



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS, INC.: A Lesbian and Gay Organization

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

As I said at the General Membership Meeting, I sit here and wonder what I can do to ever match the job done over the last two years by my friend, Skip Rognlien. The job he did has set a benchmark that will live for IAGSDC chairs for years to come.

When Skip took office, we ventured forth into the world of the "mainstream" square dance community. During his tenure, we rode into that world and were received well. Never again will the straight square

dance community be untouched by the work Skip did, and for that we all owe him a big vote of thanks.

Presently, we find the IAGSDC in financial turmoil. The changes made over the past few years has required us to spend money as never before. To that end, we assumed that the money would come in the way it had over the prior years. We had not realized that these funds had come over several years, and could not be replaced with the same speed. In essence, money was spent faster than it was being raised.

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AT THE CONVENTION

At the delegate meeting in Seattle, your delegates made an extreme sacrifice; they authorized an unprecedented emergency assessment in order to help the IAGSDC reimburse the coffers and continue the work we have been doing. This is to be a one-time assessment ONLY!

(Continued on
page 4)

REGIONAL RUMBLINGS

by Karl Jaeckel

With my phone connections to many parts of the US and Canada, I have learned that gay square dancing may soon spring alive in many new locations. For your interest I have summarized here the information I know regarding square dance developments in these locations. While the items below are not necessarily IAGSDC sponsored events, they are worth mentioning. Be aware, however, that the mere mention of these events does not imply any IAGSDC involvement, sanction or endorsement. I hope to make this column a regular part of the Association newsletter, and so I encourage you to let me know of additional Regional Rumbblings. From the US you may reach me at (800) 835-6462. From Canada: (303) 778-1937.

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

Steve Siporin, formerly of Tinseltown Squares, has arranged for area caller Paul Hagan to call 3 open house dances September 13, 20, and 27. To promote the dances he plans to place ads in the local papers and make announcements at MCC. With

(Continued on page 2)

REGIONAL RUMBLINGS

(Continued from page 1)

sufficient interest, the open houses will transition into a fall class. Vinny Stoppia of Times Squares plans a move to Palm Springs and can provide assistance. Suggested club name: *Palm Springs Sundancers*. For information, call Steve at (619) 322-5302.

VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Several Tinseltown Squares members drive long distance to attend weekly Tinseltown dances. Some are now talking about starting a group in Ventura County. Suggested club name: *Gold Coast Squares*. For information, call Paul Waters at (805) 493-2583.

WEST LA BEACH CITIES, CALIFORNIA

Ross Frankel has interest in forming a club to serve West Los Angeles, including the beach cities of Santa Monica south to Torrance/ Palos Verdes. He hopes to arrange for Scot Byars to be the club caller, and he anticipates a first class to be held during the winter/spring of 1994. Suggested club name: *Beach Blanket Squares*. For information, call Ross at (310) 970-1493.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Currently there is a strong interest in the New England area in traditional dancing/contras, dance forms from which our western square dance evolved. A few gay dancers there know about and are interested in our western square dance, but many are unaware that we exist. If you plan a trip to the Boston area, I encourage you to contact Chris Ricciotti (rih-

CHAWTY) for information about current dance events. By keeping communication open we may generate more awareness/interest in both related forms of dance. Chris Ricciotti: (800) 484-7113, then code 1112, or (401) 331-8262. Also, Ken Mattsson at (617) 641-3148.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Steve Messamer has informed me that an upper-level club has recently formed in Chicago. Focus will be Challenge dancing, with Sandy Bryant calling a C1 class this fall. Club name: *Bad Fruit*. For information call Steve at (312) 549-5698.

EUGENE, OREGON

Richard Kitterman (a Rosetown Rambler of years ago) and his friend Harriet Rubin of Eugene organized a very successful open house dance July 31 at a hall on the University of Oregon campus. To promote the event, they placed a half-page ad in the *Lavender Network* (monthly gay newspaper) and cir-

culated flyers in local bars. Cheryl Dumolt of the Rosetown Ramblers (accompanied by a square of dancers) drove from Portland to call for the event. Attendance was a surprising 48, mostly women! 24 signed up with interest in continuing lessons. Richard plans to meet with those interested to arrange for a fall class. For information, call him at (503) 343-5884.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Three square dancers have recently converged on Austin, all with an

REGIONAL REPS FOR SQUARE DANCE EVENTS

The delegates at this year's IAGSDC delegates' meeting approved the authority for the Executive Board members to appoint IAGSDC representatives at regional festivals, jamborees, etc. This is another way for the IAGSDC to be represented at major and mid-sized events without having to pay for board members' travel or accommodations.

