



**I.A.G.S.D.C. CONVENTION 1995**  
**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

**HOSTED BY THE CHI-TOWN SQUARES**  
**HYATT REGENCY HOTEL**  
**MAY 26-28**

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SAN FRANCISCO 1996



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THE TWELFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS  
A LESBIAN AND GAY ORGANIZATION

THE HYATT REGENCY HOTEL  
CHICAGO, IL  
MAY 26-28, 1995

#### FEATURED CALLERS

SAUNDRA BRYANT • CLARK BAKER • ANNE UEBELACKER  
LINDLE JARVIS • DAVE WILSON • SWERSIE NORRIS  
TODD FELLEGY • MIKE DESISTO • BEN RUBRIGHT  
LLOYD "SPARKY" SPARKS • DON & DOUG SPROSTY



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY  
MAYOR

May 26, 1995

GREETINGS

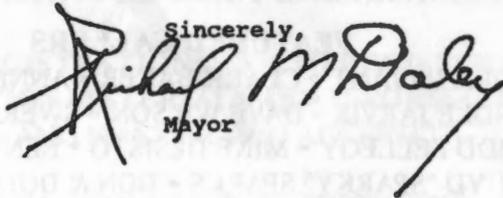
As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it gives me great pleasure to welcome the members, sponsors and guests of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs on the occasion of their 12th Annual Convention, *Track 2 Chicago*.

I want to offer special congratulations to the Chi-Town Squares. For five years they have devoted considerable time and effort preparing for this gala event. In addition, they have played an active role in community events such as the annual Pride Parade and have raised funds for the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and numerous AIDS agencies.

While you are here, I hope that you will take time to discover all that makes Chicago a favorite destination for visitors from around the world. I know that you will like what you find--from our great architecture to our beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline, from our exciting nightlife with its fine restaurants, clubs and theaters to our many world-renowned cultural institutions, excellent shopping and ethnically diverse neighborhoods.

Best wishes for an enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor

International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs, Inc.  
A Lesbian and Gay Organization

1994-95 Board of Directors

Bob Young  
Chairperson

Randy Clarke  
Vice Chairperson

John Faude  
Secretary

Darrell Ertzbarger  
Treasurer

May 1995

Dear Square Dancers and Family:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs, I welcome you to Track II Chicago, the 12th annual convention of the Association.

We have come a long way since the first conventions, and each of you is an important part of our Family. Whether this is your 12th convention or your first, you are an integral part of the Association and vital to our future.

Each year that goes by, we welcome more dubs into the Association. This year, more than ever, some of our clubs have seen a decline in class participation. This, I believe, is a part of the burnout factor of the volunteers in each member club. As often happens in any organization, so much of the work is done by just the same few volunteers. Twelve years can take its toll on those people.

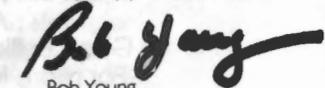
As I have said, however, each of you is a part of the Family, no matter what level you dance or how long you have been dancing. If you are new, get active in your club. Get active in the Association. You are our lifeblood.

AND, don't think that it's all about doing the "big" work. While we need leaders, every effort is worthwhile. Even if you ask one or two friends to your club's new class, you become an active part of the recruitment committee (as well as helping a friend find a new hobby full of wonderful, warm friends!).

So, my dear friends, enjoy your weekend, and please feel free to participate in all of the wonderful activities which have been planned by the hardworking members of the Track II Chicago convention committee.

And remember -- PLAY SAFE!

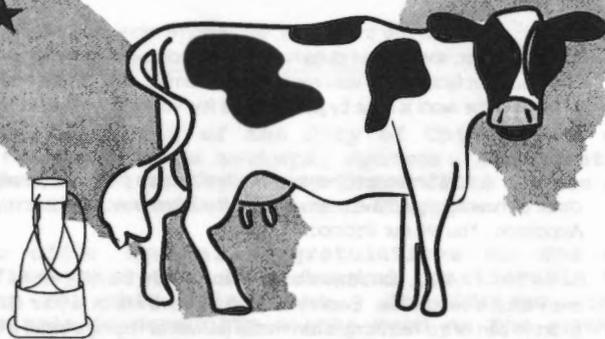
Very truly yours,



Bob Young  
IAGSDC<sup>19</sup> Chair, 1994-96

# Best Wishes!

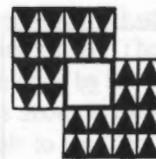
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CHI-TOWN  
SQUARES



**TIP THE COW INC.**

## Welcome to Track 2 Chicago!

Chi-Town Squares and Tip the Cow, Inc. are pleased to be hosting the twelfth annual International Association of Gay Squares Dance Clubs (IAGSDC) Convention.

We want to thank each of you who are participating in this extravaganza: the culmination of five years of planning and preparation. We hope that all of you enjoy your time at the convention; without your presence, there would not be much of an event.

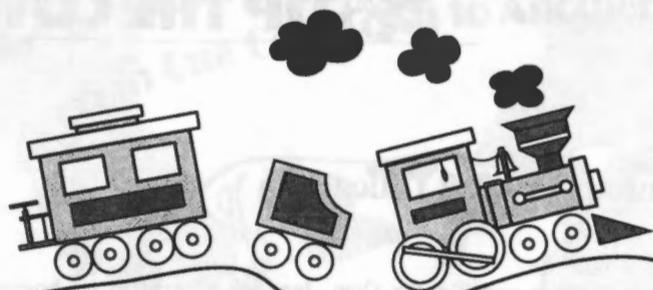
Also, we would like to thank everyone who helped make this weekend possible.

Please enjoy your stay in the "Windy City". We hope the time you spend with us is pleasant and memorable!

Steven Miller  
President  
Chi-Town Squares

David Honegger  
President  
Tip the Cow, Inc.

## DON'T THROW MAMA JO FROM THE TRAIN!



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# WELCOME TO CHICAGO

This is it—the weekend the members of Chi-Town Squares have been anticipating for over three years! Hosting an IAGSDC convention right here in middle America makes us all very proud. The ability to host this convention is the accumulation of work that has been done by the club since its formation. We have learned so much as a group over the years about dancing, socializing and promoting square dancing. We take pride in being able to put together the ultimate lesbian and gay square dancing event and become an IAGSDC convention city. Thanks for trusting us to get the job done right.

The club got its start back in 1987 when two square dancers (one from Washington DC and one from Seattle) decided the Chicago gay community needed to learn to do-sa-do. Since then it has grown to become a strong stable element here in the fourth largest gay community in North America. With a beginning class of about thirty, the club has grown to over eighty members and forty-six students this year. Other aspects of the club have grown as well. The club's level of dancing continually moves up. Basic through Advanced classes are offered each year. Members have even learned Challenge level dancing on their own. For the first time, this year Chi-Town was represented at the annual A&C fly-in. The club has reached out to the straight square dance community too, as many members dance regularly with a club in the suburbs.

Other projects have helped the club to grow both socially and as a member of the community. For the past six years Chi-Town has sponsored the Great Chicago Crossfire, our annual Labor Day weekend fly-in. This weekend has been very successful since its origin and lots of fun for all that attend. Over the past four years a basket auction has raised money for community concerns. The club promotes square dancing with exhibition dancing every year, too. In 1992 the club formally decided to take on its biggest project ever, the 1995 IAGSDC convention. This was not an easy decision but one most felt the club was ready for and that it was time to become a convention city.

This weekend is the biggest milestone in Chi-Town history to date and the club hopes the future will bring many more. We wish all the member clubs success in their endeavors in the coming year. We also hope that the IAGSDC will continue to grow so more and more people can experience the joy we all share in square dancing. Enjoy your stay in our great city. Thanks so much for being a part of Track 2 Chicago.



## Staff Callers for Track 2 Chicago

We're proud to have an exceptional staff of callers for the convention: from east, west, north, south, and midwest. Some have called for the gay square dance community for many years; for some this will be their first IAGSDC convention. We welcome them all and know that you will find dancing to them an exciting and unforgettable experience.



