

# SPREAD & circulate

Winter 2016

Volume 28, No. 2

## Letter from the President: Chi-Town Squares in 2016



by Rob Sierzega

Our fall 2015 BLAST class in September was a lot of fun with Arlene Kaspik putting the new dancers through their steps. Thanks to Rich J. and everyone who helped out with this successful event. It's good to see so many BLAST graduates dancing regularly on Thursday nights. Our next BLAST 2016 will be held in spring, **April 1 – 3**. Invite your friends!

The Great Chicago Crossfire 2015 in October featured Sandra Bryant and Aaron Wells, with help from our club callers. Thanks to the wonderful chair Jean Shamo and the entire Crossfire Committee. Plans will be starting up next month for the 26<sup>th</sup> Crossfire to held **October 7-9, 2016**. Sandra Bryant and Tom Miller will be the featured callers.

Our very popular monthly First Thursday Chi-Town Square's Dance Party – "No Experience Needed" (7:30 to 9:30 PM) will continue throughout 2016, starting on

**January 7**. Spread the word!

Interested in Plus dancing, or want to brush up on your Plus skills? Sign up online for the new Plus Series, to be held over three Saturdays on **January 23, 30, and February 13, 2016**.

The weekly Advanced/Challenge workshops continue on Mondays with C1 being taught for the first 45 minutes. Thursday nights will feature Mainstream with a few Plus tips thrown in. Therron is now offering Mainstream review sessions at 7 PM. Check the website for calls to be covered.

Come out and join the dancing; that will keep you warm these cold nights! Speaking of cold, if we need to cancel a weekday dance, we will make the decision at 3:30 PM of the day in question. Please note the numbers to call below.

We will have a State of the Club presentation at January's Chili Dance to let you know what's happening and give you a chance to ask questions.

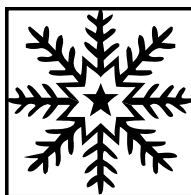
Please make sure your e-mail address and mailing address is up to date on our website [www.chitownsquares.org](http://www.chitownsquares.org) (your e-mail address is your log-in). Check out our new easy-to-read dance calendar table that has all events listed; you can print or export as a PDF.

Here are numbers to call in case winter weather threatens to cancel a Chi-Town event.

Please call after **3:30 PM**.

**Monday night**

Rob Sierzega @ home  
773-338-0436



**Thursday night**  
John Wood @ cell  
312-375-1272

For **weekend** dances, call **Rob** four hours before the event.

If there is NOT a message indicating the dance is cancelled, then it is ON!

Remember that we have the Larry Burke Scholarship fund available for any Chi-Town member that would like to dance, but is having financial difficulties. Just ask a Board member and we will be glad to work with you.

See you on the dance floor! -Rob

# Chi-Town Goings-On in 2016 *by Jim Cosenza*

*Happy New Year all! Here is a summary of some upcoming Chi-Town Squares events. Remember you can find more information at our website [www.chitownsquares.org](http://www.chitownsquares.org), or by sending an email to [info@chitownsquares.org](mailto:info@chitownsquares.org). Unless otherwise indicated, all events are held at Ebenezer Lutheran Church Community Center, 1650 W. Foster Ave., one block west of Ashland Ave.*

## Chili Dance 2016!

Chi-Town's annual Chili Dance will be held Saturday **January 9**, 5-9 PM. John Oldfield is putting together the calling schedule which will feature Michael, Arlene, Therron and Sandie. Please bring chili or other side dishes to share. Also at the Chili Dance we will have a mid-year meeting, including looking at options for a new club uniform, but no votes will be taken until our annual meeting in May.

## Winter Plus Series 2016!

Learn or Brush Up Plus Level Modern Square Dance in 3 fun-filled Saturdays! **1/23, 1/30, 2/13** from 9 AM-3 PM, with a lunch break. Tuition is \$75 for 15 hours of instruction and dance, learning 30 Plus calls. Michael Maltenfort is calling. Look for more details at our website and in this newsletter.

## Spring Blast 2016!

Learn to square dance in a weekend! **Friday April 1 through Sunday April 3**. Tuition is \$75 and includes snacks, lunch on Saturday, and a T-shirt! All are invited, attire is casual, dance partner not required. Arlene Kaspik is calling. You can register on line at [www.chitownsquares.org](http://www.chitownsquares.org)

## Dance Parties 2016!

Starting on **January 7**, then every first Thursday of each month through 2016. No experience needed. Learn some moves, have some fun, bring a friend! Attire is casual, dance partner not required.

