

The Grapevine

February-March 2026

A publication of NEFSARDA

(NorthEast Florida Square and Round Dance Association)

(current issue prepared by Mary Giera & Ken Shacter)

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NEFSARDA NEWS



It breaks my heart to report the passing of newly installed NEFSARDA Treasurer and *Grapevine* Editor for the past 5 years, **Stephen F. Bigelow**, who died of kidney failure on Wednesday morning, January 28, at age 67.

Stephen was also editor of *Bow & Swing* Magazine designed to serve the needs of Square and Round Dancers throughout Florida. His obituary is provided later in this issue of the *Grapevine*.

Introducing our next *Grapevine* editors

With the loss of our *Grapevine* editor Stephen Bigelow (who served for five years in that position) we have searched and found a couple from *Dixie Dancers* who are willing to tackle this important job - CHARLES and KATHY TRIMBLE. We, the members of NEFSARDA, are greatly appreciative to them for accepting this position. When you hear from them, please give them all of your assistance.



Introducing our new NEFSARDA Treasurers

The last remaining job we had to fill of Stephen Bigelow's since his passing was the NEFSARDA Treasurer vacancy. We can thank WAYNE and DEBBIE MILLER of *Moose Promenaders* and *Square Wheels* for accepting that position on the NEFSARDA Board. *NEFSARDA Presidents Jim and Janet Riddle*



Best wishes to Sandy and Jim Duncan. Jim was the caller for *Clover Squares* in Chiefland, Florida. Jim is retiring from calling after 28 years of serving square dancers in several different states. He called his final dance on February 4, the day *Clover Squares* hung up their bolos and put away their petticoats.

Aleen Breedlove, former square and round dancer, has moved. Her phone number and email address are the same, but she has moved into an assisted living section - still near Mayo Clinic. She'd love to hear from friends. You may reach her at:

4600 Middleton Park Cir E, Apt. C701, Jacksonville, FL 42224-6630
(904) 374-3153, cabreedlove@aol.com



Stephen Frederick Fritz Bigelow went to be with the Lord on January 28, 2026. Stephen was born on July 28, 1958. Stephen served in the US Navy in 1976-77. Stephen was active in square dancing and his local Episcopal congregation. Stephen started **square dancing** in 1981 and met his soulmate Marie Johnson at a national square dance convention shortly after. They settled in Marie's hometown of Jacksonville, Florida and worshiped at St Catherine Episcopal Church, the church where Marie grew up. Stephen and Marie were very active in the local **square dance** community and served in offices in many of the local clubs as well as regional and state square dance organizations. Stephen also took on the responsibility of continuing the online publication of two local and state square dancing publications, *The Grapevine* and *The Bow and Swing*. Stephen was preceded in death by his wife Marie Bigelow. His father, sister and two brothers survive Stephen. There will be a memorial Service for Stephen Bigelow on Saturday, February 28, 11:00am at St Catherine Episcopal Church, 4758 Shelby Ave., Jacksonville, FL., 32205. A reception will follow in the Parrish Hall.



Please see some of Stephen's contributions to Square Dancing later in this newsletter.

I told it through the Grapevine:

Ramblings from beautiful downtown Melrose.



Dale Fredrickson was a large part of the square dance world in the NE Florida area for many years. He left that task behind December 31 to take a new role in heaven. Our condolences go out to his girls, Dawn, Dale and Sonya, and to the rest of his family. We got to know Dale and his wife Gerry first through the camping square dance world. Gerry left us way too early. She was a special lady that has been missed. Dale was fortunate enough to find Jo Ann Engum and then Pat Everett as partners after Gerry's passing. Dale was a good man who had three great ladies in his life. As time went by, they got

more involved in NEFSARDA.

We really became friends when I started calling for the *Moose Promenaders* and the *Gypsy Squares*. Dale joined a group of us on our camping golf outings, hosted many of the post-dance fires, and added humor and caring to our group. Dale was one of the charter members of the *Moose Promenaders* and was part of the reason I am their caller.

I always seem to find out unknown facts when attending funerals or memorial services. I knew Dale was retired Navy, but had no idea he retired as a Master Chief, E-9. That is an amazing accomplishment by anyone. I also knew that Dale enjoyed his workshop but I did not know woodwork was his favorite.

Dale will be missed at the clubs he continued to visit after he could no longer dance. While physical limitations kept him off the floor, his attendance continued to support the clubs.

You can read Dale's obituary at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/12687708>

Bill Chesnut

Please see some of Dale's contributions to Square Dancing later in this newsletter.