**Sandra Bryant**

Sandra (or Sandie, as she is affectionately called) has been behind the square dance microphone since 1979, but her introduction to square dancing came almost twenty years earlier. In 1960, Sandie was inducted into the Hashers Jrs. by her Girl Scout leader and close family friend, Swersie Norris. Five years later the group broke up as the children pursued their educations. In 1978 Sandie returned to square dancing, and within a year was dancing C1 at the National Convention in Milwaukee. When she returned home from that convention, she informed Swersie that she wanted to learn to call. Under Swersie's tutelage, Sandie worked on her calling skills. In 1980 she attended her first CallerLab in Kansas City, and called at various local festivals before calling at her first National in Detroit in 1982. Her pursuit

of calling did not diminish her desire to dance, and she joined Bill Heimann's tape workshop, and to this day still dances one night a week with that group. Sandie met her husband Albert in 1985 through square dancing, and two years later they were married. In 1992 their daughter Alexandra Jeannae was born. Her maternity leave ended with her first European assignment in Stockholm. Sandie is currently an associate staff member of the National Advanced and Challenge Convention, and has been on staff at the American Advanced and Challenge Convention, and various festivals and conventions. She has been on several television shows, including the Phil Donahue Show, and been interviewed by the Chicago Tribune and other newspapers. (Excerpted from "Unsung Heroes", Zip Coder Magazine)



**Clark Baker**

Clark lives in Belmont, MA with his wife Miriam and daughters Eva (12) and Laura (6). Both he and Miriam started dancing in 1974 at MIT's Tech Squares. His background in computer science and interest in "computerizing" everything have led his calling career in a unique direction. In 1976, for his undergraduate thesis, Clark wrote a computer program to generate "smooth, flowing, danceable" Plus and Advanced material. In 1978 he wrote The Challenge Square Dance Handbook which described concepts and formations in greater detail than previous dictionaries. He started calling in 1977 and in the mid-80's developed a computer program to assist in writing choreography. Currently he calls a local C3 group and a handful of challenge weekends, and dances Plus through C4. Clark has been an active member of CallerLab since 1980 and is presently the Quarterly Selection Coordinator and chairman of the Definitions Sub-committee. His choreographic reputation is for problem solving, technical accuracy, and testing the dancer's knowledge of the basics.



**Anne Uebelacker**

Anne started calling in 1977 for a children's group, and has since progressed to calling for all dancing levels from Basic to C4. A strong home program for Squares Across the Border, Monday through Friday, is complemented by an equally busy traveling schedule on the weekends that may find her anywhere from Seattle to Florida, Boston to San Francisco, and across the miles to Japan and Germany. Some of the highlights and achievements she is proud of are her calling assignments at the Canadian Challenge Convention, the National Advanced and Challenge Convention, the American Advanced and Challenge Convention, and having been on the staff of all the IAGSDC conventions since Phoenix. Anne's relaxed style and easy-to-listen-to voice has won her many square dance friends at all dancing levels all over the world. Anne resides in Burnaby, British Columbia, with her eight year old son Todd, and her life-partner J-Gail Stewart. It is an honor for her to be on the calling staff of Track 2 Chicago.





### Lindle Jarvis

Lindle has been teaching and calling square dances in the Chicago area for over 25 years. Lin (as he is called by many dancers) is a member of CallerLab and has called regularly for Chi-Town Squares, North Shore Squares, Jack of Clubs, and Magic Squares, and has had clubs at the Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, and Challenge 1 levels. Lin has taught over 40 sets of lessons from beginners through C1. He has worked extensively with the mentally and physically handicapped, teaching and calling square dances, and has taught and called for blind, deaf, and wheel-chair dancers. He is on the staff of the Gay Callers Association caller school this year. He and his wife Barbara have been strong supporters of Chi-Town Squares. Lin, who recently retired as a school teacher, has a Master's degree in Recreation and Physical Education, is the author of a book, and has had research published in Research Quarterly, the most prestigious journal in his field of Health, Physical Education, Dance, and Recreation. He has recorded square dance music, done professional commercials both on TV and radio, and been

a guest lecturer at Northwestern University. He has appeared on several TV and radio programs. Lin appeared as a principal in 1994 with Lyric Opera of Chicago, choreographing and calling the square dance scene for the opera Susannah with international opera stars Renee Fleming and Samuel Ramey. Could this be the highlight of his calling career, or is that yet to come?



### Dave Wilson

Dave started calling in 1969. He moved to Florida in 1982 where he is presently running a full program of dances, classes, and workshops. Dave travels extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Sweden, Germany, and England. He has been on staff at the National, American, Canadian, and Southern Advanced and Challenge conventions. Although technical accuracy in square dancing is of primary importance to Dave, he is also at home in the recording studio which becomes quite evident at major festivals throughout the year.



### Swersie Norris

Swersie has been involved with Square Dancing for over 45 years. She was the first Black female caller to be admitted into CallerLab. She is also a member of the American Callers Association. Swersie has called in many states across the country, and conducted many workshops at various state and national Square Dance conventions over the past 40 years. Swersie calls for several groups in the Chicago area including Diamond Squares and Chi-Horseshoe Squares. Her own groups include Swercee's Squares (Mainstream/Plus), SAC's (Advanced), and Friendly Squares, and exhibition group. She and her groups have appeared on the Phil Donahue Show, Common Ground, and Good Morning America. Swersie is on the staff of the Heartland weekend. She has called at Crossfire, the Chi-Town Squares fly-in, which was truly enjoyable. Swersie calls all levels from beginners to Challenge 3, to dancers who range in age from teens to senior citizens. Swersie has three daughters, three

grandsons, and a wonderful husband who encourage her in her efforts to try to be the best!



### Todd Fellegly

Todd started dancing at the age of 8 in 1969 and started calling when he was 13. After graduating from Quinnipiac college with a BS in Accounting he started calling full time. He was born and raised in Meriden, Connecticut where he currently resides. Todd calls Mainstream through C4. He has a strong home program and has called in 18 states, Canada, and Sweden. He is currently an Associate Staff Caller for the National Advanced and Challenge Convention. He has called for the Montreal Convention, Delaware Valley Festival, American Advanced and Challenge Convention, Texas Challenge Convention, and other weekends. He is looking forward to calling for the IAGSDC conventions this year and next year. Through his travels, Todd has enjoyed the many friends he has made in the square dance activity.





### Mike DeSisto

Mike DeSisto has been calling square dances for about 35 years, and this is his 9th IAGSDC convention. He calls throughout the USA and Europe. Mike has an enthusiastic nature on stage which makes for an interesting and entertaining dancing experience. He is known for his "what you see is what you get" attitude on and off stage. Mike has a reputation for his fun style of calling and his consistent and genuine personality.



### Ben Rubright

Ben graduated from beginner lessons in Endicott, NY in the spring of 1977, attended the Jack Lasry and Ron Schneider caller school in Harmony, PA

in the summer of 1978, and began calling on a weekly basis in the fall of 1978. After moving to Charlotte, NC in 1979, he offered classes at the Plus, Advanced, and Challenge levels.

Ben travels extensively throughout the US and has been on the staff of many major festivals including the Southern Challenge, the National A & C, the American A & C, the Canadian Challenge, the Atlanta Extravaganza, the PACE Spectacular and Extravaganza, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo, the WASCA Festival, NTA (C4 weekend with Vic Deder), and the Berkshires (C4 weekend with Lynette Bellini). Ben was on the staff of Copecrest Square Dance Resort for 12 years, since moving to California has been asked to join the staff of McCloud Dance Country.

1992 marked his first opportunity to call in Sweden, and he has twice called in Japan since then, and he is scheduled to call in Germany this fall.

Ben has authored four pocket references for dance programs at the Advanced and Challenge levels.

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### Lloyd "Sparky" Sparks

Lloyd and his wife Barbara live outside Louisville, KY. Sparky has been on staff at the American Advanced and Challenge Convention and co-sponsors the Heartland Jubilee in November each year. The Heartland is Sparky's pride and joy with emphasis on fun and a good dance level.

Nothing supersedes Sparky's love of square dancing and the delight he experiences when he can help a dancers open their minds to the wonders of different formations. Sparky feels that each dance should be fun, but that callers should try to extend the knowledge of the dancers each time they call. So if you are attending a dance and you hear "Do it from where?" or "I didn't know you could do that call from those places!", you can be the caller would be Sparky.



### Don & Doug Sprosty

Don & Doug, twin brothers from Davenport, Iowa, began calling in 1972 at the age of 12. They currently travel extensively calling dances throughout the Midwest, concentrating mainly in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. They are also callers and instructors for three clubs in their home area. In addition Doug cues and teaches round dances and line dances. They have been members of CallerLab since 1981, and are members and past officers of the Quint Cities Square and Round Dance Callers Association.

Don and Doug have called for 23 consecutive Iowa State Square Dance Conventions, 23 consecutive National Square Dance Conventions, and numerous other conventions and festivals



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throughout the US and Canada. They are staff members and recording artists for the Solid Gold Square Dance Record Company in Burlington, IA.

