

SPREAD & circulate

August 2011

Volume 24, No. 5

Sign Up to Dance at All-Groups Picnic Aug. 28

Join Chi-Town at Chicagoland's Annual All-Groups Picnic at Busse Woods Forest Preserve in Schaumburg Sunday, August 28th, at Noon! Come and party with members of Chicagoland gay associations including Chi-Town Squares, the Lincoln Park Lagooners, WOWS, Asians & Friends, CAAN, Rainbow Brunch, Oak Park Gay & Lesbian Association, PFLAG, the Fairy Gardeners and more.

Meet new friends. Re-new old acquaintances. Bring some food, some drink, a guest or two, your own lawn chair, and just have fun! A grill will be available. Alcohol is permitted, but glass containers are prohibited in the Forest Preserve.

We are taking sign-ups and hope to have at least 8-9 people sign up to show up, so that we can hire a caller and actually dance some tips. **But we need people to sign up to say that they will be attending.** Sign up at any summer session or contact Bob Sundal at sundal.bob@comcast.net

Who knows what you might see at the Forest Preserve? You might even see some red hot wieners!



Directions:

Busse Woods is conveniently located at the junction of I-90 and I-290 in Schaumburg. Exit I-290 at Higgins Road going east. Take the FIRST LEFT entrance into Busse Woods; the entrance sign says "Busse Forest West."

The All Groups Picnic is at Grove/Shelter 31 beside a beautiful pond. We'll see you all there anytime from Noon to Dusk!

Whatever Happened To.... ???

Chi-Town at Market Days :

The board decided not to have any presence at Market Days this year. There will not be a booth or anyone handing out palmcards. Last year, this event was expensive, difficult to bring equipment to, and not productive in recruiting new students as it turned into a rowdy drinking party.

Chuck Pease Pool Party:

Chuck is taking a break this year, so there will be no party in 2011.

Chi-Town Attends Gary, Indiana Pride

By Tom Wilborn

A few Chi-Towners (Rich Sehnert and me) joined Terry, Pat, Randi, Aaron and their two girls Chianne and Tailor to decorate two SUVs to march and hand out palm cards. Needless to say this wasn't at the level of Chicago's parade – about 10 entries and maybe 20-30 folks saw us. I must admit it did feel a little lonely during part of the time.

An amusing start was when a Gary police car ran into a light post in the parking lot where we were gathering. He hit the post so hard his air bags deployed! Maybe he was looking at the colorful participants..... Anyway, one very nice highlight was when a lesbian couple with their two children were watching us go by. They were all wearing rainbow color lettered t-

shirts stating they were a gay couple with children.

The picnic following in Marquette Park on the beach was a bit of a bust – it was cold, foggy, sprinkling and windy. Our group went back to our place for a picnic in the basement. Later we had a tour of Bill's bait shop! Worms, minnows and crickets....Oh my!

HA! Who says you can't have fun in Indiana!?!?!?!
Well, OK, maybe not a lot of fun....but still lots of PRIDE!

Photos by Rich S.



Chi-Town Banner Successfully Retrieved

By Rich Sehnert

Thank you to all who came out to the Banner Retrieval at Squares Spares & Pairs on June 27. This club stole our banner 2 years ago, and they were happy that we finally retrieved it. The caller was Mike Richards from Sterling, IL, and he called a very good dance.

Therron got to dance Spin Chain and Exchange the Gears twice—and it is a call that he was not officially learned yet. He also was the “Pretty One” leading everyone to the other side of the square!

Thanks to Bob, Therron, Bill, Claudine, and myself Rich for helping out.

Blizzard Spotted in Pride Guide

By Tom Wilborn

Check out the Pride Guide on page 15. It's an ad for Gay Chicago Magazine stating that they are **BIGGER AND MORE COLORFUL THAN EVER**. Also proud Porta-Potty Sponsor.

And there is a color photo of Mike Blizzard holding a rainbow umbrella sitting on a float (hopefully not a porta potty!!).

This is close to the first anniversary of his passing - I think he would have laughed at this. He and Lois will be missed at the convention this year.

Spread and Circulate is the newsletter of the Chi-Town Squares. Submissions and correspondence should be sent to the editor at dontcallmechief2@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month for the next issue.

Submissions may be edited for length or content.

Editor: Joel Iott Contributors: Joe Kerouac, Bob Sundal, Rick Simkin, Bob Siegel, Kathy Zottmann, Tom Wilborn, Carri Hilbrand, Rob Sierzega, Rich Sehnert

Your Presence is Requested at a Gala Celebration, Crossfire XXI...Finally Legal!