To Presidents of the NEFSARDA clubs:

Kindly ask if all your members received this February-March issue of the *Grapevine*. If you find we've missed someone, kindly send me an email that includes their names and email addresses. I'll add them to the list to receive future issues of the *Grapevine* as well as send them the current issue. Thank you!

Mary Giera, maryvmusic@comcast.net

Seabreeze Singles Square Dance Club

The Place To Find a Dance Partner Or Bring Your Own

Frances Padgett Senior Center

1078 Rogero Road

Jacksonville 32211



The *Seabreeze Club* is devoted to ensuring a fun square dance set in a relaxed atmosphere of comfort and fellowship.

As usual, we will begin by highlighting our dances from the previous two months. Although the month of December is hectic, the *Seabreeze Club* managed to be involved with a community service project, enjoy a Christmas luncheon, and Christmas dance.

[illegible]

The Clothes Closet staff was overjoyed with our delivery.



Tim was eager to put our delivery to good use.



Once again, Hanna graciously hosted our Christmas luncheon.

Feasting with Friends.



Empty plates say it all!



Of course, a sing-along!



Our year ended with a Christmas cheer dance.

Spreading that cheer with our special caller Mike.



Additionally, in December, our member, Linda Jones, revived our FaceBook presence. She has done a wonderful job creating and administering our page. Please join our page and feel free to contribute. The link is below:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/702602569336493/?ref=share_group_link.



Seabreeze Singles Square Dance Club

Further, the club began the New Year in fun fashion. We celebrated new beginnings, showed support for our Jaguars, and acknowledged the anniversary of the twist dance craze. We appreciated the warm welcome when we visited the *Rollaways* for their chili cook-off dance. Finally, the month ended on a sweet note as we recognized national chocolate cake day.

The next two months will be brimming with lively themes and great dance opportunities.

February:

- February 3 American Pie (Paying homage to the anniversary of 'the day the music died.')
- February 10 Heartfelt Hoedown (Valentine's Day Dance)
- February 17 Mardi Gras
- February 24 Celebrating the Lunar New Year (Year of the Horse)

March:

- March 3 Read Across American (Book donation drive)
- March 10 Early March Madness
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 24 Welcoming Spring
- March 31 Recognizing National Dance Marathon Day (We won't have a marathon, but we will be dancing!)

Visit our club, fun is awaiting!

Should you have any questions or would appreciate more information about the *Seabreeze Square Dance Club*, please contact Pam at: gabbygirlpam@gmail.com



Grand Squares Gainesville

The *Grand Squares Square Dance Club* continues to dance at 3411 NW 83rd Street in Gainesville from 6:30-8:30 pm under the direction of caller Bill Cassidy. We are currently offering classes to beginners.

It's been a busy two months with a Christmas Parade, a New Years Eve Pajama Party, a dance to celebrate National Rubber Duck Day and the 71st Florida State Square and Round Dance Association State Convention in Deltona.

January was a rough month. COVID hit some area square dancers, but we all isolated and masked and one by one tested negative and got back on the dance floor. We lost Stephen Bigelow, our *Grapevine Editor*, and he will be missed. I'll bet Stephen is up in heaven right now squaring up! Thank you so much to Mary Giera for taking the reins and moving forward with the *Grapevine* until a permanent replacement can be found.

The *Grand Squares* is having a Mardi Gras Dance on February 17th from 6:30-8:30. Wear your Mardi Gras colors (traditionally Purple, Green, and Gold to represent Justice, Faith, and Power). Please bring snacks to share.

Coming up in March, the *Grand Squares* dance falls on St. Patrick's Day! There is sure to be some partying going on in the *Grand Squares* that night! Wear your green, bring some snacks to share, and be prepared to join us in a wee bit of shenanigans on Tuesday, March 17th.