They have been featured callers for Chi-Town Squares' Crossfire Fly-In for the past 5 years and called for other Chi-Town events. Doug is a member of Chi-Town Squares and enjoys dancing with the group when time permits, even though it is a 7 hour round trip.

Don and his wife Roberta reside in Davenport where he is accountant for a country club and she is a bank teller. Doug also lives in Davenport and works in the accounting department of a local pharmacy. Doug is also the editor of the Square Dance Caller Magazine, and eastern Iowa / western Illinois newsletter of square dance happenings.

Don and Doug are honored to be calling at their first IAGSDC convention.

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# IAGSDC™ CLUB ROLL CALL

## Alamo City Wranglers

The Alamo City Wranglers from San Antonio is the first, and thus far, the only gay square dance club in Texas. The club was founded as a result of a weekend in June 1990, when dancers from IAGSDC clubs in Baltimore, Albuquerque, Portland, Seattle and Denver joined a few San Antonio dancers in doing bar demonstrations and holding an open house. Caller for the weekend was Bill Eyler, who donated his services. In the months following that weekend, Cricket Matheson, Harland Jylha, and Dave Vanderhoof became founders of the new club.

ACW has graduated Mainstream and Plus classes. The club was represented at the Miami, Albuquerque, Seattle and Washington DC conventions. Because of our geographical isolation, our nearest neighbor club is Albuquerque's The Wilde Bunch, a 12- to 15-hour drive away. The highlight of our year is our Pass The Alamo fly-in, which always takes place on the last weekend of March, and gives us a chance to meet and dance with members of other clubs.

For more information, write to: PO Box 4866, San Antonio TX 78280-4866.

## Boots in Squares

In early September 1993, a square dance group was formed in Palm Springs, California. There were 24 dancers initially and they met weekly to learn the Basic and Mainstream movements of square dancing. Although interest waned, a core group continued to meet, named

the club "Boots in Squares" and planned for a dancing demonstration at the festivities associated with Gay Pride weekend. Paul Waters came from Los Angeles to call for the group and a table was set up to promote square dancing to those attending. In September 1994, the club met to start a new season. Current membership is 12 and under the competent tutelage of Vinny Stoppia, the group is thriving and planning for the future. An enjoyable Christmas party was held at the home of Johann Dawson and Mark Rutherford with a live caller in attendance. A Valentine's party was held with Paul Waters acting as caller. The club is looking forward to our graduation in May 1995.

## Cadillac Squares

Cadillac Squares were assembled one deep, dark and dingy night out of the feverish mind of Will Austin who had run out of rodeos to attend and had decided to move back to Michigan to buy a new pink Cadillac. He made the mistake of "soliciting" Gail Oliver's help in this endeavor and on June 11, 1992 history was made. We have struggled to keep the original nucleus group together, and on May 6, 1993 we graduated our first Beginner/Mainstream class of eight, including one transient from Grand Rapids (Patrick Aymar). The founding members of the club and participants in the first class include Will Austin (President), Gail Oliver (Secretary), Mark Perry (Treasurer), Victor Chrostowski (caller for our new beginner class), Dennis Hull (teddy bear enthusiast), Jay Steffka (energizer and

showman) and last, but most assuredly not least, John Thomason (barman extraordinaire). For more information, write to: PO Box 40051, Redford MI 48240-0051.

## Capital City Squares

Capital City Squares was originally organized in 1981 by a group wishing to learn a few set dances. Capital City Squares (CCS) quickly evolved into a club teaching Basic and Mainstream level square dancing. By 1986, the club expanded to include Plus level. CCS has appeared many times at the annual Lambda Freedom Fair and the Rainbow Festivals in Sacramento. 1995 will be remembered as the year that CCS joined the local square dance association and was welcomed enthusiastically. Through the Associated Square Dancers of Superior California we have participated in, and this year hope to sponsor, a night of square dancing at the California State Fair in August. CCS is also proud to be a founding member is the IAGSDC. April 1995 marked our sixth year in Guerneville, on the Russian River. The recent flooding in the area only added to the excitement of the weekend. Of course, callers Sandra Bryant and Paul Waters didn't leave us high and dry either. 50 some dancers keep the excitement high and the dancing fast and furious. Diversity within the club has given us talent and drive; ever expanding activities have given us plenty to do. Capital City Squares is also represented on the 1996 IAGSDC Convention Committee: Stars, Thars and Cable Cars. For more information, call George Fox (916) 929-8697 or send email to James Ozanich, 4120870@mcimail.com.

## Charlie's Sunburst Squares

Charlie's Sunburst Squares came to be in February of 1987. The original members were all a part of the Midnite Ramblers performance team directed by the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association. The break from the rodeo was amicable, just the dancers wanting to have their own identity. We have continued on to support the AGRA, dancing at rodeos, benefits, and volunteering time in many other capacities. The original club name was just Sunburst Squares, we decided to add "Charlie's" to the front of it in the spring of 1993 in appreciation for all the support they have demonstrated for our club. Over the past years we have travelled as a club to participate and perform at rodeos, conventions, pride festivals, benefits across the country from Chicago to San Diego, Houston to Seattle. For more information, write to 727 W. Camelback Rd, Phoenix AZ 85013.

## Carnival Twirlers

Carnival Twirlers was started in 1988 in San Jose, California by Jill Marci who is still the club caller. Originally started as a club for newer dancers, the club currently dances to A-2. We are the first bi-dansual club to join our local square dance association, so each year at their Jubilee our banner is proudly displayed with the banners of all the other local clubs. Our club has a mix of non-gay and gay/lesbian dancers. It is a fun, non-stressful dancing space. Our caller runs a local callers school and each year takes some of the shining students, many of who are now GCA callers, to co-teach the advanced workshops. For more information, write: PO Box 2519, Santa Clara CA 95055-2519.



## Chesapeake Squares

In 1986, Maury Blum, then the president of the DC Lambda Squares, set two goals for his club: first was to help sponsor a club in Baltimore and second, to have Washington, DC host an IAGSDC convention.

Under Maury's shepherding (along with the generous support of the Lambda Squares), the "crabs" emerged from the Chesapeake Bay to square up. Today, we dance Mainstream through Advanced on our club nights.

Two squares from the first graduating class were the foundation on which we build a club of approximately sixty enthusiastic members. As a member from that very first class in 1987, Ett McAtee has gone on to become our very own—and, we think, first-rate—Plus and Advanced instructor, and occasionally calls for our club night.

Doug Barnett, who called our first dance back in 1986, continues the tradition of excellent instruction by teaching our Basic and Mainstream classes. Our club caller, Pete Diven, is known for his stimulating and fun calling style. Pass The Ocean, Hon!, our annual spring fly-in held in Rehoboth, DE, has become a popular event.

Having helped to fulfill Maury's other dream by being at the IAGSDC convention in DC last year, we come to Chicago with a new dream to help establish clubs in Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, PA. Perhaps they too will one day be attending a convention...perhaps in Baltimore!

## Chinook City Dancers

Chinook City Dancers started in February 1991. It began with a very successful workshop weekend with Anne Uebelacker calling. That year we were lucky enough to have five squares of beginners. Our numbers dwindled for a while, but finally started to pick up again. We dance weekly at Trax, a local bar, as this helps us to keep the cost down. We have had the same straight couple (Jerry and Joan) calling for us since we started. Membership is about 26. We do have several straight ladies who come out to angel for us. The regular square dance community isn't sure how to take us but we persist and continue to take part in the jamborees. For more information, write: Gaylines, 223 12th Ave. SW, Calgary AB,

## Cleveland City Country Dancers

Early in the summer of 1987, Ed Schellhaus, who had returned to his native Cleveland after spending several years in Denver dancing with the Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus, wanted to dance so badly that he decided to try getting a few people together to teach them square dancing. His hope was to get them far enough along to dance at the Plus level while having some fun himself. For the next three years Ed and a small group of dancers tried valiantly to get out of Basic. (Not an easy task when the same eight dancers never showed up two weeks in a row.) Many a night some unsuspecting person of questionable sobriety got hauled in off the street to make seven in the square and Ed would be eight. (A few of those people even stuck around for a while.) A local bar let us dance there for

free and even provided pizza for the dancers. We were having a great time, but just couldn't convince other Clevelanders to give it a try. "Try Something New" became our motto. We danced everywhere we could get invited, hoping the exposure would eventually pay off in more members and by the fourth year, it did. In October 1990 we held our first fly-in, Load the Boat, and even had a few dancers who had finished Plus. The club has survived a broken nose, several noses out of joint, a four month hiatus while one of our early members got taken to court for harassing one of our other members, and all of the politics that come with growing pains and a club on the move. We graduated our second Advanced class in 1994, and have about 4 dozen dues-paid members. We also have as part of our club the Rainbow Wranglers, a C/W and line dance group that is very active in the community, offering free lessons and dancing at least one night a week. We have a reputation for being a very friendly bunch. Please come to visit us any time you're in the area. We dance Basic through Plus on Wednesdays, and Advanced on Mondays. For more information, write: PO Box 5592, Cleveland OH 44101.

