



**Volume 51, Number 2,
April, May, and June
2026**

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA SQUARE AND
ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION**



February 14, 2026 Sweetheart Dance

IN THIS ISSUE

NWFSRDA OFFICERS.....	3
PRESIDENT'S CORNER.....	4
NWFSRDA CLUBS.....	5
CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....	7
AGAPE SQUARES.....	8
CAPITAL TWIRLERS.....	9
T-N-T ROUNDS.....	9
EASTSIDE SQUARE DANCE CLUB.....	10
EMERALD WAVES SQUARES.....	11
SEASIDE SQUARES.....	13
SWINGING SQUARES.....	15
IN MEMORY.....	18
ADVERTISEMENTS.....	18
GRAND SQUARE HALL REGULAR DANCE SCHEDULE... 	19
RAGON HALL.....	20
PANHANDLE PRESS BOOSTERS.....	21
ADVERTISEMENT RATES.....	21
75TH NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION®.....	22
72ND STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION.....	23
NWFSRDA 52nd ANNUAL ROUNDUP.....	25

NWFSRDA OFFICERS

President:

Brian and Barbara McDonald
704 Trowbridge Ave.
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547-3136
Brian (850) 240-1637
Barbara (850) 217-2890
bjd9@cox.net

Vice President: Program Chair

Laura and Chuck Davis
Assistant Libby Penrod

Secretary:

Laura Davis
1817 Wales Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 354-2218
keylime7@comcast.net

Treasurer and Insurance:

Alec Schmidt
116 Bayou Drive
Niceville, FL 32578
(850) 856-8105
aschmidtmd@aol.com

Panhandle Press Editor:

Barbara McDonald
barbaramcdonald310@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Spring is here and we had a great turn out for Sweetheart Swing in February. We even received a Thank you note from Bill and Mary Chesnut. They had a wonderful time as did we all. The plus workshop in January and March was well attended with 2 plus squares. Thank you to Swinging Squares, Grand Square Hall and Alec Schmidt for calling. The Swinging Squares Blue and White Dance was March 28th and we had 3 squares and lots of fun.



The Northwest meeting for officers and delegates will take place by ZOOM April 12, 4pm CST. Thank you club member delegates for participating in the Zoom meeting in January. We will be sending out the Bylaws and Standing Rules to discuss 2 very important matters.

This year, the 2026 52nd Roundup is on July 24-25 at Tallahassee, FL. Please start planning to come because it will be here before you know it. You can use the registration form in the Panhandle press, fill it out, send the money and registration to Alec.Schmidt.

Florida will be hosting the 77rd National Square Dance Convention® in Daytona! Please try to support this effort by volunteering. Please note it is the last week in June 2027.

Presidents Brian and Barbara McDonald

The Florida Federation website is now at www.dancergram.com/aa-floridasquaredance.com/index.html.

Send flyers for Florida Federation website publication to Cliff Reiss at dgramwebmaster@yahoo.com.

SEASIDE SQUARES

Fridays 7:30-9:30 pm (MS, P)

Caller: Varies

Ragon Hall

2600 Stratford Rd., Pensacola, FL

CONTACT: Linda Steadman (850) 293-7720

SWINGING SQUARES

Thursdays 5:15-6:15 pm Rounds Class

6:15-7:15 pm Basic class

7:15-8:30 pm (MS, P)

Caller: Miriam Merriwether

Grand Square Hall

1105 Bob Little Rd, Panama City, FL

CONTACT: Jon & Kathy Kern (850) 896-5798

Anne Mahowald (850) 387-3101

Website: www.grandsquarehallpanamacity.com

Facebook:

@SwingingSquaresGrandSquareHallPanamaCity

Email: swingingsquaresgshpc@gmail.com

T-N-T ROUNDS

Sundays 2:00-4:00 pm

Cuer: Terri Wilaby

T-N-T Hall

6419 Dallas Ave., Pensacola, FL

CONTACT: Terri and Tim Wilaby (850) 712-5230

terriwilaby@hotmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 12, 2026,** Northwest Zoom meeting 4 CST
- April 18, 2026,** Plus Workshop, Ragon Hall 10-12, light pot luck lunch, 1-4 pm class, Pensacola, FL
- April 23, 2026** Spring Fling, Swinging Square at Grand Square Hall, Panama City, FL. 6:30-8:30 pm
- April 25, 2026,** Port City 5th Anniversary, 2901 Hill Crest RD., Mobile AL. 2-4:40 pm
- May 7, 2026,** Cinco De Mayo, Swinging Squares, Grand Square Hall, 6:30-8:30 pm
- May 30, 2026,** NW Plus Workshop, Grand Square Hall Panama City, FL. 10-4 pm
- May 22, 2026,** Memorial Day Dance, Seaside Squares, Ragon Hall Pensacola, Nick Hartley and Darren Henry. 7:30 pm
- June 11, 2026** Tropical Beach Blast, Swinging Squares, Grand Square Hall, Panama City, FL 6:30-8:30 pm
- June 24-27th 2026 National 75th Diamond Convention®** at Waco, TX
- July 17, 2026,** Beach Blast J amboree, Ragon Hall, 7-9:30 pm, Pensacola, FL.
- July 24-25, 2026,** NWFSRDA 52nd Roundup at Tallahassee Senior Center, Tallahassee FL. Caller Jet Roberts and cuers Susan Snider and Mark Fitzer
- August 6-8, 2026,** TN State Square and Round Dance Convention, Gatlinburg TN.
- September 17-20, 2026** Rainbow Stroll, Ragon Hall, Pensacola, FL.

AGAPE SQUARES

Moving into April we are looking forward to our current class finishing up the Mainstream calls and a graduation!

NWFSRDA has had a couple Plus workshops in an effort to get local dancers ready for the Round Up in July. I think they have been successful and we are all looking forward to the Round Up. There is one more scheduled at Ragon Hall on April 18, 10:00-4:00pm with a potluck lunch.

Emerald Waves visited Agape Squares on February 24 with a square and stole our banner! We didn't let them keep it long. We gathered up a square and visited them on their next club night to retrieve it, which happened to be February 25. It's always fun to dance with other clubs. Keep your eyes open, Agape dancers may pay you a visit to get your banner one of these days. You are always welcome to visit Agape on Mondays with class 6:00-7:00 pm and alternating MS/Plus 7:00-8:30 pm.

Hope to see you in a square soon.



CAPITAL TWIRLERS

The Capital Twirlers started the new year with open houses on January 12 and 26th. Classes are going great.

Good to see Collin and Emily at the Blue and White Dance and hope the rest of you are in good health.

Barbara Editor



T-N-T ROUNDS

T-N-T Rounds will start a new class soon so call or email Terri. Classes are Sunday afternoons from 2-4 pm.

For more information please call **Terri at (850) 712-5230.**

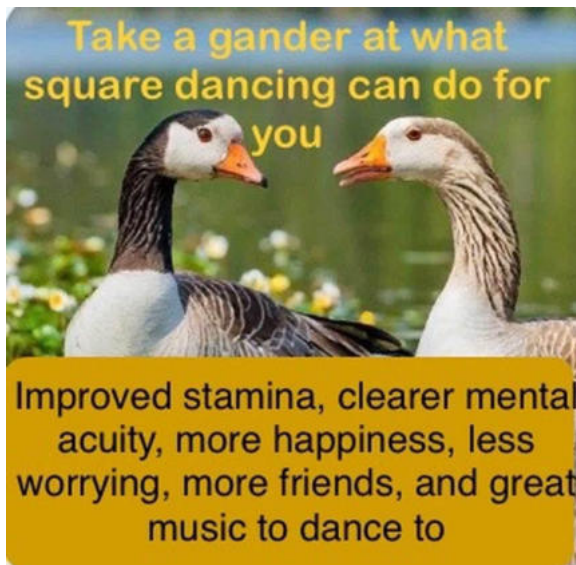
Terri's email: terriwilaby@hotmail.com

EASTSIDE SQUARE DANCE CLUB

Good to see Robert and Gwen at the Blue and White Dance March 28th. Robert reported that they have had a square of dancers for three weeks in a row. His health is improving.

Please remember their usual dance night has changed to Friday nights 7 pm to 8:30

Barbara Editor



EMERALD WAVES SQUARES

Dance Schedule: Every Tuesday night at Ragon Hall; 2600 Stratford Rd Pensacola, FL. Doors open at 6 pm for those wanting extra time for practice. Basic and Mainstream lessons from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Mainstream dancing and Plus lessons 7:30 to 8:45 pm. Nick Hartley is our caller.

