

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS™

A LESBIAN AND GAY ORGANIZATION

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

As the year comes to a close, I can report that it has been an extremely quiet year. The kind of opposition we faced last year from people with "No IAGSDC" badges has not resurfaced, and it seems that we are gaining acceptance in many events worldwide.

Locally, it seems that the member clubs of the Association are going through a kind of growing pain. Some of our larger clubs are finding it hard to keep their dancers, while some smaller clubs are finding growth quite

unexpectedly. Many of the male dominated clubs are finally having success attracting women members, and a lot of the women dominated clubs are finding ways of reaching out to the men in their communities. So, while some clubs are having troubles at this point in time, other clubs are flourishing and new clubs seem to abound, so the health of the Association at year's end seems quite good.

The status of our trademark remains the same. We await an extremely slow and overworked

Office of Patents and Trademarks to publish our logo in its quarterly and grant final approval to our application. We expect that within the next month or two.

And, so, Randy, John, Darrell and Karl join me in wishing everybody a healthy, safe and prosperous new year and a successful Track 2 Chicago!

Cheers,
Bob Young

REGIONAL RUMBLINGS

by Karl Jaeckel

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 encourage you to let me know of additional Regional Rumblings. From the U.S. you may reach me at (800) 835-6462. From Canada: (303) 778-1937. → 800 LINE GOOD FROM CANADA!

RENEGAYDE SQUARES, AUSTIN, TEXAS

The formation of an Austin group was spearheaded (this summer) by Bill Miller, formerly of the South Florida Mustangs. The group, about one square, meets on Wednesdays at Fifth Street Station (bar). Renegayde Squares is unusual in that most members came to the group with prior square dancing experience. Bill serves as the group's caller/instructor—he looks forward to joining the local Capital Area Callers Association, and he plans to enroll in

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REGIONAL RUMBLINGS

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the 1995 GCA Caller School in Chicago. For information, contact him at (512) 835-6961.

TRAFALGAR SQUARES, LONDON, ENGLAND

As a direct result of Desert Valley Squares' 1994 tour, "Chase the Queen," the Trafalgar Squares have been formed. An outgrowth of their country/western dance Club, The Cactus Club, the square dance club was formed this fall. The Trafalgar Squares was "adopted" by New York's Times Squares as a sister club, who donated to their English counterpart Besty Gotta teach tapes and various audio tapes. Peter Flockhart, an English country and line dance teacher is trying very hard to teach the basic/mainstream programs from these tapes to their 15 members. If you are travelling to London, contact Peter Flockhart at 24 Thorncliffe Ct, Kings Ave, London, England, SW4 8EW, phone 011-44-081- 671-6047. Peter and several of the Trafalgar Square dancers are planning to attend Track 2 Chicago and apply for IAGSDC™ membership.

BOOTS IN SQUARES, PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

Boots in Squares is a small, but determined group of 14 dancers (2 from last year). They meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 and alternate weekends at Four-Square Gospel Church. Vinny Stoppia, formerly of Times Squares, is instructor, and he uses tapes from Art Smith, Times Squares and Paul Waters. Presently, he does not have a sound system with turn table, so can-

not use 45s. He is in particular need of hash for entry-level beginners—can anyone help? For information, contact Art Hennekes at (619) 323-9930 or Mark Rutherford at (619) 327-3482.

* DELETE ART — NOT DANCING IRON CITY SQUARES, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

As yet, there is no organized square dance activity in Pittsburgh, but Christopher Hoffner, a transplant from Chesapeake Squares, is eager to start lessons there next fall, in 1995. Between now and then, he looks forward to attending GCA Caller School in Chicago. For information, contact him at (412) 488-8899.

ST8S " GARDEN ST8 SQUARES, SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY

This fall, Guy Leighton, Jerry Petalas and Pat Push, all of Times Squares, worked together to organize a new group in Central New Jersey. Currently about three squares meet on Sundays at The Den (bar) in New Brunswick. Pat is caller/instructor, with ready assistance from Betsy Gotta. Angels from both Times Squares and Independence Squares have provided regular support. Two-step lessons follow the square dancing, and the mix of activities has worked well, with crossover both directions. For information contact Guy at (908) 493-3920 or Jerry at (908) 214-9395.

SHOW ME SQUARES, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Show Me Squares is now a group of 23 dancers, and boasts a full square of enthusiastic women! The group meets on Sundays at the Westport Roanoke Center, 42nd St, but may move to another location to cut rent costs.