## Cotton Pickin' Squares

Cotton Pickin' Squares were formed in September of 1991. Our senior-most founding member and former club president is an old square dance fart, Bill Scott. Bill had been dancing for many years when fate and AT&T brought him to Memphis. After he had invited a few of us to attend the Miami convention in '91 and that taste of square dance atmosphere, we were on a mission. Memphis needed

square dancing! Yes, the river city needed it bad! Because of Bill's strong commitment to bring square dance to our fair city (and the fact that he can be quite bullheaded), we now have a well established and flourishing club. Since our inception, we have graduated classes, performed at fundraising events, elevated the local awareness of alternative social activities (people thought we were crazy at first), and we have had one hell of a good time.

## Cream City Squares

The Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays presented "Cream City Brick Awards" in February 1995. Two organizations whose efforts establish or promote the les/bi/gay community in a positive fashion were awarded recognition. Our square dance club was chosen for a certificate of merit. It was quite an honor, since the other group was a health clinic that has been around since the 1970's. Cream City Squares won because we are OUT in both the les/bi/gay community and the larger community as well. We have been to Wisconsin state square dance conventions and have found the experience enriches us and others. The first time we attended a Wisconsin convention people were surprised to see a les/bi/gay group. They enjoyed the gay styling, and saw that we didn't break down on difficult calls; we were accepted. People asked if they could dance with us. They wanted to see us again at the next convention. While we had no confrontation, we heard second hand that the convention interfaith service's preacher spoke on the evils of homosexuality. Several people walked out of the service and others protested to the



convention committee about the service. They canceled the service the following year, and we were greeted with more acceptance the second year we attended. We hope this year will go as well or better than in the past. Cream City squares decided to list our club in the 1995 National Square Dance Directory, as a gay club. We think it is in the best interests of everybody to retain our identity as well as be integrated in the larger community. Joe Frazier started a les/bi/gay square dance class in September of 1991. We chose the name Cream City Squares and square danced on Queer TV, before the club had even finished the mainstream lessons. The Cream City Squares became a member of IAGSDC July of 1992.

### Dairyland Rainbow Squares

Dairyland Rainbow Squares is brand new, formed this spring as an outgrowth of the Madison country dancing group Dairyland Cowboys/Cowgirls, who themselves are just a year old. Joe Frazier has been coming all the way from Waukesha every Sunday to teach us and sharpen our wits, with "angels" from Milwaukee's Cream City Squares and from Madison helping out. Ricardo Gonzalez has generously opened up the Cardinal Bar Sunday afternoons for lessons and practice. We've finished Mainstream just in time to join the IAGSDC Convention. Sue and Chuck Kerber are co-presidents; Mike Dempsey, vice president; Dan Dietzel, treasurer; and Doug Tipton, secretary. Committee chairs are Glenn Mitroff, parties; Colin Robertson, publicity and massage table; and Lance Paavola, representative to the

IAGSDC. Special thanks to Steve Gabbei, Gary Tipler, and Lance Paavola for their support and help getting started. We're planning demonstrations this summer to strut our stuff and publicize lessons next fall with Sue Kerber, who will by then be our skilled caller. Experienced dancers, gay or straight, are welcome any time. For information, call Doug (608) 251-0904 or Sue (608) 277-9957.

### DC Lambda Squares

Toss aside any preconceived notions you may have about us. We don't conform to stereotypes of stuffy bureaucrats and corporate clones. In fact, some are surprised to discover that our closet doors are wide open and that more than 100 gay and lesbian square dancers dance in our nation's capital. Last year we hosted more than 1100 dancers at Stars and Squares Forever, the 1994 IAGSDC convention. On our Fun Badge Tour, we even danced at the Pentagon, Canadian Embassy, and U.S. Capitol. In 1982, Lou Torres and a handful of others founded our club. By 1986, our club was in full swing and we helped our gay sisters and brothers in neighboring Baltimore to establish Chesapeake Squares. Today we dance Mainstream through C-1 and this spring we will graduate new Mainstream, Plus, and Advanced classes. On Mondays and Wednesdays you can find club callers Warren Jaquith and Dayle Hodge putting us through our paces, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Doug Barnett and Warren teach our Beginner through Advanced classes. For the past 10 years, DC Lambda Squares has been a full member of the Washington Area Square Dancers

Cooperative Association (WASCA) and is affiliated with the Atlantic States Gay Rodeo Association (ASGRA) which holds its popular rodeo each year in October. We regularly perform in our annual gay pride celebration and our demo group introduces square dancing to other area groups. This year we're trying something new. On March 24-26, we're leaving behind our laptops and wingtips to kick up our heels at our first out-of-town fly-in/hodown in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Guess we're just chipping away at that old Washington image. So when you come to DC for business or pleasure, remember to look us up. We're friendly, we always have a lot of fun and we would really love to dance with you. For more information, contact: Myron Taylor, Secretary, DC Lambda Squares, 1434 "S" Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. (202) 234-2823.

### Desert Valley Squares

Desert Valley Squares, Ltd. is Arizona's Premier Gay and Lesbian Social Square Dance Club. Now in its 12th year, the club has about 40 members, and dances twice a week. Our three volunteer instructors are Ted Oakes, Linda Harry, and Caller/Teacher Seth Levine. Together, they teach eight hours of lessons

on Sunday evenings. Club "Fun Nites" are held at a local bar on Wednesday evenings. Club members dance Basic through C-1, and classes are currently offered in Basic, Plus, A-1, A-2 and C-2. Desert Valley Squares is a charter member of the Grand Canyon Square Dance Association, a state-wide representative and promotional ("straight") organization. Our annual fly-in, Swing Thru Arizona, is held on the weekend preceding the third Monday in January, and attracts a large crowd of gay Square Dancers for fun dancing, and to see the AGRA Saguardo Regional Rodeo. The 1996 fly-in will feature callers Anne Uebelacker and Todd Fellegly. For more information, write: PO Box 34615, Phoenix AZ 85067.

### Diablo Dancers

Diablo Dancers first squared up in the fall of 1992. Our name reflects our club's proximity to the prominent San Francisco Bay Area landmark Mt. Diablo. Being a young club we are particularly proud of our equal participation by men and women. One of our founders, Eddie Joe Conley, has maintained the twin duties of both club instructor and club caller. It is with his energy and the club's enthusiasm that we have now graduated three

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mainstream and two plus classes. Our club hosts spring and winter dances in addition to weekly classes and club nights. Diablo Dancers' special event dances are well attended by our sister clubs throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California. In turn, many of our own members regularly attend functions sponsored by IAGSDC clubs throughout California. Russian River campouts, picnics on our own Mt. Diablo, Club Christmas party, Halloween party, swim party, a super bowl party and class workshops were just part of our active calendar this past year. Our future as the first gay and lesbian East Bay square dance club looks bright and we are proud that many of our members plan to attend Track 2 Chicago. As last year in Washington, DC our club will have students attending this year's callers' school. We look forward to meeting our many friends in the IAGSDC at Track 2 Chicago and invite you to join us on Thursday club nights when you are in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information, write: PO Box 4423, Walnut Creek CA 94596-0423, or e-mail: [ben@netcom.com](mailto:ben@netcom.com) (Benny F.P. Sevilla), or visit on the World Wide Web: <http://webcom.com/~benny/diablo/dd.html>.

### EL Camino Reelers

El Camino Reelers is actually the oldest club in the IAGSDC, having been formed in 1849 to give California gold miners a chance to socialize after a hard day panning for nuggets. It thrived until 1906 when the great earthquake forced the club to disband after their dance space collapsed. Marilyn Martinyak and Pat Dixon reformed the club in 1985 as an alternative to the gay square dance clubs located

an hour away in San Francisco. We take our name from El Camino Real, the "Royal Highway" built by early missionaries as a route from Mexico City to San Francisco. The bell on our badges represents the bells of the missions that line the road. 1995 is our tenth anniversary, which we are celebrating by holding our first-ever fly-in, "Slide Thru Silicon Valley," over the Fourth of July holiday weekend. For more information, write: PO Box 391373, Mountain View CA 94039-1373.

