



**2023-24 ASRDA  
Officers**



**Brooke Peters,**  
President



**Tricia Morley  
& Dennis Artz,**  
Vice-Presidents



**Cheryl & Chuck  
Sherman,**  
Secretaries



**Shirley & Steven  
O'Neal,**  
Treasurers

## President's Message

First, I would like to thank all of you who attended the Presidents' Dance Weekend hosted by the Alamo Area Square & Round Dance Association. Associations work hard to put on one of these Federation dances. Dancers are encouraged to support them.

ASRDA will be hosting the 2024 Presidents' Dance in La Grange next year and we hope to have all the clubs represented. Remember, all dancers in ASRDA are part of the hosting organization so if you are asked by one of the Presidents' Weekend Committee Members to help in some way, please do.

I have missed most of the dances in October because I was "glamping" in Arkansas and Missouri with six friends from Colorado and one from San Antonio. The weather was nice and cool. We got to see the changing leaves.

The eight of us normally do our yearly "glamping trip" in early September, but last year was so hot in Utah we had to get up before sunrise to be on hiking trails just as the sun rose, so we weren't out during the hottest part of the day. It was almost like boot camp.

This year was much more laid back. We didn't do any killer hikes and we didn't start off on any of our adventures until 9:30 am. It was a very relaxing trip. Our stops included Crater of Diamonds State Park, AR, Hot Springs, AR, Bentonville, AR, and Branson, MO.

Now that Halloween is over, the holiday season has officially started. Some clubs are having special dances during this time so do your best to support them. Remember to get your Visitation Certificate if four or more dancers from your club attend the same dance. And get the Friendship Badge Chart signed as well.

Now that I am back from my vacation, I will do my best to get around to each club before the end of the year.

See you on the dance floor real soon!

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## Bon Voyage to the Clairmonts

Are you planning on attending the Bon Voyage Party for Dan and Gail Clairmont on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00 pm at Hyde Park Christian Church at 610 E. 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX? We hope you are. Attire: *“Dress like a Tourist” or Hawaiian.*



From 6:00-6:45, anyone who has a humorous anecdote about Dan or Dan and Gail is encouraged to share it with the group during the “Roast Dan” part of the event. Then the tables will be cleared and there will be Mainstream, Plus, and A2 dancing. There will not be any line or round dancing at this party.



Admission is a potluck dish of some sort. Categories include, but are not limited to: appetizers, meats, casseroles, vegetables, fruit, bread, and dessert. **BUT WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BRINGING** so that everyone won't bring the same type of food. So far, we have one dish of deviled eggs, one casserole, South American Lamb Stew and two desserts. We need more choices.



To insure we have a variety of food, please let Brooke know what you will bring instead of giving a donation at the door. **Please RSVP to Brooke Peters to let her know what you are bringing.** Her email is [kbrookepeters@gmail.com](mailto:kbrookepeters@gmail.com). Please spread the word that the party includes a potluck dinner.



The flyer for Dan's party can be found on the website at [asrda.org/events](http://asrda.org/events). **Let's give Dan and Gail a send-off they won't forget!**



### Chaplain's Message



Come, ye thankful people, come,  
 Raise the song of harvest home.  
 All is safely gathered in,  
 Ere the winter storms begin.  
 God our Maker doth provide For our wants to be supplied.  
 Come to God's own temple, come,  
 Raise the song of harvest home.

I suspect many of us sang this traditional Thanksgiving hymn when we were growing up. I have such wonderful memories of Thanksgiving. Being at Granny's ranch.

Hunting in the morning. Turkey and dressing. Granny's rolls! Pumpkin Pie. Playing 42 in the afternoon. What a blessed time it was for our family. But the first Thanksgiving in 1621 was quite different.

"In the fall of 1621, when their labors were rewarded with a bountiful harvest after a year of sickness and scarcity, the Pilgrims gave thanks to God. They also celebrated their bounty with a tradition called the **Harvest Home**. In a letter to a friend in England, "E.W." (Pilgrim Edward Winslow) wrote the only record of the celebration that survives:

*"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that we might after a more special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help besides, served the Company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some 90 men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was, at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."*

"He remarked of the fall harvest that year that: "there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc." Wild—but not domestic—turkey was indeed plentiful in the region and a common food source for both English settlers and Native Americans. But it is just as likely that the fowling party returned with other birds, we know the colonists regularly consumed, such as ducks, geese, and swans. Instead of bread-based stuffing, herbs, onions, or nuts might have been added to the birds for extra flavor."

