

Table of Contents

Note from the Grapevine Editor – Page 3

Dance Club News (for clubs that are either currently dancing or are in the process of developing plans to begin dancing again) – Pages 3-12

- The Moose Promenaders
- The Grand Squares
- The Dixie Dancers
- Orange Blossom Squares
- Rollaways
- First Coast Rounds
- The Square Wheels Camping Club
- The Salty Bobbers
- Seabreeze Singles

National Square and Round Dance Convention News – Pages 12-13

NEFSARDA and the Florida Federation – Pages 13

Florida Callers - Page 13-14

The Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention Lighthouse News Pages 14-15

News and Happenings – Page 15

Dances & Dancing Events that have been recently cancelled – Page 15

Farewells and Concerns – Pages 15-16

Future National Square and Round Dance Conventions – Pages 16-17

Contact us at squaredancejax@gmail.com or,
Stephen F Bigelow Grapevine@sfbigelow.com 904-612-1081



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From the Grapevine Editor



Stephen Bigelow & Wife Marie (died in 2010)

As we continue this time of uncertainty. The National Square dance convention is still planning on being held in Jackson, MS.

Some people would want to know where my March issue of the Grapevine was. Well, I had some complaints about coming out in the middle of a month. I took over the grapevine and the first issue I was able to get out was the middle of a month. So, I kept that going. Much to my surprise I received some complaints about this. So, to help people plan I guess I skipped the March issue and will start to endeavor to have your Grapevine to you in the first of each month.

The May issue deadline is April 23. The May issue might be late I am having surgery on April 15 – Stephen Bigelow

Dance Club News

(For clubs that are dancing or planning to dance)

The Moose Promenaders – Jacksonville – Caller Bill Chesnut



The Moose Promenaders resumed regular Thursday night dances on June 18th with Bill Chesnut as our long-time caller. We would love to have you join us on a Thursday night at 7:00 pm. It is great to hear that the Dixie Dancers, the Rollaways and some other Florida clubs are now open too.

We have restarted our Advanced Square Dance Lessons which are open to all interested dancers who are proficient in Plus Square Dancing. Lessons are conducted before our regular dance. They typically start about 6:15 pm and end at 7:00 pm. There is no extra cost for these lessons.

JACKSONVILLE
Moose Promenaders
Mainstream & Plus Square Dancing
and
Occasional Round and Line Dancing

Advanced Square Dance Lessons
6:15 – 7:00 PM
Square Dance Lessons 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Club Dance 8:30 - 9:30 PM

Moose Lodge 2020
5051 Collins Road
Jacksonville, Florida
Caller - Bill Chesnut

Presidents
Jim Maroldo 904-215-7922
jcmaroldo@gmail.com
& Laura Martin 941-928-8994
whitedog67@netzero.net

Banner Chair - Kathleen Lovorn
katrinerober@aol.com

We also have line dancing which is led by our own Pat Herscha. The line dances are greatly enjoyed by the participants. Bill provides recorded round dances throughout the evening, and we occasionally have had Margaret Newberry or Susan Snider join us as a guest cuer.



Our crowds have been growing steadily as more of our dancers have received their virus shots. We had 45 attendees twice during the past month.

As reported in the last two issues of the Grapevine, our dances have been a bit unusual in that we have more male dancers than female dancers. Stephen Bigelow and Luther Kim have even danced the women's traditional role, which is a rare but welcome, sight. (See Luther with Jim Maroldo on the left in the photo above.) If there are women dancers who normally do not have a partner, please join us and you should have lots of opportunities to dance.

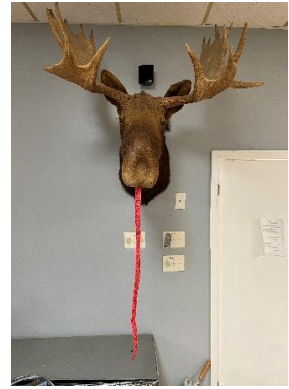
The highlight for the month was our St. Patrick's Day Dance. We had lots of "green" as our dancers dressed for the event. Mary Giera led a fun committee who decorated the dance hall for us – also in green. Thank you Tom & Pat Herscha, Paul & Marilyn Scott, Dan Roberts and Mary Dean.