### Finest City Squares

The Finest City Squares has been an IAGSDC member since 1989. The only lesbian and gay square dance club in San Diego, the club has been represented at all previous IAGSDC International Conventions and is happy to be participating in Track 2 Chicago. In the spring of 1989, as a business enhancement ploy, the Sundance Saloon hired a local caller, who had never called for a gay group, to provide their customers with a night of square dancing. Present Finest City Squares members Dean Hofmann, Gary Karsten, and Ralph Smith, who had danced with other lesbian and gay square dance clubs and had attended IAGSDC conventions, were some of the weekly regulars. While it wasn't long before the square dance events grew large enough to be held twice a week, after several weeks the Sundance Saloon closed and the square dancers were left homeless. The caller then invited the members to dance in her garage and after six weeks in this temporary "meeting hall," the club members found a new meeting place, West Coast Production Company (WCPC), which to this day remains one of the

club's square dancing halls. The Finest City Squares hold classes through the A-2 level and a monthly club night dance. The club hosts an annual fly-in, "Pass the Sea," and sends a delegation to the annual San Diego Square Dance Convention, "Fiesta do la Cuadilla". They have participated either with our performance group, or with members from Los Angeles' Tinseltown Squares and Orange County's Golden State Squares in all major Southern California lesbian and gay-sponsored events such as Pride festivals and rodeos. This year, the club joined the local square dance association, The San Diego Square Dance Association and is becoming more involved with their activities. We are looking forward to convention attendees' participation in "Pass The Sea, '96". We invite you, when in our area, to stop by and join us in a tip. Club address: P.O. Box 87203, San Diego CA 92138-7203. Club Contact: Dan Craig, (619)543-1231.

### Foggy City Dancers

The Foggy City Dancers were originally formed in the winter of 1512 in a small middle European village known primarily for it's profuse number of demon possessions. Driven out of the village in the spring of 1513 because of the unique choices in dancing partners, the little club decided to bravely set out for the New World and take their square dancing way of life with them. Unfortunately, they sailed like they danced and became hopelessly lost at sea, landing 10 years later in San Francisco. Oddly enough, the climate, geographically and politically, seemed to suit the intrepid little group and they not only survived but thrived! Today,

the club proudly boasts 63,542 active members consisting of gay men, lesbians, and a mixed group of both sexes who proudly call themselves Glesbians. The club is very active in the community, locally and globally and has received the Nobel Peace Prize twice--once for merely agreeing not to show up for a scheduled popular fly in. (Editor's note: The club was founded in San Francisco, is celebrating its 12th anniversary and has 170 members.) If you are ever planning a visit to San Francisco, give us a call on our club info line (415) 905-4546 and come dance with us.

### Garden St8s

We're the new kid on the block! Our history began in May 1994 when Guy Leighton of Times Squares organized Square Dancers from Times Squares, Independence Squares, and Chesapeake Squares to march behind the IAGSDC banner at the New Jersey Pride Parade in Asbury Park. After Stars and Squares Forever, Jerry Petalas, also of Times Squares, insisted that we organize a New Jersey club. Pat Push, who also participated in NJ Pride Day, agreed to be the new club caller. Jerry arranged for dance space at The Den, a bar and night club in Somerset, NJ. Classes began in September with a Spring graduation date. We're planning to start a Wednesday night "Club Night" soon. Thanks go to our new members, The Den, our many helpful angels including callers Betsy Gotta, Kurt Gollhardt, Will Hamp, Tom Fekete, Howard Richman, and Anne Uebelacker (who shocked Pat Push by appearing at one of our classes) and IAGSDC for their support and encouragement. We're





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thrilled to be part of the IAGSDC family here at Track 2 Chicago and look forward to dancing with all of you! For further information on Garden St8s please call Guy Leighton at (908) 493-3920.

### Gold Rush Performance Team GOLD RUSH is ENTERTAINING!

Gold Rush was formed in March of 1986, as a performance exhibition team composed of members from local square dance clubs. The team blends together different styles of square dancing with country-western dance; and often has a surprise or two in store for the audience. GOLD RUSH is FUN! Gold Rush has given exciting performances throughout California, and has appeared at IAGSDC Conventions in Washington DC, Seattle, Albuquerque, Miami, Vancouver, and New York; and at Gay Rodeos in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Palm Springs, and Reno.

GOLD RUSH is DIFFERENT! Many clubs and organizations have hosted "Learn to Square Dance" nights featuring Gold Rush. The team does not accept money for these events; but asks the host to make a donation to various Bay Area AIDS organizations including Project Open Hand and Rita Rockets' Sunday Brunches on Ward 5A. Contacts: Monte (415)255-6458 Don (415)824-9202 Joe(415)621-8008

### Golden State Squares

The Golden State Squares celebrated their 9th anniversary in February. Our current membership is approximately 45. We have been represented at all of the local Gay Pride celebrations and have performed at the L.A. Rodeo. Until our new beginner's class starts in September, we

are dancing on the first and third Wednesdays in the city of Orange. We also sponsor a monthly dance in Santa Ana on the first Saturday of each month. We are very happy to be represented in Chicago and invite you to dance with us when you are in Orange County.

### Grand River Squares

We're glad to report to all of our brothers and sisters in the IAGSDC that the Grand River Squares are growing and better than ever. We have an exciting new class of dancers that have really made the group a family. Over the last year we've added Plus calling to our Basic and Mainstream dancing and we seem to be successfully wading our way through. To fill you in if you've just arrived, Grand River Squares was founded in 1988 by Chuck Novak, who spearheaded the group by teaching, calling and recruiting (oops, did I say recruiting?). His hard work has paid off, from the original 7 members the group stands tall at 19 members. In 1994 Chuck passed the club's reins to a board of officers who have tried to fill his shoes. Quite a job since he wears a size 12 (what do they say about the size of a man's feet?). We hold monthly membership meetings to keep everyone informed and up to date on club and international news. The members are now in the process of planning a fantastic summer fly-in June 30-July 2 in Grand Rapids. If you would like more info on the Grand River Squares, contact Bob Hazen, 909 Cherry SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, phone (616) 785-3042.

### Heads To The Center

Heads to the Center was founded in 1990 to coordinate the Advanced and



Challenge programs for Gay and Lesbian square dancers in Portland. The name was recycled from a defunct Rosetown Ramblers performance group by a couple of its ancient members who loved rhinestones and wanted an excuse to keep wearing their old jewelry. Our founding principle thus became, "Any Rhinestones are OK, But More Rhinestones Are Better." In 1993 we hosed Change Lanes, the 4th Annual Gay and Lesbian Advanced and Challenge Weekend. Club night is every Thursday at the Milwaukie Grange in South East Portland. We get a very good turnout of Advanced and Challenge dancers from the straight community, so everyone is welcome any time. For more information contact: Scott Philips, 8229 SW 42nd Ave., Portland OR 97219-3516 phone (503) 246-7133; or Rick Hawes, P.O. Box 6731, Portland OR 97228, phone (503) 777-5654, e-mail rickh@agora.rdrop.com or rickh@teleport.com.

### High Desert Stars

The High Desert Stars of Santa Fe, New Mexico was founded in February 1991 by Peli Lee and Rebecca Henderson, who had been commuting 65 miles to dance with The Wilde Bunch in Albuquerque. Friends asked them to start a Santa Fe club after hearing about an Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Fly-In they had attended. The High Desert Stars were lucky to have Bill Eyler commute from Albuquerque to be our club instructor and caller for our first two years. He was followed by Kris Jensen, our current caller (and also from Albuquerque), who was a student caller mentored by Bill during our first two years. Our membership has remained

steady at around 20-30, not bad, we believe, for a town of 40,000 (not counting tourists). Since the beginning, we have danced in the nursery of St. Bede's Episcopal Church. We dance and teach Basic, Mainstream and Plus on Tuesday nights, and also teach some line dances and do some two-stepping. Our first fly-in, "Sashay to Santa Fe, Olé", a modest one-day affair, was held in May of 1994. We are proud that our club has always had plenty of lesbian dancers, and along with The Wilde Bunch, we make New Mexico the state with the highest percentage of women dancers in the gay and lesbian square dance world. For more information, write: Peli Lee, PO Box 707, Tesuque NM 87574.

### Independence Squares

Independence Squares was founded in 1988 by Alan Laufer. As a renegade from New York's Times Squares, he decided it was time that gay and lesbian square dancing made its debut in Philadelphia. Via newspaper ads, word of mouth, and the assistance of misplaced angels from the Chesapeake Squares, Alan launched Philly's first gay and lesbian square dance class. In July, brand new Mainstream dancers descended on NYC to Peel the Apple, and on the IAGSDC family as the Independence Squares! Yet our first graduation celebration wasn't held until January 1990 with Ann Uebelacker calling! (So, just how long do you think Betsy Ross took to plan her parties?) Our first Board of Directors was elected in September 1989; we incorporated in May 1991. Although our very first board began planning a fly-in in 1989, it finally arrived on Easter weekend 1993.