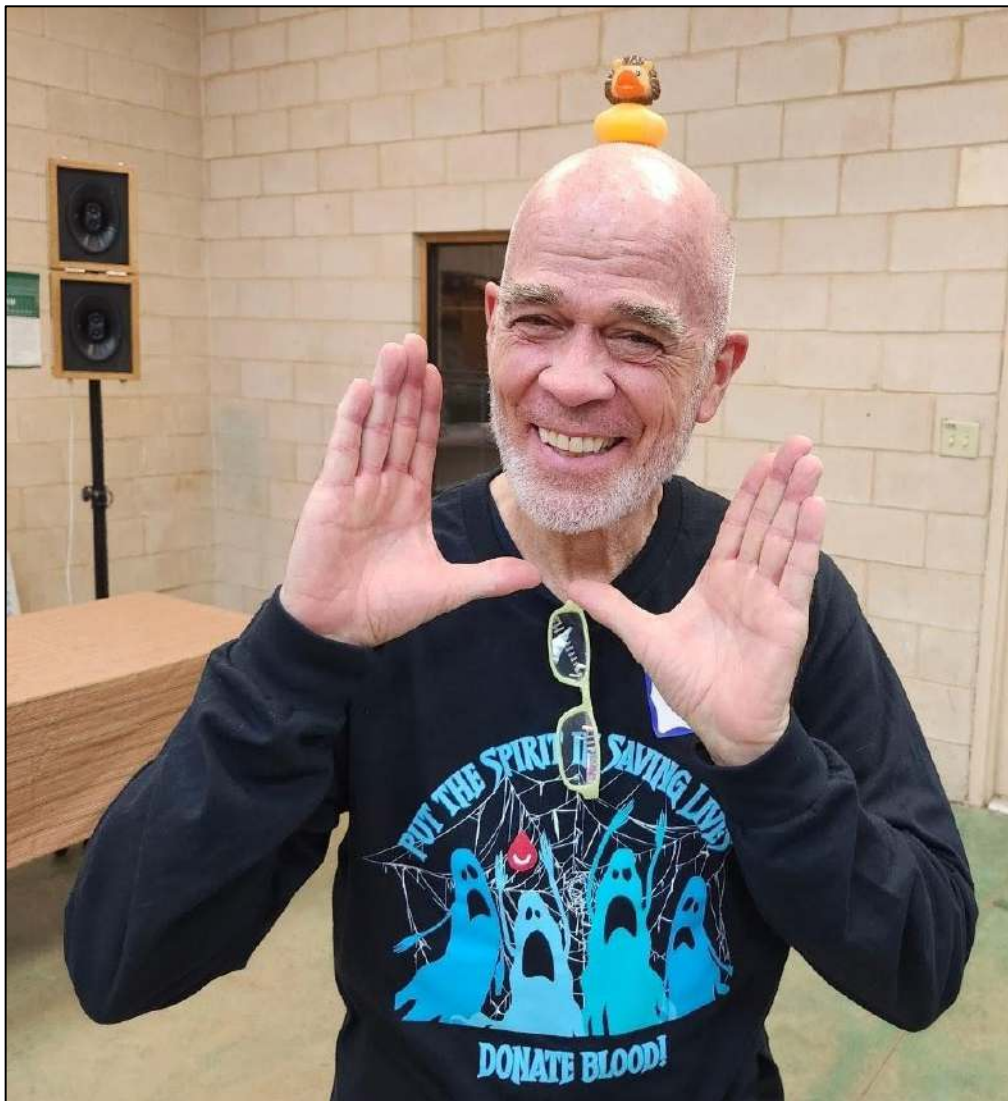
No matter what the occasion, the *Grand Squares* shows up for the fun!

Contact Robin at robin.frazer@yahoo.com or at 352-317-1636













Joy Seas

Caller Mike Akers and the *Joy Seas* square dancers welcome you to St. Augustine Shores, Florida. We dance on Monday Night from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at St. Augustine South Clubhouse, 709 Royal Road, St. Augustine, Florida 32086. **Please call and verify we are dancing by contacting Mary Burzo (904) 501-1817.**

You'll always experience "Joy" when dancing with the *Joy Seas*.

Coastal Georgia Squares

The *Coastal Georgia Squares* has a new dancer class underway. They are enthusiastic and are doing great.

Our group, though small, welcomes visitors and dances on Thursdays at 7:00 at College Place Methodist Church, 3890 Altama Ave, Brunswick, GA.

Please call Don at 912-265-1504 or 912-269-7909 to be sure we're dancing as, from time to time, the church uses the room where we dance.

Don Heins

High Springs Dance Club - High Springs, FL

Caller: Bill Cassidy, Cuer: Ann Hadsall, Apprentice: Brenda Corey

The *High Springs Dance Club* is known for great, well-attended parties! In September, we had a "50's Sock Hop" that included the American Bandstand Stroll and hand jive. We saw Roy Orbison, and Elvis was in the building!

October's special dance was a "Spooky Halloween," and did we ever have the craziest costumes!

November was "Home for the Holidays," where everybody wore T-shirts and brought food that symbolized where they were from. This party included a huge silent auction. We also celebrated the third anniversary of the *High Springs Dance Club* with an ice cream cake.

Our Christmas party dance included a food drive for a local food pantry. The donations of over 300 lbs of nonperishable food was very much appreciated.

New Year's Day fell on a regular dance day for us. We took a poll as to who wanted to dance. Well, you know that whatever you do on New Year's Day you will do the rest of the year ... so we danced! Who would have believed



there was a National T-shirt Day? Accordingly, our January theme to continue welcoming in the new year was "Wear Your Favorite T-shirt Dance."