The first "official" IAGSDC representative appointed is Jim Copeland of Rosetown Ramblers and Heads to the Center, who will represent us at the 43rd Annual National Square Dance Convention next June 22-25 in Portland, Oregon. Jim will attend the meetings held by Legacy and United Square Dancers of America. Jim will also transport our rainbow colored display to the festival, which has become a well-known symbol of our existence in the Hall of Ideas.

If there are any festivals coming up in your area, please contact us and become an official IAGSDC representative. Help us maintain and increase our visibility in the straight square dance community.

interest in forming a group there. **Hersch Knapp** of Tinseltown **Squares** has moved to Austin to work on a Masters Degree at the University of Texas, and **Terry Neal** and **Geoff Sutton** of Independence **Squares** have moved there for career advancement. Also, **Alamo City Wranglers** from neighboring San Antonio plan a square dance demonstration at an Austin Gay Pride celebration this Labor Day weekend. For information about a group in Austin, call **Hersch Knapp** at (512) 453-8086 or **Jeff Neal** at (512) 327-2797.

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Former Independence **Squares** member **Michael Knotts** has recently moved to Houston, and now, after attending *Remake the Circle*, is charged to start a group. He has contacted to **Luis Torres** of **Alamo City Wranglers** about bringing a group from San Antonio for demos and a bar tour the weekend of September 24-26. In support of the effort, **Wranglers** caller **Terry Kephart** has agreed to call. Final arrangements still are pending, however. **Michael** currently seeks a contact/support from local women's groups. Can anyone help? For information call **Michael Knotts** at (713) 520-8281.

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Last year, association treasurer **Darrell Ertzberger** spearheaded an effort last year to start a club in Norfolk, Virginia. He placed ads in

local gay papers, set up a table at the Norfolk gay pride festival, and used the Association 800 number to collect names and build a mailing list. Although finding callers with an interest and the time to work with the new group has not been easy, nonetheless, monthly open house dances have been scheduled. **Ett McAtee** and **Doug Barnett** from Baltimore/ Washington have each called a dance. For information, call **Ken Orr** in Norfolk at (804) 623-9237.

with straight groups for several years, but has only recently learned about the IAGSDC. After attending *Remake the Circle* and experiencing the excitement of convention, he has returned home determined to organize a gay club. His plan is to call for the group himself, beginning with open house dances September 22, 29, and October 6. Dancing will be at **Rumors**, a local, and very supportive club. Anticipated graduation of the first class is April, in time for *Chain Down the Northeast* and *Stars and Squares Forever*. **Anne Uebelacker**

has already agreed to call for the group (*do I hear a Halifax fly-in ??*) next July when she will be there for Canadian Nationals. Suggested club name: *Citadel Squares*, for famous Citadel Hill and National Park in Halifax. For information, call **Kevin** during working hours Atlantic time zone at (902) 422-1973.

BALLINA, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

Letter received from **Stuart Mauchline** dated June 14. He writes, "I have just started a gay square dance club up, with line dancing (bootscoot) and rounds. We have only been going 4 weeks, next Friday will be our 5th. I was given your advertisement, and said to write as you may have some information available which may help me. . . Is there a

IAGSDC HISTORY BOOK MAKES GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS

Luis Torres is the man who slaved for the past several years to put together the brilliant 10 year commemorative book which was available at this year's convention. For those of you who purchased one, you know how wonderful the book is and the invaluable nature of its contents. A copy has been donated to the gay archives and we are hoping to have one placed in the Library of Congress.

Luis was able to sell well over half of the books produced at the convention. There are still quite a few available for distribution, from **Luis Torres** at 3003 Whisper Lark, San Antonio, TX 78230, (210) 493-5805.

The cost is still \$15.00 per book with a \$5.00 per order shipping charge.

Order early! They are sure to make wonderful Christmas/Chanuka presents for other square dancers! This year, give the gift of gay history.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Kevin Cassidy has square danced

(Continued on page 5)

WORD FROM THE CHAIR

(Continued from page 1)

At the general meeting in Seattle, an **overwhelming** majority of members authorized a change in the dues structure. This permanent change will, hopefully, ensure that the IAGSDC never gets into the financial emergency in which we now find ourselves. These changes may not be easy for some clubs; for others, it may not mean much. Ultimately, these are financial changes that can be passed on to your members through dues. If your club is going to have a problem with these charges until these costs can be passed along, *please* contact Darrell Ertzberger or myself. **We do not want to see clubs suffer disastrous consequences, and we want to help you make it**

through the period of financial transition.