Dancers from the fall class have nearly completed the first 21 teach tapes from Paul Waters—additional tapes will be purchased soon. Show Me Squares danced to "El Paso City" (singing call) at the Kansas City Gay Rodeo, Labor Day, and they have danced twice at Sidekicks (bar). For information, contact Jeff at (816) 779-7239 or Mark at (816) 228-9512. Lets look for Show Me Squares at Track 2 Chicago!

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Square dance lessons, sponsored by Dairyland Cowboys C/W dance organization, are held on Sundays at The Cardinal, a bar. Joe Frazier or Cream City Squares is the instructor and will likely instruct through Mainstream lessons. The group now consists of twelve beginners and four angels — often, there are enough for two squares. Club names are currently being considered. For information, contact Lance Paavola at (608) 256-2147.

REGIONAL INTEREST

The IAGSDC™ knows of individuals who hope to start gay square dancing in other cities, as follows. In Columbus, OH, contact Seth Feinberg at (614) 486-5276. In Indianapolis, IN, contact Dick Jacobsen at (317) 251-9719. In St. Louis, MO, contact Jerry Schmieg at (314) 772-1067. In London, Ontario, Canada, contact Kevin Cassidy at (519) 434-2613. In Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, contact Larry White at (613) 738-2078. We also know that Stuart Mauchline of Lismore Scooters hopes to start a group in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. If anyone knows of individuals with interest elsewhere, please phone the IAGSDC™ 800-line at (800) 835-6462. ■

● SAMPLE CLUB BADGES NEEDED (REWRITE)

The IAGSDC™, with the again tireless efforts of Karl Jaeckel and Darrell Ertzberger, is collecting sample member club badges to be used in future Association displays. One possibility is to place the badges on large maps of the US, Canada, and Australia where the club locations are identified by stick pins. Lines or string will connect the pins to the appropriate badge. Such a display will give an impressive visual image of the geographic spread of our association. It could be very useful at several square dance conventions or festival, including the IAGSDC's own.

Several years ago someone had started a collection of sample name badges from all clubs. Unfortunately, the collection is lost. No one seems to know who started it, nor where it is now. It may have been on display at Northstar Promenade, Vancouver, 1990. If anyone knows any information about this collection, please contact the Association.

Since this earlier collection cannot be located, a new collection has been started. It already contains sample badges from all clubs that use R&J Fial as the source of their badges. R&J Fial donated these badges for a square dance display in Washington, DC, during last July's convention in the front window of Lambda Rising, the local bookstore on Connecticut Avenue. The Association now has these badges. They are Capital City Squares, Diablo Dancers, Gay Callers Association, Golden State Squares, Grand Rive Squares, Independence Squares, Prime 8s, Rainbow

Wranglers, South Florida Mustangs, Times Squares, Tinseltown Squares, and Western Star Dancers.

Now, we need sample badges for everyone else. For this purpose, any name on the badge will suffice. Perhaps there is badge unclaimed from a former graduation, or one from an ex-member. In order that the display can be completed for 1995, please send your club's sample badge by March 31, 1995 to IAGSDC, P.O. Box 15428, Crystal City VA 22215-0428. Again, if R&J Fial makes your club badge, we already have a sample. ■

Shorts

To JOIN, OR NOT TO JOIN?

At the board meeting in Washington DC, delegates passed a resolution asking member clubs to address the issue of joining their local (albeit straight) square dance associations. The intent of the action was primarily two-fold: 1) to determine if we as gay clubs may be allowed to join (and if not, why not?), and 2) to learn what benefits, especially cost benefits, may be had by joining.

Via our internet mail and other sources, Paul Waters reports the following results as of November 22, 1994:

- Carnival Twirlers - Santa Clara Valley Square Dance Association (4-5 years)
- Chesapeake Squares - Washington Area Square Dancers Cooperative Association
- Cleveland City Country Dancers - Yes
- DC Lambda Squares - Washington Area Square Dancers Cooperative Association (for 10 years)
- Desert Valley Squares - Yes
- Finest City Squares - Yes
- Royalty Squares - Western Square Dance Association
- Squares Across the Border - Yes
- Tinseltown Squares - Western Square Dance Association
- Rocket City Rainbow Squares -

- Alabama Square and Round Dance Association
- Capitol City Squares - Pursuing ^{YES}
- El Camino Reelers - Pursuing
- High Desert Stars - No
- Mountain Laurel Squares - No
- (do not meet membership criteria in terms of the number of dances sponsored each year)
- Rocky Mountain Rainbows ^{EAUS} - No
- Times Squares - No
- Wilde Bunch - No

The IAGSDCTM officers would like to hear from *all* clubs. At some time prior to the annual delegates meeting, we will summarize and distribute our findings. To the club delegates we pose the following questions: Overall, what we would like to know is:

1) Has your club joined (or does your club plan to join) a local square dance association? If yes, does membership include club insurance? If no, does your club carry insurance anyway?