What else was on the table that first Thanksgiving? Corn, blueberries, plums, grapes, gooseberries, raspberries and, of course cranberries, mussels, lobster, bass, clams, and oysters. What was missing? Any type of potato and no pumpkin pie (no flour or butter for a crust)!

Why were they thankful? First, because, through the mercies of God, they were still alive! “The preceding winter had been a harsh one for the colonists. Seventy-eight percent of the women who had traveled on the Mayflower had perished that winter, leaving only around 50 colonists to attend the first Thanksgiving. According to eyewitness accounts, among the pilgrims, there were 22 men, just four women and over 25 children and teenagers. At the first Thanksgiving, colonists were likely outnumbered more than two to one by the Native Americans in attendance.”

And secondly, as the hymn above states, “God our Maker doth provide, for our wants to be supplied.” The Pilgrims knew their bible. In Philippians 4:19 Paul writes, “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

The Founding Fathers also knew their bibles. “On September 28, 1789, just before leaving for recess, the first Federal Congress passed a resolution asking that the President of the United States recommend to the nation a day of thanksgiving. A few days later, President George Washington issued a proclamation naming Thursday, November 26, 1789 as a "Day of Publick Thanksgiving" - the first time Thanksgiving was celebrated under the new Constitution. Subsequent presidents issued Thanksgiving Proclamations, but the dates and even months of the celebrations varied. It wasn't until President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Proclamation that Thanksgiving was regularly commemorated each year on the last Thursday of November.”

This Thanksgiving let's remember to Whom we are giving thanks. Heavenly Father, we thank You for our country and how You have blessed these United States. We thank You for being our creator, provider, sustainer, and guide. And we thank you for the wonderful fellowship we experience in Square and Round Dancing, and the guidance your callers and cuers provide.



Even so, Lord, quickly come, Bring Thy final harvest home.  
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide.  
Come, with all Thine angels come, Raise the glorious harvest  
home. (*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come.*)



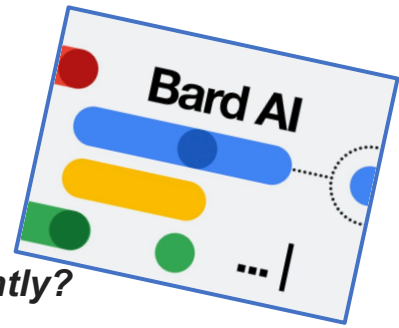
Moving Square Dancing into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## A VERY GOOD QUESTION

(Posted on Facebook)

Tom Barrett asked BARD, a chat-based Artificial Intelligence Tool from Google,

***Why has square dance interest waned recently?***



Bard: There are several reasons why square dance interest has waned recently. Some of the most common reasons include:

- Changing demographics: Square dancing is a traditional American folk dance that has been around for centuries. However, the demographics of the United States have changed significantly in recent years, and square dancing is no longer as popular among younger generations.
  - Changing cultural trends: Square dancing is a social activity that requires people to interact with each other in person. However, in today's digital age, people are increasingly spending time online and less time interacting with each other in person. This has made it more difficult for square dancing to maintain its popularity.
  - Competition from other activities: There are many other activities that people can do in their free time, such as watching TV, playing video games, and using social media. Square dancing must compete with these other activities for people's attention.
- Lack of awareness: Many people are simply not aware of square dancing or what it is. This is especially true among younger generations. As a result, many people are not interested in trying square dancing.

Despite these challenges, there are still people who enjoy square dancing. There are square dance clubs and organizations all over the United States, and square dance events are held on a regular basis. If you are interested in learning more about square dancing, there are many resources available online and in your community.

Here are some things that can be done to increase interest in square dancing:

- Educate people about square dancing: Many people are simply not aware of square dancing or what it is. Educational programs can help to increase awareness of square dancing and its benefits.
  - Make square dancing more accessible: Square dancing can be intimidating for beginners, but it is important to make it as accessible as possible. One way to do this is to offer free or low-cost beginner lessons.
- Promote square dancing as a fun and social activity: Square dancing is a great way to meet new people and have fun. It is important to promote square dancing as a fun and social

•Make square dancing more inclusive: Square dancing is a traditional American folk dance, but it is important to make it more inclusive of people from all backgrounds. This can be done by offering lessons and events that are open to everyone.