We also enjoyed ourselves at our regular dances.





I am sorry to report that the Moose was not a winner in the 50-50 drawing

Several of our dancers have registered for the two national square dance conventions. We hope that more local dancers will join us.

Pictures and article by Jim Maroldo

Future Themed Dances and Special Events – We celebrate birthdays (members and guests) on the first Thursday of the Month

- April 15, 2021 – Moose Promenader Anniversary Dance
- May 20, 2021 – Pirate's Ball
- June 10, 2021 – "Tabs for Tom" Dance
- June 23-26, 2021 – National Square Dance Convention in Jackson, Mississippi
- July 4-8, 2021 – National Camporee in Rayne, Louisiana
- July 8, 2021 – Ice Cream Social
- July 29, 2021 – Pink Cadillac Dance and Bill Chesnut's Anniversary Dance
- August 26, 2021 – Amateur Caller Night
- September 30, 2021 – Cowboy and Cowgirl Night
- October 28, 2021 – Halloween Dance
- November 14, 2021 (Sunday) – Mooseheart Charity Fund Raiser – Walk & Run event with a free barbeque lunch (families invited)
- November 25, 2021 – Thanksgiving Day (no dance)
- December 2, 2021 – Annual Kay Walker Charity Dance (toy and cash donations)
- December 16, 2021 – Christmas Dinner Dance (at 6:15 pm)
- December 23 and 30 – No dance

The Grand Squares – Gainesville – Callers Lon Ligon & Jim Duncan

The Grand Squares in Gainesville, with callers Lon Ligon and Jim Duncan, are not currently dancing, but we are eagerly awaiting the time when it is safe to do so once again! We want to wish our dancers, present and past, and all our guests who have joined us before, or who plan to join us in the future, a blessed and healthy spring. Hoping you are all in good health! We look forward to "squaring up" soon!

**The Dixie Dancers in Lake City – Caller Bill Chesnut
Cuers - Ralph Beekman and Ann Hadsall**

The Dixie Dancers have returned to dancing!

The Dixie Dancers are dancing Tuesday nights in Lake City from 7 – 9:30. Dancers of all levels are welcome provided they feel well. One slight bummer is masks are required by the City of Lake City and we adhere to that so we can use the Teen Town Hall.

Bill Chesnut is our caller. We are doing reviews of the calls, workshops on the figures and mostly we are just enjoying being out and dancing. We currently are using some recorded rounds. Ralph Beekman, club cuer for several years, is on the out-of-commission list. Ann Hadsell will be available most Tuesday's once attendance picks up.

Some of our members are summer travelers so we do encourage checking with Bob Rosenthal, cell 386-365-7136 or Bill Chesnut 352-256-8628 before making the trip to Lake City.

Teen Town is located at **494 NE Desoto Street, Lake City FL**. The building is next to the old football field in downtown Lake City. Come join us and enjoy the fun.

Rollaways

RETURN OF THE ROLLAWAYS!

We are so glad to report that the Rollaways had our first dance since the start of the Pandemic on March 23 at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church. Mark Fetzer called to 2 squares and Susan cued rounds. Our guests included Chuck and Mary Giera from the Moose Promenaders. It was so good to see friends that we hadn't seen for over a year.

Gideon Sharkey and Emily Jones, our youth callers, were there and we hope that we can get them to call for us soon.

Our temporary home will be St. Catherine's on Shelby Ave in Jacksonville until we can hopefully get back into Sandalwood High School in the fall. We would love to have dancers join us every Tuesday from 7-9 pm.

We are hopeful that you will be able to join us.