## Mainstream Review Thursdays!

When we don't have a dance party on Thursday night, we will have our regular workshop/dance, alternating Mainstream and Plus tips.

And beginning **January 14**, our fine club caller Therron Ricks will be reviewing MS calls 7:00 -7:25 PM. You can find the schedule of calls to be reviewed at our website. Come out and support this great opportunity for extra floor time!

## Queer Contra!

Join us at Queer Contra Chicago for a fun evening of dancing and fellowship! They are dancing these following Saturdays: **1/30, 2/27 & 3/26** at 6:30 PM. At Second Unitarian Church of Chicago, 656 W. Barry, Chicago. Please RSVP on the Queer Contra Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ContraChicago>.

## Milwaukee Road Trip March 6

Please note that the Milwaukee road trip that was planned for January 3 was cancelled. Cream City Squares had to cancel the dance due to a scheduling conflict in the hall that they use. It has been rescheduled for **March 6**.

## The Way Forward Committee

Come join us at The Way Forward Committee. Chi-Town Squares needs your ideas to direct our future. Your input matters. The committee has developed our wildly successful Dance Parties. We developed a plan for Thursday nights that will be implemented in January 2016. We worked on the idea of a Plus Series which begins in January 2016. We're discussing demonstration dances, a subscription model, Dance Parties tailored for particular groups, ways to build momentum for the Winter Plus Series 2016! and Spring Blast 2016!, working on growing our membership, and our media presence. Your ideas will help make Chi-Town a stronger club. The next meeting is **January 23**, 3:00 PM at the church.

*Spread & Circulate* is the quarterly newsletter of Chi-Town Squares. Submissions and correspondence should be sent to Editor Bob Siegel at [brompton98@yahoo.com](mailto:brompton98@yahoo.com).

Contributors: Rob Sierzega, Rick Simkin, Rich Jentzen, Jim Cosenza, Joe Kerouac, Jean Shamo, Nancy Vedder, Rich Sehnert, Janice Cha

# Learn to Dance Plus! Brush Up Your Plus Skills!

Chi-Town Squares is offering it's first Plus Subscription Series. Caller Michael Maltenfort will be teaching the 30 Plus calls over three Saturdays. The Series dates are 1/23, 1/30, and 2/13, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Lunch each day will be at noon. We'll be ordering in pizza and asking a \$5 contribution per person. Please bring your own lunch if you don't want pizza, but note that the time frame for lunch will be tight.

The cost is \$75 for the entire series. Registration forms are available at: <http://chitownsquares.org/sites/chitownsquares.org/files/registration-forms/cts-winter-plus-series-2016-registration-pdf-final.pdf>.

Please consider reviewing Plus definitions prior to attending the classes. Some websites to consider are ceder.net, Taminations, and Square Dance Video Lessons.



## Winter Plus Series 2016!

Learn Plus in 3 Saturdays!

1/23, 1/30, & 2/13  
9am – 3pm



## Spring Blast 2016 - Fri 4/1 to Sun 4/3 Learn to Square Dance in a weekend!!

Tuition is just \$75 & includes snacks, lunch on Sat & a T-Shirt!  
Ebenezer Lutheran Church Community Center, 1650 W. Foster Ave – (one block west of Ashland)  
All are invited, attire is casual! Dance partner not required.

Learn more & register:  
[www.facebook.com/chitownsquares](http://www.facebook.com/chitownsquares) [www.chitownsquares.org](http://www.chitownsquares.org) [info@chitownsquares.org](mailto:info@chitownsquares.org)  
Chi-Town Squares is Chicago's LGBTQA Modern Square Dance Club

\*Money Back Guaranteed! Not satisfied on Friday evening? Get a full refund. Now that's a DEAL!

# Learn to Square Dance at Spring Blast Weekend!

Are you new to square dancing? Or maybe you only can dance occasionally? Well, this **Thursday January 7** is our monthly Dance Party! Please considering joining us! We're also very excited to announce that we will be hosting **two** opportunities to learn Mainstream Square Dance in 2016: Spring Blast **4/1 to 4/3** and Fall Blast **9/9 to 9/11**.