(Okay, if Betsy had really taken as long as we do, George would never have gotten his flag and Prince Edward might now be our club caller. Hmmm...) Considering the trio of callers present for the first-ever Philadelphia Freedom fly-in, it was well worth the wait. Since our humble beginning, we've graduated Plus classes, Advanced classes, and innumerable, but always memorable, Mainstream classes. So, next time you are in the City of Brotherly/Sisterly Love, drop in on the Independence Squares. For more information, write: PO Box 41867, Philadelphia PA 19101.

### Les Carres aux Dates d'Ottawa-Hull

Les Carrés aux Dates d'Ottawa-Hull (Date Squares Ottawa-Hull) began when Larry White moved from Toronto, where he danced with Triangle Squares, to Ottawa. It took about three months with a tonne of phone calls, a bit of arm twisting and a lot of good cheer to get us off the ground but we've done it. We had our first Basic class on February 6 and hope to be finished with Mainstream by the end of August. We started with 12 members and we're still about the same 3 weeks later. To compensate for the number of people sitting out during tips (because we haven't been able to make 2 squares yet), we have all learned to tag in. Future growth includes working with this core group through Mainstream in August (so they can go to Scoot Across the Border if they want) and having them, then, continue on to Plus and start a new Basic class in September as well. Our caller is Paul Waters (on tape). We like to refer to him as the "Godfather" or the "voice from

above." He is very much an integral part of the weekly classes because of his tapes. For more information, write: Larry White, 101-266 Lorry Greenberg Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1T 3J9 Canada; phone (613) 738-2078, e-mail bk191@FreeNet.Carleton.CA

### Lismore Scooters

From Stuart Mauchline, now living in Cannon Hill, Queensland: My club got started by the AIDS Council approaching me to do something for those HIV related and their friends. I said I would love to, you find me a hall and I'll start. Within two weeks I had a hall and we got started, went from there. An adjoining straight club, Mullumbimby, the caller giving me a snippet from a US Magazine re: the IAGSDC. After writing, an answer finally came, and I heard about you all. My biggest highlight was coming to the Washington Convention last year. I've never been to anything like that before. With non-gay clubs when they host a special dance with a theme, our club always took out the honours, we hosted one and virtually had 100% in costume, where the non-gay clubs get only 10-20% that do dress up, everyone commenting on the amount that did dress up. Temp now we have closed for 6 months whilst I get into University full time, but talks are still going on starting a gay club in Brisbane shortly. The funniest moment this year to which I couldn't work out why, our theme for our Xmas party was "Come Dressed Opposite Sex." The response was, I'm not coming as a drag queen. Can you believe it. Another highlight for me, winning Ms. International at the Honky-Tonk Queen contest



last year in Washington. My only regret's the distance between us.  
Yellow rocks,

Stuart Myoclonia, 924 Wynnum Road,  
Cannon Hill, QID 4170 Australia  
011 61 7 2179639

### MC Squared

With the inspiration of Rev Ken Ehrke, the luxury of in-house student caller Robert Hahn, and the mentoring of Jeff French, the club got started in the ice and sub-zero temperatures of February 3rd, 1994. The original full square of dancers pushed to be Mainstream level or Stars & Squares in nearby Washington D.C. in July. This Kamikaze class and club got six members to the Convention and were accepted and welcomed into the IAGSDC. 1995 has brought MC Squared six new dancers and more enthusiasm for club projects like shirts, a banner, and expansion plans. Don, Bruce, Jean, Este, Joe, Fred, Bob, Randy, Tom, Rhul, and Jim thank the angels and are grateful for the support from both Lambda and Chesapeake Squares. For more information write PO Box 0127, Boyds, MD 20841-0127.

### Midnight Squares

Midnight Squares was established in 1982 as an aid to square dancers who were having difficulty learning Basic calls. By mid-1983 the club was dancing four nights a week at the Plus, Advanced, and C-1 levels, often until late at night (hence the name). Midnight Square members meet in the Castro on Sunday afternoons for participation in Advanced and Challenge classes and/or dance

sessions through C-2 with some members also dancing privately at C-3 and C-4. Noted for their devotion to learning and "bi-dansual" abilities, Midnight Squares members participate actively in the Pacific Association of Challenge Enthusiasts (PACE). Harlan Kerr, as resident caller, keeps them on their toes. In addition to its devotion to the more complicated aspects of square dancing, the club is also noted for its zealous adherence to a minimalist approach to organization: it operates in accordance with a one-page list of guidelines, the only office established is that of Treasurer, and the various committees consist of those volunteers willing and interested enough to spend time at meetings or performing projects. The club is a Charter Member of the IAGSDC and we welcome all Advanced and Challenge level dancers to join us when visiting San Francisco. For more information, write: PO Box 14483, San Francisco CA 94114-0483.

### Minnesota Wild Roses

Minnesota Wild Roses Square Dance Club was begun in early 1992 by Billy Stroemer and Lorenza Taylor who ventured westward. Marching and dancing in the Twin Cities Gay Pride Parade is an annual highlight and taking part in the festivities associated with the Gay Rodeo are also fun. Minnesota Wild Roses celebrated their first fly-in in January of 1994. It was a great success!! We are carrying on in Fabulous style thanks to our two founders, who went back to Washington, DC after too many Minnesota winters. We dance on Monday nights. If you travel up to the North Star

state, please join us. For further information write: PO Box 3664, Minneapolis MN 55403-0664.

### Mountian Laurel Squares

For information on Mountain Laurel Squares, contact Bob Thiman, 51 Meadow Brook Road #111, Ellington CT 06029.

### Neon Squares

Neon Squares will be hosting the IAGSDC convention in 1997. For more information, write: P.O. Box 46161, Las Vegas NV 89114-6161.

### Ohio City Dancers

For more information, write: PO Box 91344, Cleveland OH 44101-5344.

### Prime 8's

Prime 8's was founded in October 1985 as an outlet for learning successive dance levels beyond those taught and danced by the Capital City Squares. Initially teaching Plus and later Advanced, the club remains closely associated with Capital City Squares and participates in many of its functions as well as occasionally hosting our own Advanced and Challenge dances. Many local straight dancers enjoy our company and dance with us regularly which helps prove the adage, *Square Dancing is Friendship Set to Music*. This past October, the Prime 8's played host to approximately 140 dancers at the fifth annual Gay A&C weekend, Tahoe Tally Ho!, at the Stanford Sierra Camp near Lake Tahoe, CA. It was a memorable weekend of dancing for

those who participated. We dance on Monday nights; please join us when visiting the Sacramento Area. For more information contact James Ozanich, by telephone at 916-925-4242 or via e-mail at 4120870@mcimIL.COM.

### Puddletown Dancers

Puddletown Dancers officially recognizes its beginnings in October 1982 in Seattle, WA. The basement of the church we still use floods easily during the rainy season, January 1 to December 31 creating a puddle in the corner of the floor. Thus the Puddletown Squares mainstream level was born. In September, 1983, the plus level became known as Emerald City Squares--another recognized nickname for Seattle. In May 1984, Doppler was chosen as the name for the Advanced level group. And finally, in January 1985, BOQ was created for the Challenge level dancers. In 1988, the mainstream and plus groups merged forming one group for both levels. Later, the groups started using Puddletown Dancers as an umbrella organization for all clubs. Representatives were elected from each level, with a president from the general membership, to the Dancers Board. Now, in 1995, members from all levels are voting on becoming one large organization, Puddletown Dancers. The names of all the clubs are to be dropped and a new badge designed which we hope to have on at convention. We have hosted two IAGSDC conventions, the first 1984's All Join Hands and the tenth, Remake the Circle in 1993.



## Rainbow Wranglers

Richard Kitterman started square dancing in 1983 with the Rosetown Ramblers; but in 1985 events carried him to Eugene and away from square dancing. In 1990 he was attending the County Fair and saw a demonstration; he heeded the call and started dancing with a singles group. When he went to the third March on Washington, in 1992, he took along his old Rosetown name tag, on the off chance that there might be a gay square dance—and got reconnected with IAGSDC again. Returning home, Richard was bound and determined to get a group going in Eugene. He started making plans for a first-nighter the end of July, and attended the Caller School and Convention at the beginning of July in Seattle. Our first class started in September 1993. We attained member status in the IAGSDC at Stars and Squares Forever in 1994. We are still a very small group. We dance every Wednesday 7-9 at "The Bar." If you're in town, please join us!