First Coast Rounds – cuer “Susan”

First Coast Rounds has started dancing on Sunday afternoons from 4-6 pm at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church. We will be dark on March 28th (Palm Sunday) and April 4th (Easter Day).

*** NEFSARDA will be meeting at St. Catherine's on April 11th from 3-4 pm. First Coast Rounds we will dance immediately after the meeting. Every dancer is welcome to attend your association meeting.

Susan (Snider) is working on a class schedule and will have that available on April 11th. For now, she is cueing to the level of the dancers. We hope that all round dancers will join us.

Seabreeze Singles - Caller Jim Cosman

The Seabreeze Singles Square Dance Club is excited to announce that square dancing will resume on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

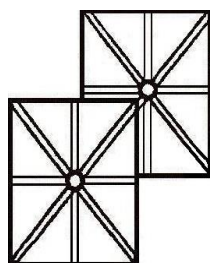
We will follow CDC recommendations to ensure a fun and safe time.

- 1) Before and after each tip, square dancers will be provided with sanitizer.
- 2) Dancers are asked to bring their own personal snacks, drinks, and ice. For the immediate future, the kitchen will not be operational.
- 3) Masks are very welcomed, but optional.

Seabreeze Singles Square Dance
Refresher: 7:00 PM
Dance to Follow
7:30 to 9:30
Caller – Jim Cosman
Arlington Presbyterian Church
1300 Sprinkle Dr.
Questions? Club Presidents Wayne and Laurie Ballasso
(904)304-8989
Or
Pamela Newman (904)516-7115

We've missed you and look forward to your reconnecting with your square dance family.

Seabreeze Zoom Session



#128 Square Wheels

Various Campgrounds



The Square Wheels travelled south to Bushnell, FL and camped at Red Oaks RV Resort for our March camping weekend. We had 19 rigs that weekend and it was nice seeing some faces we haven't seen for a while. Gail and Gary LaRue, Alicia and George King, Bob and Terry Wallace, Carolyn and Russ Ueber, Bill and Wendy Brock, Dee Casteel and Jim Weismore, Ken and Carolyn Shacter, Angela Brown and Tim Hill, Art and Marlene Cole with their daughter and son-in-law were some we haven't seen for quite some time. Terry Avick and Gene Imus came as guests and Walter and Janette Cyr stopped by for a quick visit. When we arrived at the campground Tom Herscha and Gail and Gary LaRue already had their kites in the air. It was quite breezy, so they had to work pretty hard getting the kites back in. As everyone arrived, they were socializing and getting caught up on the happenings over the last year. Ron Imus started his campfire and that became the focal point for the gatherings. Later Friday afternoon it was decided that those that were going out to eat would meet at Sonny's Barbeque. Those who didn't go out had their own feasts. That evening we danced in the small hall near our campers. It was a great dance but because of the size of the hall, it was quite noisy for dancing. Saturday, those that went out to eat dined at Beef O'Bradys and others ate in. Saturday night we shifted to the larger "Boots" hall for our dance. The acoustics were much better, and the dance floor was larger. Everyone really enjoyed dancing there. Dave and Michele Viera joined us for the dance. Dave is a caller from Texas and his wife Michele is a cuer. They are moving to Top of the World in Ocala and hopefully will be joining us often. Dave is a terrific caller and is in the Texas Callers Hall of Fame. He and Bill Chesnut enjoyed getting to know each other. We enjoyed our after parties around the campfire with roasting marshmallow chicks and bunnies and enjoying the pretty colors created by adding a special chemical powder to the fire. The evenings were a little chilly but there was lots of warmth generated by friends. Sunday we all left knowing we would gather again in April at the Lake Oklawaha RV Resort and co-camp with the Strawberry Travelers. We send our thoughts and prayers out to Bob Frechette and Nancy Hersey as they deal with difficult health issues and look forward to seeing others as they slowly come back to camping and square dancing.

Hope to see you in April.