It's been a busy year for the Emerald's. Our Mainstream class is going great, and the new dancers are having so much fun. Their continued dedication to attend class every Tuesday is really paying off as Nick continues to put them through the paces by doing all position dancing and putting the dancers in every conceivable position a call can be done from. Our Plus level dancers are nearly through the plus list and are very solid dancers at this point, also doing all position dancing and dancing by definition.

The club is now dedicating the last Tuesday of each month as an "All Clubs Social Dance". We're inviting all the clubs in the NW Florida and Eastern Alabama area to come dance and socialize. We're dancing Mainstream, Plus and some Advance and dancing at the regions current class levels. No lessons, just a lot of fun dancing. Maybe just a few pointers if needed. Please come join us, we dance from 6:30 to 9 pm. There are always refreshments and we celebrate the month's birthdays with birthday cake or fresh deserts.

Our dancers are now starting to spread their wings and venture out to more dance events and conventions. In January, several attended the Hotlanta Squares annual Fly-in event, The Promenade Down Peachtree in Duluth, GA and in February a group traveled to St Petersburg, FL to attend the Suncoast Squares annual Flip the Flamingo fly-in event.

Banner Raids! When's the last time you've done one? This is a great way to encourage dancers to visit, dance and support our neighboring clubs. It's such a pleasure to look out

across the hall and see an extra square or two on a regular club night dance. Emerald Waves and Agape Squares are aggressively trying to bring this long-standing tradition back into play. So far, the Emeralds have captured the Agape banner twice and they've urgently returned to get it back each time.



The 2025 event was such a success that planning has already begun for the **2026 Rainbow Stroll – Pensacola**. Mark your calendars now!

The Pensacola Rainbow Stroll – Pensacola Promenade 2026
September 17-20, 2026,
Ragon Hall 2600 Stratford Rd. Pensacola, FL

Event pricing with early-bird pricing, Host hotels and dance schedule forthcoming!

We hope, and encourage, all active dancers in the community and surrounding communities will come visit our club and support the continued growth of the square dance culture.

Now let's go Dance!

SEASIDE SQUARES

We want to extend a big thanks to our callers Nick Hartley, Alec Schmidt, Ted Kennedy, and more recently Larry Belcher. Linda Brown cued for Ragon Hall while visiting the area.

Our New Years Eve Day dance was so much fun. If you missed it, make plans for next year! Seaside Squares hosted five squares with dancers from Agape Squares, Emerald Wave Squares, Swinging Squares, and Port City Squares. Nick Hartley called all levels of square dancing. It was an entertaining, fun-filled event with plenty of good food.

Our January Shine dance with Ted Kennedy calling and Jack Pointer doing rounds was on January 30th. Our group was small but we had a good time.

After a long absence, Larry Belcher of Auburn, Alabama was able to call our Mardi Gras dance on the 6th of February. Linda Brown provided Rounds. We celebrated Linda' retirement from cueing with a delicious cake. Thanks to all participants and of course the food providers.

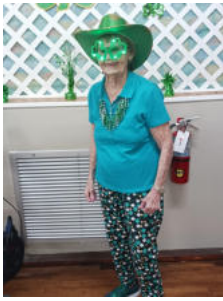
Nick Hartley returned from his trip and was able to call our Shamrock Shimmer dance. He called all levels, focusing on Mainstream and Plus. We danced to some jaunty Irish tunes.

Seaside Square A students have completed the A1 list under the guidance of Nick Hartley. Those who have been dancing A's look forward to joining up with them for A2.

We look forward to our Memorial Day dance 22nd of May with Nick Hartley and Darrin Henry. Look for flyers or on Facebook for more information.

Seaside Squares dance from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm on Fridays alternating Mainstream and Plus. Our callers will do a workshop from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm for whatever level is needed by the dancers.

See you on the dance floor!



Arlene



Nick



Linda Brown



Linda and Nick

SWINGING SQUARES

The first quarter of the year has flown by. I know we say this often about time, but this year is flying by. Each year we reflect on this sentiment; however, as our Club has accomplished significant milestones and plans for future growth, this year will progress swiftly.