If monthly Dance Parties are 'just not enough', then the Blast is JUST FOR YOU!! You'll learn (or re-learn!) all of the "Basic & Mainstream" calls. With that knowledge, you'll be able to dance at local social dances or travel with us to Milwaukee, Grand Rapids, Atlanta, or Toronto (and many other places!) to dance as often as you like! So mark your calendars now! Arlene Kaspik will be teaching the Spring Blast this

year, to be held over four session **Friday April 1 to Sunday April 3**. Tuition is just \$75 and includes snacks, lunch on Saturday and a T-Shirt! Event to be held at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave (one block west of Ashland) All are invited, and attire is casual! Dance partner not required.

Registration forms are available at [http://chitownsquares.org/sites/chitownsquares.org/files/registration-forms/cts-spring-blast-2016-registration-gr-discount-final\\_0.pdf](http://chitownsquares.org/sites/chitownsquares.org/files/registration-forms/cts-spring-blast-2016-registration-gr-discount-final_0.pdf)

\*Money Back Guarantee! Not satisfied on Friday evening? Get a full refund. Now that's a DEAL!!



# Third MS Blast a Charm! *By Rich Jentzen*

Chi-Town Squares held another successful Mainstream Blast weekend in September. All in all we had close to 40 participants, including 13 new Mainstream grads! Thanks go to instructor Arlene Kaspik for a well paced course, the Blast committee, and all the angels and volunteers who helped throughout the weekend. Another thank you goes to the Way Forward Committee, who made the weekend a grand success. You ROCK!

For all club members, please continue your great work in reaching reach out to the new grads. Thank them for participating. Invite them to Thursday Night Club/ Mainstream/Workshop nights. Talk about fly-in and the convention and invite them to participate. That will

be a fantastic way to cement those great new dancing skills and have a rockin' good time!

Oh, one more lesson you can show the newbies... Yellow Rocks! I don't know the origin, but it plainly means: "warm & happy hugs". We also have a tradition in queer square dancing: "sneaky yellow rocks". That is a hug from behind.

So next time you are dancing with a new dancer, congratulate them and offer a Yellow Rock: Alberto Guzman, Bernard Boykin, Bud Young, Cindy Baker, Elliotte Lasley, Howard Disbrow, Kim Young, Mark Seaman, Marty Rodriguez, Paul Detaege, Razvan Bancos, Travis Moose, Twila Jones.



Bernard, Paul, Therron and Rich form a line!



Cindy and Chris



Twila and BeeJay



Bob and Mark



Travis and Michael



Kim and Jeff



Arlene at the mike



Alberto and Rich



Razvan and Elliotte



# Crossfire XXV a Silver and Black Success!

The 2015 Crossfire fly-in turned into a social and financial success, thanks to a small but dedicated committee and help from the entire Chi-Town Squares club. David Stewart maintained registration information online and provided vital spreadsheets to Jean Shamo, chair. Jeff Hutchins, David Stewart, Ed Siegel and Brad Savage, attended monthly planning meetings from early spring until the event began October 9, with Rob Sierzega, Board liaison, guiding in many ways. Nancy Vedder, from her distant home, sent out flyers to All Join Hands.

Although registrants numbered only 64 before the week-end began, attendance approached 80 with the last-minute walk-ins. Most importantly, club members pitched in throughout the week-end and made it all come together in an amazing way. Brunch served by Eat! catering was excellent and

having the entire event at the Ebenezer Church seemed to please everyone.

*And here is a special thank you from Nancy!!*

To everyone on the Crossfire Committee, Thank you, thank you, thank you!! It was an absolutely awesome Crossfire. I'm not sure if there was any behind the scenes drama or problems, but from what I saw it went off flawlessly and everyone was very, very happy. I did not hear any complaints on the sidelines. Hopefully, y'all didn't either. I know what work goes into these and know how thankless it can be sometimes. But from the bottom of my heart I say thank you, thank you, thank you! You all did an amazing job! Cheers to all!

- Nancy Vedder



Attentively listening to announcements!"



Peg and Kim



Cameron, Trevor and Michael



Featured Callers Sandie and Aaron



Leslie Gore-Tex with Rich

## What Is a Fly-In? *by Rob Sierzega and Bob Siegel*

If you are a new dancer, you may be just hearing about fly-ins. A fly-in is a square dancing weekend sponsored by an IAGSDC club. IAGSDC stands for International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs, of which Chi-Town Squares is a member. Each fly-in is unique to the host club, but basically consists of a weekend of square dancing and special events. Great callers are brought in, and most offer a lot of eating, socializing and fun! It is also a great chance to hone your skills, offering many hours of dancing over one weekend.