Don and Sherry MacGregor, Presidents





CAMPING SCHEDULE - 2021

(Subject to change – Please verify – Revised 01/20/2021)

- Apr 16-17** Lake Oklawaha RV Park - 15991 NE 243rd Place Road, Ft. McCoy, Fl. 32134 (352) 546-5500 Rally Rate \$29.70 per night. You must call the campground after Jan 1st to make your reservation and give a one night deposit. This is a requirement of KOA.
- May 21-22** Southern Oaks RV Resort – 14240 SE Hwy 441, Summerfield, Fl. 34491 (352) 347-2550. Rally Rate \$34.00 (subject to change). Make your own Reservations at campground
- Jun 23–26** 70th National Convention – Jackson, MS Fairgrounds
Follow the Rayne Train camping and dancing to the International Camporee
- Jul 6-8** 63rd NSDCA International Camporee – Rayne Civic Center, City of Rayne RV Park, 210 Frog Festival Drive, Rayne, Louisiana 70578 – Roaring Into “The 20’s”
- Aug. 20-21** Wild Frontier Campground, 3101 NW 16th Ave. Ocala, Fl 34475, (352) 629-3540 Must use back entrance. From 301/441 North – Turn west on NW 35th Street for .25 miles, Turn left (south) onto NW 16th Ave. for 0.3 miles, Entrance will be on the left. The Rally rate \$35.00 including tax. Make your own reservations. All of the campsites are 50 Amp. Bring a 30 Amp reducer if needed.
- Sep 24-25** Cedar Key RV Resort – Cedar Key, Fl. 32625 The campground is located on Hwy 24 about 7 miles before Cedar Key. (352) 543-5097. Make your own reservations Rally Rate 35.00
- Oct. 21-24** **FANSDC 45th Annual State Camp-O-Ree** – Southern Palms RV Resort, One Avacado Lane, Eustis, Fl. 32726 “Halloween Haunting” will be the theme.
- Nov 19-20** NEFSARDA Fall Festival in Jacksonville Beach - Camping at Hanna Park or Mayport Naval Base
- Dec 3-4** **SQUARE WHEELS/GYPSY SQUARES CHRISTMAS PARTY** Lake Oklawaha R.V. Park-15991 N. E. 243rd Place Road, Ft. McCoy, Fl. 32134. 352-546-5500. Rally rate \$29.70 per night. Must call campground to make reservation and give one night deposit. This is requirement of KOA.
For additional information please contact one of the following:
Mary Chesnut Don MacGregor
352-475-2550, cell (352) 214-5880 904-375-1252

marynut4@gmail.com

dmacqr@comcast.net

You can also dance to Bill on Tuesday nights, with the Dixie Dancers in Lake City or
Thursdays nights with Moose Promenaders in Jacksonville.

The Salty Bobbers – Steinhatchee – caller Charlie Pergrossi

It's with excitement and hullabaloo that we announce the Salty Bobbers are dancing again on our regular Tuesday nights schedule. We celebrated the first dance for many of us the end of March. This was the first time we have danced since the pandemic began over a year ago and not a single dancer forgot their moves. WOOHOO! We hope you can join us for fun and friendship every Tuesday at 7 pm



National Square Dance Convention News

70th NSDC IS STILL ON!

For all the news about the 70th national square dance convention clicks the link below. It has all the news, happening and such. You can do everything from Registering for the convention to looking at tours that will be offered.

<http://nsdcnec.com/flipdocs/NatSqOnline/Natsq0221/index.html>

Their monthly magazine can be found at:

http://nsdcnec.com/flipdocs/70_ON_BLAST/2/

71st National Square Dance Convention®

The link for the 71st convention in Evansville, IN is

<https://www.71nsdc.org/>

72nd National Square Dance Convention®

The 72nd national convention is being held in Mobile Alabama. The link for this convention and all that we look forward to is <https://www.72nsdc.com/>

NEFSARDA and the Florida Federation

President's Message
April 2021

April is here already. Can you believe it? It seems like just last week we were celebrating Christmas. And now it's Easter. Warmer and longer days. Hopefully, we have all gotten used to the "spring forward" time.