By Bob Siegel

The Great Chicago Crossfire XXI, the annual fly-in of Chi-Town Squares and the first fly in after Gone With the Windmill, will be held over Labor Day weekend, September 2-5, 2011. Callers Sandie Bryant and Nick Martellacci will headline a cast of great callers, ready to beguile and entertain us all weekend, with over 100 local and out-of-town dancers expected to be in attendance.

The theme this year of "Finally Legal" celebrates the advances our community has achieved, with civil unions here in Illinois, and most recently same sex marriage in New York (where Nick coincidentally hails from) and Rhode Island. The weekend will culminate with Saturday night's Wedding Reception dance, where you can play any role you wish for your own dream wedding, from ring bearer, best man, flower girl or mother of the bride! Prizes will be awarded for the best ideas, so start planning now.

Our own wedding planners (aka the Crossfire committee) has got all the pieces in place, and is now feverishly planning all those details to make this "wedding" over the top. Among the things being planned are:

- A pre- and post-party on Friday at Charlie's, Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Country-Western bar
- Obtaining donations by local businesses to award to full-weekend registrants

- A photo opportunity at the Wedding Reception to preserve your special day (perhaps our new Honky Tonk Queen Leslie Gore-Tex will avail herself to pose!)
- Sunday brunch at Sidetrack, with options for things to do Sunday afternoon especially for attendees
- A fabulous Pot-luck luncheon and dancing on Monday, which we are affectionately calling "The Honeymoon" (or for you pessimists "The Divorce"!)
- A special graduation ceremony for our new Plus class, whose lessons extended into the summer
- Plus more surprises!



All of the dancing Friday through Sunday takes place at Chicago's own gay and lesbian Center on Halsted, with Monday dancing back at Ebenezer Lutheran Church. All this for the low weekend price of \$105.

Just go to <http://cts.clubexpress.com> to both register and pay online, or to download a paper form to mail in with a check. We look forward to seeing you there!

Also, look for volunteer sheets posted at the summer workshops, to fill in slots to help with registration, bring food to the pot-luck, or offer with housing out of town guests. For more information or questions about Crossfire, check out the Chi-Town Squares web site, or contact committee co-chairs Andrew Mondt or Michael Pemberton.

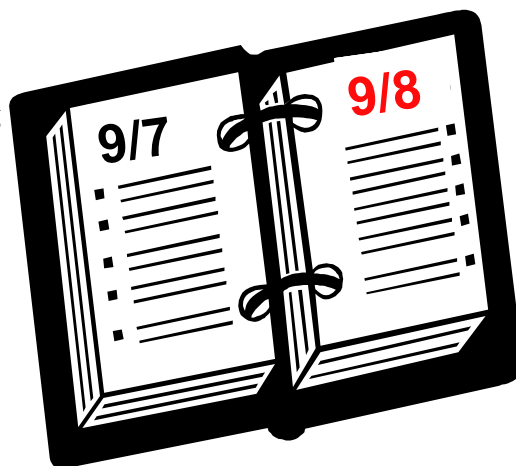
See you there!

Three Friends & Family Dances Start on Sept. 8

Mark the date of Thursday, September 8, as that will be the first of three Friends & Family dances, to be taught by our own caller John Oldfield at 7:30 pm.

Now is the time to start talking up the dances with your friends, roommates, co-workers, lovers or tricks, who have been wondering what you have been doing with your free time this past year (or two years, or ten!).

And we have found that the best way to get somebody hooked on dancing is not to just tell them to go, but to go with them. After a couple hours where they will instantly be dancing and have learned the first ten calls, they might just get the bug too!



Can't make it on September 8? Remember that there are two more chances for people to try it out, on September 15 and September 22.

And by board decision, all three classes will be FREE, not only to new dancers, but to everyone. So there is no excuse not to stop by (and bring a friend while you're at it!).

Classes will start the week afterwards (on September 29).

Imagine that—people can actually start learning the week after enjoying the fun of square dancing at a Friends & Family dance!

FROM THE BOARD

As we look forward to another season of social dances and a new class, the board took a good look at the club finances. Those of you who were at the annual meeting heard the report from John DeProsperis, our past treasurer, it was rather bleak. Each year, Chi-town has had to dip into our reserves to cover expenses for the year. Last year we had to do this for replacement equipment. In an attempt to prevent this for this coming season, the board authorized a new fee structure for 2011-2012. The new rates are as follows:

All social dances, Monday workshops, **\$8** for members, **\$9** for non members

Thursday classes. New students **\$9** until they become members, then the rate will drop to **\$8**
Angel fee **\$5** (Class night only)

Regular value cards will be **\$72**. This still gives 1 free session.