All other club members in the IAGSDC (yes, this includes you!) are invited to join in on the fun. In order to make the event more affordable and enjoyable, housing with host club members is usually made available. If you planned it right, you could square dance and travel the USA (Canada, too) with free lodging. Check out a list of upcoming fly-ins on the last page of this newsletter, or go to [www.iagsdc.org](http://www.iagsdc.org) and check out their event page.

Many clubs from various cities such as Toronto, Baltimore, New York and St. Petersburg hold their fly-in on the same weekend every year, while other cities may alternate every other year. Chi-Town Squares now host its fly-in, the Great Chicago Crossfire, on Columbus Day weekend in October. You will be hearing much more about this in the coming months!

In fact, you can be part of the Crossfire planning committee! Talk to a board member if interested.

But what if you don't want to wait that long? My suggestion for a great first fly-in would be Grand Rapids Michigan's "Ropin' the River" fly-in, to be held April 15-17, 2016. Despite being a relatively small club, the Grand River Squares are most welcoming of us and do a fantastic job year after year. The callers this year are Tim Marriner & Gary Monday, and there will be sure to plenty of friendly Mainstream and Plus dancing so you will not feel intimidated. And since Grand Rapids is only 175 miles away, the trip usually takes less than four hours, and plenty of familiar Chi-Town faces will be there, often outnumbering the host club!

But if you want to go to the ultimate fly-in, you should seriously consider planning a trip to Toronto in July for *Maple Leaf Regroup*, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the IAGSDC. Here is where over 1000 dancers gather together for a weekend of dancing, and so much more. Ask anyone who has been to a convention, and they will attest to the fact that it is truly the defining event of gay square dancing. New dancers pay a discounted rate, too!

### Danke Schoen!

Some people travel a long way to square dance! Recently we had a few visitors all the way from Germany come to our Thursday night dance! Obviously they must have heard of Chi-Town's hospitality and were glad they came, later writing to Rich and Jim, "Hello, we had a good time at the dance with you.

Thanks,  
Drea and Oliver."



### Mainstream Review Sessions!

Therron Ricks will be reviewing MS calls this winter/spring, 7:00 -7:25 PM, on non-Dance Party Thursdays. Be sure to come join us and take advantage of the extra floor time.

1/14 Dixie Style to an Ocean Wave  
1/21 Spin Chain Thru/Spin the Top  
1/28 Easy Half-Sashay BBGG  
2/11 Scoot Back/Centers/Split  
2/18 Wheel Around  
2/25 Half-Sashay Pass the Ocean  
3/10 Once and a Half Split Circulate  
3/17 Centers Start Swing Thru  
3/24 Thars/Alamo  
4/14 Singers and Swingers  
4/28 Half-Sashay Recycle  
5/12 Cross Run, Cross Fold

# Chi-Town Squares Calendar

## January 2016

*Therron will conduct a Mainstream Review every Thursday (except 1st) 7:00-7:25 PM!*

*Italics = Non-CTS event  
All events held at Ebenezer, unless otherwise indicated.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	5	6	7 CTS Dance Party!! Michael Maltenfort 7:00 – 9:30 PM	8 Recyclers C1 Sandie Bryant Deerfield 8:00 PM	9 Chili Dance/Meeting Club Callers 5:00-9:00 PM
10	11 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	12	13	14 Mainstream/Plus WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	15	16
17 <i>PDP Fly-In</i>	18 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	19	20	21 Mainstream/Plus WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	22 <i>Promenade Down Peachtree, Atlanta GA</i>	23 Winter Plus Series Day 1 9 AM-3 PM Way Forward 3 PM
24	25 A2/C1 WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM	26	27	28 Mainstream/Plus WS Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	29	30 Winter Plus Series Day 2 9 AM-3 PM Queer Contra 6 PM

## February 2016

*Therron will conduct a Mainstream Review every Thursday (except 1st) 7:00-7:25 PM!*

