

ALL ABOARD!



TRACK 2 CHICAGO Bulletin

November 1994

SPECIALTY TIPS?

**SPECIAL
EVENTS**

**TRACK 2 CHICAGO
LETS YOU
DESIGN YOUR OWN**

**MEETS &
GREETS**

Specialty tips. Specialty tips. On every one's lips is the question, "What will be the specialty tips at Track 2 Chicago?"

We have great news! Track 2 Chicago will be introducing ... DESIGN YOUR OWN SPECIALTY TIPS! That's right YOU are going to be able to decide what specialty tips or special get together of any type will be held at convention. You will be able to organize your own special event/tip, whether it be women, singles, leather, bear, moonshine, demo dancing, workshops, Honky Tonk queen, tattoos, or big hair, we're putting you in the drivers seat!

There are different time slots with various sized spaces available to those of you out there who want to organize a special interest tip, get together or whatever. We're talking about anything besides regular dancing and the regular convention events that involve all who attend. Every special request will be considered and we'll put you in touch with others who's ideas are similar to your own.

Once we get all the requests

in, scheduling and spaces will be determined. There is a limited amount of space and time, so if we get too

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many requests some decisions as to priority will have to be made. The convention organizers will make the final plans in this area.

The idea is to get the people most interested in an event involved, making it the best it can be. Each event may need some special handling, which will be addressed as plans become finalized. This is something

very new and we are very excited about it! The special events that result out of DESIGN YOUR OWN SPECIALTY TIPS will be announced in the April issue of this bulletin.

HOW IT WILL WORK

- To request and organize an event

you must be registered for Track 2 Chicago

- The convention organizers must have your request to organize a special event in writing (e-mail or snail mail) **by 1 March**. This date gives everyone time to get the word out and get their requests sent in.

- The amount of organizing that goes into an event is up to the people who have decided to put it together.

Arranging for a caller and any special needs will all be done by those who want to organize a specialty tip.

Calling for specialty tips is not a part of staff callers contracts.

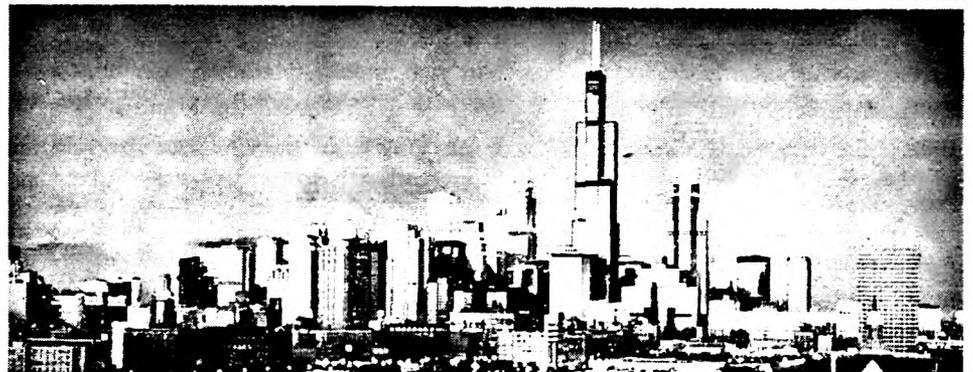
- Prior to the convention, you will know if your event is on the schedule, the room size and time slot.

- The time slots available are as follows:

- Friday Afternoon
- Friday Late Night
- Saturday Night
- Sunday Afternoon

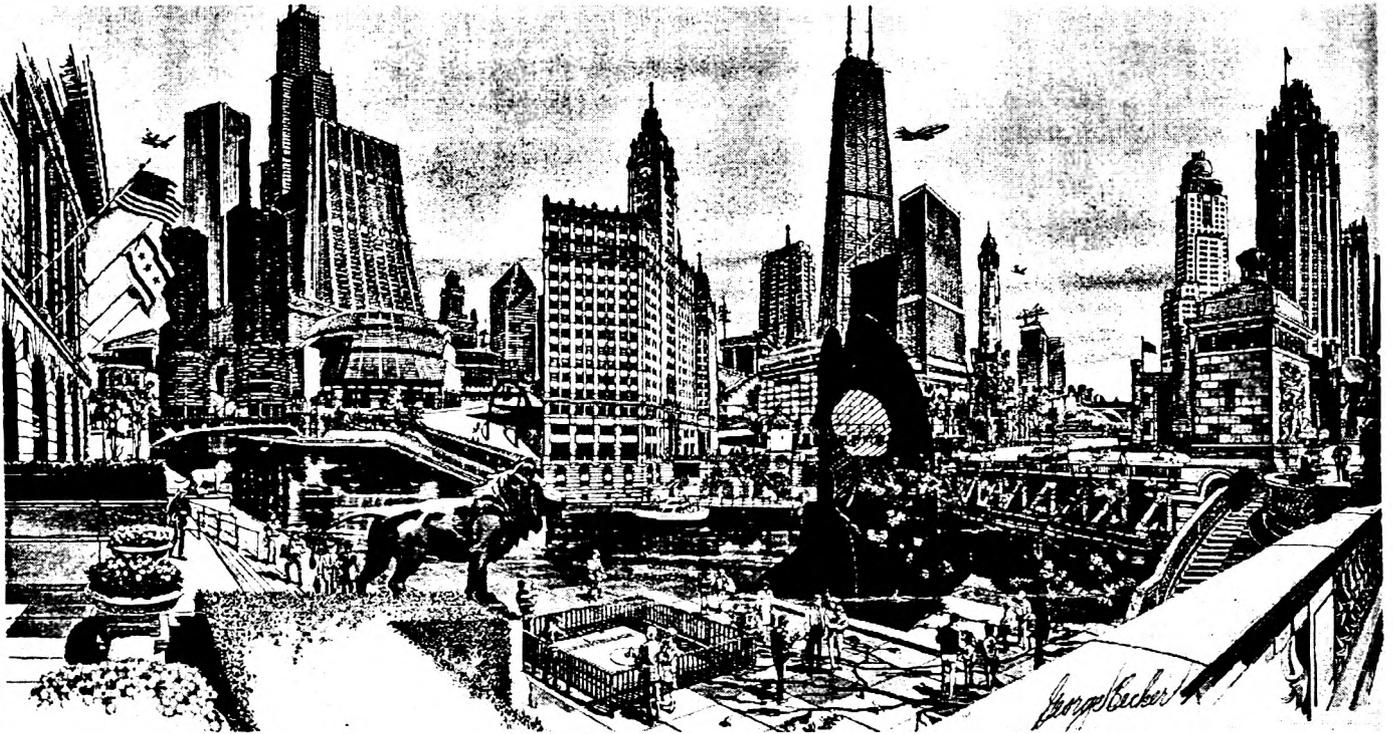
Track 2 Chicago organizers will put everyone in touch with each other who is interested in working on a particular tip.

The key is get involved and make your dream come true. DESIGN YOUR OWN SPECIALTY TIP! Ian Henzel



The Windy City awaits your arrival. Find out more about our fair city inside this issue.

Welcome to Chicago



Track 2 Chicago may be months away, but the Chi-Town Squares are already making plans for your arrival. So in preparation, we'd like to acquaint you a little with our city.

First off, let's dispense with this "Windy City" image. Chicago's nickname comes from its long-winded politicians, not from the weather. In fact, Chicago in May is one of the nicest places going. Warm and sunny, with some nice breezes coming across Lake Michigan.

Speaking of the Lake, it's the closest thing to an ocean you'll find in the Midwest. And that river that the hotel overlooks is the Chicago River (what else). It's famous for being the only river to have the direction of its flow reversed. That's right, it now flows away from the Lake. That keeps our water supply clear.

The main thoroughfare downtown is Michigan Avenue. Between relaying the deucey and

loading the boat, take some time to stroll this "Magnificent Mile", as we call it. At the south end, you'll find the Art Institute, the Chicago Symphony's Orchestra Hall, and Grant Park. Walking north, as you cross the river you come to two of Chicago's favorite buildings, The Tribune Tower on the east side, and The Wrigley Building (yes, it's the chewing gum people) on the west. As you continue, you'll reach some of the city's best shopping. (I know you're here to dance, but hey, there's always time to shop!). Marshall Field, Neiman Marcus, and hundreds of smaller, trendy stores are crammed into these skyscrapers.

Chicago likes to think big, and our buildings reflect this. The world's tallest building is the Sears Tower. Just look up - you'll see its unique black silhouette. A few blocks from the hotel is the 90-story Amoco Building. (Next time you fill your gas tank you'll have an idea where some of that money

is going). And on North Michigan is the John Hancock Building with its distinctive X's crisscrossing up its side.

If our own "She-Devils" don't provide you with enough comedy (which is hard to believe, but you never know), then you may want to head over to the Old Town Area, home of Second City Comedy Show. They'll take shots at the politicians, celebrities, and just about everything else. Be forewarned!

By now you should have worked up an appetite. Chicago's famous deep-dish pizza is nearby at Pizzeria Uno, Due, and at Gino's. Feel like ribs? "The Fireplace" in Old Town is a favorite with the gay community. And for good food with a Swedish flair, there's gay-owned "Ann Sather's" on the North side.

There's lots more that we're anxious to share with you all. So mark your calendars. We have a date.

Brian Treglown

YOUR KIND OF TOWN

What does Chicago mean? Literally it is an Indian word for onion field. It grew to be a city run by crime kingpins. Today it has come to mean the business and cultural center of the midwest United States and a world class city. Over Memorial Day weekend 1995 it will also be the focus of the international lesbian and gay square dancing movement. This event will make it special to you but there are so many other aspects of this urban space that will make it "your kind of town".

Most people that have been to the Windy City have definite feelings for this place. You can't come to this city without it provoking some kind of emotion from you. Whether its a ride around the Loop on the El, the view from the top of the world's tallest building, a shopping excursion down Michigan Avenue, the extraordinary architecture or watching the city light up the sky at dusk; your senses will be effected by this city.