We are certainly hoping more venues open up as the months goes forward. Here in NE, we have five clubs dancing! In Jacksonville we have the Moose Promenaders on Thursdays, First Coast Rounds on Sundays and the Rollaways on Tuesdays. In Lake City we have the Dixie Dancers on Tuesdays. And in Steinhatchee we have Salty Bobbers on Tuesdays! From what I have been told more clubs are beginning to dance throughout the state.

I do want to remind you again that the Florida Federation or any Association or Square Dancer will NEVER ask you to donate gift cards to any organization for any reason. A past member of NE and also a Caller receive an email requesting some gift cards to donate to veterans association. This is definitely a SCAM!!

I would like to thank you, our square and round dancers, for all the work and support you give to our activity. I look forward to seeing you at the quarterly NEFSARDA Meeting on **April 11, 2021** and at the 67th Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention in **2022**.

Linda Tester, President
Florida Federation of Square Dancers

Florida Callers Association

I told it through the Grapevine, or More interesting thoughts from Melrose.
"There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and Lord I hope it ain't no train". These are words from an old country song but really apply to squares and rounds today. There appears to be a renewed interest by the non-dancing population to have square dance parties and introduce some non-dancers to our great activity. People appear to be willing to get out - both to club dances and to other gatherings now that vaccines have been received and the positivity rate is down. More square and round dance clubs are opening and attendance at them is getting better.

Another interesting few days for me as I had the pleasure of welcoming a new-to-our-area caller into the FL Callers Asso. Dave Viera and wife Michele are a very accomplished caller / cuer team moving into Ocala from Texas. Good to have another fresh face and I know you will enjoy dancing to them when you get the chance. On a very sad note, I was informed that FCA Past President and great caller John Swindle passed away. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to Gail as she goes through this tough time.

I have it on high authority that plans are underway for the NEFSARDA Fall Festival this November. Look for lots of details in the next few weeks.

Looking ahead as well, the National Convention in Jackson, MS in June 2021 is still on. And the next Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention will be in March 2022.

On the local level, Moose Promenaders are dancing on Thursday nights and the Dixie Dancers are dancing in Lake City on Tuesday's. The Rollaways, Salty Bobbers and First Coast Rounds have gotten started dancing as well. If you are ready to come back dancing come join us, but only if you feel good. If you're not ready, come out when you are.

As a closing thought, be giving some thought to people you can encourage to return to dancing and a few people you might recruit for new classes.

Stay safe, don't take chances and hope for the best. – Bill Chesnut

The Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention Lighthouse News

LIGHTHOUSES #24 thru #28

#24 Cosgrove Shoal Light: This is one of two Lights erected in 1935, the other one is the Pulaski Shoal Light. Cosgrove Shoal Light, according to the Coast Guard records, is located about 20 miles southwest of Key West. The light is said to stand between 48 and 54 feet tall and was assembled on "piles" which are rocky stones. At the present time, the structure is painted red with a flashing white light with a range of 9 miles out.

#25 Pulaski Shoal Light: This is the second light erected in 1935. It stands only 49 feet tall. The light was named after a Polish General, Casimir Pulaski, a hero who fought in the American Revolution. It is located about 30 miles northwest of Key West. At the present time, it is not known if the light is still operational.

#26 Rebecca Shoal Light: This lighthouse was built in 1879 but was not lite until 1886. It was a house-like structure on top on iron screw piles and had a black lantern at first. When the light was automated in 1925, with a white light, it was determined that a "keeper's quarters" would not be needed. In 1953 the dwelling was demolished because it had deteriorated so badly however it was eventually replaced with a modern light tower again with no keepers' dwellings, however Hurricane Charlie destroyed it completely and now no longer exist.