The outreach we have done, the first-nighters we have hosted and hope to continue, the advertising, the pamphlets and stickers we distribute (which are now so familiar at straight square dance events), our photo displays, our post office box, the 800 number we maintain for dancers all over the country (and soon Canada) to call to get information about existing clubs or how to start a club, and all of the other activities which were presented at the delegates meeting are vital to our continued efforts to meet the goals set out in our by-laws.

Beyond the assessments and the dues structure, it is important that the tradition of banner dances gets back on track. By splitting the proceeds three ways, a successful banner dance makes money for your club, the

IAGSDC and the hard working people putting on the next convention. **BUT**, only 4 out of 38 members clubs hosted banner dances in 1992/93. I **challenge all member clubs to sponsor AT LEAST ONE banner dance before the next convention.**

Enclosed, you will find the minutes of the delegates meeting. Please review them and advise me or Tom Tripp of any changes necessary. These minutes will be voted on at the delegates meeting in Washington, D.C.

A final word: My heartfelt congratulations to the convention committee members and all of the members of the Puddletown clubs who worked so hard to make Remake the Circle a ten year anniversary event for 1,130 attendees to remember for years! You should all be very proud of your efforts.

Bob Young
1992/93 Chair

TEACH TAPES AVAILABLE FROM PAUL WATERS

Last year Paul Waters of Los Angeles recorded his Basics class for Tinseltown Squares and mailed the tapes to Will Austin and Gail Oliver in Detroit, who then used them to teach their own Basics class. The arrangement worked out

well, and as a result Cadillac Squares has graduated two classes! For IAGSDC start-up groups with no funds to hire a caller, Paul's tapes may be an attractive deal. The tapes, recorded live, are full of humor and contain gay-specific styling. The Mainstream set includes 31 tapes at a cost of \$6.25/tape. To spread the cost over a period of months, Paul recommends that groups purchase the tapes 10 at a time (ie, \$62.50 + \$62.50 + \$68.75). The Plus set includes 12 tapes, also at \$6.25/tape. Also available are 10 all-

position plus dance tapes. Paul's only recommendation is that at least one experienced dancer be present at the lessons who can provide occasional clarification. For more information call Paul at (805) 493-2583.

REGIONAL RUMBLINGS

Continued from page 3)

group of gay dancers out there, how many clubs, etc? I have been dancing for 14 years now and this is my dream come true having a gay club. Maybe if you know some incentives or anything I would be grateful. Hope to hear back from you soon." Stuart's address: Stuart Mauchline, Illyria, Bangalow Rd, Cumbalum via Ballina, NSW, Australia 2478. I encourage you to write to Stuart, to support his interest in forming a gay club.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Marlin Criddle, formerly of Tinseltown Squares, moved to Salt Lake City a few years ago to be closer to the Mormon genealogical libraries. For now he and his partner David Turner attend area straight square dances. They hope to arrange open house dances, possibly this fall, in an effort to form a Salt Lake gay club. Suggested club name: *Temple Squares*. For information, call Marlin at (801) 262-5411.

UPPER MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

A new MCC Church has begun in Boyds, MD, and the pastor of the church is interested in starting a square dance club there. People in Upper Montgomery County of Frederick County, MD, should contact Rev. Ken Ehrke at (301) 601-9112.

TAJIMI-SHI, GIFU-KEN, JAPAN

Letter received from Martha Ogasawara dated June 21. She writes, "I am a square dancer here in Japan

and I would like to receive some information on gay square dance clubs. First of all, let me explain why I am writing. This past weekend at an overnight caller's seminar for our local callers association, I introduced the topic of gay square dance clubs in the U.S. No one else knew that there were such clubs, and needless to say it engendered a lot of lively discussion. . . They had a lot of questions, some of which I was able to answer using common sense, but a lot of the things they asked I didn't know, which is why I would like more information. Here are some of the questions: When you say *gay* clubs, does that mean only gay men, or are there gay-women clubs as well? Are the callers at gay clubs usually gay as well? If it's all