2) If your club does not plan to join a local square dance association, how did your club arrive at that decision? (If your club decided against applying for membership, what were the reasons? If your club applied for membership, but were denied, what were the reasons given? Has a follow-up action been considered?)

Please respond by phoning Karl at the 800-line, or Paul Waters by e-mail at paulh2os@kaiwan.com.

SQUAREUP! OFFERS NEW PERSPECTIVE

Congratulations are due Mike Staples and staff of *BlueLine Publications* on the release of

their first issue of *Squareup!* magazine. The magazine, to be published quarterly, will focus on issues and events of relevance to the gay and lesbian square dance community. Issue #1, September, 1994, includes a review of *Stars and Squares Forever*, an interview with Anne Uebelacker, a candid summary of issues facing the IAGSDCTM, and a look-ahead to 1995 and 1996 IAGSDCTM conventions. Mike is now building an archive of photographs (on CD-ROM) for use in future issues of the magazine, and could use your assistance. If you have good photographs from recent fly-ins or conventions (especially good people pictures) and are willing to lend your negatives, contact him at (505) 242-7658. And of course, he will gladly provide *Squareup!* subscription information.

IAGSDCTM BYLAWS REVISED

Randy Clarke, IAGSDCTM Vice Chair, has agreed to head an effort to update association bylaws. The last revision to the bylaws was in 1991, by Scott Carey of Western Star Dancers. Randy will oversee that bylaw changes made at IAGSDCTM board meetings since 1991 are now incorporated.

FIRST AMBASSADORS TO AUSTRALIA

In November, Ett McAtee and Linda Kendall, Chesapeake Squares, traveled to Australia to visit family, and arranged to dance

with Lismore Scooters while there. In the spirit of true ambassadorship, they took along the IAGSDCTM banner (the West Coast banner), and hearty greetings and well-wishes from the clubs in America. In addition, they took a miniature version of their own Chesapeake Squares club banner to leave with the Australians. [Ett called a dance for the group, but at time of printing a follow-up report is not available.] NOTE, PRINTING DELAYED 3 MONTHS; REPORT COULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED!

MEMORIAL PROJECT FOR SQUARE DANCERS

At *Stars and Squares Forever*, Freeman Stamper of Western Star Dancers unveiled a new project whereby deceased members of our square dance community may be remembered. At convention, he displayed a large canvas panel painted with interlocking squares and invited family and friends of deceased square dancers to pin-on club name badges of those who have died. The panel will be on display at *Track 2 Chicago*, and badges may again be affixed. For more information about the project, contact Freeman at (415) 550-8056.

TAHOE TALLY HO! OFFERS REBATE

Stanford Sierra Camp along Fallen Leaf Lake near South Lake Tahoe provided a scenic milieu for the 5th gay Advanced and

Challenge weekend in early October. Just prior to *Tally Ho!*, a major winter snow storm threatened the weekend, but in the end clear skies and warmer temperatures prevailed. A total of 140 dancers delighted in the calling of five top-notch staff callers, and all reveled in the usual fly-in camaraderie. Following the weekend, organizers determined that the registration fees collected significantly exceeded expenses, and so returned to each registrant a check for \$36. For those 140, sweet memories of *Tahoe Tally Ho!* became even sweeter!

CLUB PHOTOS MAKE THE ROUNDS

In the months since *Remake the Circle*, IAGSDCTM's 10th convention, Karl Jaeckel, as IAGSDCTM Executive Administrator, has routed the association club photo album to 21 dance events, as shown. Currently the album contains photos of all clubs taken at *Remake the Circle* and *Stars and Squares Forever*. In 1995 he hopes to circulate the album to clubs that have not yet received it.