*Italics = Non-CTS event  
All events held at Ebenezer, unless otherwise indicated.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan 31	1 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	2	3	4 CTS Dance Party!! Sandie Bryant 7:00 – 9:30 PM	5	6 Pollywogs C2 M. Maltenfort Deerfield, IL
7	8 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	9	10	11 Mainstream/Plus WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	12 Recyclers A2 Sandie Bryant Deerfield 8:00 PM	13 Winter Plus Series Day 3 9 AM-3 PM Michael Maltenfort
14	15 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	16	17	18 Mainstream/Plus WS Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	19	20
21 MCASD Sweet-heart Dance, 2 PM Roselle, IL	22 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	23	24	25 Mainstream/Plus WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	26	27 Queer Contra Dance 6:30 9:30 PM 626 W Barry Ave.
28 Mid-Winter Dance 2:00-5:00 PM Chuck Witt	29 A2/C1 WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM					



# Chi-Town Squares Calendar

## March 2016

*Therron will conduct a Mainstream Review every Thursday (except 1st) 7:00-7:25 PM!*

*Italics = Non-CTS event  
All events held at Ebenezer, unless otherwise indicated.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 CTS Dance Party!! Sandie Bryant 7:00 – 9:30 PM	4	5
6 <i>Trip to Milwaukee!</i> 1:30 – 6:00 PM 2647 N. Stowell	7 A2/C1 WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM	8	9	10 Mainstream/Plus WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	11	12 <i>Pollywogs C2/C3A</i> <i>Lynette Bellini</i> <i>Deerfield 3:00 PM</i>
13 Wearing the Green Dance 2-5 PM Jimmy Robison	14 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	15	16	17 Mainstream/Plus WS Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	18 <i>Recyclers C1</i> <i>Sandie Bryant</i> <i>Deerfield 8:00 PM</i>	19
20	21 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	22	23	24 Mainstream/Plus WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	25	26 <i>QueerContra Dance</i> <i>6:30 9:30 PM</i> <i>626 W Barry Ave.</i>
27	28 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	29	30	31 <i>Visit to South Side</i> <i>Squares 7:00-9:15 PM</i> <i>1551 W. 95th Street</i>		

## April 2016

*Therron will conduct a Mainstream Review every Thursday (except 1st) 7:00-7:25 PM!*

*Italics = Non-CTS event  
All events held at Ebenezer, unless otherwise indicated.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Spring Blast 2016 Day 1 6:00-10:00 PM	2 Spring Blast 2106 Day 2 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
3 Spring Blast 2016 Day 3 1:00 – 4:00 PM	4 A2/C1 WS M. Maltenfort 7:30 PM	5	6	7 CTS Dance Party!! Arlene Kaspik 7:00 – 9:30 PM	8 <i>Recyclers A2</i> <i>Sandie Bryant</i> <i>Deerfield 8:00 PM</i>	9 <i>Spring Fling Dance</i> <i>7-10 PM</i> <i>Aaron Wells</i>
10	11 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	12	13	14 Mainstream/Plus WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	15 Recyclers C1 Bill Haynes <i>Ropin' the River, Grand Rapids, MI</i>	16 <i>Pollywogs C2/C3A,</i> <i>Bill Haynes</i>
17	18 A2/C1 WS Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	19	20	21 Mainstream/Plus WS Michael Maltenfort 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	22	23
24 <i>Ropin' the River</i>	25 A2/C1 W Sandie Bryant 7:30 PM	26	27	28 Mainstream/Plus WS Arlene Kaspik 7:30 PM (Review @ 7)	29	30 <i>QueerContraDance</i> <i>6:30 9:30 PM</i> <i>626 W Barry Ave.</i>



# MCASD Sweetheart Dance February 21

The Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers (MCASD) is the local association of square dance clubs, of which Chi-Town Squares is the largest member. It is through this association that we obtain low rates for insurance.

To fund the insurance the MCASD host two dances a year, held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle, IL. The first dance of the season was the Pumpkin Ball in October. The second is the Sweetheart Dance, to be held on **February 21, 2:00–5:00 PM**. Featured callers this year are Bob Asp and Chuck Witt.

Tickets are currently available at a discounted rate of \$7 per person, at any Chi-Town dance. Note that new Mainstream dancers are admitted for free, and there is a special room for new dancers. The main hall will be Plus level. We are also usually asked to help out with set up and take down, so if you can go early or stay a little later, it will be appreciated.

One tradition of the Sweetheart dance is the naming of a Sweetheart Couple, randomly selected following a short procession of couples representing each local club. There was a time not too long ago when the rules stated this couple must be “one man and one woman”. But after our acceptance to the association, the rule was changed to allow any two dancers. Rumor has it that representing us as our Sweetheart Couple will be new Mainstream dancers Paul and Mark ... congratulations guys!