REMAKE THE CIRCLE PHOTOS

By Karl Jaeckel

I arranged with photographer Geoff Manasse in Seattle to purchase a complete set of club photographs for the Association archives. Already the photos (39 of them) have arrived, and I have enjoyed reviewing and studying each one. I had been concerned that the morning photographs (taken during periods of drizzle) would turn out poorly, but in fact there is not a bad photo in the bunch. My plan is to circulate the photo album to several fly-ins, to include all regions, throughout the coming year. If you would like to ensure that the album is present for your special event, please phone me at the *hotline*: (800) 835-6462. First two stops for the album are Capital City Squares for their 12th Anniversary Dance August 28 and Chi Town Squares for *Crossfire* September 3-5.

PHOTOGRAPH REORDER INSTRUCTIONS

If any of your club members would like to order a convention photograph, the cost now is \$19 per print including postage. Washington state residents add sales tax, for a total per-print cost of \$20.56. Send your payment to Geoff Manasse Photography, 1605 Bellevue Ave #409, Seattle WA 98122. Visa is acceptable; simply include your Visa number and expiration date. To order by phone, call Geoff at (206) 324-4511. Be sure to let him know the name of the club of which you want a photograph, and be sure he knows your mailing address.

men dancing together, do half of the men wear an armband or something so that you can tell who is doing the woman's part? Are there men who dress up in petticoats? Instead of saying "men" and "women", do you use different terminology?

JAPAN (Continued)

I also have some questions of my own. Are there any mixed clubs of gay and non-gay dancers? Do most gay clubs also welcome non-gay dancers? I am not gay, but I would like to visit a gay club if possible. I have a friend who is a dancer at a club in Kobe and he used to belong to a gay club before he came to Japan. From what he told me, the club sounded like a lot of fun. He said there were a lot more younger dancers and that they did a lot of crazy, fun dancing. I am originally from the U.S. and go home to visit my family once a year. I have visited a number of square dance clubs while I'm back, and many of them have been mostly older, conservative couples-type clubs. My hus-

◆
"Do most clubs welcome
non-gay dancers?"
◆

band also square dances, but he doesn't always come with me, and I've found that many of the clubs don't welcome single dancers. Do you need a partner at most gay clubs? I dance both the man's and woman's part and am comfortable switching back and forth. If possible, could you send me a list of gay clubs that welcome non-gay, single visitors?"

Martha enclosed flyers/registration forms for the upcoming Japan national convention September 3-5. Martha's address: Martha Ogasawara, 9-3 Sakaue-cho, Tajimi-shi, Gifu-ken, Japan 507. Again, I encourage you to write to Martha, to support her interest in our association.

IAGSDC 800 "HOTLINE" USAGE

By Karl Jaeckel

"Hi! This is Karl at the square dance *hotline*, Tuesday, August 3. If you're calling for information about the IAGSDC, please leave your name and address and I'll send you a brochure. Otherwise, leave your phone number and message of any length and I will get back to you promptly."

The above is the announcement that I record daily for the Association *hotline*. (Note that while I'm home and awake I answer the *hotline* personally.) The July phone bill for the 800 line reported that 94 incoming calls were made during the month. Most were quite short; in fact 71 calls were of less than 1 minute duration. Evidently (and beyond my knowledge) people call, listen to the announcement, and hang up. Only 5 incoming calls were longer than 5 minutes duration, the most expensive of which was \$15.40. 26 out-going calls were made, the most expensive of which was \$6.30. Some of the more lengthy calls were to Ett McAtee, Kevin Cassidy of Halifax, Chris Ricciotti of "Lavender Country and Folk Dancers" in Providence, Dana Backiel of Seattle, BJ Garlick of Minneapolis, Cindy McInnes in Calgary, and David Anderson of Phoenix.

In my log, I recorded only 5 hang-ups/wrong numbers and 4 prank calls — I had expected more than that. Also, I had 12 requests for general information. To them, I mailed packets including a standard letter, the IAGSDC glossy flyer, James Ozanich's calendar, and in some cases a Travel Guide. I encourage club delegates to use the 800 number to keep me abreast of changes to the club census reports, especially to changes in address. (Currently, the 800 number works only from within the U.S; Canadians must use my home phone (303) 778-1937.) My plan is to offer a *hotline* report regularly for the Association newsletter.

Shorts

CHASE THE QUEEN AND ANYTHING!