The big event for the *High Springs Dance Club* was our participation in the High Springs Christmas Parade. Our parade cart/float had our club banners on each side as well as a banner of our sister club, *Gainesville Grand Squares*. The cart had a power station and the caller's complete square dance calling gear, including amplifier and speakers. We played very upbeat, pop music, and the square dancing was done in a circle so that all the dancers could participate. The dancers received an overwhelmingly positive response from the audience, which included yells and cheers and applause. Along the route, people would sometimes shout out, "Stop here, stop here." There were also a lot of people clapping along to the music. We stopped at least 20 times along the parade route to dance, and the dancers received the same enthusiastic response each time. We performed for over three thousand spectators. This was great PR for square dancing.

We dance at the High Springs Civic Center off Highway 441 (23760 NW 187th Ave, High Springs, FL). The dance is every Thursday night from 6:30 to 9 pm, with the first half hour dedicated to round dance lessons.

Contacts: Deborah Cassidy (352-262-0760) or Becky Thompson (386-216-6976)









Rollaways

The *Rollaways* invite you to join us on Tuesday nights at Sandalwood High School (2750 John Promenade Blvd, Jacksonville, FL). We dance in the cafeteria from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. We dance primarily Mainstream with announced Plus. There are rounds between tips. Call and check about early rounds. They are available when there are no other activities going on in the cafeteria.

On February 10th we will celebrate unrequited love with an assortment of love ballads. We encourage Valentine apparel.

February 17th we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras). We will have King Cake. Green, Gold and Purple are the proper colors. Masks are also appropriate. We will also celebrate Lunar New Year with Moon Pie and RC Cola!

The *Rollaways* will be dark on St Patrick's Day as the school will be closed.

March 31st we will host our 3rd annual Easter Bonnet competition.

April 21st the *Rollaways* will celebrate our anniversary!



UPCOMING EVENTS at the Moose Promenaders

5051 Collins Road, Jacksonville, FL

6:15 – Advanced Dancing

7:00 – mostly Plus

- Feb 12 Valentine Dance – wear red, pink or white (or all 3)
- Feb 13 Lunch Bunch (11:30 at “Ruby Tuesdays”, Fleming Island, CR 220)
- Feb 19 Regular Club Dance
- Feb 26 Regular Club Dance
- Feb 28 Stephen Bigelow’s Memorial Service
11 a.m. St. Catherine’s Episcopal Church
4758 Shelby Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32210)
- Mar 5 Celebrate March Birthdays and Anniversaries. Wear club colors.
- Mar 7-15 ‘Cruzen for Bob’ #9
- Mar 12 St Patrick’s Day Dance – wear green
(Mark Fetzter will call...Bill and many of the *Moose* will be ‘Cruzen for Bob’)
- Mar 19 St Patrick’s Day Dance (go Irish again and wear green!)
- Mar 26 Remembrance Dance honoring Stephen Bigelow and Dale Fredrickson

Moose Promenaders are holding a dance to honor two of their faithful members who have



been dancing with the club for a very long time. Dale Frederickson was a charter member of the club (formed in 1990); Stephen Bigelow was the *Grapevine* editor and held many positions in NEFSARDA. This dance will bring to mind many memories of both Dale and Stephen. Please plan to join us for a fun evening. This dance will be held on



Thursday, March 26 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. All dancers, not just *Moose Promenaders*, are invited to attend and celebrate these two memorable dancers.

A list of some of the contributions and involvement these two Square Dancers had in our community is on the following two pages.

Stephen Bigelow

His wife Marie died Jul 22, 2010. Stephen served:

Jan 2026 – NEFSARDA Treasurer

2024 – NEFSARDA Dancer of the Year

2024-2026 – *Bow & Swing* Editor

2022-2024 – NEFSARDA Vice President

Oct 2020–Jan 2026 – *Grapevine* Editor (Stephen)

2010-2011 – *Silver Fox Squares* President (Stephen)

Stephen and Marie served:

2002-2009 - *Plus Fox Squares* President

2001 – NEFSARDA delegate from *Plus Fox Squares*

1992 – NEFSARDA delegate from *Classic Squares*

1991 – NEFSARDA delegate from *Fun n’ Frolic* and *No Name Club*

1990-1992 – NEFSARDA Blood Bank Chairman

1988-1990 – NEFSARDA delegate from *Gator Promenaders*

1988 – *Gator Promenaders* Secretary

1987 – NEFSARDA delegate from *Seabreeze Singles* (with George “Bud” Sheppard)