Acceptance really is the operative word here, as we have been very well accepted by other MCASD dancers, who often try to get in squares with us. While the general trend at this dance is to wear traditional square

dance attire, we often use this as an opportunity to wear our club vests, which is never an issue. By the way, there has been some calls to choose a new club uniform or shirt, so if you have any ideas, bring them to the mid year meeting at the Chili dance!

## Plan to Attend the IL State Convention in July!

Hello I am Rich Sehnert. I am a member of Chi-Town Squares, and also chair of the Illinois 33rd Square & Round Dance Convention, to be held at July 29-31, 2016 at the Westin Chicago Northwest in Itasca, IL. The featured caller is Jet Roberts from California, hence the aviation theme!

The convention planning is moving right along. We still need a couple positions for the committee. Our next meeting is **January 17** at 3 PM at Denny's 17w 660 22nd Street,

Oak Brook Terrace, IL. Need a ride? Let Rich Sehnert know and he will drive into city to pick you up!

You can find information at the following link: <https://ilsdconvention2016.shutterfly.com>.



The special room rate for the convention is \$92 a night (normally \$159 and up), so consider staying for a night or two. We hope that the proximity to Chicago will draw more Chi-Towners this year; if not for the entire convention, then for at least for a day/night.

# Spooky Halloween Pics! *by Bob Siegel and Rob Sierzega*



Kim Davis curses Thelma and Louise!



Landshark meets Jared and Kim!



Santa's favorite reindeer!



Class of '96 reunion!



Rob accosts zombie Cameron!



Ron channels Eastern Airlines!



I want to suck your...blood!



Some pizza rats were sited!



Sandie a mime??

Chi-Towners once again showed their ingenuity at the annual Halloween costume dance, called by Sandie Bryant on October 29. A fun time was had by all!

Various award were given out, among them, Best Couple: Rich and Jim for Santa and Reindeer; Cutest Costume: Paul Detaege as Paul Bunyon; Most offensive: Bob Siegel as Jared (honorable mention to Kevin Randall as Kim Davis!); and Best Overall: caller Sandie Bryant as a mime! Now that was a stretch!



# Tales of Turquoise Trails *by Rick Simkin*

The 2015 West Coast Advanced and Challenge fly-in, Turquoise Trail Thru, was hosted by The Wilde Bunch of Albuquerque. The name refers to an actual route between Albuquerque and Santa Fe, just east of the Sandia Mountains. I went to Albuquerque early so that I could visit the Turquoise Trail before the dancing started.

As it turns out, my plans and my friend Steven's plans meshed well. His flight from California arrived in Albuquerque only a few minutes before my flight from Chicago. We had fun navigating the rental car through the city to the hotel - a much more interesting ride than taking the interstate.

After we checked into the hotel, we had a very late lunch (or very early supper), unpacked and rested a while, and then made our way to the Albuquerque Square Dance Center for a Thursday night Advanced dance that Kris Jensen was calling.

This particular Advanced dance usually has a couple of squares; but a lot of people had arrived early for Turquoise Trail Thru so this night there were at least 6 squares dancing, which was exciting for everyone. Some of the fly-in callers had arrived early too, so there were a couple of guest-called tips as well.

On Friday morning Steven and I set out to explore the Turquoise Trail. Old (and famous) Route 66 goes right through Albuquerque, and is a good way to get to the Turquoise Trail's southern end, in the town of Tijeras. There's a park ranger station there, with brochures, a nature walk (with signs!) and a small museum.

The ranger station was a good place to start. The woman behind the desk was friendly and knowledgeable, and the ranger station itself had some interesting art and nature displays. The nature walk gave us a good view of some scenery, and told us about some of the plants that are very common in the area, especially snakeweed and rabbit brush. The museum is small and, it turns out, is still being set up. We met 2 more friendly, knowledgeable people there, eager to tell us all kinds of things about the plants, the land, and the people who lived there before Europeans arrived. The museum also had a video (short version and long version) on how to make an arrowhead out of obsidian. We watched that and were quite impressed with what a good result could be had from what started as a lump of black volcanic glass.

Eventually we left Tijeras and headed north. The Turquoise Trail (also known as New Mexico state route 14) passes through rolling hills and a slowly rising landscape. The town of Golden seemed to be one general store and maybe a house or two hiding off the road. The town of Madrid was bigger, and had more art shops and studios than I

could count, and all different - fine paintings, rustic paintings, painter studio; fine jewelry, souvenir jewelry; clothing shops, artistic textiles; and sculptor's workshops; We had a late lunch in Madrid, in the very pleasant shade of a mesquite tree. The town of Cerrillos seemed almost like a ghost town: maybe a dozen streets total, and almost no people visible. One end of town has a nice overlook of a river valley (no water when we were there).