By taking these steps, we can help to increase interest in square dancing and ensure that this traditional American folk dance continues to be enjoyed for generations to come.



## ASRDA Updates

### **2025 Mid-Tex Committee Members Needed!**

What's YOUR IDEA for the 2025 – We need a small committee to decide so that an announcement can be made at the 2024 Mid-Tex Festival. Please be a part of this important committee. It'll be fun learning from experienced people, who have successfully put on this annual dance!

*Past themes include:* Mardi Gras, South of the Border, Hee Haw, Blue Jeans and Lace; Wild, Wild West, Dance down the Yellow Brick Road, 50 Years of Musical Memories, Gay Nineties, Circus-Greatest Show on Earth; Anchors Aweigh; Deep in the Heart of Texas; Signs of the Zodiac; Board the Mid-Tex Queen (Riverboat Theme); A Rainbow of Festivals; Cruise to Mid-Tex; A night in Old Hollywood.

Why not RECYCLE a previous theme. In which theme would you like to participate?

**We still have openings!**



**TO HELP THE  
MID-TEX COMMITTEE!**



## 2024 National Square Dance Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 26-29, 2024

### Ride the Rails to Milwaukee in 2024 By Brooke Peters

Would you like to add something new to your next National Square Dance Convention experience? Rather than driving 1,196 miles (18 hours and 35 minutes without stops from Austin to Milwaukee) or dealing with crowded airports,

Amtrak's "Texas Eagle" is a passenger train that runs from San Antonio, through San Marcos, Austin, and Taylor to Chicago and on to Milwaukee. When 8 or more people travel together, there is a 60% discount on the normal adult coach fare. Depending on where you get on the train, that is approximately \$166.00 round trip per person! If you want to get a sleeper car, the price jumps considerably to between \$600 and \$1200 per sleeping compartment depending on the size compartment you want.

For comparison, the least expensive round trip coach plane ticket for the same dates was \$441 on Delta. Prices continued upwards to over \$1200 on United. From San Marcos to Milwaukee the trip takes 33 hours and 30 minutes so you may wonder if you would be able to sleep in your coach seat. The coach seats in Texas Eagle are described as like the seats in business class on an airplane, but with more leg room. The seats recline and there is a footrest you can raise if you want to try to sleep. The seats are paired so there is only one person next to you. If you are traveling in a square dance group, the person next to you will be someone you know.

The Texas Eagle passenger train has two levels. The top level is quieter than the one closer to the tracks. It also has a much better view. It would benefit a group traveling together to make reservations early to obtain seats on the upper level.

You are responsible for bringing a small pillow and a blanket or something to keep warm at night. The train does not supply these for coach travelers. Ear plugs and an eye mask are also suggested. There is food on the train, but it is not included in your fare unless you pay for a sleeper unit. Passengers are allowed to bring their own food and drinks onto the train. The website lists recommended foods to take. There are restrooms at the end of each passenger car.

The way the seats are configured, it does not look like seating is conducive to playing cards or board games. Those activities can be done in the dining car when it is not being used.

The Texas Eagle does not have Wi-Fi, so it is recommended you download movies or podcasts ahead of time. There is power for electronics on the train.

At ASRDA's last Mid-Tex Festival, there were some out of town dancers who took the train to Evansville, Indiana. They said they enjoyed it. This information was shared with some ASRDA dancers and there were quite a few who voiced an interest in traveling to Milwaukee by train in 2024.

Moving Square Dancing into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

There are group discounts. If more than eight people want to go, but less than 15, a group of eight will receive 60% off and a group of seven receives 54% off the adult coach fare. Depending where people were getting on the train, it could be arranged that everyone pays the same amount. Groups of 15 or more fall under a different category and the 60% discount does not apply. Depending on the number of people who want to go, people traveling in the same group can get on the train in different cities. Those locations include San Antonio, San Marcos, Austin, Taylor, Temple, and McGregor (near Waco.)

If you are interested in "Riding the Rails to Milwaukee," contact Brooke Peters at [kbrookepeters@gmail.com](mailto:kbrookepeters@gmail.com). You can also check out Amtrak at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com). For more information on the 73<sup>rd</sup> National Square Dance Convention you can either visit their website at [www.73nsdc.com](http://www.73nsdc.com) or their Facebook page under 73<sup>rd</sup> National Square Dance Convention. You can also go to <https://nsdcnec.com/national-squares-e-magazine/> to read the monthly e-magazines about what will be happening at the 73<sup>rd</sup> National Square Dance Convention.