Last Quarter Highlights:

Officers' appreciation dinner recognizing the accomplishments of Kathie Kern, Jon Kern, Anne Mahowald, Mike Mahowald, and our previous officers Patricia and Joe McLendon. It was such a fun night.

Our square dance club exposition team, led by Joan Payne, set up a display booth at the local Naval Base, allowing us to interact with Naval personnel and civilians assigned to the base. Introducing them to the world of dance.

The Swinging Squares hosted two NWFSRDA plus workshops with Alec Schmidt calling/instructing at both workshops. We truly valued Alec's outstanding work and the dedication he brings to this program.

One memorable moment for our club appeared live on the local TV station; although some members had done this before, it was a unique opportunity for others, and everyone found the experience enjoyable, despite the early hour.

We held two open houses with twenty-six visitors. We began a new class with eleven students, who joined the five students from the earlier class. That quantity of students is a huge workload for our angels and caller, Miriam Merriweather.

The 54th Blue and White Ball was an enormous success with caller Ted Kennedy and Cuers Tim and Terri Wilaby. Thanks to all that attended and made this such a success.

Next Quarter Plans:

To raise funds and to allow club members to clear out their clutter, we have scheduled a yard sale. The proceeds will

enable the club to reinvest back into the club and provide funding for the Panama City Grand Square Hall.

A specialty dance that we have named the Spring Fling, scheduled for April 23. Another excuse for the club members to dress up in costumes and have a wonderful time.

On the seventh of May we have the Cinco De Mayo Dance.

On June eleventh, we have Tropical Beach Fest.

Continuing the NWFSRDA plus workshops we have the Pensacola Club in April hosting and the Swinging Squares sponsors on the 16th of May. We are looking forward to attending these workshops.



SPRING FLING DANCE
@ Swinging Squares
Square & Round Dance Club

APRIL 23, 2026
6:30pm-8:30pm

50/50 cash split
&
drawings for
additional prizes.



Prize for Best
Spring Outfit



FOOD | MUSIC | DANCE | GAMES



1105 Bob Little Rd.
Panama City, FL
An all-volunteer,
family friendly,
dance club.





IN MEMORY



Ernie Baysinger 1-2-2026 member of Seaside Squares



ADVERTISEMENTS

Want to see
YOUR ad
here?

Check out our
rates & deadlines
on Boosters
page!

This space
is only



	<p>BRIAN MCDONALD GIA GEMOLOGIST</p> <p>704 TROWBRIDGE AVE. FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA 32547 PHONE 850-240-1637</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Contact Us</u> sales@briansjewelrydesigns.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Visit Us</u> briansjewelrydesigns.com</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">BJD Because Jesus Died WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THAT? Romans 3:23 shows we are all sinners. Romans 6:23 shows the cost of sin is death. Romans 5:8 shows Jesus died for our sins. Romans 10:9-10 shows that if you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth you Will be Saved. John 3:16 shows God's love for us in that he gave his only son for us through LOVE.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Please get in touch to offer comments and join our mailing list for sales and specials! </p>		<p style="text-align: center;">SCAN ME</p>

GRAND SQUARE HALL REGULAR DANCE SCHEDULE

1105 Bob Little Rd., Panama City, Fl. 32401

President: Kathie Kern (850) 896-5798

Building Manager: Jon Kern (850) 228-8568

SUNDAY: AVAILABLE

MONDAY: BOP & SWING DANCE CLUB

Doors Open & Lessons 6:30-7:30 pm

Dance 7:30-9:00 pm

Contact: Don Pitts (850) 348-2670

TUESDAY: COUNTRY BALLROOM INFUSION

Dance 6:30-8:30 pm

Contact: Joe Gray (850) 258-9847

WEDNESDAY: AVAILABLE

THURSDAY: SWINGING SQUARES

Rounds class 5:15-6:15 pm

Contact: Miriam Merriwether (850) 974-0091

Squares class (New Class) 6:30-7:30 pm

Dance 7:30-8:30 pm

Contact: Kathie & Jon Kern (850) 896-5798

Caller: Miriam Merriwether

SATURDAY: OPEN FOR SPECIAL DANCES

Contact: Jon Kern (850) 228-8568

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Visitors are always welcome! All clubs occasionally cancel. Please verify with contact. Grand Square Hall is owned & operated by dancers of the Panama City Square & Round Dance Association, a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving our square & round dance heritage.