We took the interstate back to Albuquerque at the end of the afternoon, about a 1-hour drive. We saw lots of familiar faces when we got back to the hotel, and spent some pleasant time greeting people and talking. I went to the registration desk, and there was Georgian welcoming people and helping to get us registered. Then the dancing started. Hooray!

There were 4 halls for dancing this weekend: Advanced-2, Challenge-1, Challenge-2, and one hall for Challenge-3A, Challenge-3B, and sometimes Challenge-4. I danced almost as much as I could, but I did sit out now and then to accommodate for the high altitude and the desert environment.

A couple of personal stories stood out during this weekend. I saw a couple I've met before at square dancing, who were worried before the first evening that they wouldn't know anyone. As we were talking in the hotel lobby, we kept getting interrupted by people coming by and saying hello. Soon they realized that they'd know lots of people at this event!

Another standout experience was talking to a man who came from a conservative Christian family, and moved to Albuquerque to live without his family's constant disapproval. I thought he was gay, but I was wrong - he's straight, and his wife is bisexual, and so is their teenage child. Square dancing, and The Wilde Bunch, have made their life a lot happier.

There were also plenty of parties in the evenings after dancing was done. One night was a birthday party for Stuart, the Square Dance Guru - lots of people, lots of cake, lots of noise. Another night was a quiet get-together with a dozen people or so, chips and chocolate and drinks (with or without alcohol).

At the end of the weekend I was sorry to leave, but I was also quite tired. The Albuquerque airport is smaller and less crowded than Chicago's airports, and it's always refreshing to have so much less delay going through security and getting to the departure gate.



Rick in Madrid, NM



Steven Lew in Cerrillos, NM



# Thanksgiving Dance with Dayle Hodge



## Updated Social Dance Schedule

**January 9, 2016** - 5 PM to 9 PM – Chili Dance – Club Callers - Mainstream to C1

**February 28, 2016** – 2 PM to 5 PM – Mid-winter Dance - Chuck Witt - Mainstream to C1  
(Note, change of originally announced caller)

**March 13, 2016** – 2 PM to 5 PM – Wearing O' the Green Dance – Jimmy Robison - Mainstream & Plus

**April 9, 2016** - 7 PM to 10 PM – Spring Fling Dance – Aaron Wells - Mainstream to C1

**May 14, 2016** - 5 PM to 9 PM - Annual Meeting, Pot-luck dinner & Dance – Club Callers - Mainstream to C1

**June 11, 2016** - 7PM to 10 PM – Pride Dance – Nick Martellacci - Mainstream to C1

## A Note from Glenview Squares

Glenview Squares members have found Chi-Town's Thursday lessons and intro party a great way to help their own students gain much-needed floor-time from a variety of callers. Chi-Town members go out of their way to make our new dancers feel welcome. Thank you for your warm hospitality!

We also would like to welcome Chi-Town friends to join us at Glenview's 66th Annual Dinner Dance, **Friday, May 20, 6:30 PM**, at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, Niles, IL, with caller Tom Davis. Tickets will be available starting in April. The evening will include dinner, dancing at the MS and Plus levels, Basket Raffle, Door Prizes and much more!



# Bill and Tom's Square Dance Love Story!

Tom started CTS in 1997 thanks to influence from his good friend Steve Allen. Bill started square dancing while attending Eastern Kentucky University in 1976 and continued when he returned to Indiana by joining Y-Knots in Griffith.

We met at CTS 17 years ago, but didn't start dating until 13 years ago (because Bill thought Tom and model Steve Kelso were partners, and Tom thought Bill was straight!). We decided to make each other an honest man by getting legally married @ Immanuel United Church of Christ in Highland, IN September 2015. Who needs all those internet lonely hearts sites?? Join CTS, get involved, have

fun...and hey, you may meet the right person like we did! If not, what the heck...you will still have fun (and at least get lucky).

*Editor's note: Tom and Bill celebrated their marriage in December with a brunch for their church group, family and friends, as well as at the Chi-Town Holiday dance with Bobby Poyner. Some of the pictures are from that brunch. I would like to acknowledge ALL our Chi-Towners members who have been "officially" married in the last couple of*

years...many of whom have met right here at Chi-Town Squares! Congratulations!