Some discussion has been made about working to start a club in London, England. If there is sufficient interest, I will contact the London community and arrange a few dances. The best time to visit (read: the cheapest!) would be early in March (perhaps March 4-11, 1994). A week in London with air transportation, hotel and a subway pass is under \$850.00 from the west coast. By planning early, we can also get tickets to the new Andrew Lloyd Weber musical, *Sunset Boulevard*. If you are interested, please contact John Faulds in Phoenix at (602) 957-8730.

PHONE-LINK BETWEEN FLY-INS

With more and more IAGSDC events being scheduled during the calendar year, organizing committees are finding it difficult to avoid scheduling conflicts. As it happens again this fall, The Wilde Bunch's *Chase the Chili* and Cleveland City's *Load the Boat* are both scheduled for the October 8-10 weekend. Because one event is more west-coast oriented and the other is more east-coast oriented, conflict is minimal; in the past, in fact, both events have been quite successful. This year organizers are dis-

cussing a plan whereby the two groups may, for a few moments Saturday night, connect and share an awareness of each other's special weekend. Bill Eyler and Paul Waters are checking into the technology of a phone link that will enable callers in both locations to call a tip for the other group. No promises are being made yet, but Bill and Paul are confident that the "how-to" can be conquered. Because of the 2-hour time difference between the cities, the cross-country tip will likely be scheduled late in the dance for Cleveland and early in the dance for Albuquerque. Don't miss this IAGSDC first — send in your registration for one of the events now!

CONVENTION PLANNING HANDBOOK

by John Faulds

Ever thought of throwing a weekend party for 1200 of your closest friends, but you're just not sure how? Just relax, a group will be working on building a step-by-step suggestion book on how to plan a convention. If your club has hosted a convention and has information on problems and solutions, please send me a copy! Thus far, we have information on the Albuquerque and Portland conventions, but ALL information and suggestions are welcome — in fact, everyone is welcome to work on this project. The guide book will be available at the convention in Washington, DC. Contact John Faulds at (602) 957-8730.

IADSDC NO LONGER DOING BUSINESS WITH ZIA GRAPHICS

Please advise your members that we are no longer doing business with ZIA's Graphics of Albuquerque, NM, who had been manufacturing the IAGSDC T-shirts and polo shirts. In the past year, we have found them to be extremely unreliable and very shoddy in their accounting practices and they have been instructed to return any orders to the purchaser.

If your club members are interested in continuing the manufacture of IAGSDC shirts, please let us know and we will explore other manufacturers. Please extend our apologies to your members for any inconvenience this decision may cause.

ADVANCED AND CHALLENGE COMMITTEE

As directed by decision of the IAGSDC executive board in Seattle, a committee is now forming to address the issues involved with Advanced and Challenge fly-ins. Should the event become a national event that migrates throughout the country, as does the regular IAGSDC convention, or should it remain a regional west-coast event, possibly with the creation of a similar east-coast event? Should the event remain informally organized, as it is now, or

should it become officially sanctioned by the IAGSDC, so that organizers may use the Association name and logo in promotional materials? If yes, then what are the risks/benefits for the Association? How and when would future A&C fly-in locations be determined? These and other questions will be addressed by the committee in the months ahead. If you have input or would like to be involved in discussions, contact committee chair JW Paulson, 927-A NW 51st St, Seattle, WA 98107-3639, or phone him at (206) 783-5206.

NEW IAGSDC ADDRESS

Please note that we no longer have our San Francisco mailing address. All correspondence should be addressed to us at:

IAGSDC
P.O. Box 15428
Crystal City, VA 22215.

SKIP ROGNLIEN OPENS IN PORTLAND

Skip Rognlien is on the move. He has purchased a home in Portland, Oregon and will be running it as a gay/lesbian bed & breakfast. He plans to take over on September 15th and begin renovations immediately. Skip is planning his first official weekend of business on October 1, 1993—just in time for Change Lanes to Portland A/C Weekend, Oct 1-3, 1993. If you or any of your club members would like to launch Skip on his new venture, please call him as soon as possible at his New York phone number, (212) 580-8785.

ART SMITH'S BOOK HAS UPDATED

The book originally written by Art Smith giving explicit instructions on how to start a new club has been updated by Anna Damiani of Western Star Dancers and is now ready for publication. If you would like a copy sent to someone starting a club, please contact Anna at (415) 621-0862. Anna can also give you information about all the other publications available through our "IGGY" catalogue.

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