You'll love the best gay square dancing experience of the year while you're here, but you must do more. Chicago offers too much to only see the inside of the convention hotel. There is plenty of adventure to be had in this great city. Visit the birth place of Prairie style architecture in Oak Park. Find the gigantic works of art that decorate the many loop plaza's. Discover a huge meadow of wild flowers at the feet of

modern office towers. Track wild animals in the Lincoln Park Zoo. Catch a new actor perfecting his craft at Second City. There are a myriad of possibilities.

If you take the time to discover what Chicago really means; you will not be able to leave without a special feeling for this great place. You can lose yourself in its grandeur, find yourself in its diverse neighborhoods, and have a great time doing it all. Don't miss your opportunity to find out why Chicago is "your kind of town."



Do I Need a Car at Track 2 Chicago?

As plans for Track 2 Chicago start to take shape the basics are thought of first. Securing a place to stay, deciding how to get to Chicago, and then how to get around the city once you're here are basics to any travel plans. The first two items can be easily answered by the individual making the plans. The third takes some knowledge of the city and where you want to go to make an intelligent decision.

Chicago is one of the few cities in North America that an automobile is not required for getting around in the urban environment. In fact a car can be

as much of a hindrance as a help. The alternatives are the Chicago Transit Authority (trains and buses), a taxi, a shuttle bus (from the airports), a tour bus (for around downtown) or your feet. Chicago is a very walkable city since it is flat and sidewalks go everywhere.

The Chicago Transit Authority trains and buses can get most people, most of the places they want to go. For a \$1.50 the CTA will take you a long way (from the airports to within five blocks of the convention). The System runs 24 hours seven days a week, is relatively user friendly and mostly safe. With a little study time anyone can ride the CTA to wherever they want to go.

Taxi's are in all popular neighborhoods in Chicago. They are easy to use and not too expensive. For about \$10 you can go from downtown to 3400 north Halsted Street where the closest gay neighborhood is located. From O'Hare to the Hyatt Regency on Wacker will be around \$30 in a cab, from Midway a little less.

Taxi's are available all night. Taxis are a good alternative to the CTA if you don't mind the cost. The more people you have in a cab the more cost effective it becomes. The biggest problems will be finding one in an obscure neighborhood or a rainy night.

You can drive a car to any where you want in the city in a more timely and fashionable way than by any other means. After you fight the traffic to get there though, you have to deal with what to do with the car. To park it on the street is the least

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expensive, but you could drive around for a long time trying to find a space. Also consider the last time you parallel parked and that some neighborhoods require the proper sticker not to be ticketed. Parking in a garage is easy if there is one around and you don't mind the cost. Valet parking is also an option with a price tag.

Its really depends on where you want to go once you get to Chicago. If your plans are to only go from the airport to the convention hotel and back a car is not needed at all. Trains, shuttles, cabs and even limo's are available. If you want to explore the downtown, the hotel is right there so your feet, cab or tour bus will work best for you. If you think you want to visit the gay neighborhoods, CTA or a cab is your best means to get there. These neighborhoods are heavily populated with little parking to be found, especially on weekend evenings.

The only real reason to have a car is if you wish to travel to the suburbs or areas outside of the city. The most popular suburbs like Oak Park and Evanston are actually pretty easily reached by CTA as well. The farther away from downtown you want to go the better it is to have a car.

If you plan to drive to the convention you'll want to consider what to do with your car once your here. The hotel has two large garages that are about \$20 a day to use. These are always open and very safe. There are much less expensive garages within walking

distance to the hotel. Street parking is not available close to the hotel without feeding a meter every few hours.

An article on how to get to the hotel from the airports and train station will be in a future bulletin. Other questions can be answered once you get to the hotel or by calling the Track 2 Chicago information line at (312)357-3232.



Track 2 Chicago now has T-shirts for sale. These are the same design that was sold in Washington with the T2C logo on the front in a small version over the heart and a large logo on the back. The T-Shirt itself is a light grey 100% quality cotton material. They come in small to XX-large.

To get yours send \$13 for small to X-large, \$15 for XX-large, plus \$1 postage to PO Box 578485, Chicago IL 60657. Help promote the convention, get yours now!



Use Renaissance Travel Services for your convention travel plans and they will donate 2% of their commission to Track 2 Chicago. (708)961-0010



Contact T2C:

US Mail - Tip The Cow, PO Box, 578485, Chicago, IL 60657-8485

E-Mail - messamer@mcs.com

Phone - (312)357-3232

- As of 31 October there are over 400 people registered for T2C. This number is in line with past conventions seven months out.

- Anyone that sent in a registration before 15 October should have received a confirmation letter by now. If not get in touch with T2C.

- Naida Hindert is looking for a roommate for the convention. Call her at (619)296-0550 or write 2120 Madison Ave, San Diego, 92116 if interested.

- What does the non square dancing convention registration pay for?: The banquet, brunch, convention information and paraphernalia. At \$50 this is actually a bargain. There are already 12 such registrations.

- T2C has applied for a special AMTRAK convention rate. Details in the next *ALL ABOARD!*

- T2C has obtained a special discount from United Airlines for air fares to Chicago for the convention. See the next *ALL ABOARD!* to find out how to get this discount..