RAGON HALL

2600 Stratford Road, Pensacola, FL 32526

(850) 293-7720

Please call to verify dancing is happening.

MONDAY

West Coast Swing

5:00-9:00 pm

Instructor: Justin Grubb

(850) 503-9978

TUESDAY

EMERALD WAVES

Continuing Class and Dance

6:30-8:30 pm

Contact: Tim Tharp

(703) 585-7177

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

THURSDAY

Advanced Square Dancing

6:00-8:30 pm

Caller: Nick Hartley

FRIDAY

SEASIDE SQUARES

Mainstream/Plus Squares

7:30-9:30 pm

Callers: Varies

Contact: Linda Steadman

(850) 293-7720

ragonhall3@gmail.com

SATURDAY

Assorted Activities

SUNDAY

OPEN

Contact: Linda Steadman

(850) 293-7720

PANHANDLE PRESS BOOSTERS

We are seeking boosters for 2026 to help cover the costs of our printing, ink, and paper. Consider making a donation of:

\$5.00 (**Bronze**) \$15.00 (**Silver**)
\$25.00 (**Gold**) \$35.00 (**Platinum**)

Your contribution will ensure that your name appears in the booster section. Please send your name and donation to Barbara McDonald. Thank you for your support!

Platinum sponsors: Jackie Kramer 8-2025

A heartfelt thank you to our Sponsors!

The Panhandle Press is published four times a year by the Northwest Florida Square and Round Dance Association Inc. - a not for profit corporation. It is distributed at no charge to members and clubs of NWFSRDA. It is not copyrighted. We welcome articles from clubs and members. We reserve the right to edit, condense or omit articles in order to best utilize space. Dance flyers can be shrunk to fit. PLEASE send articles, images and advertisements as a jpeg and as a MB.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

One time-ad:	Full Year ad (4 issues):
¼ Page=\$5.00	¼ page=\$17.00
½ page=\$10.00	½ page=\$35.00
Full page=\$20.00	Full page=\$70.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **NWFSRDA** AND MAIL TO:

Editor: Barbara McDonald
704 Trowbridge Ave.
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547-3631
barbaramcdonald310@gmail.com or bjd9@cox.net

DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS AND ARTICLES June 15th.

Let's Celebrate!

IN HONOR OF OUR NATION'S 250th BIRTHDAY

WEAR YOUR **RED** **WHITE** & **BLUE**

Friday, June 26, 2026, 6:30 pm

Waco Convention Center
100 Washington Avenue
Waco, TX

75th National Square
Dance Convention[®]



June 24-27 2026
DIAMOND JUBILEE



72nd Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention
 Registration Form
 (Please Print)

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 First Name _____ Last Name (if different) _____
 YOUTH First Name _____ YOUTH Last Name _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: (____) _____
 Email: _____
 Main Club: _____

Please circle all levels you plan to participate in at the convention:

Squares: M P A C Rounds: 2 3 4 5

	Qty	X	Price	=	Total
Convention Ribbon		X	\$	=	
Fri Night Dinner & Show		X	\$ 45	=	
TOTAL SUBMITTED \$					

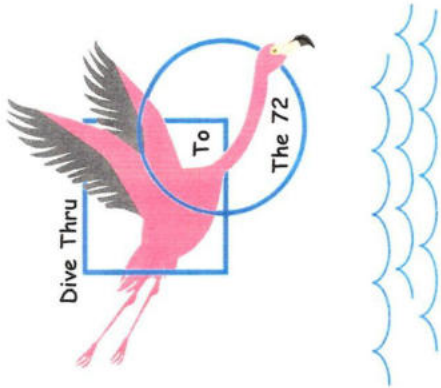
Payment Type
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card
<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____

Date purchased: ____/____/____ Convention use only.
 Ribbon #s: _____

A dancer who is not an Association Member will be a Provisional Member of the Florida Federation of Square Dancers for the duration of the Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention after acceptance of the registration form. The application for registration signifies that the dancer will abide by the rules of the Convention, local Regulations and Laws.