## Mailed Subscriptions Ending

By Vickie Merchant

With the advent of the Internet as well as the knowledge of navigating computers, phones, and tablets, it seems to be more cost effective to have ASRDA Newsletter Subscribers to download, read on their electronic device or print the monthly newsletter. Subscriptions require someone to print the newsletters, assemble them, drive to the post office, have postage added and then mailed.

Therefore, whenever each subscriber's subscriptions run out during the next year, the monthly newsletters will not be printed and mailed. We hope you can access the website at ASRDA.org and click on Newsletters and then the month you prefer or click on ASRDA.org/Newsletters and click on the edition you would like to read. Thank you for your continued support of ASRDA.



## “Do-Si-Do Delights and More” Cookbook Now on Sale

Like to camp but tired of the same old recipes? Try some new camping recipes from the 73rd NSDC Cookbook – “Do-Si Dough Delights and More.” Or give this fabulous cookbook as a Christmas gift!

Along with the staples found in Wisconsin and Midwestern kitchens, you will also find favorite camping recipes from the folks associated with the 73rd NSDC. In the Soups and Salads section, try the Orange Jell-O Salad. In the Vegetables and Side Dishes section, try Iris and Benny’s BBQ Potatoes or Grilled Potato Pockets. For a Main Dish, try a Foil Dinner or Puggy Pies or Pizza Sandwich Irons. For breakfast, try the French Toast Casserole or the Campers Breakfast.

Each National Square Dance Convention creates a cookbook of regional recipes and sells the cookbooks to help raise money to help pay for the National Convention.

Order your copy of the 73rd NSDC cookbook on the Registration Form to try these camping recipes as well as other delicious recipes on your next camping adventure. 73rd Cookbook price is \$15! If you have already registered and want to add a cookbook to your registration form, contact Jim and Katie Green at [73katie.green@nsdc.com](mailto:73katie.green@nsdc.com).

If you want the cookbook shipped to you so you can have it before Nationals and in time for Christmas, contact [wanda.kruse@73nsdc.com](mailto:wanda.kruse@73nsdc.com) to get a mailing address. Fill out the attached order form and send it with a check for **\$22.00** (cookbook + shipping and handling) to the address Wanda will provide. Any additional questions about the cookbook may be sent to [wanda.kruse@73nsdc.com](mailto:wanda.kruse@73nsdc.com).



# Ordering Cookbooks

Cookbooks make great gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, showers, Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and other special occasions.

To order copies of this cookbook for self, friends and family, fill out the order form below and mail with a check or money order (payable to **73NSDC**) to:

**73<sup>rd</sup> National Square Dance Convention**  
**519 South Geyer Road**  
**Kirkwood, MO. 63122-5932**  
[agc@73nsdc.com](mailto:agc@73nsdc.com)



Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of:  
**Do-Si Dough Delights and More!**  
 At **\$15.00** each plus **\$7.00 s/h** per book  
 Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 Payable to **73NSDC**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

73rd National Square Dance Convention<sup>®</sup>  
 Do-Si Dough Delights Cookbook - Page 138

**LEMON VELVET CAKE**

**CAKE:**

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 box lemon velvet cake mix | 4 eggs                   |
| 1 pkg. lemon Jell-O         | 1/4 tsp. lemon flavoring |
| 3/4 cup cooking oil         | 1/4 tsp. salt            |
| 3/4 cup water               |                          |



Blend together and beat until smooth and creamy. Bake in 9x13 inch pan in a 350° F oven for 35-40 minutes. Put icing on as soon as it comes from oven.

**ICING:**

- 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp sifted confectioners sugar  
 Juice and grated rind from 1 Lemon

Mix the confectioners sugar, juice, and rind together and put over cake when it comes out of the oven.

**LEMON VELVET CAKE**

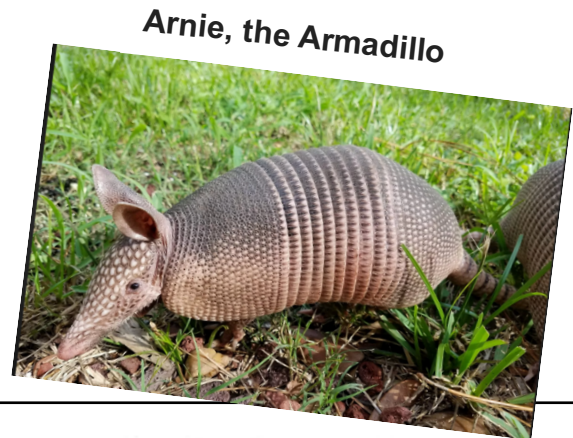
This recipe is a favorite memory from Ruth Deal, Scott's mother. Scott says that this cake was made for special occasions like birthdays. You will find it on pg. 138 of *Do-Si Dough Delights Cookbook*.