Senior Value cards will be **\$50**, the best value. Must be 65 and over.

Please understand these rates have not gone up in years, and this increase was necessary for the financial health of the club.

These rates become effective September 1st. I hope you all understand this small change.

—Bob Sundal

Date of Next
Board
Meeting—
August 14,
4-6 pm at the
Church.

Annual Meeting May 21, 2011



Left: Arlene Kaspik got the Yellow Rock award.

Right: John Oldfield is awarded a Lifetime membership. (with President Bob Sundal).

Below: BMP students show off their skills by dancing and keeping balloons aloft at the same time.

All photos by Peter Kimmel.



David shows off his huge, pink... balloon.



Annual Meeting May 21

(Right) BMP Class members pose for a picture:

Das Janssen, David Stewart, Frank Warren, Jeff Hutchins, Maitland Young, Peter Rekdahl, Steve Moore & Therron Ricks along with teacher John Oldfield and Class Coordinator Joel Iott.

Class members not present at the meeting:
Doug Mann, Fred Hartman, Jim Nerison.



(Above) 5 year members: Joe Miera, Barb Klein & Joel Iott along with badge coordinator Bob Siegel



15 year members: David Honegger, Roger Dudley, Kate Reed



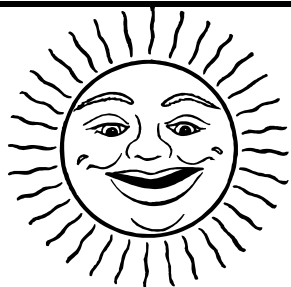
20 year members: Jerry Hutchison, Carl Smith, Barb Jarvis, Rick Simkin

No 10 year members attended the annual meeting, but badges were awarded to the Piersens, Glenna O'Doul, Alan Hirsch, John Glover, & Kathy Zottmann

Listings on this page include only those persons who were actually present at graduation to accept their award.

(Exception: 10-year members get badges regardless of attendance.)

Pictures by Bob Sundal & Peter Kimmel



Chi-Town Squares 2011 Summer Session Schedule

7:30-9:30 PM @ Ebenezer Lutheran Church,
Downstairs with Air Conditioning (?)

Plus Classes: (Thursdays)

August 18 Michael Maltenfort
August 25 Sandie Bryant

Advanced/C1: (Mondays)

August 22 Sandie Bryant

Check the club web site at www.chi-townsquares.org for more updates during the summer.

Tentative Dance Schedule 2011-2012

Details are still being worked out so check back in September for final information.

Sunday, September 25 ... Ross Howell Plus and Advanced
Thursday, October 27..... John Oldfield.... Halloween Dance (Class level)
Sunday, November 13.... Tom Davis Thanksgiving Dance
Sunday, December 11 TBD..... Holiday Dance (Tentative date)
Saturday, January 7 Club Callers..... Chili dance (Saturday night)
Sunday, February 5 Bobby Poyner... Valentine Dance
Sunday, March 4 Chuck Witt Mainstream & Plus Dance
Sunday, March 25 Ben Rubright.... Mainstream & Plus Dance
Sunday April 29 Barry Clasper ... Mainstream, Plus & Advanced dance
Sunday, May 13 Todd Fellegly Mainstream, Plus & Advanced dance
Sunday, June 3 TBD Pride Dance (Tentative date)

Chi-Town Squares Calendar

August 2011

All events held at Ebenezer Lutheran church unless otherwise indicated

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Plus Class Kaspik	5	6
7	8 A2/C1 Bryant	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>DBD 3 pm Homewood</i>	15	16	17	18 Plus Class Maltenfort	19	20
21	22 A2/C1 Bryant	23	24	25 Plus Class Bryant	26	27
28 All Groups Picnic, Noon, Busse Woods	29	30	31			

September 2011

Italics = Non-CTS event

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Crossfire	3 Crossfire
4 Crossfire	5 Crossfire	6	7	8 F&F Dance #1 7:30 pm	9 <i>A2 Maltenfort Deerfield</i>	10 <i>C3B Deerfield</i>
11 <i>DBD 3 pm Homewood</i>	12 A2/C1 Work- shop 7:30 pm	13	14	15 F&F Dance #2 7:30 pm	16	17
18	19 A2/C1 7:30 pm	20	21	22 F&F Dance #3 7:30 pm	23 <i>C1 R. Howell Deerfield</i>	24 <i>C2/C3A Deerfield</i>
25 CTS Dance R. Howell 2 pm Plus-Advanced	26 A2/C1 7:30 pm	27	28	29 BMP Class 7:30 pm	30	