## Rocket City

### Rainbow Squares

In a land where huge magnolia trees shade rockets, there exists a band of failed Southern Ladies called the Rocket City Rainbow Squares. The hoop skirts and crinolines have long since fallen out of fashion; seems some of our members dreadfully had their skirts tattered and torn while working in the fields. Those who never had them in the first place could not afford them on account of their rather large computer budget. However, come rain or the humidity, they all get together and dance on Thursday night.



We are about to begin our 5th mainstream class and our 2nd plus class. We excited about the many up-coming events including our first Drive In. (Airports have not made it to the South yet; unless of course you consider Atlanta or crop dusters.) We presently have only 16 or so members (it's difficult to figure such large numbers) and 4 or 5 odds and ends (depending on who you consider odd). We have suffered great losses from members moving out of town (Gus, J.Bear, Dwayne, Chane we miss you), but are, like the South, prepared to rise again! Y'all come see us and we'll show you a wonderful time in our beautiful city of HuntsPatch as it is called. For more information, write: PO Box 18272, Huntsville AL 35804-8272, or phone David Roberts at (205) 232-9809.

## Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus

The Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus are excited to be here in the Windy City to celebrate the 12th annual convention of the IAGSDC.

Rainbeaus dance in south Denver at the Washington Park Community Center. Current club callers are Don Rouze, "Bear" Miller and BJ Dyer. Our recently graduated Shamrock class was the 16th class sponsored by the club. Membership is about sixty.

In 1994 Rainbeaus sponsored a bicycle raffle that netted for the club over \$400. We thank all IAGSDC dancers who participated by buying raffle tickets. We are happy to announce that the lucky winner was Chi-Town Squares' own Carl Smith. Congratulations, Carl! Also in 1994, under the capable leadership of member Dominic Trujillo, Rainbeaus organized a show-stopping performance

team. The team's first performance was on stage at the Denver Auditorium Theater with Harmony, Denver's prestigious mixed gay and lesbian chorus.

We now look forward to Explode the Rockies, our fall 1995 fly-in, September 15-17, at the YMCA Camp at Estes Park, Colorado. Our caller will be the fabulous Tim Crawford of Ontario, Canada. Don't miss this exciting weekend in the midst of the spectacular Colorado Rockies! For information, contact Don at (303) 388-5733.

## Rosetown Ramblers

Rosetown Ramblers holds weekly classes every Wednesday. We have a square dance with an our-of-town caller on the 1st Sat. of each month. We host a Country/Western dance with live dj for the entire lesbian and gay community each month following the square dance. We have a 3rd Sat. pot-luck dinner and tape dance every month. Our dances draw many people and are an important asset to the gay and lesbian cultural scene in Portland. Rosetown Ramblers sponsors fundraiser Lesbian & Gay Rollerskating on the 4th Monday of each month. Each participant brings food that we donate to gay and lesbian people who are needy. We donate 25% of the money we raise to various lesbian and gay organizations in our community. Rosetown Ramblers is a major fundraising and cultural force in Portland. We adhere to the motto *Square Dancing is Friendship Set to Music*. To this we add our special lesbian and gay flair for having fun and setting style. Lesbian and gay square dancing is thriving through Rosetown Ramblers. For information, write: P.O. Box 5352, Portland OR 97228-5352.



## Royalty Squares

Royalty Squares lesbian and gay square dance club serves two of California's largest counties (Riverside and San Bernardino), known as the Inland Empire. Founded by Glen Levine only last year, Royalty Squares has already started its second Mainstream class instructed by the talents of Deborah Parnell. Growing from 1 square to 3 squares, the roots of Royalty Squares have begun to take a firm hold. Royalty Squares is looking forward to hanging its banner at the Track 2 Chicago convention. Glen Levine, founder and club president, was a long time member of the South Florida Mustangs before returning to California. An accomplished C-2 square dancer, Glen has only one passion in his life that never disappoints him, his square dancing. Glen solicited the talents of a straight female singing caller in Deborah Parnell (a.k.a. Mother) to teach and instruct the first Royalty Squares class consisting of one lesbian, ten gays, and just for fun a transsexual. The logo was created by Joe Henson, assisting were Nich Aubin and Gina Ann Glass. The Royalty Squares banner, first hung in the square dance hall at 1994 Stonewall 25, New York City Gay Pride Festival, was constructed by Nich Aubin. We invite you to join us on Wednesday nights, it's an extremely fun group. Contact Glen Levine at (909) 902-1138 for all the fine details.

## Show Me Squares

The genesis of our club started when Dennis Stump was fired from his job; hey, starting a square dance club is better than getting depressed! Recalling a fascinating

IAGSDC convention in Seattle, Dennis contacted Karl Jaekel in Denver, and then Darrell Ertzberger in Washington DC. Locally, Dennis approached Mark Johnston with the idea of starting a square dance club, and he agreed to help out. The first 2 or 3 months were both encouraging and discouraging as the same 5 people showed up every Sunday, where we would have complete dinners made and would sit around and wonder what our next move would be. At long last we decided to dance even if we didn't have 8 people. After that first night of dancing we were all so pumped up, that we tried to get a caller for the club, but there didn't seem to be any local callers interested in teaching a gay club. Instead, we practiced to Paul Waters' tapes just about every Sunday evening from 7 to 10. Labor Day weekend came around and we put on our first exhibition at the MGRA Rodeo dance. Our final rehearsals were nerve-racking, but when we got up to perform somehow it all came together and we were flawless (we think). Since September we have moved to the local gay-friendly community center (The Westport Allen Center) as it is in mid-town where the queer bars are. We practice 7 to 9:30 on Sunday nights. We have a super bunch. Kansas City has always been a town where the gay men and women don't mix, but Show-me Squares has managed to start bridging this gap; we have come to really like and care about each other. We're already working on helping clubs get started in Springfield, MO and in Topeka; and given the rivalry between the cities of Kansas City and St. Louis, we feel that a club there can't be far behind when they

wants to express his undying gratitude to the IAGSDC for its financial support in helping pay the advertising costs to help us get started, and to Darrell, Karl and Paul for all the support, advice and encouragement. We couldn't have done it without you!

### Squares Across the Border

Squares Across the Border was established in 1983. Dancing started because of the dedication of Art Smith, who commuted from Seattle to teach, and Carol Roberts, who gave and still gives undying, never ending support. We now boast an active membership of over 120 dancers. Classes/dances are held four nights a week with two levels on one night; we start two Basic/Mainstream classes a year, one in September, one in January, and host a Plus, Advanced, and a C-1 class. And we are thrilled to have Anne Uebelacker as our club caller. We hold two fly-ins a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Monthly all-level club dances are held and in the summer, when we all have so many things to do in our beautiful Pacific Northwest, we have bi-monthly dances. Squares Across the Border had the pleasure of hosting the 7th Annual Convention of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs in April of 1990, The Northstar Promenade, and hopes to have the privilege of hosting the 18th annual IAGSDC Convention in 2001. And may we repeat, we are thrilled to have Anne Uebelacker as our club caller! For more information, write: PO Box 4404, Vancouver BC V6B 3Z8 Canada.

### South Florida Mustangs

The South Florida Mustangs Gay Square Dance Club had its beginnings in 1977. We are now in our eighteenth year of square dancing. We are proud to claim our current dancing location as the birthplace of the IAGSDC. Originally called the Crossfire, the Round-UP Circle C is owned and operated by one of our club founders who is also our club caller, Chris Phillips. We are also proud that Chris, Jim Carleton, Jim McMahan and Dean Hoffman have been recipients of the Golden Boot Award. But we also feel it important to briefly delineate the escapades of two of our more salacious members, "Thelma" and "Louise", who attended the D.C. Convention under the aliases of "Vinnie Pearl" (she digs hand

kerchiefs not hats) and "Ms. ('someone stole my stole') Cherry". During one of the many alcoholic hazes that wafted through the lobby lounge of the Omni Shoreham, they agreed to reconvene in Chicago as "Patsy" and "Adena" thereby forever destroying the widely held belief that Mustangs are fat, old men who drink too much and replacing it with the adage that we are weight-challenged persons a few steps shy of the twelfth one. For more information, write: PO Box 462, Hollywood FL 33022-0462.

### T-Squares

T-Squares of Tucson was founded ten years ago after a visit to Tucson and a challenge from Desert Valley Squares in Phoenix. We dance all levels through A-

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Our Basic level class, which begins every September, dances with us on that night. We sponsor an anniversary party in August and a spring fly-in. For more information, write: PO Box 2102, Tucson AZ 85702.