There are some modifications from the printed recipe. Lemon velvet cake mix isn't available, so ingredients have been changed to get close to the original cake.

**SUBSTITUTIONS**

- Lemon cake mix for Lemon velvet cake mix
- Lemon pudding mix (cook) for lemon Jello
- Use only 1/2 cup oil
- Add 1/4 sour cream
- Add peel from one lemon





Greetings from Waco!

Our mascots are busy checking out sights all over the country, Armie and Delilah have been seen in Knoxville and Gatlinburg and at many other dances.

**75th National Square Dance Convention**

We are so excited to start sharing with you all. We are rocking and rolling getting registrations, we are up to 376 and counting. We are having an overwhelming response in a few short months. While having a meeting with our NEC advisors and supporters in Waco, Armie and Delilah were out previewing sights and locations you will definitely want to check out. We are including a couple of pictures to show what you will be hearing more about in future publications of the E-magazine; these include the Waco suspension bridge and the Chisom Trail.

Future articles feature the Dr Pepper Museum, the Mammoth National Monument and the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. A Special Edition will feature Armie and Delilah taking a beer bath at the Pivovar Brewery

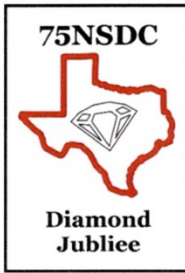


Diamond Jubilee Convention T-Shirt

It takes a small army to host a National Square Dance Convention®. We need volunteers to help the Convention Teams prepare for their Convention. Do you have a few hours you'd like to rest from dancing to volunteer, or maybe you have a special talent or expertise that you can offer. We need YOU!

**WACO will be an exciting convention! WACO**

**Y'ALL!!**  
**W-We**  
**A-Are**  
**C-Coming**  
**O-Over**



**Pre – Registration  
75<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention®  
Waco, Texas  
June 24-27, 2026**



<b>Registration #</b> _____
<b>Ribbons</b> _____

**REGISTER ONLINE at [www.75nsdcinc.com](http://www.75nsdcinc.com)  
This form expires on March 22, 2025**

**Zelle® your registration fee to [75nsdc@gmail.com](mailto:75nsdc@gmail.com)**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Primary Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Partner's Last Name (if different): \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth Names & DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you want to opt out of email sharing. Email addresses shared only with the NEC for upcoming convention information

Pre-Registration Prices (US currency only)	\$60.00 each x _____ until 3/22/2025 = \$ _____
Youth born after June 27, 2009	\$30.00 each x _____ until 3/22/2025 = \$ _____
	<b>Sub Total:</b> \$ _____
Credit Card Processing Fee	\$3.00 _____
	<b>Total Due:</b> \$ _____

Cash Received \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to 75NSDC) Zelle   
 Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Statement Mailing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorized Card Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**If Registering by Mail: 75NSDC 9597 Jones Rd Ste #122 Houston, TX 77065  
Or Email to: [register.75nsdc@gmail.com](mailto:register.75nsdc@gmail.com)**

**PLEASE HELP US PLAN! Please CIRCLE all that apply**

Dancers: SSD Only, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Clogging, Handicapable, SOLO  
 Leaders: Squares, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Clogging. Education Presenter Topic: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arrive Early or Stay Late # Days \_\_\_\_\_? Stay at Convention Hotels, RV Camping or  
 Other Accommodations? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you need Block Rooms \_\_\_\_\_, Meeting Rooms \_\_\_\_\_ or Storage Space: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Room Blocks Expire September 15, 2025**

\$10.00 cancellation fee per registration. No refunds after April 30, 2026. **This form and registration rate is void after March 22, 2025.** Registration Long Forms will be mailed in January, 2025 for selection of hotel or RV park and additional items. Early registration gives you free admittance to the Pre-Convention Kick Off Dance on March 22, 2025.