8/93 Capital City Sqs dance,

Sacramento

9/93 Crossfire, Chicago

10/93 Change Lanes, Portland

10/93 Chase the Chili, Albuquerque

10/93 Peel the Pumpkin, New York

1/94 Independence Sqs dance,

Philadelphia

2/94 Rainbeaus 10th Anniversary,

Denver

2/94 Horse Fly-Inn, Los Angeles

4/94 Pass the Sea -94, San Diego

4/94 Capital City Sqs retreat,

Guerneville

5/94 Ropin' the River, Grand Rapids

05/94 Scoot Across the Border,

Toronto

6/94 Natl A&C Convention, Virginia Beach

7/94 Stars and Sqs Forever, Wash DC

8/94 American A&C Convention,

Toledo

9/94 Crossfire, Chicago

10/94 Chase the Chili, Albuquerque

10/94 Tahoe Tally Ho!, Lake Tahoe

10/94 Chase Right -94, Las Vegas

10/94 Finest City Squares, San Diego

10/94 Peel the Pumpkin, New York

ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES

Karl Jaeckel, again as IAGSDCTM Executive Administrator, maintains a set of archive albums (5 3-inch 3-ring binders) as an unofficial record of the development of the IAGSDCTM. Included are minutes from all board meetings, all bylaws revisions, club photos from past conventions, association newsletters, a record of past association projects, copies of IAGSDCTM advertising, and correspondence among the officers and others. Please consider forwarding any materials appropriate for inclusion to him.

PLANS SET FOR CALLER SCHOOL

The Gay Callers Association has announced that caller/coaches for the 1995 Caller School will be Sandra Bryant, Lin Jarvis and Anne Uebelacker. The

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SHORTS

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School will be held at the Hyatt Regency (Track 2 Chicago host hotel) May 22 through 25, 1995, just prior to convention. School fee is \$130 through February 28. For an application, or for further information, contact School coordinator John Oldfield at (312) 769-6185.

CALENDAR UPDATES —NEW ADDRESS

Please note that James Ozanich, coordinator for the IAGSDCTM Event Calendar, has recently moved within Sacramento. Calendar updates should now be forwarded to him at his new address: 1815 Urbana Way, Sacramento CA 95833-2646. His phone number remains the same, (916) 925-4242. Calendar updates may also be forwarded to him at his e-mail address: 0004120870@mcimail.com.

DESERT VALLEY SQUARES OFF TO HOLLAND

Desert Valley Squares, on the heels of their successful *Chase the Queen* trip to London, England, has announced a square dance trip to Amsterdam, Holland. *Spin the Windmill* will be held from March 30–April 6, 1995. Organizers are currently contacting gay/lesbian community leaders to

ascertain the possibility of arranging demonstration squares in an effort to gain interest in forming a square dance club in Amsterdam. Also planned will be an additional side-trip to London to visit the Trafalgar Squares, if possible.

To begin the promotion of this exciting trip, Desert Valley Squares has subsidized the mailing of this newsletter in exchange for the inclusion of their enclosed flyer. For further information, contact John Faulds at (800) 743-3550.

IAGSDCTM PHONE REPORT

By Karl Jaeckel

I've made a conscientious effort through the summer and fall to minimize IAGSDCTM phone use, both of incoming and outgoing calls. As a result, I am glad to report that our phone bill for the four-month period July through October, 1994 is approximately half of the bill for the same period in 1993. The breakdown of calls by purpose code for the two years is as follows:

Purpose code, incoming calls	PERIOD JULY 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 12	
	1993	1994
B: Send Brochure	36	54
H: Hang Up	28	41
I: Internal IAGSDCTM	141	94
P: Prank/Harassment	36	10
Q: Asks Questions (Legitimate interest, but does not request brochure)	8	13
W: Wrong Number	9	10
Z: Unsolicited Business	8	18
Outgoing calls	267	94
Total phone calls for period	533	334

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

1) As a result of the use of the 800 line in advertising in Kansas → City, Show Me Squares has gained at least four members.

2) For those who are unaware, I maintain a *Phone Log*, a kind of journal, of all calls to and from the IAGSDCTM 800-line. Again in 1995, the *Log* will be available for review at the IAGSDCTM board meeting.

3) One of my next projects is to determine the number of calls made on behalf of the Gay Callers Association (GCA). I will include my findings in the next Phone Report.

I am glad to provide an effective phone service for the association, and will continue to respond promptly to requests for information.