## Holiday Dance 2015 with Bobby Poyner



Therron our live tree!

# Upcoming National Events

*Information taken from the IAGSDC.org event page.*

15-Jan -17-Jan **Promenade Down Peachtree**  
Callers: Gary Monday, Chris Phillips and Justin Russell  
Hotlanta Squares, Atlanta GA

05-Feb - 07-Feb **SWING THRU THE PALMS #7**  
Callers: Darren Gallina, Gary Monday, Cliff Simpson.  
Boots In Squares, 401 S. Pavilion Way, Palm Springs CA

12-Feb – 15-Feb **Flip the Flamingo IX -**  
Callers: Dayle Hodge, Chris Phillips, Mike Cox  
Suncoast Squares, Pinellas Park (near St. Petersburg), FL

12-Feb – 14-Feb **ACDC, A/C Weekend - East Coast.**  
Callers: Sandra Bryant, Geo Jedlicka, John Marshall,  
Bronc Wise  
DC Lambda Squares, Washington, DC

04-Mar – 06-Mar **SHOOT THE LONE STAR**  
Callers: Sandie Bryant, Vic Ceder, Michael Levy  
Lone Star Lambdas, Austin TX

11-Mar – 13-Mar **2016 Rain Festival**  
Callers: John Marshall, Anne Uebelacker, Gary Monday  
Puddletown Squares, Seattle, WA

01-Apr – 03-Apr **It's the Great Fly-in Charlie Brown**  
Callers: Mike Kellogg, Tom Miller, Betsy Gotta  
Independence Squares, Wilmington, DE

15-Apr – 17-Apr **Ropin The River 2016 - Dancing With The Thars**  
Callers: Tim Marriner & Gary Monday  
Grand River Squares, Grand Rapids, MI

22-Apr – 24-Apr **The Far Out, Groovy, Cool Cat, Nifty, Tie Dye, Hippy, Square Dance Weekend!**  
Callers: Darren Gallina, Derek Page  
Temple Squares, Salt Lake City, UT

22-Apr – 24-Apr **Pass the Ocean, Hon! 2016**  
Callers: Deborah Carroll-Jones, Hunter Keller, Ett McAtee,  
Dayle Hodge  
Chesapeake Squares, Rehoboth Beach, DE

20-May – 22-May **Stumptown Stomp 2016**  
Callers: Andy Allemao and Charlie Robertson

Capital City Squares, Guerneville, CA

15-Jun – 18-Jun **AACE - Academy for Advanced & Challenge Enthusiasts**  
Callers: Sandie Bryant, Vic Ceder, Barry Clasper, Todd Fellegly, Ross Howell, Anne Uebelacker, Rob French, John Marshall  
Fort Wayne, IN

01-Jul – 04-Jul **Maple Leafs Regroup: 33rd Annual IAGSDC Convention**  
Callers: Sandie Bryant, Vic Ceder, Barry Clasper, Tim Crawford, Dayle Hodge, Osamu Miyabe, Michael Kellogg, Don Moger, Anne Uebelacker, Joe Uebelacker  
Triangle Squares, Toronto, Canada

31-Jul – 04-Aug **Latch on C3A 2016**  
Callers: Vic Ceder  
Redwood Rainbows, Sebastopol, CA

09-Aug – 12-Aug **Catch C2 2016**  
Callers: Sandie Bryant  
Redwood Rainbows, Sebastopol, CA

02-Sep – 04-Sep **Chase the Chile 2016**  
Callers: Tim Marriner, Bill Eyler, Kris Jensen, Scott Amspoker  
Wilde Bunch, Albuquerque, NM

09-Sep – 11-Sep **Pass the Sea 2016**  
Callers: Darren Gallina, Michael Kellogg  
Finest City Squares, San Diego, CA

30-Sep – 02-Oct **Patch the Bay Bridge, A/C Weekend - West Coast.**  
Callers: Lynette Bellini, John Bowman, Vic Ceder, Rob French, Michael Kellogg, Harlan Kerr, Fen Tamañana, Bronc Wise  
Midnight Squares & Redwood Rainbows, San Francisco

07-Oct – 09-Oct **The Great Chicago Crossfire**  
Callers: Sandra Bryant and Tom Miller  
Chi-Town Squares, Chicago, IL