Hot Times in Hotlanta for Gone With the Windmill

By Bob Siegel

Kudos go to Atlanta's Hotlanta Squares for throwing an almost flawless convention this past Fourth of July weekend. I arrived there early on the first day, and it didn't take me long to run into familiar faces, as I bumped into Dayle and Kathy Z in the airport, and subsequently shared a ride in their taxi to the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, the amazing host hotel for our event. I noticed right away things move slower in Atlanta than here in Chicago. After a brief time in that heat and humidity I figured out why. So once I adjusted to the pace, I was fine, and kept that relaxed pace for the entire weekend.

I met up with Steve from the new class for lunch at Atlanta's classic burger joint 'The Varsity', then walked to the nearby by "World of Coca Cola". This kid-friendly museum featured a history wing, Coke memorabilia and its own bottling plant. But the highlight had to be the tasting room of Coke products around the world. It was very easy to get bloated on CO2 quite quickly, tasting some bizarre flavors. But I must admit I was fascinated, and have been addicted to Coke ever since!

The Trail-In dance the first night is always awe-inspiring, seeing everyone together in one room, dancing to the exuberant calling of Tim Mariner. The astonishing hotel lobby featured two large bars that we took over each night for social interaction, along with a few curious high school volleyball players who were in town for a tournament and shared the hotel with us that weekend.

The Opening Ceremonies followed the next morning, which included the Grand March, a moving Memorial tip, and the always fun Progressive or "Move-On" squares, called by Dayle Hodge. The dancing started in full force that afternoon, with six full-time halls of different levels, all on the same floor, in addition to a specialty tip hall. With the event being held right in downtown Atlanta, breaking for meals was very convenient, with many offerings within walking distance. Many attendees took advantage of a shopping mall food court that was connected to the hotel, so you didn't even need to go outside in the

heat. The hotel also had many amenities when you wanted to take a break from the dancing, including a refreshing "indoor/outdoor" swimming pool.

The next day saw more dancing and featured many of the more famous specialty tips, including the Bear tip, the Leather tip, and the "behind closed doors" Moonshine tip, where I "heard" Dayle called more Progressive Squares! I ended up dancing at seven different levels that weekend, enjoying all the programs, including Deborah Carroll-Jones' lyrical Mainstream tips and a frenetic evening hour of Plus with the Good and Evil Twins Anne and Sandie, trying to "out-evil" each other!

On the third day, dancers who signed up for the Fun Badge Tour traveled to Martha Mitchell's House, the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, Oakland Cemetery, & the Cyclorama and surprised onlookers with square dancing.



But the highlight of the weekend had to be the Honky Tonk Queen contest on the third night. Even with only three contestants, outgoing queen Ima Cornholer organized a good program of songs and fun and games. And the contestants actually sang (not lip synced) their

own songs. In the end, Chicago's own Leslie Gore-Tex (aka Kevin Randall) took home the crown, after a crowd-pleasing version of "It's My Contest... and I'll win if I want to!" Leslie is actually the third HTQ from Chicago, following in the footsteps of Layona Davenport and the late great Lois Carmen D'Nominator. And speaking of, we honored Lois, aka Mike Blizzard, in addition to Juni-ous Tyler-Turner by pinning their badges on the Memorial Quilt, with a packed room of people sharing their recollections of our departed friends.

The last day featured the breakfast buffet and general meeting of the IAGSDC, and previews of future conventions, including Vancouver next year and San Francisco in 2013. Other upcoming conventions are set for Salt Lake City in 2014, New York in 2015, and a bid from our sister club in St Louis for 2016. Dancing continued all day in the six halls, until that evening when we all joined to-

(Continued on page 10)



New HTQ Leslie Gore-Tex (aka Kevin Randall)



Gone with the Windmill

All photos by Rob Sierzega



(Continued from page 9)

gether again for the Trail-out dance and closing ceremonies. And since it was July 4, we were treated to a nearby fireworks show, which made for a fitting exclamation point to a fabulous convention.





Above photo by Kathy Zottmann



Photos by
Rob
Sierzega



Gone with the Windmill



Chi-Town at Chicago Pride Parade June 26



Chi-town extends Special thanks to Aaron and Randi for the use of their pick-up in the parade, and all the help in decorating.

Photos by Ed Siegel, Bob Sundal & Carri Hilbrand.



Chi-Town at Andersonville Midsommarfest June 11

Photos by Carri H.