Donations to the Florida Federation, the Florida Callers Association, the Round Dance Council of Florida or their Conventions are not tax deductible for income tax purposes

72nd Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention



February 26 & 27, 2027
 The Center at Deltona
 1640 Dr. M.L.K. Blvd, Deltona, FL 32725

Trail-End Dance:

(Donation at the door)
 The Center at Deltona
 Thursday, February 25, 2027
 Early Rounds 6:30 - 7:00 PM
 Squares and Rounds 7:00 - 9:30 PM

Sponsored by: Florida Federation of Square Dancers Round Dance Council of Florida Florida Callers Association	Hosted by: Florida Federation of Square and Round Dancers
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------

Host Hotel for the 2027 State Convention:

Homewood Suites Lake Mary
755 Currency Cir, Lake Mary, FL 32746

18 miles/25 minutes from The Center at Deltona

407-805-9111

\$129 King; \$149 Dbl Queen (+taxes & fees)

GROUP NAME: Square Dance DEADLINE: 01/28/27

CHECK THE CONVENTION WEBSITE FOR OTHER HOTEL RATES

ONLY DRY RV Hookups available at the Center at Deltona

Please visit: www.floridasquaredance.com/convention/
For up-to-date information

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER & SHOW

Featuring the BEACH BUMS - performing all your favorite beach music from Jimmy Buffett, the Beach Boys, and many more of your favorite summer music classics.

Keep an eye on the convention website for the menu

REGISTER EARLY ~ DEADLINE: February 12, 2027
Friday, February 26, 2027, 4:30p-6:30p in the Main Hall.

Ticket price: \$45 per person

Ribbon Type	1/18/26 - 5/31/26	6/1/26 - 10/31/26	11/1/26 and later
All Weekend	\$50	\$55	\$60
Weekender Fri eve & all Sat	\$40	\$42	\$45
Single Day	\$35 Available at Registration ONLY		

**All prices are in USD All prices are per person.

Please register early

Returned ribbons cheerfully refunded until Feb 26, 2027, for any reason.

Service Charge for NSF or returned check: \$35

Dress code:

Casual for morning and afternoon sessions

Square Dance attire for the evenings is admired but not required

Make checks payable to: 72nd FSDC and mail to:

Jenny Green
108 Mound St.
Longwood, FL 32750

Phone: 863-220-2542

Email: jagreen535@gmail.com

Any dancing child under the age of 16 will be admitted to the convention free of charge WITH A PAID DANCING ADULT.

For security purposes, purchasing by credit card through the mail will not be permitted.

FREE PARKING

2026 NWFSRDA 52nd Annual Roundup July 24–25

Tallahassee Senior Center
1400 N Monroe Street, Tallahassee



Jet Roberts, Caller



Susan Snider and Mark Fetzer, Cues

Friday and Saturday Night

7:00 – 7:30 Early Rounds
7:30 – 7:45 Introductions & Opening Tip
7:45 – 9:45 Squares w/Rounds

Saturday Morning and Afternoon

9:00 – 11:00 Plus/Plus Workshop
11:15 – 12:00 NWF Meeting (Dining Room)
11:15 – 12:00 Mainstream (Ballroom)
1:00 – 2:00 Advanced Level Dancing
2:15 – 4:00 Rounds (Teach & Dance)
4:15 – 5:00 Mainstream/Beginning Plus

Square Dance Attire requested but not required.

Additional information on back of flyer.

Round Up Co-Chairs – Chuck and Laura Davis 850-354-2218 or keylime7@comcast.net.

Lodging Convenient to Senior Center

Best Western 2727 Graves Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303 850-562-7200

Days Inn Northwest Tallahassee 2900 North Monroe Street,

Tallahassee, FL 32303 850-727-5541

Ribbon Sales

Ribbon prices through June 15: NWFSRDA members \$15.00 pp;

non-member \$30.00 pp.

After June 15: NWFSRDA members \$18.00 pp;

non-members \$36.00 pp.

One-day only pricing, at the door: Friday night \$18.00 pp;

Saturday workshops and dance \$24.00 pp.

Youth (13 or younger) Pricing: Early Bird \$8.00 pp. After June 15; \$9.00 pp.

Make check payable to NWFSRDA and mail with completed form to:

Laura Davis, 1817 Wales Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303

Ribbon Order

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Ribbons _____

Amount of enclosed check _____

Note: Ribbons can be mailed to you if you would like to include a

SASE, otherwise Ribbons will be held at the door.





Happy Square Dancing Northwest