1987 – *Seabreeze Singles* Treasurer (Stephen after George Peebles resigned ~July)

They were members of:

Challengers

Classic Squares/Plus

Diamond Dancers

Fun n’ Frolic

Gator Promenaders

Moose Promenaders

No Name Club Plus Fox Squares

Seabreeze Singles

Silver Fox Squares

Sunshine Sweethearts

Stephen was a member of:

Clay Allemanders

First Coast Rounds

Dale Frederickson

His wife Gerry died Jun 20, 2007. Dale served:

2010-2013 – *Gypsy Squares* President (Dale w/Joanne Engum)

2006 – *Gypsy Squares* President

2004 – FL Association of National Square Dance Campers President

2003 - FL Chapter of the National Square Dance Campers Association Vice President

2002 - FL Chapter of the National Square Dance Campers Association Secretary

2001 - FL Chapter of the National Square Dance Campers Association Treasurer

2001 - Circle of Service Award

2000 - 25th Anniversary FL Chapter of the National Square Dance Campers Association
Camporee Chairman

2000 – *Gypsy Squares* President

1999-2000 - NEFSARDA delegate from *Gypsy Squares*

1999 - FL Chapter of the National Square Dance Campers Association Vice Chairman

1996-1997 – *Gypsy Squares* Secretary

1995-1996 – *Moose Promenaders* President

1994-1995 – NEFSARDA 5th Saturday Dance Chairman

1991-1994 – *Moose Promenaders* Banner Chairman

1987 – NEFSARDA delegate from *Fun n' Frolic*

Dale and Gerry were members of:

Fun n' Frolic

Gypsy Squares

Moose Promenaders

Clover Squares

On February 4th, 2026 Caller Jim Duncan made his final bow and retired from calling for the *Clover Squares* of Chiefland, Florida after being involved with square dancing for over 50 years. We had a grand time with area callers and dancers coming together to honor Jim and his contribution to the fellowship of the dance.

In Florida, he has been active with such groups as the *Strawberry Swingers*, Florida Callers Association, *Merry Mavericks*, *Lakeside Dancers*, Florida Federation of Square Dancers and National Square Dance Conventions.

Jim has enriched the lives of many. Thank you, Jim!

Katherine Dunlop



Popcorn Fundraiser.

Running January 17, 2026-March 23, 2026.

Order Popcorn Online Here → (<https://77nsdcfl.com/popcorn-order-form/>)

The 77NSDC is excited to run a popcorn fundraiser! We will be selling popcorn to help fund the convention.

This is a fun, easy way to raise funds while sharing delicious treats with your community. Whether you're dancing weekly or just getting together for special events, every sale helps support your club and the 77th National Square Dance Convention®.

There will be 8 unique flavors:

- White Cheddar
- Extra Buttery Caramel
- Extra GOAT (Extra Buttery Caramel and Extra Cheesy)
- Extra Cheesy
- Ranch
- Puppy Chow (caramel & pretzels & Chex coated in peanut butter, chocolate, and powdered sugar)
- Caramel Pecan
- Kettle Corn

Why should you participate?

Each bag of popcorn sold will help your home club. You will earn \$1 per bag of popcorn sold for your club.

How to participate.

Print the order form on the next page. Take it to your club, work, family, neighbors, anybody who loves popcorn. Have them fill out the form and then send the completed form in to the General Chairmen by March 23, 2026. You will collect the money and then mail the cash (by check, contact 77nsdcfl@gmail.com for an address) in to the general chairmen. You will also send in the order form with the money. *More details will be provided when they are available.*

Important Information:

If your club decides to sell popcorn, currently we plan to have it shipped to you directly from the popcorn manufacturer as long as your order is over \$300, otherwise, it will ship from us to you. It would be a benefit to you if your order is under \$300 to join effort with another club in your area to get to that amount, so it can be shipped directly to one of you. Your form and payment will be sent to us via mail or web submission. We will place the order, and it should come to you within 3 to 6 weeks after your order is placed unless we encounter an unexpected issue and we will work with you to solve it at that time.

Club Name & Address _____

Popcorn Fundraising Form
Clubs will earn \$1/bag purchased.



\$12 Each

		Total Amount (Qty x price)	Amount Paid
<div> <div>White Cheddar</div> <div>Extra Buttery Caramel</div> <div>Extra Goat (Extra Buttery Caramel and Extra Cheesy)</div> <div>Extra Cheesy</div> <div>Ranch</div> <div>Puppy Chow (Caramel & Pretzels & Chex Coated in Peanut Butter, Chocolate & powdered sugar)</div> <div>Caramel Pecan</div> <div>Kettle</div> </div>	Name		
Total Units Sold			