## Times Squares

Remembering a barn dance in Indiana that he once attended with his aunt and uncle, Mark Davis placed an article in the October 1983 Sundance newsletter soliciting others who might be interested in giving the activity a try in a gay and lesbian context. On November 12, 1983 New York's first gay and lesbian square dance was held, quickly followed on January 6, 1984 by a second event. Additional early facilitators were Edward Sherman, Ron Masker, and Ken Pollack. In the late winter or early spring, the late George Lanyi, a Western Star Dancer, visited New York with news of the greater world of gay square dancing, and the then-upcoming convention being planned in April for Seattle. On October 24, 1984, the first beginner class started, involving 19 people. By the class closing night of November 14, 34 people showed up. Virtually the whole club (32 people) attended the 1985 convention in Denver. In the spring of 1987, the Times Squares began "invading the straight square dance world," attending the first New Jersey State Square and Round Dance Convention, a tradition the club continues up to the present time. In January 1989, three dancers timidly ventured out to the January Jubilee to dance as openly gay, same-sex couples (it was difficult with only 3), where they were overjoyed to

team up with members of the DC Lambda Squares, the Chesapeake Squares, and the Independence Squares to show their stuff. Thus were the beginnings of the Ad Hoc Education and Outreach Committee, which paved the way for openly gay dancers to attend all of the major East Coast and Midwest festivals, culminating in 1993 in our first appearance at the National Square Dance Convention. In 1989, as a culmination of over three years' hard work, Peel the Apple, the 6th IAGSDC Convention, was hosted by the Times Squares. Our pride in this achievement is enormous. Times Squares is often heralded as the largest gay square dance club. With a membership hovering around 300, we certainly are big. In actuality we probably alternate having the distinction of being the largest club with Squares Across the Border. For more information, write: P.O. Box 1229, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023-1229.

## Tinseltown Squares

With the completion of another successful Horsefly Inn, Tinseltown Squares celebrated its 8th anniversary. We have been using the opportunity to reflect back to the early days of the club and the eight or so committed people, energized by the 1986 IAGSDC convention in San Francisco, that pulled the club together. In those days Ben Teller, who became our first president, and the rest of the gang did every thing from teaching classes to cleaning up the hall, from carting a sound system around to writing by-laws in order for the club to begin to function. Paul Waters called our first dance and he and a few other brave souls, such as Deborah

Parnell, continued to call for us when calling for a lesbian and gay club was not very popular. Every Tuesday and Thursday finds us at the historic Highland Park Ebell Club and every third Saturday is our major monthly dance. We have danced at the Los Angeles Golden State Gay Rodeo festival, the Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride festival, and the LA Christopher Street West Lesbian and Gay Pride parade which was televised nationally. We also joined the mainstream Western Square Dance Association and have attended their dances giving them an experience of gay and lesbian square dance energy. For more information, write: P.O. Box 691764, West Hollywood CA 90069 or call 818 454-1487.

## Triangle Squares

After more than seven years of dancing, Triangle Squares continues to flourish but is no longer Ontario's only gay and lesbian square dance club, since new groups are forming in London and Ottawa. This year, we have a class in C-1 (taught by one of our club callers), while other classes in Mainstream, Plus and A-1 continue to prepare our dancers for fly-ins and conventions. A growing phalanx of omnisequential beauties, known as the "Triangle Tarts," has made the scene and scenes at club nights and fly-ins; no doubt they will be in attendance at our own fly-in on the Labour Day weekend, "Scoot Across the Border '95," September 1-4, which for the first time in our history has a female Fly-in Committee Chairperson! In the meantime, after many successful local displays, our Demo Team makes its international debut in Chicago this year. Any questions? Call Chris at (416) 950-5458.

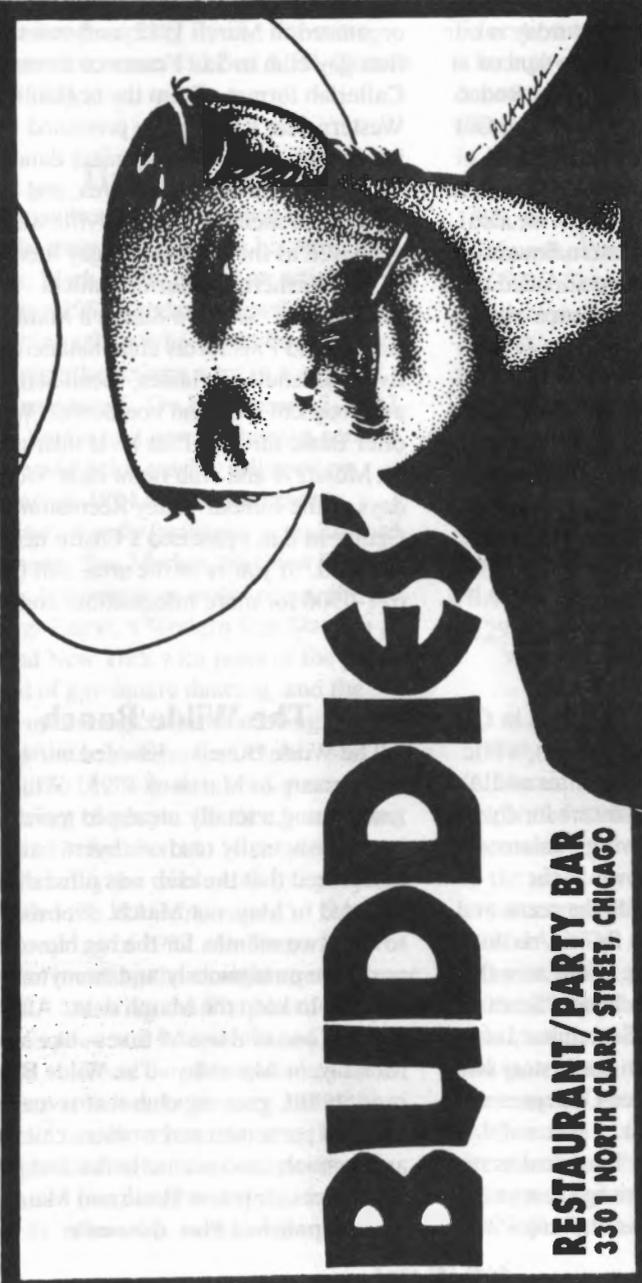
## Western Star Dancers

Western Star Dancers, one of the founding members of the IAGSDC, was organized in March 1982, and was the first gay club in San Francisco to use the Callerlab format. From the beginning, Western Star has actively promoted interaction with straight square dance callers and dancers of our area, and in 1986, club member Bob Bellville was approved as the first openly gay member of the Northern California Callers Association. Western Star is a Mainstream and Plus level club, balancing a lively schedule of classes, social activities, and frequent weekend hoe-downs. We offer Basic through Plus level instruction on Mondays and club night most Wednesdays at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood. If you're in the area, call (415) 621-6506 for more information, and drop on by!

## The Wilde Bunch

The Wilde Bunch celebrated our 12th anniversary in March of 1995. While researching a totally unrelated topic, someone actually read our bylaws and discovered that the club was officially founded in May, not March. Not wanting to wait two months for the big blowout party, we unanimously and anonymously decided to keep the March date. After all, it is one of those M times--like May, Monday, or Maturday. The Wilde Bunch is a vibrant, growing club that is made up of equal parts men and women, children and animals, and peanut butter and jelly. We dance competent Basic and Mainstream, polished Plus, dynamite





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**COMMITTEE HEADS**

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 GRAND MARCH - JACK DONATELLI  
 CONVENTION PROGRAM - BOB & SUE KIPP  
 DECORATING - STEVEN MILLER  
 SIGNAGE - SHYVEN ALLEN  
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**DESCRIPTION:**

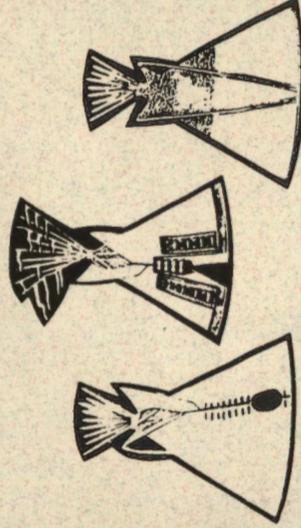
These Tipi Pins are distinctive representations of Plains Indians' dwellings.

**COMMENTS:**

The Sioux word "Tipi" is a combination of "Ti" meaning to live or dwell and "Pi" meaning used for.

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