Square Dancing Helps Control My Depression

By Joe Kerouac

I have never kept it a secret about my battle with clinical depression and panic/anxiety disorder. I am currently on four medications to keep my illness under control. My illness began way back in 1986. I was married, a Catholic school principal, and miserable. I woke up the first morning of the new school year having what I would later find out was a panic attack. It was awful. I shook, I sweated, I yelled, I cried. Very soon thereafter I overdosed in my first of four suicide attempts. I hated my life. I hated my job. I just wanted to die. I was in and out of the hospital until early 1989.

Through therapy I was able to come out of the closet. I moved to Chicago in July of 89. I began to work again, this time in the mental health field, ironic. I also began to teach at a local university where I have been for 21 years. I relapsed once in 2002. I got a dog for therapy but she died two years ago. I am a firm believer in pet therapy. I have stayed out of the hospital for my illness now for nine years. I now work full-time to protect elders from abuse as well as still teaching at the university part-time.

In 2004 I joined Chi-Town Squares. I really enjoy square dancing and I am finally doing something with that dance minor I got back at Illinois State. I am in my third year as a board member. I enjoy being a board member and serving the club. I would like to see the club finding ways to raise money and also to update our out-dated bylaws.

DBD MS / PLUS Workshops Scheduled for 2011

(Note: DBD stands for "Dance by Definition" but what this means in the straight square dancing world is "Any Position Dancing", which means girls can dance boys' parts and vice versa. Gay square dancing is always "Any Position Dancing".)

Starting on SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011
3:00 - 5:00 PM

St. Paul Community Church
18200 Dixie Highway
Homewood, IL 60430

\$5 / person

Meeting on the following Sundays.

SCHEDULE:

August 14 & 28
September 11 & 25
October 9 & 30
November 6 & 20
December 11 & 18

I look forward to convention in Atlanta and Peel-Off in Palm Springs. I believe square dancing is one of the things I do that keeps my illness in check. And now with my two new hips, I shall also go back to sky-diving. I am looking for a puppy. I don't know if I ever want a partner again.

By the way, 18.8 million Americans suffer from depression. Maybe they should all try square dancing!

Membership Grace Period Expires Soon

Did you remember to renew your Chi-Town membership on Club Express? The grace period for renewal will be expiring soon, and you will not be able to access the membership area after that date (and you won't be able to read this thrilling newsletter!)

Don't make Scooty sad! Renew now!





UPCOMING NATIONAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

02-Sep-05-Sep **The Great Chicago Crossfire XXI: Finally Legal!** Flyin. Chi-Town Squares, Chicago, IL
Callers: Sandra Bryant and Nick Martellacci, with John Oldfield, Kris Jensen, Michael Maltenfort, Arlene Kaspik, et al.

09-Sep-11-Sep **Pass the Sea 2011** Flyin. Finest City Squares, San Diego, CA
Callers: Sandra Bryant, Eric Henerlau, Darren Gallina and Andy Allemao.

16-Sep-18-Sep **Chase Your Neighbor...Desert A/C Weekend** - West Coast. Desert Valley Squares, Phoenix, AZ
Callers: Clark Baker, Sandie Bryant, Todd Felleggy, Bill Haynes, John Marshall

23-Sep-25-Sep **Square Dance Women Weekend** Flyin. Silver Falls Conference Center, Sublimity, Oregon
Callers: Anne Uebelacker and Kris Jensen

30-Sep-02-Oct **Colorado Mountain Mix 2011** Flyin. Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus, Winter Park, CO
Callers: Vic Ceder, Bear Miller, Bronc Wise

14-Oct-16-Oct **Peel Off In Palm Springs 2011** Flyin. Palm Springs
Callers: Todd Felleggy

*Please check
www.iagsdc.org
website for updates and
more information*

21-Oct-23-Oct **Peel the Pumpkin 2011** Flyin. Times Squares, Asbury Park, NJ
Callers: Deborah Carroll-Jones, Bill Eyler, Nick Martellacci, Ken Ritucci

21-Oct-23-Oct **Fall 2011 LCFD Contra Dance Camp** Flyin. Lavender Country and Folk Dancers, Becket, MA
Callers: Lisa Greenleaf (contras), Joanna Reiner (English), The Moving Violations (music)

28-Oct-30-Oct **Scares 'N Squares 2011 ... Weave the Web!** Flyin. Rosetown Ramblers, Portland, OR
Callers: Vic Ceder & Michael Kellogg

11-Nov-13-Nov **Harvest Festival Hoedown XVII** Flyin. DC Lambda Squares, York, Pennsylvania
Callers: Tom Miller, John Marshall, Kris Jensen, Butch Adams