**"Convention Badges Required for Entrance to all Convention Activities; Dressy Casual Attire allowed until 6:00 pm. Proper Dance Attire is Requested After 6:00 pm for all Dancers."**

(Internal Use Only) Accepted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registration Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

**WE'RE GOING TO TEXAS Y'ALL!**

**Hotel reservations may be made AFTER March 22, 2025!  
Room blocks expire after September 15, 2025**

## Website Works

### ATTENTION SQUARE DANCE STUDENTS/RETREADS:

Have you heard that there is a page on the ASRDA website (asrda.org) just for New Dancers to square dancing? Yes, visit [www.asrda.org/newdancerinfo](http://www.asrda.org/newdancerinfo). There you will find all kinds of information about square dancing that no one ever thinks to tell you and you don't know that you even need to know it. Sad, but true!

minutes!

**New Dancer Info** Home Classes Events Gallery Clubs Newsletters Who's Who  
Resources About Links Contact HELP!

A "FUN NIGHT" WITH A LOCAL CHURCH GROUP  
with Brad Caldwell

00:00 / 02:55

Courtesy of Brad Caldwell. Visit his [website](#).

- Relationship between TSFSRD, Associations (ASRDA), ASRDA Clubs
- ASRDA Clubs by Dance Day
- Square Dance Etiquette
- Traditional vs. Casual Clothes
- Distance between ASRDA Clubs
- Square Dance Terms and Acronyms
- Visitation Fun
- Friendship Badge Program & Chart
- New Dancer Handbook (ASRDA Section)
- Texas Federation of Square and Round Dancers' Section of New Dancer Handbook

After you complete your classes, you may want to visit another club that dances on a different day. Click on **ASRDA Clubs by Dance Day** and you will have a list of all the clubs in the greater Austin area.

There is also a **NEW DANCER HANDBOOK** that can be downloaded. It has most of the information found on this page.

If you want to visit other clubs, you can be rewarded. Click on **Visitation Fun and the Friendship Badge Program and Chart**.

**Bottom Line:** If you have a question, please ask one of the regular dancers or check the website for lots of info for all dancers.



## Friendship Badge Program

**Friendship Badge Program** encourages ASRDA dancers to visit other clubs of which they are not members.

- Club visitations are not limited to clubs within ASRDA. They can be any square or round dance, clogging, contra, or line dance club or exhibition dance in Texas, the United States and abroad.
  - Dancer(s) must designate a HOME CLUB. Attending Home Club dances can't be included in the 15 dances attended on the Friendship Badge Chart.
  - Dancers who attend a dance festival or weekend where there is dancing during the day and evening can receive up to two visitation credits/day – one for daytime dancing/workshops and one for evening dancing.
  - A dancer must have the caller, cuer or person responsible for hosting the dance sign the Friendship Badge Card.
  - To receive this special Friendship dangle, a dancer must attend 15 dances (or one card's worth). When the person finishes the 2nd card (the equivalent of 30 dances), he/she will receive a \$25 gift card.
  - Dancers who currently have the old Friendship Badge card may continue to use it until it is full and then change over to the new card.
  - Effective date for use of this new card and guidelines is 22 April 2023. The program is ongoing.
- Rev 10/21/23

FRIENDSHIP BADGE PROGRAM			FRIENDSHIP BADGE PROGRAM		
Dancer(s)			Dancer(s)		
Home Club			Home Club		
Dancer(s') Name(s)			Dancer(s') Name(s)		
Phone No.			Phone No.		
Email Address			Email Address		
CLUB VISITED	OFFICIAL SIGNATURE	VISIT DATE	CLUB VISITED	OFFICIAL SIGNATURE	VISIT DATE
1			16		
2			17		
3			18		
4			19		
5			20		
6			21		
7			22		
8			23		
9			24		
10			25		
11			26		
12			27		
13			28		
14			29		
15			30		

## What Square Dancing Has Meant to Me!

Prior to the 2023 State Festival, TSFSRD asked dancers from all over Texas to write about what square dancing has meant to them in their lives. The responses were submitted to the Federation with the understanding the documents would be on a display table at the festival. The display acknowledged the significance of the letters.

There were nine responses and SIX of them were from dancers in ASRDA! Many people stopped to read the documents and repeatedly commented “I never knew that about \_\_\_\_\_.”

