Road, Fultondale, AL

Callers: Larry Belcher & Darryl McMillan

Cuer: Terri Wilaby

### **70th NSDC Kick Off Dance**

Date: Saturday, Mar 28, 2020

105 E Pascagoula St, Jackson, MS

Callers: Justin Russell, Travis Cook & Rob Baird

Cuer: Tim Eum

### **Bubba's Cruisn' & Dancin' 5 Day Cruise aboard the Carnival Fantasy Ship**

Dates: Mar 30 - 04, 2020

Ship sails from Mobile, Alabama

Caller: Bubba Mingus

### **Inaugural Swing thru Spring Mainstream & Plus Square Dance Weekend**

Dates: Apr 03 - 04, 2020

Lake Cumberland State Resort Park, 5465 State Park Rd, Jamestown, KY

Callers: Wes Dyer & Mark Patterson

Cuers: Jerry Neal & Jerry Givens

### **Denim Dusters Square Dance Club Dogwood Special**

Date: Saturday, Apr 04, 2020

Fayetteville Recreation Center 1203 Winchester Hwy, Fayetteville, TN

Caller: Terry McGill

Cuer: Ronnie Carrington

### **Monthly MASDA Dance**

Date: Saturday, Apr 11, 2020

Dalraida UMC, 3817 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL

Caller: Kevin Cozad

Cuer: David Holladay

### **29th Spring Fling 2020**

Dates: Apr 17 - 18, 2020

Pasarda Hall, Hall, 17 Industrial Street, Fort Walton Beach, FL

Callers: Larry Belcher & Willis Simmons

Cuer: Miriam Merriwether



### **45th Annual South Carolina Square and Round Dance State Convention 2020**

Dates: Apr 17 - 18, 2020      Brookland Banquet & Conference Center, 1066 Sunset Blvd, West Columbia, SC

### **Wiggins Weekend Campin' & Dancin'**

Dates: Apr 17 - 18, 2020      Flint Creek, 1216 Parkway Drive, Wiggins, MS

Callers: Bubba Mingus & Ted Kennedy      Cuers: Jack & Christa Gail Pointer

### **Saddle Up! You're Invited to a Hoe Down Strap On Your Boots and Join Us**

Date: Saturday, Apr 25, 2020      Berachah Gymnasium, 3011 Sparkman Dr., Huntsville, AL

Caller: Tom Miller      Cuer: Pauline Angress

### **St. Jude Children's Hospital Benefit Dance Sponsored by North Alabama Callers & Cuers**

Date: Sunday, Apr 26, 2020      Central Hall Activity Center, 1931 Central Pkwy, STE "A", Decatur, AL

### **Duos and Solos Square Dance Mexican Fiesta**

Date: Thursday, May 07, 2020      DeKalb Council on Aging, 600 Tyler Street, Fort Payne, AL

Caller: Tim Miller      Cuer: Pauline Angress

### **Monthly MASDA Dance**

Date: Saturday, May 09, 2020      Dalraida UMC, 3817 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL

Caller: Willis Simmons      Cuer: John Williford

### **32nd Virginia State Convention Half Sashay the Hawaiian Way**

Dates: May 14 - 16, 2020      Founders Inn & Spa, Virginia Beach, VA

### **The 72nd NSDC Presents Junebug Jubilee**

Dates: Jun 05 - 06, 2020      BSDA Friendship Hall, 1024 Old Walkers Chapel Road, Fultondale, AL

Callers: Tony Oxendine, Jerry Story & Jet Roberts      Cuers: Matthew Temples & Ramona Stowe

### **Monthly MASDA Dance**

Date: Saturday, Jun 13, 2020      Dalraida UMC, 3817 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL

Caller: Larry Belcher      Cuer: David Holladay

### **Presidents Ball**

Date: Sunday, Jun 14, 2020      BSDA Friendship Hall, 1024 Old Walkers Chapel Road, Fultondale, AL

Caller: Jet Roberts      Cuer: David Holladay

### **69th National Square Dance Convention**

Dates: Jun 17 - 20, 2020      Spokane, Washington

### **Duos and Solos Dance Club is Celebrating the 1950's**

Date: Thursday, Jun 18, 2020      DeKalb Council on Aging, 600 Tyler Street, Fort Payne, AL

Caller: Paul Henze      Cuer: Pauline Angress

### **Circle Your Wagons & Come Enjoy Wild West Adventures at the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASARDA Convention**

Dates: Aug 28 - 29, 2020      Oxford Civic Center, 401 McCullars Ln, Oxford, AL

**For more information visit our website at: <http://www.alabamasquaredance.com/calendar/calendar.php>**

**March 2020**

**ALABAMA SQUARE AND ROUND  
DANCE ASSOCIATION, INC**

**4433 32nd Street SW  
Lanett, AL 36863-6607**

**PUBLICATION POLICY**

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