#27 & #28 Tortugas Harbor Lighthouse & Dry Tortugas Lighthouse: The Tortugas were named by Ponce de Leon during his many exploration in 1513. The first Lighthouse in the Dry Tortugas was at Garden Key but it no longer exists and is now referred to as the "Old Tower". The current light house at Fort Jefferson on Garden Key is referred to as the "New Tower".

The Lighthouse is reported to stand 157 feet tall and it is painted white half way up and black to the top. It was lite in July 1857. It is still in existence and functional today.

Convention: 67th Florida State Square & Round Dance Convention scheduled for March 4 &5, 2022 is still in a “holding pattern”. No definite decisions had been made by the Daytona Convention Center but we are still “INKED” in for those dates, so keep them open and in mind. Please “INK” them in on your calendars as well.

Judy Anderson, Publicity

News and Happenings

If you booked your hotel rooms for the 2021 Florida State Square Dance Convention, don't forget to cancel or re-schedule them for 2022.

The 2021 Convention is re-scheduled for March 4-5. 2022. Don't forget the Trail-In Dance on Thursday night March 3rd 2022!

Dances & Dancing Events That Have Been Recently Cancelled

Sept 11-18 2021 – The Square Dance cruise on the Carnival Magic out of New York – cancelled!

Farewells and Concerns

We have several dancers in our community who are not well. Their situations are sometimes temporary and sometimes serious. We ask that you keep these dancers in your thoughts and prayers, plus we hope for speedy recoveries for all. Please notify us about all dancers who should be on this list by contacting us on squaredancejax@gmail.com Or grapevine@sbigelow.com

Rod Barngrover – caller

Vickie BeLue – Seabreeze Singles

Stephen F Bigelow – Grapevine Editor; Moose Promenaders

Barbara Blackford – cuer

Margaret Cahan – Seabreeze Singles

Ralph Beekman – Dixie Dancers

Dee Casteel – Square Wheels Camping Club

Linda Knapp – Moose Promenaders

Don Seay – Seabreeze Singles

Maxine Thomas – Seabreeze Singles

George Tower – Moose Promenaders

Jim Weismore – Seabreeze Singles



John Swindle

Friends, it is a heavy heart, my sweetheart, lover and friend, John [Swindle] has taken his final Journey. He is now in the arms of Jesus and our loved ones. Do not feel sad, rejoice for I know where he is today. Life will go on and he is already greatly missed. His passing is a shock and was truly not expected. As of now I do not know the cause. In the weeks ahead I am sure all that will be revealed. Keep me in your hearts and prayers while I make this new journey in my life. John and I have been together since I was 15 and married 57 years. Gail Hurt Swindle

John died on March 18th. He was a member of CALLERLAB and worked in their office when it was in Rockledge. He was a member of the Florida Callers Association and was president in 2005. He called in the Central Association area and at the Florida State and Square Dance Convention.

If you would like to send cards to Gail, her address is 4266 Ventana Boulevard, Rockledge, FL 32955.

National Square and Round Dance Conventions

2021

June 23-26

70th National Square Dance Convention, Jackson, Mississippi
<http://www.70nsdc.com> register70@yahoo.com 921-412-8140

July 19-21

17th US Handicapable Square Dance Association Convention, The Edgewater Hotel at the Aquarium and Conference Center, 402 River Road, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, 800-277-0362 – Rick Yates 386-734-2110 – note the dates are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

September 3-5

The 50th Dance-a-Rama Festival of Single Square Dancers in the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines, Iowa. For further information contact the dance's chairman, Susan Lee, at rflxsue@aol.com or call 515-244-3247.

2022

June 22-25

71st National Square Dance Convention, Evansville, Indiana, www.71nsdc.org
register70@yahoo.com

2023

June 21-24

72nd National Square dance Convention, Mobile Al. <https://www.72nsdc.com/>

2024

June 26-29

73rd National Square dance Convention is in Milwaukee, WI.

There is no website yet. If you would like the preregistration form, please click the link below.

http://www.nsdcnec.com/images/73NSDC/73NSDCPre_RegV3.pdf