All the ASRDA responses will be shared in the next few months. Here is one of the responses:

In 1970, I learned to square dance at the Clark AFB Recreation Center. It was the Vietnam Era. I was a school teacher. Hundreds of young servicemen needed rest and relaxation after their military. Duties. Square dance lessons were free and fun for them. My fondest memory was square dancing outside on the recreation center patio. This was not possible during the rainy season. I don't remember the caller's name, but I will always appreciate him.

About 1975, in Great Falls, Montana, I continued to square dance. For a south Texas girl, the cold weather was a new experience. Winter wheat farmers would have square dances in their basements. Most lessons were held in an old school gym. The gym was always packed on lessons night and dance night. The caller lived across the street from the gym so we could dance early or late.

Years before I moved to Ankara, Turkey, the Turkish-American Association had square dances to live callers. The callers moved away, and generously left their records with the association. Because I had a huge apartment and fancy stereo equipment, I hosted many square dances in my living room/dining room/balcony. At least six squares could dance. “Proud Mary” was their favorite song.

They would sing it as they danced. Smooth cork floors and walls of windows provided welcome ventilation. Some preferred the cool night air on the balcony. Neighbors opened their windows to hear the catchy tunes.

P.S. This journey has a happy ending. Twenty-five years later, I married a Turk. We were asked by the ASRDA President to be Square Dance Ambassadors for the Association.

Turkish/Texan friendships continued until my partner's passing in 2023. These days I serve as TASSD's Vice-President/Southwest.



**BE A PARTICIPANT:** If you would like to share your experience with square dancing, please send “What Square Dancing has meant to me” or any other article to [vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com](mailto:vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com) and we'll get it in one of the future newsletters.



**Want to improve your Mainstream dancing?  
Free Review Lessons Available on Mondays**

Sometimes we all need a review of Mainstream calls. Have we got a deal for you! Dan McDonald, a Wheel-N-Deals dancer, and budding caller is offering a **FREE** review of Mainstream calls to new Students and/or Retreads, those who are getting back to square dancing and need a little review.

You can join Dan and others on Monday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm at the VFW Hall in San Marcos at 1701 Hunter Road, which is before the Cen-Tex Plus Club. During this review, Dan will also be practicing his calling, while the dancers practice the calls. To help the dancers and Dan, at least eight dancers need to attend. If you would like to take advantage of this square dance review, please contact Dan McDonald at 512-694-0654 or send a text to Bob Anderson at 512-426-8855.

We hope to see you soon in a review square!

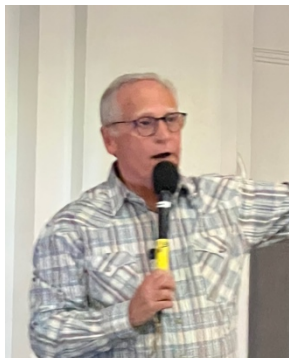




## Texas Federation of Square and Round Dance President's Dance



### Grand March



Steve Kopman, Caller



Pat & Ron Plouch, Cuers



### Texas State Callers Association

If you attended this dance, check out our Facebook page to see a short slideshow of the event as well as checking the Gallery on [asrda.org/gallery](http://asrda.org/gallery). Lots of fun photos on

Moving Square Dancing into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Fragrances at Dances

Some of you may remember the jingle, “Brylcream, a little dab will do ya’!” Well, the same goes with fragrances on the dance floor. Whether its perfume, powders, cologne, after shave, etc., too much can ruin someone else’s fun! And we all know that we don’t want to do that!



Wearing fragrance can be a wonderful way to express yourself, but it can actually be harmful to others, causing migraines or allergic reactions that can impair breathing.

When you're used to wearing perfume every day, your senses can get used to it and block it out the smell, tempting you to apply too much.

To tell if you're a potential offender, put on your perfume/powder/after shave/cologne as usual. Wait five seconds; then put a tissue on that spot. The tissue shouldn't stick. Time can help remedy the situation, but a quicker way to cut down on the odor is to put rubbing alcohol on a cotton ball and apply that on the areas where you put the fragrance.

The reasoning for sharing this information is that this problem actually occurs when a person dances with someone else in a square or sits near that person, who is saturated with a scent, and allergic reactions are often the result, such as watery, itchy eyes, sneezing, headaches, respiratory irritation, nausea, runny nose, dizziness.

Unfortunately, this results in the person with the allergies having to leave the dance. Please be mindful of the amount of fragrance you are using. It may be harmful to others. So, like the jingle says, “A little dab will do you” so please use fragrances sparingly.



**Club News is in Part 2 of the November Newsletter.**

